

THE FLIGHTPATH

newsletter of the Nelson Airport

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Best major airport Nelson brings home the trophy

Nelson Airport has proved without doubt that it can hold its own against the larger international airports around New Zealand by winning the Major Airport of the Year award. Nelson was the smallest operator in the Major Airport category of the awards (500,000 or more passengers a year) at the New Zealand Airports Association 2008 conference.

Nelson Airport Company Chief Executive Kaye McNabb said the award gives huge credit to the company's endeavour to grow the whole airport business and to function as the hub of domestic air travel and aviation related businesses in the region.

"The award is a testament to the way our team works together to present the right image to travellers and business people from all over the country and the world.

"The strong working relationship between the network of businesses operating out of the airport is of paramount importance to tourism and business in the region," said Kaye.

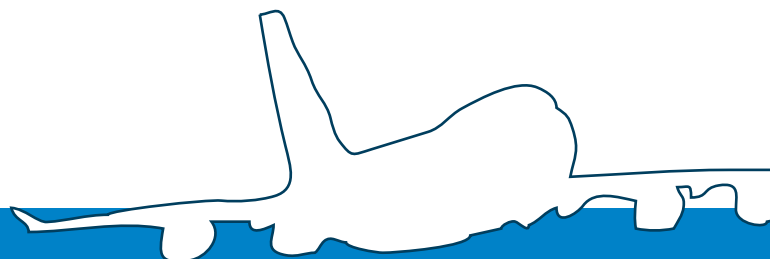
"We have airlines, helicopter operators, baggage handlers, taxis, car rentals, tourism operators and the café, all working together to create the right impression and look after our visitors. That's what makes it great."

Kaye also said that Nelson Airport's commitment to working towards Green Globe accreditation was another positive factor.

"We get more bouquets than brickbats through our customer feedback process. It just goes to show that good things come in small parcels - or small airports."



Cutting the cake are, left to right, Wayne Klenner, Security Officer; Alasdair Macdonald, Operations Support; Janine Stephens, Administration Officer; Ruth Draaijer, Administration Assistant; Kaye McNabb, Chief Executive.



Birds continue to cause concern

Staff at Nelson airport fight an ongoing battle with birds on the airfield. Nelson Airport Company Chief Executive Kaye McNabb said the South Island pied oyster catcher as well as plovers are a particular problem for aircraft.

“We have a legal obligation to manage birds on the airfield as they are a major threat to public safety and put lives at risk,” said Kaye.

“Our focus is to scare the birds out of the airfield boundaries and this is an

ongoing programme to minimise the risk of strikes. Occasionally we have to resort to shooting persistent resident birds or those putting aircraft in imminent danger but our preference is always to persuade the birds to reside elsewhere.”

Unfortunately birds and estuaries are hard to separate and this problem is compounded by pedestrians with dogs in the no-dog areas particularly on the adjacent shorelines disturbing birds, causing them to fly into the airport grounds where they are likely cause a strike. While plovers are kept well under control and only visit in small numbers, the South Island pied oyster catcher which rests in the estuary is a regular visitor in flocks of 200-300. This is a real concern. The airport is required to monitor all strikes and near misses and staff continually look at ways to control birds and prevent strike numbers trending upwards. Discussions are ongoing with local bird experts and Tasman District Council to find a long-term solution to the problem.



South Island pied oyster catcher

Nelson Airport is committed to going green

Nelson airport is committed to going green. The Nelson Airport Company has recognised that sustainability is going to be increasingly important for transport operators, and a key factor in the long-term stability of Nelson’s international tourism market.

Alasdair Macdonald, Operations Support officer, has been working with the Cawthron Institute and the Sustainability Network to take the first steps towards a sustainable accreditation, probably with Green Globe, an international company that focuses on tourism related industries.

Green Globe is a programme that recognises operators that adopt and maintain sustainable practices and addresses the triple bottom line of sustainability in tourism. The report from the Cawthron Institute will enable the airport to identify a strategy to work towards accreditation.

Alasdair said the airport will be looking at key sustainability indicators such as recycling, waste management, noise levels, bird management and native plants as well as social well being and customer experience.

Airport Users Group Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Nelson Aero Club Rooms on Wednesday 26 November at 4.30pm.

All aerodrome users welcome.

