

THE FLIGHTPATH

newsletter of the Nelson Airport



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Gaining strength from a cluster

Nelson Airport is more than a one-stop shop for aircraft work – it's a mall, says Chief Executive Kaye McNabb.

The newly formed Nelson Aviation Cluster (NAC) is "a group of businesses joining together to offer all types of aircraft repair, maintenance and certification at Nelson Airport," says Kaye, who is promoting the cluster's wares internationally, in person and through its website.

From large turbo props and private jets to tiny Robinson helicopters, the businesses within the cluster have wide expertise to offer both private, corporate and commercial fleets, she says. A prime focus is on the larger turbo-prop aircraft like the Bombardier Q300s used by Air Nelson, but private jets, general aviation and helicopters are also a big market.

The potential client base is vast. Aircraft owners will hop from Australia to get the service they want. Nelson Airport already has restricted Point of First Arrival



Chief Executive Kaye McNabb



Aerial view of Nelson Airport with cluster highlighted.

certification allowing border clearance for overseas aircraft to fly direct to Nelson for servicing. Foundation NAC members include Air Nelson, Repaircraft, National Aircraft Interiors and Specialised Welding Services.

They provide an extensive suite of services including :

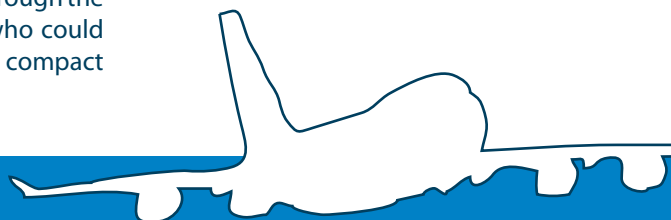
- Engineering & engineering support
- Welding of alloys and steels
- Technical training
- Pilot Dash 8-type training
- Aircraft spares
- Avionic installations
- Total aircraft refurbishment
- Interior design or maintenance (seats, soft furnishings, colour consulting, cargo nets etc).

However, Kaye says the cluster can tackle just about anything. If a business doesn't have expertise in a particular field, it will source the expertise required through the appropriate cluster partner – who could be a stroll away in the airport's compact

servicing zone - or find it elsewhere and probably mobile enough to ensure the job is completed here and on time. Providing that "one stop shop" convenience for the customer is the intention.

She also sees Nelson as having another trump card in its hand – one of the sunniest, friendliest and most picturesque areas of New Zealand waiting to be explored by those who stay while their aircraft is pampered.

The region is home to three national parks, including the golden-sand beaches of Abel Tasman park. Trout rivers lace the area, which also boasts winter skiing an hour's drive away, wineries, fine cuisine, boutique resorts, ceramic and glass artistry, a thriving arts community, and the unique World of Wearable Art museum (with a companion display of classic automobiles).



Forest giants under threat

You've seen these snails underfoot – depicted in the carpet on the Nelson Airport terminal floor. But **Powelliphanta** are a giant step away from their introduced cousins, the garden pest variety. For a start they are big -- up to 90mm across, or the size of a man's fist.

They are also beautiful. Their shells come in an array of colours and patterns, ranging from hues of red and brown to yellow and black.

And powelliphanta snails prefer the forest floor to your garden.

These carnivorous giants – they suck earthworms up like spaghetti – are as representative of New Zealand's unique evolutionary history as the kakapo, moa or kiwi.

Unfortunately, they are also fighting for their existence. A total of 40 species or subspecies are ranked as being of national conservation concern.

Curiosities:

- The largest powelliphanta species is found in Kahurangi National Park, northwest Nelson.
- The genus was named after former Auckland Museum scientist and snail expert Dr A.W.B. Powell.

- Powelliphanta are hermaphrodites. They can mate with any other adult. They lay about 5-10 pearly pink eggs a year, each up to 12-14mm long.

The Department of Conservation's efforts to protect powelliphanta include poisoning rats, possums and hedgehogs, enhancement planting, fencing colonies, and stock control.

In Golden Bay, one protected powelliphanta colony more than doubled its population in two years.

Also depicted in the carpet is harakeke, unique to New Zealand and commonly known as flax – but it is really a lily.

Tui, bellbirds, saddlebacks, short-tailed bats, geckos and insects enjoy nectar from the harakeke flower.

Maori uses of the flax fibre included clothing, mats, dinner plates, baskets, ropes, bird snares, lashings, fishing lines and nets. The nectar was used to sweeten food and beverages.

Flax also had medicinal uses. Its sticky sap was applied to boils and wounds and used for toothache. Flax root juice was put on wounds as a disinfectant. Today, flax is used in soaps, hand creams, shampoos and other cosmetics.

(Source: www.doc.govt.nz)



Powelliphanta carpet design, Nelson Airport.

Sounds Air in the air more often



Sounds Air has added a midday service to its Nelson-Wellington run, complementing the morning and evening flights. The company now has 17 flights a week on the route.

It also flies from Blenheim and Picton to Wellington. Managing Director Andrew Crawford says they have no ambitions to expand further afield.

"Our forte is crossing Cook Strait, It's a stunning flight."

Sounds Air has recently added a third Cessna Caravan to the fleet. The 12-seaters fly low for the 40-minute hop, often giving passengers a scenic flight over the Marlborough Sounds into the bargain.

