

# KŌRERO

DECEMBER 2019 | ISSUE 02



  
QUEENSTOWN  
airport

  
WANAKA  
airport







## Stellar line-up for Warbirds 2020

A number of highlights have already been unveiled for the 2020 airshow.



Foundation Chair Richard Lauder and Colin Keel

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## Telling our Stories

### Welcome to the summer edition of kōrero.

We launched our new look magazine earlier this year giving insights into the people and initiatives that help make Queenstown and Wanaka airports tick. Thank you for the positive feedback and we hope you enjoy our second issue.

At this time of year many of us will no doubt find ourselves reflecting on the year that's been, looking forward and setting goals for the year ahead.

This year at QAC, we have been focusing on sustainability because we recognise the important opportunity and responsibility that both airports have in this space as one of the larger combined businesses and employers in the region. While there are a number of achievements to be proud of, we are just getting started on our sustainability journey. There is great enthusiasm across the airport communities and an appetite to be bold and to strive to lead the way. We will be launching our sustainability framework in the new year and look forward to providing you with regular updates in kōrero.

In this issue you will find stories about two key achievements. At the recent NZ Airports Awards QAC won the "Sustainability Initiative of the Year" for the apron overlay project. It was a privilege to celebrate with the team and acknowledge the innovative thinking and collaborative approach that made the project a reality (p23).

In November we celebrated achieving Living Wage Aotearoa accreditation – the first for an airport in New Zealand (p15). We have been working over the past two years to ensure that all our employees are paid the living wage. This year we also worked with House of Hygiene to extend this living wage commitment to our contracted cleaning team. Achieving this is an important milestone in supporting social sustainability.

We were also delighted to announce that we have entered into a three-year partnership with Wakatipu High School Foundation to support a range of strategic activities as well as the Awhi Fund with the goal of enabling our local high school to offer Aotearoa's best 'all-round' education.

Those of us lucky enough to live in this beautiful part of the world have seen it grow and change in recent years. At the moment Queenstown Lakes District Council, in partnership with Government and Kāi Tahu, is developing a regional spatial plan based around the phrase 'Grow Well' or 'Whaiora' in Te Reo Māori. The aim is to consider and plan where and how we live in the future and what this means for our infrastructure and community facilities in the next 30 years and for generations to come. I encourage you to take a look at the information on QLDC's website about the spatial planning process and how you can get involved.

As the year comes to an end, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your whanau a safe and joyous holiday season and all the best for the new year ahead.

Ngā mihi

Colin Keel | Chief Executive



## Become a Tiaki Ambassador

**Want to upskill your staff to become qualified, recognised ambassadors of your town? Check out Queenstown Resort College's (QRC) three-hour Ambassador Program.**

QRC has been working with Regional Tourism Organisations to include more education about the Tiaki Promise in its Ambassador Program. The national Tiaki initiative launched last year and aims to educate domestic and international visitors around ways to experience the country while respecting local culture and protecting New Zealand for future generations.

The key foundations of the Ambassador Program are manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga, with participants gaining

invaluable local knowledge (history, fun facts and stories about our special places and people) as well as practical tools to welcome and connect with Kiwis and visitors from other cultures.

The Program is endorsed by the Queenstown and Wanaka Chambers of Commerce, Destination Queenstown, Lake Wanaka Tourism, QLDC and the Ambassador advisory group. Its success has become nationally recognised, with bespoke courses rolled out in seven locations around NZ. For more information or to book a spot, visit [www.nzambassador.com](http://www.nzambassador.com).

**Above:** Tiaki Promise visually greets visitors to Queenstown Airport on the large display screens.



## In Safe Hands

Following seven months of training and learning, four of the Airport Rescue Fire team completed the last part of the Fire Officer's course; a week of intense assessments at the Fire and Emergency New Zealand National training centre in Rotorua. During the week Gavin, Rich, Jordan and Aroha were put through their paces, turning up to various scenarios from car crashes to chemical spills to fully involved petrol stations on fire and perform the appropriate actions required to manage that scene in a safe and timely manner. QAC Rescue Fire Senior Fire Fighter, Gavin Mason, said: "It is said that in the absence of experience you rely on your training. We are very fortunate to have a comprehensive training programme in place to test our skills robustly." All four members of the team passed with flying colours and took away a lot from the training and scenarios. We're incredibly lucky to have this skillset at Queenstown Airport.

