

DRAGONFLY

BACK IN NELSON FOR BOOK LAUNCH

On 12 February 1962 Havilland Dragonfly ZK-AFB went missing on a scenic flight from Christchurch to Milford Sound. On board the charter plane were Captain Brian Chadwick and four tourist passengers, including a honeymoon couple. The aircraft and its occupants have never been found, but their memory has been immortalised in a new book by Reverend Richard Waugh.

Nelson Aero Club hosted a special tribute event on 14 February to mark the launch of Waugh's aviation mystery "Lost... Without a Trace". Waugh's late father, Captain Brian Waugh, pioneered many air routes with the missing pilot Brian Chadwick and Richard Waugh has spent most of his life trying to solve the mystery.

The event also paid tribute to the Dragonfly aircraft that

were a common sight in the Nelson area between 1940 and 1960. One of only two surviving Dragonflies in the world, ZKAYR, from Mandeville in Southland, flew up to Nelson for the launch. It is the first Dragonfly in Nelson skies for 45 years and it also marked another special reunion. Thelma Bradshaw, wife of the late Nelson pilot Arthur Bradshaw, was there to take part in the tribute. Arthur had owned Dragonfly ZK-AFB and had sold it to Brian Chadwick in 1961.

The tribute was attended by more than 120 people, many of whom took the opportunity to take a joy ride in the Dragonfly.

The event was very well received and is proof positive that interest in aviation history is alive and well in Nelson.

The Aero Club was keen to host the Dragonfly because it played such an important part in Nelson's aviation history.



New Rig for Fire Rescue

Nelson Airports Fire Rescue team has welcomed a new addition to their stable. In February they took delivery of a Mac 4 x 4 Airport Firefighting Vehicle that had served at Christchurch airport.

The vehicle has a greater capacity than their existing truck and so carries a Category 4 rating, which is higher than it needs to be for Nelson Airport, which is a category three Airport.

Fire Officer Murray Hart says it's reassuring to have the extra capacity and to feel they now have the equipment to handle any emergency situation even more efficiently.

The new Mac 4 x 4 features a 2800 litre capacity for delivering foam and it can be completely operated by one person from within the cab, an essential feature for airport fire fighting appliances.

It arrived in Nelson at the start of February and underwent a thorough maintenance check and few small improvements before being put into service.

Murray Hart says they were pleased to get this particular vehicle as the Nelson team has trained on it in Christchurch and were already familiar with it.

"We're just pleased to have a second vehicle as well, because although our current vehicle is very well maintained and has never let us down it is reassuring to have a second option."

Under the terms of the safety regulations the Fire rescue service must be able to be on site and pumping foam at any point in the airport within three minutes, so any hold up with vehicles would be of concern.

Murray says, "At the moment we are

meeting that deadline well and this new vehicle should prove just as efficient."

The new Mac will be put through it's paces during the regular training exercises the Fire Rescue crew hold and on the other important tasks that help keep the airport running smoothly, including the daily runs to check the state of the runway before the first and after the last flights of the day.

Look out for it becoming a regular sight around the airport from now on.



Pram Friendly Gate

The new pedestrian gate on the airport perimeter walkway has been cleverly designed to allow access for prams and buggies while preventing bicycles from passing through.

The initial concept and some helpful drawings were provided by Mike Gepp from the Monaco Hotel Development after a recent conversation about walkway access. Pete Beatson who undertakes a lot of Nelson Airport Ltd's general maintenance "mocked up" a wooden prototype and played with the measurements to allow an average sized twin buggy to pass through.

"There are a lot of twin buggies about and with the increasing incidence of

twins and the use of double buggies for smaller siblings we felt we had to cater for them too," Kaye McNabb said. Once we had everything right Pete made and installed the pipe and mesh gate. The gate works by using a cage and a swinging gate that has similar principals to a revolving door. You push the gate to the far side, walk into the cage and then swing the gate past you and walk out the other side. The cage is built so that a buggy can be pushed into a cavity in front of you.

"As a bicycle isn't able to fit in the cage it prevents their access and allows us to keep the walkway open for the hundreds of people who get their

exercise by taking the 4.3km walk. From the feedback we have had so far its working very well" said Mrs McNabb.





