

THE FLIGHTPATH

newsletter of the Nelson Airport



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Airport must take security seriously

A laptop case left propped against an ATM machine caused a major security response at Nelson Airport recently.

When no-one responded to public address announcements to claim the case, the terminal had to be evacuated, which caused the delay of two flights. Air Nelson radioed the aircraft that had just left and located one very embarrassed and forgetful passenger.

Nelson Airport Chief Executive Kaye McNabb says the incident highlights the potential for major disruption, even if the cause is innocent. The airport is the fourth busiest in New Zealand, and all those aircraft connect with other flights, so any delays ripple out nationwide.

Leaving an unattended bag at an airport is an offence, with hefty associated fines

and even the possibility of imprisonment if the intent is malicious. Airlines may also sue for the cost of delays.

Kaye says the hijacking attempt at Blenheim in February 2008, in which the pilot and co-pilot were stabbed, shows that all airports must take security seriously.

This extends to cars left in the two minute drop-off area in front of the terminal. If the vehicle is unclaimed after PA announcements, then it is a threat and under CAA rules the airport must be closed until that threat is resolved. If the bomb squad is called that could mean a day-and-a-half shutdown, at huge cost.

Incursions into restricted areas also trigger a close-down until that person is removed. Kaye says if a straying

passenger wandered near aviation fuel installations, a cigarette or their cell-phone causing a spark could have catastrophic consequences.

The no-go area encompasses the greater airport area. Fortunately the days when the odd golfer hopped over the fence to retrieve a wayward ball, or a perimeter track walker decided to take a shortcut, are long gone, thanks to education. People these days are well aware that if anyone jumps the fence, the staff in the tower must immediately close the airport.

Kaye says that fortunately they have a very good relationship with Nelson Golf Club and the regular track users who all now respect the security requirements.

Christmas in the air

Snoopy did battle with the Red Baron once again as the Nelson Airport float in this year's Christmas Parade in Nelson. The distinctive Sopwith Camel was so well-built by senior fire officers Steve Johnson and Murray Hart that it has been a fixture at five parades now.

The big Christmas tree is also up in the terminal.

Caption: Abel McNabb of Nelson takes the controls as Snoopy in the Santa parade float.



Blue streaker “common as dirt”

A distinctive blue jet that has joined the Nelson Airport flock of private aircraft is described by owner and restorer Alan Caudwell as “common as dirt”.

The two-seater Aero L-39 Albatros, developed in Czechoslovakia, is indeed the most widely used jet trainer in the world, says Wikipedia.

Alan has been flying since he was 16. He is a professional helicopter pilot who has served his time in deer recovery work, spraying and tourism. He also has a background in engineering, so building aircraft is a combination of the two career paths.

The L-39 jet took him 2-1/2 years to restore, and far from resting on his laurels, Alan says he was straight back into work on a partly built Titan T-51 Mustang.

The three-quarter scale replica of the famous American World War Two fighter

aircraft is a two-seater made by an Ohio company and is said to be a winner with pilots and airshow spectators. High-performance versions can top 300 km/h.

Alan’s stable of aircraft also includes an RV6A, the nosewheeled version of

Van’s popular two-seater kitset plane. He assembled and painted the popular low-winged aircraft. More than 2000 kits have been completed worldwide.

Alan also built the hangar that houses his planes.



Hangar work on schedule

Air Nelson’s new hangar is on track for completion in July 2010, with pillars and roofing steel due to arrive before Christmas.

The \$12 million building will be accompanied by an office administration block being built by Nelson Airport Ltd which will link the new hangar with the existing 1942 hangar, which Air Nelson has leased from the airport company since 1989.

At 60m long, 80m wide and 15m high, the new building will take five Q300 aircraft at once for overnight maintenance. The other hangar will be used for heavy maintenance and some line maintenance.

Air Nelson has 23 50-seat Bombardier Q300s, and general manager Grant Kerr

says the company will make a strong bid for maintenance work on the 68-seat ATR aircraft used by Christchurch-based Mt Cook Airlines and the Beech 1900D planes of Hamilton-based Eagle Air.

That work would include maintenance on a total of 52 aircraft, and would expand options for Nelson travellers by

incorporating the ATR into scheduled passenger services.

Mr Kerr said expansion into the maintenance of the ATR fleet could add about another \$10 million annually to the local economy. Air Nelson’s engineering business already contributes \$5-8 million.



Guide to artworks

Nelson Airport is wearing its art on its sleeve with the production of a brochure on the artworks dotted around the terminal and grounds.

