Level 3 now and if you read the rules, bugger all has changed from level 4 but have a look at the vehicles on the roads. Maybe they’re all going to work at their non-contact work places or heading to join the queues at Maccas or KFC. If they want level 3 to work they’re going to have to bring out the big stick or they’ll lose control. With only 1 or 2 cases daily now, maybe it doesn’t matter. If it gets away because someone got slack and we go back into level 4, that’ll make some people scream.

Good to know that some people read this weekly blog and thanks to those who rightly pointed out that in last week’s news, I mentioned that Sweden’s curve was almost as flat as our own, which was incorrect. I made the mistake of repeating something I’d read without researching the veracity of the article.

Now that the 1 hr maintenance flights are all done, it’s back to gazing skyward when we hear one of the local Ag planes go past. On that note I must make mention of the tragic accident that claimed the life of Wairarapa Ag pilot, Andy Denniston. It was 2 days after the approvals for the maintenance flights came through and my immediate thought, on hearing that there had been a light aircraft accident, was that some uncurrent pilot had made a mistake during one of these flights. That obviously wasn’t the case but our sympathies go out to Andy’s family and friends.

Some of our local retailers have resumed business with contactless procedures and also some of our local eateries have started phone and collect takeaways. We have already taken advantage of this as we used to regularly support a couple of local bar/eateries with basic sit down meals and it’s pleasing to see that these are still operating (god knows how) and we feel it’s important to support them as much as we can. Was amusing the first time as we were 2nd in the queue and the guy in front was obviously confused about what his wife had ordered. He phoned her but still confused, he handed his phone to the gloved and distanced young girl who was serving at the barriered off door and said to her, “here, you talk to her” The young girl chatted on the phone, and then handed it back to the customer. It was the first day so I guess they’ll get the procedures sorted.

Level 2 is still being written as I write, I suspect. As it is now, level 2 allows recreational A to A flights with no mention of passengers. As I said in my first Lockdown news, the levels were written for going in, not coming out. We were flying with pax the day before level 4 lockdown. Was that level 3 or2? I can’t remember now. Anyway. As I said, I think the line is still a moving one.

The dry continues and like me, I’m sure many of you are watching the long range forecasts. A month or so ago, there were 2 or 3 systems with potential that were heading our way from north of us but without exception, were steered away to the east by large highs in the Tasman. I hope I’m not jinxing it but there’s another on the way. Tuesday week the prediction is a large easterly system right on top of us. It’s still 10 days away so anything can happen but hey, we need a little something to pin our hopes on .

This news and views is a bit anaemic this week I ‘m sorry through a lack of material. If you have anything to share please forward to me.

Stay safe, keep a tight bubble and wash ya bloody hands.

Ross Macdonald

The upside of COVID!! You can get your own airliner for a bargain🤣