Sounds Air also runs specific scenic flights and charters. The new Cessna has a six-seat luxury leather interior that can be installed in a few minutes for the charter market.

Sounds Air has been operating for 23 years. It currently has a staff of 25 and the company owners are Cliff Marchant, Steve Handyside and Andrew Crawford.

Airport noise passes audit

Nelson Airport has passed a check of landing and take-off noise levels with flying colours. Night-time engine testing was also found to be well within compliance levels under the Resource Management Act.

Auckland firm JP Styles Ltd, an independent acoustic monitoring consultant, tested three locations from Monday September 15 to Friday September 19 last year around the Airport Noise Boundary as designated in the Nelson Airport Noise Monitoring Plan. The closest residential area boundary to the airport was also monitored to collect additional information.

Interestingly, many aircraft landing and take-off recordings were not able to be heard over background noise such as vehicle road traffic.

Weather for the monitoring event was good with light winds. As the equipment

is very sensitive, any calculations taken when the wind speed exceeded 5 metres per second were not used.

The equipment functioned well and reliable data was logged and collected.

The company's report has now been received and approved by Nelson Airport Ltd and the Nelson Airport Noise Advisory Committee.

The next steps in the audit are to continue external assessment to ensure best practice is used to limit air noise, and to review the methods and procedures set out in the Airport Noise Monitoring Plan.

Both these stages are under way.

In addition to confirming the airport's compliance with noise limits, the information collected in the survey has been used to update current noise levels for Bombardier Q300 aircraft.

Airport Users Group Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Nelson Aero Club Rooms on Wednesday 29 July 2009 at 4.30pm.

All aerodrome users welcome.

Meet the board

Paul Steere, Chairman

Paul's diverse career includes being CEO of a golf club manufacturer PGF, International Trade Management based in Hong Kong and Singapore and General Manager roles with the



Paul Steere, Chairman, Nelson Airport

New Zealand Dairy Board. In 1994 he entered the salmon industry, as General Manager of Nelson based Southern Ocean Seafoods Ltd a division of Salmond Smith Biolab Ltd a pioneering farmed salmon producer. An industry rationalisation plan determined to privatise Southern Ocean and Regal Salmon, NZ's two largest salmon producers. Paul managed the takeover process, becoming Chief Executive of The New Zealand King Salmon Co Ltd, Nelson.

Paul took on his role as a director of Nelson Airport in December 2008 and was appointed Chairman in February 2009. He brings a wealth of commercial experience to the board table where he replaces Ian Kearney. Ian retired from the board to take on other challenges late last year.

How Nelson Airport's board operates

Nelson Airport is a limited liability company with a board of directors. The board consists of three independent directors appointed by the combined shareholders committee (Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council) in accordance with their policy. Two more directors are appointed, one from each council, giving a total of five directors.

Under the Local Government Act the company is a council-owned organisation but is set up with neither Tasman or Nelson having a controlling share.

The company is required to act in a proper commercial manner. It provides a statement of intent to its shareholders annually setting out its objectives and performance targets.

Beauty born from adversity

A tree toppled in the July 2008 windstorm has been reborn as a tribute to Motupiko chainsaw sculptor Nigel Shaw's mentor.

"Koru", the 3m sculpture beside the drive into the airport, was commissioned just eight weeks after Mr Shaw's close friend, Tapawera sculptor Paul Robinson, died in a work accident in Taranaki.

Mr Shaw said Koru was also his first public chainsaw carving so he was "extremely nervous". Using his friend's saw, he shed a few tears as he first bit into the trunk of the lawson cypress, but almost immediately "I could see the carving in the wood" and he powered into his task.

The shaping took 3-4 hours, with another dozen for the sanding and varnishing, spread over a week or two. The work had to be done onsite

because the tree trunk is still rooted in the ground. (As Nelmac staff chopped up the fallen tree, the trunk sprang back upright.)

Airport Chief Executive Kaye McNabb commissioned the sculpture "to make good" out of the storm damage. Mr Shaw said she offered him not just the work, but also time before starting to grieve for his friend. The sculpture became part of that process.

He has donated his fee to Mr Robinson's two primary school-age children, Zak and Taylah. Mr Shaw invested the cash in a calf to raise, which has now translated into five calves. By the time the children reach 21 it should be a handy nest-egg.

Mr Shaw chose the koru because it is a national symbol, used by Air New Zealand as its tail emblem.



"Koru" by Nigel Shaw

Airport food hits the spot

Nelson Airport's café has received a pat on the back from NZ Herald travel editor Jim Eagles as he roasted Auckland Airport's 25 food outlets - 13 in the international terminal and 12 in domestic.

Eagles wrote: "Why is it," my wife asked in a sudden and quite uncharacteristic burst of irritation, "that you can get a decent snack in every airport in the country except Auckland?"

A cup of "rather bad coffee" bought at the domestic terminal had just leaked down the front of Jim's shirt, and his wife's muffin was "expensive and incredibly tasteless".



"It was certainly a dramatic contrast to what we experienced at Nelson Airport, where the food - I had a huge chunk of yummy bacon-and-egg pie and Chris gobbled a fat slice of roast vegetable quiche - was relatively cheap and very tasty."

"...Given the choice of lunch at Nelson or Auckland I'd choose Nelson every time."

Reader Rosemary Casbolt responded: "I tend to agree with your article that Auckland airport food is not the best ... Nelson airport food is great."