**Kaye
McNabb**

From the General Manager

As I write this we are heading into Easter which is one of the peaks of the travel year. People taking the opportunity to get away for the break or returning home to family along with a large contingent of Nelson College Old Boys expected for the 150th anniversary reunion

should see the airport buzzing. With almost half the new fleet of Air New Zealand Link's larger aircraft now in operation there are significantly more passenger seats available which translates into more passengers and a busier terminal. We are lucky that we have a wonderful climate and very few weather delays affect passengers travelling out of Nelson because when they do we are bursting at the seams. While it seems like only yesterday that the terminal was extended and upgraded, we expect

that the increase in passenger numbers will require a further extension in the not to distant future.

In order to ensure that we are providing the services and facilities required by our customers in the manner which best suits them we need to establish how and why they are travelling. While we frequently object to the plethora of surveys that we are asked to participate in these days, we do hope you won't object to being approached as you check in and being asked two or three simple questions that will be able to be answered in a couple of minutes. Our customers help will enable us to help our customers best. Makes sense really doesn't it.

So does having a break over Easter. - I hope you all have a happy one..

Kaye McNabb - General Manager

Airport Art Makes the Hit List!

Several pieces of art at Nelson Airport have made the cut and are to appear on a must-see list of art being produced by Nelson City Council.

The Council is producing a free doubled sided A3 map called Art Walk. It details some of great art in Nelson City, along the waterfront and at a couple of other Nelson locations, including the airport.

There's a map showing where the sculptures and other art works are located, information about the piece, the artist and other interesting facts.

The art works up for inclusion at Nelson Airport are the steel panels by Darryl Frost, the imaginative balustrades on the viewing platform by Mark Healy seats by Chris Rendell and the famous Pacific Angel sculpture by Bodhi Vincent.

Copies of the Art Walk map will be available from Nelson City Council and the Library.



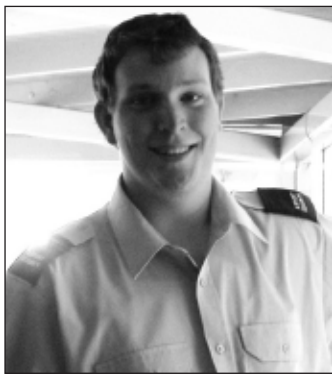
Airport Users Group Meeting

All members of the Users Group are invited to attend the next meeting on Wednesday 23 May 2006 at 4.30pm at the Nelson Aero Club.

Meet The Team!

Three new staff members have started recently at Nelson Airport. Here's an introduction to the new faces, say hi next time you see them.

Sam Kearney - Security



Sam started his new role in late February with a week of training before flying solo. His role includes controlling access to the gate, monitoring lost and found items in the airport terminal from a security point of view and controlling parking and traffic outside the terminal building. Maintaining the parking

machines, keeping an eye on the rubbish and doing regular cleanliness check in the toilets are some of the other tasks that keep the security team busy.

Sam says his introduction to the job was a bit of a baptism of fire.

"It was a case of if it could go wrong it did from power cuts to jammed automatic doors but I learnt a lot very quickly and now I feel like I can cope with anything the job throws at me," he says.

Interaction with the travellers is the thing Sam most enjoys about the job and he is often put on the spot for directions or ideas on things to see and do in Nelson, information he is happy to supply.

Ruth Draaijer - Assistant to the Office Administrator



Ruth has enjoyed settling into this role which involves working 4 days a week to assist the office administrator in the day to day running of the business. This involves general office work and accounts plus emptying parking machines and keeping them supplied with change.

Ruth has lived in Nelson for 22 years and has plenty of experience working in offices but particularly enjoys working at the airport.

"I've always been interested in aircraft. I had a brother in the air force and my husband has his pilots license so I really enjoy being around aircraft all day," Ruth says. Even a bad case of motion sickness doesn't prevent her from taking to the skies as often as she can.

When she is on the ground and at her desk Ruth says her favourite part of the job is meeting people. She says she meets lots a great people and enjoys the atmosphere of Nelson Airport very much.

Janine Stephens - Office Administrator



Janine is the newest member of the team starting on March 13 2006. Her duties involve acting as assistant to Kaye McNabb Airport manager, general accounts work and landing statistics and returns and associated administrative duties.

Janine started her career with Trustbank Canterbury before moving on to spend 15 and half years in administration at Port Nelson. From there she moved into a more senior role at Nelmac for 3 and half years. Janine also spent 6 years of part time study while working full time and now has a Diploma in Management and Diploma in Business and Accounting.

While she's just new in the job Janine says she is already enjoying the challenges that she faces in the role and looks forward to getting fully up to speed with how things work around the airport.

"The fact that my office is just a few steps from great cappuchinos at the café is a real bonus too," Janine says.