Stormy weather blows in problems



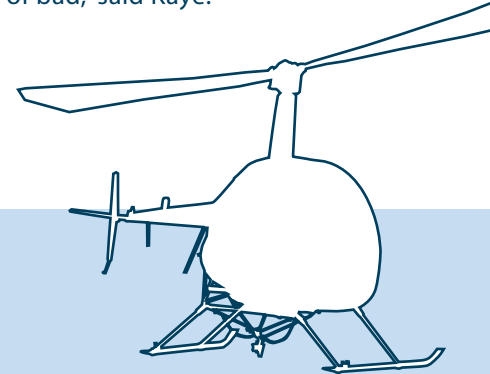
Two storm damaged trees in the airport grounds will form the basis for chainsaw sculptures

The condition of the airport's grass runways have been at their worst over winter due to heavy rain and surface flooding. Some areas had to be closed to fixed wing light aircraft for a week after heavy rain raised the water tables and caused surface flooding.

"This is probably the longest closure we have ever had due to flooding," said Kaye McNabb.

The area around the airport also suffered damage from the high winds on 30 July when many trees lost branches or were blown down. Nelson Airport has retained the stumps of two of the biggest trees and is now seeking proposals from chainsaw artists transform them into works of art.

"We are doing our best to make good out of bad," said Kaye.



Chief Executive's comment

This is a time of excitement for Nelson Airport as we look towards the commencement of the new Air Nelson maintenance hangar and the potential growth and security it will bring to the airport and Nelson region in these somewhat troubled economic times.



Chief executive Kaye McNabb

Nelson Airport Ltd was able to provide an attractive offer to Air Nelson to enable it to secure the turbo fleet maintenance in this region for the long term. Our sincere thanks and congratulations must go to all those who worked so hard in both companies to accomplish this.

Special mention should be made of John Hambleton and Rob Burdekin at Air Nelson and Jeff Hodson in Air NZ who all worked very hard to support the proposal from my team and the Board of Nelson Airport Ltd when it was presented.

The major investment from Air New Zealand anchoring Air Nelson's maintenance division and headquarters to this region is a major coup. The advantages it brings cannot be underestimated. Nelson airport will be working to build on this initiative by encouraging the development of an aircraft maintenance cluster. This will aim to provide a range of maintenance services to a large sector of the aviation industry starting with particular focus

on aircraft of 50 seats and below encompassing both fixed wing and rotor aircraft servicing. We welcome any suggestions which will help us to advance this initiative.

Congratulations must also go to the team at Nelson Airport who all contribute to the effective operation of the airport, from terminal and administration staff to grounds men and fire officers. Their efforts were recognised when Nelson Airport won the prestigious title Airport of the Year at the 2008 Airports Industry conference.

This award is judged on everything from terminal atmosphere to financial results and is a great accolade to have received. The cup is on display in the terminal for all to see.

With new technology at the boarding gate and Christmas fast approaching the excitement looks set to continue for while yet.

Kind regards,
Kaye McNabb
Chief Executive.

Noise monitoring in progress at airport

Nelson Airport recently hired noise monitoring equipment to monitor noise levels at three designated points around the airport, two to the north and one to the south of the runway, on the edge of the airport noise boundary.

One point is in line with the central runway, the other two are positioned on either side to get a full picture of the noise levels produced by aircraft taking off and landing. Operations Support Alasdair Macdonald said that the data was still being processed but once the results of the testing were known it would allow the airport to update its sound exposure

levels for all modern aircraft flying into and out of the airport.

“We need to check that our noise levels are within the standards required to comply with the Resource Management Act. We have the computerised noise models as supplied by aircraft manufacturers but this can vary quite a bit according to the environment in which they are operating, so we will now have real noise exposure sound levels to work with,” said Alasdair.

The latest sound monitoring will allow the airport to identify changes since the last review in 2002, and to evaluate the impact of the new Dash 8 Q300 planes that are currently in operation.



Senior fire officer Murray Hart with noise monitoring equipment



The perimeter path is well used by local walkers and runners

New carpark for recreational users

The airport’s new recreational carpark was completed at the beginning of September with 23 parking spaces now available to recreational users.

The 4.5km walkway around the airport is used by up to 100 individuals and community group members a day. Users

need to remember that no dogs or bikes are allowed on the perimeter walkway due to safety issues.

“The airport is lucky to retain the recreational use of the walkway. We want people to stick to the rules so we can keep it that way,” said Kaye McNabb.

Fuel installation on the move

Progress is being made towards consolidation of the Shell Jet A1 and Avgas fuel distribution tanks to the general aviation area at the northern end of the airport. The tanks have been moved to a temporary site while airport management looks at user issues before finalising the location of the new distribution point.