Photo: The QAC Rescue Fire Team complete their training in Rotorua.

## Seeing Red

New red flashing road studs have been installed airside at ZQN as part of an initiative to reduce the number of drive behinds/in fronts while operating on the apron. The lights will be used in conjunction with compulsory stop points along the apron road.

### What is a drive behind?

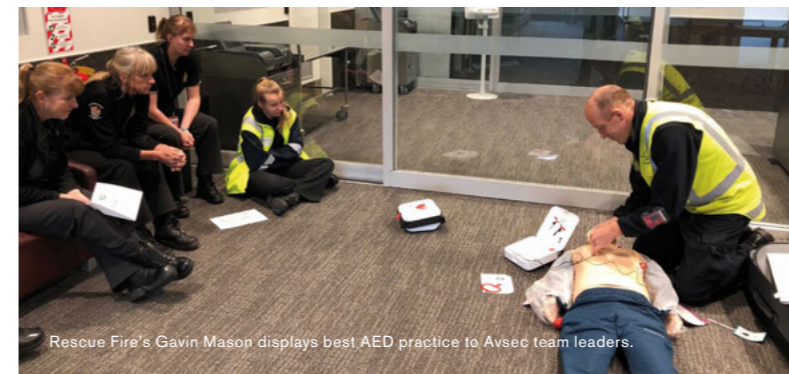
This is when a vehicle passes behind an aircraft while its anti-collision beacons are illuminated. These beacons are an indicator that the engines may still be running or that the aircraft is about to move.



## New Recruits

New Rescue Firefighters Lewis Jackson, Rob Cowles and Anton Malan graduated last month at the 'Passing Out' Parade held at Auckland Airport after a 13-week course including on the job and specialist training at Auckland's special fire facility.

British-born Lewis had the biggest surprise though, when his mum flew in from England especially for the occasion. Thanks to Crew Chief Dougie for his sneaky behind the scenes work to make this happen. Welcome to the team Lewis, Rob and Anton.



Rescue Fire's Gavin Mason displays best AED practice to Avsec team leaders.

## Start the Heart

QAC Senior Fire Fighter Gavin Mason has been working with AVSEC Team Leaders to provide Automated External Defibrillator (AED) familiarisation sessions at ZQN. Gavin is an active volunteer with St John (as an emergency medical technician) and passionate about first aid response and community education in first aid. Avsec Operations Manager, Geoff Argall, said the need for staff to be familiar with the operation of an AED, and when to deploy this equipment, was identified after a recent medical incident at the security screening point. "All the team has found these sessions very useful and have greater confidence to use an AED if required. We look forward to further collaboration with QAC's Rescue Fire team on other first aid initiatives to help keep our customers and airport community safe," says Geoff.

## LED Safety Flares

Rechargeable Emergency LED Road Flares are the latest safety tool in the airside Operations' team toolbox. Traditional safety flares involve pyrotechnics, which are obviously not ideal around fuel. The new LED flares are also rechargeable and don't produce waste, so are a sustainable solution in incidents. Located in the boot of the Ops2 vehicle, they can be used night or day for increased visibility at incidents, general use in directing traffic or warning of hazards or work areas.

## Zero Emissions Trial

To reduce aircraft emissions at airports, battery powered Ground Support Equipment (or GSE) are rapidly replacing diesel-powered kit like cargo loaders and pushback tractors. Air New Zealand has chosen Queenstown Airport to trial a new zero emission Mobile Electric Ground Power Unit (GPU) on its A320 jets which produces NO carbon emissions and NO noise whilst parked at the gate. The two-month trial is currently assessing the battery autonomy of the ITW GSE 7400 unit to determine whether it can supply power long enough to make it a viable alternative to Air New Zealand's diesel GPUs.

