

## It's all in a day's work for new Operations Support Manager

Due to the ever increasing workload associated with running a busy airport like Nelson a new position in Operations Support has been established to oversee the day to day operational requirements of running the airport.

The new Operations Support person is Scott Ryall who comes with a significant background in the aviation field. Scott was previously the Operations Control Manager for Origin Pacific Airways and before that was Airside Operations Coordinator at Wellington Airport. He has a background in logistics with the Royal New Zealand Air Force and has spent time in Australia with the air force.

The new position came at the perfect time for Scott, who was among the many seeking employment following the demise of Origin Pacific.

Nelson Airport Manager Kaye McNabb said the new position attracted a lot of interest from applicants around the country. She said Scott's role was to oversee the daily running of the terminal and airfield and with his experience and knowledge of Nelson airport he was already a real asset to the team.

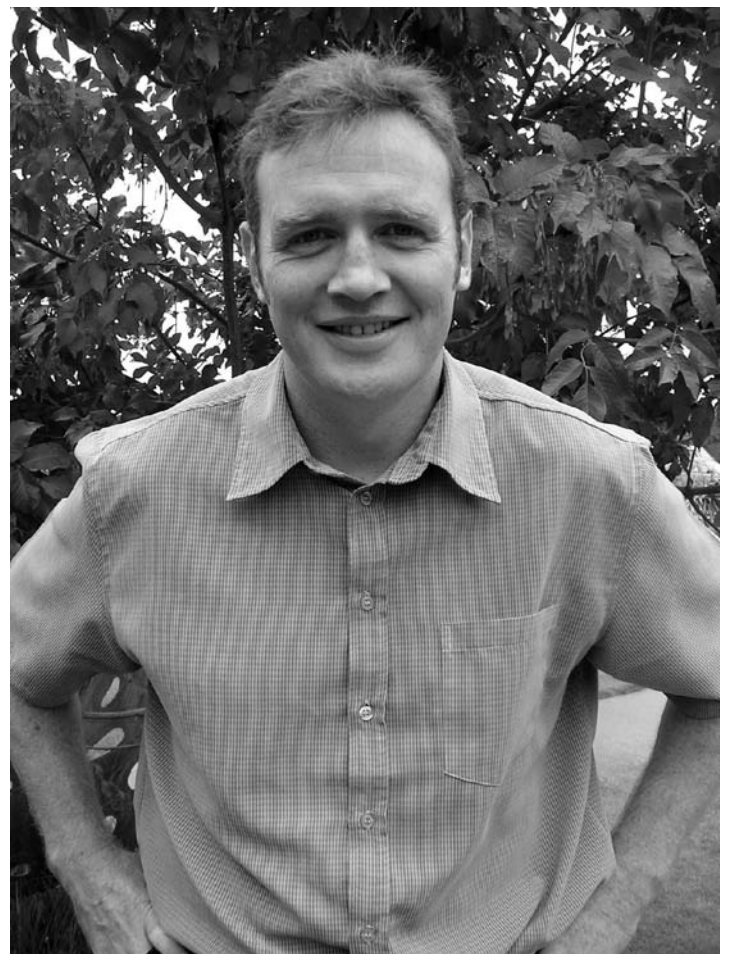
"The airport has become so busy that it is too much for one person to handle," she said.

Scott said he was enjoying his new role because of its unpredictability.

"You never know what's around the corner," he said.

"I deal with whatever the day throws us."

He also welcomed the opportunity to remain in the region with his partner and young family.



*Scott Ryall is the new Operations Support Manager*

# Air force fire tender gives old competition the flick



*The bright yellow RNZAF fire truck outshines hercules*

One of the air force's brand new fire tenders, which dropped by Nelson Airport recently on its way to Motueka, stole the thunder from the Royal New Zealand Airforce C130 aircraft on the tarmac at the time as far as the local Rescue fire team were concerned.

The Royal New Zealand Airforce was on a deployment exercise at Motueka Aerodrome for the twice-yearly training operation, Exercise Wiseowl, in early March.