These include the sculpture from Nelson's sister city Miyazu evoking the Boulder Bank, "Koru", a large piece chain-sawed from a storm-damaged tree trunk, and Pacific Angel, which sits in the café outdoor area and is about to be refurbished by sculptor Bodhi Vincent.



Former Golden Bay artist Niki Jimenez has just gifted her two works, Wings and Stone Stack, to the airport.

Wellington sculptor Dennis Berdinner's Hinuera stone piece, Into the Light, represents the emergence of creative thought and ideas.

Mapua sculptor/potter Darryl Frost created eye-catching screens from sanded stainless steel. The holes are designed to vent airport winds, and the inset stones evoke a river theme.



New works are always being added to the collection, so if you have some waiting time at the airport, pick up a brochure and use it as a starting point to a feast of art.

The brochure also lists several monuments, including to Squadron Leader Leonard Trent, whose heroism as a bomber pilot in World War 2 earned him a Victoria Cross. The airport main access road bears his name.



Chief Executive's Column Kaye McNabb

It's hard to believe another year has flown by and we are back in Santa Season. Not that I'm complaining about the season because I am a real Christmas fairy at heart.

I love having my own family around me and it's great to be in the joyous atmosphere that pervades the airport as families reunite or excited travellers leave Nelson to be home in time for Christmas.

Not all families are so lucky and we really feel for those who have not had an easy year, those who have been badly

affected by the tough economic climate and those who suffered loss in the tragic events of the year. The fires, floods, earthquakes and tsunami that cost so many lives and did so much damage.

Much has happened at Nelson Airport over the last 12 months and we are grateful to see growth in the aviation sector, plus new buildings and roading development well under way. We have increased our focus on sustainability and worked on improving our services and surroundings. It's been a good year for us and we hope you have all had good times too.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas, a safe and secure 2010, and hope you have a great time celebrating the season with family and special friends.

Merry Christmas,
Kaye



Meeting The Nelson Airport Users Group will meet for the last time this year at 4.30pm on Thursday December 17th at the Aero Club Rooms, McLaren Drive. All airport users are invited to attend.

Terminal goes tropical

A summery, tropical feel is blooming through the observation lounge and a revamp in the main terminal has enhanced its relationship to the features of the Nelson region.

The transformation begins at the entrance pillars, which will be wrapped in stainless steel flax made by Mapua sculptor Darryl Frost, who did the distinctive holed panels and screens which form part of the landscaping in the terminal area.

Darryl is also sculpting stainless forms of people coming and going to be sited in the entrance-way.

Inside, a new flax-themed wallwrap is a backdrop to displays of artwork, both permanent and by guest exhibitors. A similar wrap by the drinking fountain pays homage to the Boulder Bank.

Much of the couch-type seating in the terminal has been replaced or refurbished in soft, natural colours with the odd bit of orange as a highlight. (Have we really gone full circle to back to orange in the terminal??)

Upstairs, the observation lounge evokes a summery conservatory, with

big-leafed patterns in carpet squares, colourful furniture and a vibrant wall panel.

New play equipment is destined for outside the café dining area, near Bodhi Vincent's sculpture Pacific Angel, which itself is about to be freshened up by the artist.



New hangar designed to grow

Rangiora builder Ian Andrews has one eye on retirement as he constructs the latest hangar at Nelson Airport.

The concrete tilt-panel building should be completed by early January. At 22 metres by 18 metres, it will house four or five aircraft.

Ian, who has built hangars throughout New Zealand and in the South Pacific, co-owns the Nelson building and flies a Piper Malibu. He describes himself as "closer to 70 than 60", with retirement in sunny Nelson looming on the radar.

The McLaren Drive hangar is designed so that other similar structures can be clipped on either side of it, with the concrete walls for fire protection.

Cleanup

Nelmac and Nelson Airport have combined to clean up the estuary on the airport's southern boundary.

Members of the public also helped to pick up rubbish on Saturday January 5.

Nelson Airport chief executive Kaye

McNabb says refuse washes up with the tide or flows down Jenkins Creek with much of it finding a resting place in the estuary and creek bed along the airport boundary. While both airport company and its grounds maintenance contractor, Nelmac, work hard to ensure the area is a worthy "front door" to the region's visitors there are a number of hardworking private individuals who

contribute a lot of voluntary hours in true community spirit to clean up the area. One such individual is Ian Jonson from Stoke who has removed a massive number of 303 tyres from the estuary over the last 18 months around 40 of which were in the airport area. What a wonderful contribution to the environment made by just one person.