## Airline Sustainability News

**The aviation industry, which contributes around 2% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, has committed to halving emissions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.**

It has prioritised the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the targets set by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which are:

- 1.5% annual fuel efficiency improvement between 2009 and 2020;
- Carbon neutral growth from 2020; and
- A 50% reduction in total emissions from a 2005 baseline by 2050.

The industry has been making significant progress on achieving its collective and individual targets. Here's a quick update about some of the key initiatives our airline partners have been working on.

**Air New Zealand** has been recognised for its contribution to growing a sustainable tourism industry at the NZ Tourism Awards, winning the Tourism Sustainability Business Excellence category for businesses with more than \$6m annual turnover. The accolade acknowledges the airline's successful development of initiatives that provide high-value, positive outcomes for tourism and deliver economic benefit to the country, while making progress towards environmental and community sustainability. Air New Zealand has demonstrated leadership through a range of initiatives including saving more than 17,300 tonnes of carbon since it began plugging aircraft into electric ground power while on the gate, partnering with the Department of Conservation to bring birdsong back to New Zealand's iconic Great Walks, and working with local stakeholders and iwi in regions such as Tairāwhiti Gisborne to promote a sustainable tourism industry. It was also instrumental in the launch and ongoing promotion of 'Tiaki — Care for New Zealand'.

**The Qantas Group** (Qantas, Jetstar, QantasLink and Qantas Freight) has announced that it will reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in a major expansion of

its commitment to a more sustainable aviation industry. Actions include immediately doubling the number of flights being offset by matching every dollar spent by customers who tick the box to fly carbon neutral, capping net emissions from 2020 onwards, and investing \$50 million over 10 years to help develop a sustainable aviation fuel industry. Sustainable aviation fuel can reduce carbon emissions by 80% compared to traditional jet fuel but is currently almost double the price.

**Virgin Australia** has a dedicated fuel efficiency team that use cutting-edge technology to monitor and reduce fuel use. A number of operational changes have been introduced including single-engine taxiing and a focus on reduced use of the Auxiliary Power Unit which have resulted in significant fuel savings and reduced emissions. Fuel efficiency can also be affected by a range of factors such as weather and congestion, so Virgin invests heavily in systems to accurately forecast weather patterns and works closely with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology to source the best available data to improve safety and the efficiency of flight plans.

“

***Sustainable aviation fuel can reduce carbon emissions by 80% compared to traditional jet fuel but is currently almost double the price.***

Airlines around the world are also working with aircraft and engine manufacturers on next-generation technology that will deliver a further step-change in emissions reduction — however, innovations such as electric aircraft engines are still some time away.

It's great to see steps in the right direction to help reduce our industry's emissions.



## Kids Run

**Queenstown Airport's team and younger family members came out in force to support the Queenstown Airport Kids Run last month as part of the Company's sponsorship of the event.**

Over 378 kids entered the race, which started in the Queenstown Gardens on a wet Saturday morning in November. The rain didn't dampen the kids' spirits and the QAC tent was set-up at the finish line offering much needed shelter and free face painting by The Paint People to all kids, big and small.

The Air New Zealand Marathon weekend is now one of the biggest events in the airport's calendar, with additional

flights added to support competitors in taking part. The event continues to go from strength to strength and in the main marathon events over 12,000 competitors took part, hailing from NZ, Australia, the USA, China and the UK.

On Sunday 17 November, ZQN had 72 scheduled jet movements (one of our busiest days) with no cancellations. That kind of busy deserves a huge shout-out to the whole airport community who worked seamlessly and with a smile to move customers through the terminal with ease. It's amazing how all the parts of the cog keep turning behind the scenes to provide a memorable and safe experience for our customers.