Nelson Airport Fire Service Ltd senior fire officer Steve Johnson said the rescue fire truck was one of the latest Category 5 fire fighting vehicles, which the RNZAF was upgrading its rescue fire fleet to. The Scania purpose-built rescue fire truck is twice the size of the fire trucks used at Nelson Airport. It carries 5400 litres of water and three percent foam concentrate with a minimum monitor output

of 3000 litres per minute. In comparison the Nelson Airport fire service operates one Category 3 rescue fire truck (and one spare Caterpillar 4 fire vehicle). Both have a water capacity of 2400 litres and 300 litres of six percent "B class" fire fighting foam concentrate, and a minimum monitor output of 1800 litres per minute.

The air force tender was driven to the region from Ohakea, to be part of Exercise Wiseowl, for which it was used in fire safety training, as well as being the standby emergency vehicle. It stopped by Nelson Airport to be "shown off" before heading to Motueka.

It saw real service in the South Island when it was called in to assist Marlborough Fire Services to fight the bush fire in the hills behind Blenheim on its way back to Ohakea.

## All systems go for McLaren Drive extension

It's been a while in the melting pot, but finally the light is now green for development north of McLaren Drive. A demand for hangar space at Nelson Airport has prompted development of land off this northeastern corner of the airport.

Nelson Airport manager Kaye McNabb said the expansion was also in response to the need to centralise fuel supplies at the airport.

On completion of the resource consent process, tenders for the extension work were let in March.

"There are no spare premises and there is a demand for hangar space. This will open up three more sites. We hope that the work will be finished and sites ready by mid year," Kaye said.

Recent upgrades on airport property include new kerbing and channeling, street lighting, and new surfacing along Dakota Street.

Nelson Airport takes up more than 100 hectares of land and development options are limited because of a lack of accessible space, Kaye said.

Meanwhile, development is taking place along the airport boundary, with construction of a private industrial park off Kidson Place.



*McLaren Drive has been given the green light for development*



**Kaye  
McNabb**

## From the General Manager

The pace of change at airports is certainly not abating and despite not being an international airport in the true sense of the word, Nelson Airport is certainly affected by the never ending stream of additional security requirements being added to airports and airlines' responsibilities. Each change or additional requirement

inevitably goes through a consultation process, each brings with it additional costs and more often additional inconvenience for our customers. Airport planning and the provision of relevant information is very important in ensuring inconvenience and disruption is kept to a minimum for our customers. The separation of incoming and outgoing passengers is the next step in ensuring an easy flow of passengers to and from aircraft at Nelson Airport. Airlines are working towards more automation in

the checking of passengers as they proceed to their aircraft as well as at the check in facilities.

At Nelson Airport Ltd we are currently undertaking a long term planning review to ensure that the appropriate space is available to provide passenger facilities such as carparks, terminal seating, retail space and even toilet facilities as passenger numbers increase in the future. In conjunction with this we will also be looking at aircraft parking requirements to ensure there is enough room to park the aircraft that carry all these passengers to their respective destinations.

Change and growth is always exciting and we have plenty of excitement at Nelson Airport. As if that's not enough, I'm off to indulge my other passion - sailing. In mid-April will be in Valencia to cheer on Team New Zealand in the early rounds of the Louis Vuitton Cup.

*Kaye McNabb - General Manager*

# Murray scores big in *masters' medal tally*

It was 10 years ago that Murray Hart tied on a pair of running shoes, to keep up with his kids' interest in the sport. They eventually gave up, but Murray kept on running, and running and running, until finally, in March this year, he scored big time in a masters' track and field meet.

Murray, one of Nelson Airport's fire rescue officers, won medals in all eight of the events he contested at the 2007 New Zealand Masters Association Track and Field Championships in Christchurch. He was competing in the men's 50-54 age group for the first time, and finished with two gold medals, four silvers and two bronze.