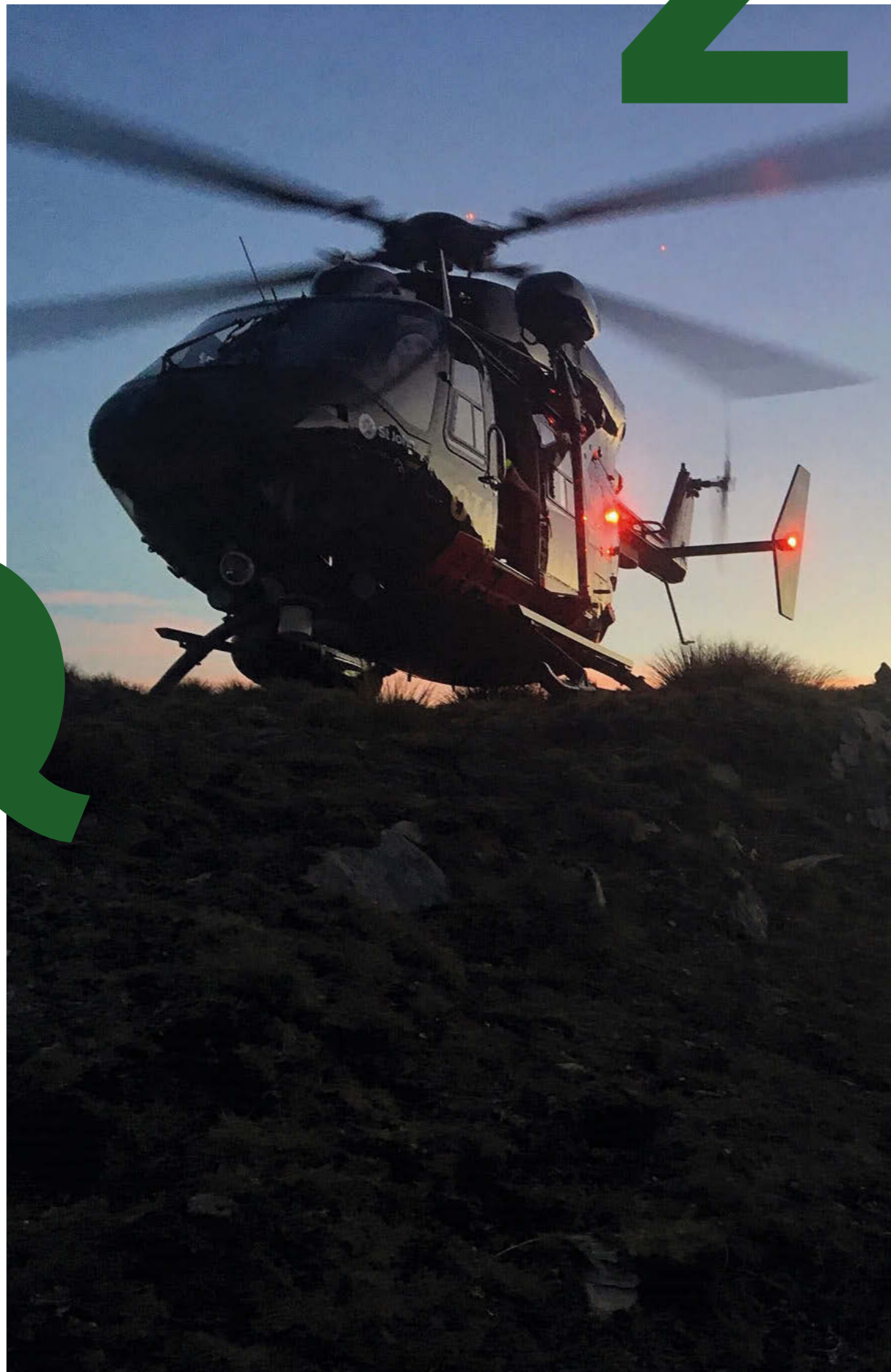
## Southern Runnings

**Congratulations to QAC's Annie Gallaway, Eleanor Trueman, Bill Malone, Dan Kirkman, Arjan Schenk, and Melissa Wakeman, who all completed the inaugural 32km Rakiura Challenge on Stewart Island.**

The race is New Zealand's southernmost trail run, a 34km race around the Rakiura Track — one of the most rugged and diverse trails in New Zealand. It's not for the faint

hearted, with a fair bit of mud along southern coastline and dense rainforest. There were 250 runners for the first event (the population of Stewart Island is just 398). **Awesome effort team! The team that runs together, stays together.**

**Photos Left to Right:** Over 250 people took part in the inaugural event; Arjan, Annie and Bill congratulate each other post-race; Eleanor crossing the finish line beaming; Dan Kirkman happy with the finish.