Murray has been with the airport fire service for 23 years and has been a volunteer firefighter with the Richmond fire service for 25 years. He says he's lucky to have remained injury-free throughout his athletics interest, which he put to the test again at the recent New Zealand Firefighter Challenge in Feilding.

"It's was the hardest contest ever," Murray said of the inaugural challenge modelled on a similar event to that in the US, designed as the physical component of the recruit entry test.

"We had to pick up a fire hose, throw it across our shoulder, run up six flights of stairs, pull up another 20kg hose by a rope, smash a 70kg block with a sledgehammer...I thought my fitness was OK, but this sort of thing requires outright strength and is built for the big guys."

Murray finished eighth in his age group, and was quick to point out that the winning firefighter was close to 7ft tall.

The event is to be hosted by Nelson next year, and will be held in conjunction with the National United Fire Brigade Association conference. Police and emergency services from around the country are expected to take part in the sports challenge.



*Murray Hart, Nelson's medal-winning firefighter.*

# Senior aviator still flying high

As Peter Lacy celebrates 50 years' service as a Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, he is reminded of his favourite quote: "It's being there", he says about why he's still working full throttle at age 71.

Peter, described as "New Zealand's true gentleman of aviation", is also a fan of Irish writer, musician, and comedian, the late Spike Milligan, whose quote he likes to live by.

Life in the aviation industry began early for Peter, who at age 15 and still a student at New Plymouth Boys High School, answered an advertisement for an aircraft apprentice. He was soon employed by Rural Aviation to work on its topdressing fleet at Bell Block Aerodrome.

"I learned my trade in the top-dressing industry and I've always had a soft-spot for light aircraft."

At the age of 21 Peter gained his engineer's licence; advanced his career working for various other companies, then in 1963 fate steered him towards Nelson. A Cessna 180 had snapped an undercarriage leg on the Franz Josef Glacier; Peter was asked to do the repairs and ferry the plane to New Plymouth. It involved a stop in Nelson, prompting a return visit by Peter who was keen to have a better look around. The city's town clerk then offered him free premises for a year if he started an aircraft maintenance business at Nelson Airport.

More than 40 years on he's still here, and still loving his job, even if it has altered shape over the years. For 20 years Peter ran his own business, Repairworks at Nelson Airport, before selling it to staff. He once also worked for a Nelson based corporate airline and when Air Nelson was created he took on maintenance control responsibilities, initially with the Metroliners.



*Peter Lacy - a true gentleman of aviation*

"What I do as an engineer means I'm always in close contact with the crew. Working with these aircraft also means I get to certify the whole plane and not just a component."

In the early days Peter piloted aircraft. He is also an accomplished sailor and until, recently, raced his yacht Fiesta with the Tasman Bay Cruising Club.

"The principles are the same - flying and sailing, only with one you're being dragged through the air and the other through the water." Peter has recently sold his yacht, and is now looking for an alternative means to get out on the water.

"Your muscles don't grow any stronger - that's why I gave up the yacht I had."

Peter said his job gives him a great deal of satisfaction. As former president and current member of the Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers and Technologists, he has spent many hours representing the organisation on CAA matters.

He is well known for his sense of humour, and New Zealand's aviation industry has saluted him for his years of service.

## Keeping customers informed

Nelson Airport, New Zealand's fourth busiest, has added to its customer service and communications strategy with a new digital display screen. The region's attractions and features are now displayed on a large ceiling mounted 1.76m x 1.34m screen, powered from a BenQ projector.

The new ICE Digital Daytime display system promotes regional events, welcomes special visitors into the region such as sister city and friendship society groups and conference and event delegates. It is also able to be used to provide safety or security information such as advice about

the new regulation for carrying liquids, aerosols and gels on to aircraft. Richmond company Dry Crust Communications Ltd was contracted by Nelson Airport management to find affordable and effective digital display equipment.

The information system displays content from a remote computer that is managed within the airport administration, allowing timely updates and spontaneous changes that may be required throughout the day.

**The airport is licenced to accommodate limited capacity private international passenger flights.**