## Otago Heli Turns One

**It's been just over 12 months now since Otago Helicopters set-up base at Queenstown Airport, taking ownership of its BK117 helicopter and a permanent base here in late November 2018.**

Operating 24 hours a day, 365-days a year, the team supplies much-needed air ambulance services to the lakes region and surrounding area, covering an array of incidents and emergencies, from ski and tramping rescues high in the hills, to water rescues and attending emergency health issues such as critical injuries and childbirth complications.



***The team plays a crucial part in keeping our communities safe and we're incredibly lucky to have this service in the region.***

The familiar grey chopper, specifically set-up for air ambulance and rescue operations, has a winch for use in areas where the team are not able to land so that they can still access and retrieve casualties. The aircraft is also fitted with the latest generation of navigation equipment to aid the pilots in their search efforts and ensure a safe and efficient service.

The crew make-up for each operation is one pilot and two paramedics who work on a rotating roster system, with three pilots Bernie Attwood, Jason Laing, and Justin Gloag on the roster, all of whom are locals with a wide range of different experiences.

Dan Bentley, Dave Chittenden, Jodie Burton and Pierre Macalincag are all paramedics employed by St John and solely dedicated to the helicopter operation, this means there is never a need to deplete the road ambulance resource and no delay in response time.

The operation is supported locally by the Lakes District Air Rescue Trust (LDART) which has been active in the region since 1990 and the operation would not be possible without them. QAC supports LDART and you may have spotted their coin donation box in the international departures area when you last flew out.

LDART recently funded a major upgrade to the medical equipment on the helicopter, which includes a new defibrillator/monitor and a ventilator which is the same quality used in the hospital which will allow for seamless integration when transferring seriously ill patients.

The team plays a crucial part in keeping our communities safe and we're incredibly lucky to have this service in the region. Here's to birthday number 2 team!

Find out more about the great work they do at [www.helicoptersotago.co.nz](http://www.helicoptersotago.co.nz)





# Celebrating the Best of Our Region

With the start of the Central Otago summer comes market season and there are a number of amazing markets around the region selling an array of local fruit, veggies, produce, plants, arts and crafts. We're lucky to have the largest regional market right on the airport's doorstep (or runway as it were).

The Remarkables Market, which operates from the famous 'red barn' every Saturday, is now underway for the Summer Season (over 93 stall holders turned out for week one) so we caught up with Market Manager, Sherryn Smith, to find out what's new and how the market is an extension of the airport community.

Drinking coffee in the sun, reading the newspaper, watching the kids play on the impressive new playground (the old Bathhouse one is now onsite) or just relaxing

listening to live music, the market has a special place in the hearts and minds of many a local.

Located near Remarkables Park Town Centre, the market is in its tenth season and this summer became New Zealand's first market to ban the use of single use takeaway cups, marking a major milestone for the market's plans to move towards Zero Waste.

"Previously the market would sell hundreds of cups of coffee, fresh juices and smoothies each Saturday all in takeaway cups, but not anymore. Our coffee vendors are using ceramic cups and the juicing stall is using donated glass jars...and not one customer has objected," says Sherryn.

The ceramic coffee cup stand, which showcases a mismatch of reusable cups for people to use, wash and return, is a sought-after photo opportunity at the market.



The Milford Sound Flights team grabbing a quick bite in between flying.

"Overseas visitors especially love the simplicity of the idea. We know people generally want to do the right thing when it comes to protecting our environment and by giving people an alternative, and making it part of our policies, it means everyone is able to play their part."

"Our hot food vendors are also all moving towards using home compostable plates and utensils, which we put in our compost bin (along with food scraps, coffee grinds and juicing pulp). This compost goes onto our market gardens and will make our market grounds even more attractive," adds Sherryn.

"This season we have also banned stallholders giving single use plastic bags to market visitors. We offer jute bags for sale, as well as local Boomerang Bags, where people can borrow a bag and return it to collection boxes around Queenstown."



*Previously the market would sell hundreds of cups of coffee, fresh juices and smoothies each Saturday all in takeaway cups, but not anymore.*

The market runs until Easter and has become a firm favourite with the airport community, with many of the 600+ strong workforce hanging out at the market regularly. The General Aviation operators are nearby and often swing in to grab a quick coffee and a bite when they're not flying, while the out-of-town airline crews love taking the Central Otago grown peonies and other produce home with them.

"We see a lot of people from the airport every week, meeting friends for breakfast, brunch, lunch, or just for a wander to browse the stalls and catch-up with friends," she says. "Live music adds to the atmosphere and the market has a real sense of community, where our regional visitors are welcomed as warmly as locals," smiles Sherryn.

"For some, the planes flying overhead are an added twist and visitors often look to the skies to grab a photo or two of an in-coming aircraft. The helicopter companies often do a flyover and one year we even had Santa arrive in one kindly sponsored by Over the Top."

For details on the Remarkables Market stall holders and events, visit [www.remarkablespark.com/community/remarkables-market/](http://www.remarkablespark.com/community/remarkables-market/)



Air New Zealand's Jennifer Rodgers with Market Manager Sherryn Smith.



## Living Wage Aotearoa Accreditation

**Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC) has become the first airport company in New Zealand to achieve Living Wage accreditation. News of the accreditation came in November, just in time to mark Living Wage Week 2019.**

Donna Darlington, QAC's People and Culture Manager, said that the Board and leadership team had prioritised the implementation of the Living Wage across the business and were committed to ensuring that it extended to contractors as well as permanent QAC staff.

"Paying the Living Wage is the right thing to do and it's an important part of our organisation's commitment to sustainability and being a good employer," she said.

Felicia Scherrer from Living Wage Movement Aotearoa NZ is excited to welcome QAC on board.

"Queenstown and Wānaka are beautiful destinations, enjoyed by visitors from all over the world. By paying the Living Wage, QAC is enabling their workers to survive, thrive and enjoy the beautiful area they live in. We look forward to seeing other airports around the country being inspired and motivated to follow QAC's example by becoming Accredited Living Wage Employers."

### One Team

QAC has a 'one team' philosophy which encourages working together to deliver the best outcomes, sharing responsibility for operational performance and customer experience and investing in the team's development and wellbeing.

This year QAC worked with its new contracted cleaning provider, House of Hygiene, to extend living wage payments to the cleaning team (or custodians).

Daniel Dodd, Manager Terminal Operations, said that it was a great opportunity to bring the custodians into QAC's 'one team' way of working.

"We're providing them with our airport uniform, paying them the Living Wage, involving them in our social activities and ensuring they have shared access to areas like our lunchroom, the showers and lockers. They are very much one of us under the new contract conditions.

"A one team approach takes time and commitment but we're definitely seeing the results in our customer satisfaction scores. I'm also getting great feedback from staff who have seen the custodians step up and really take charge which is fantastic.



***Paying the Living Wage is the right thing to do and it's an important part of our organisation's commitment to sustainability and being a good employer.***

### What is the Living Wage?

The Living Wage has emerged as a response to growing poverty and inequality that continues to hold back so many Kiwi workers, their families and our economy. The concept is simple and powerful — it's the hourly wage a worker needs to pay for the necessities of life and participate as an active citizen in the community. It reflects the basic expenses of workers and their families such as food, transportation, housing and childcare, and is calculated independently each year by the New Zealand Family Centre Social Policy Unit. The Living Wage rate is voluntary and for 2019 is \$21.15.





## Printing that's Kind to the Planet

When we were researching paper stock for our new magazine, we were intrigued when we saw the company tagline 'Simply sustainable' for one of the shortlisted suppliers. Our team wanted to learn more about Lenzing Papier and its sustainability initiatives, so we've delved a little deeper for our second issue of *kōrero* into what makes them different to other paper mills and producers.

Founded in 1892 in the Austrian town of Lenzing, the company has embraced reducing its carbon footprint and impact on its stunning environment since 1984, with the installation and successful start-up of a new waste-paper preparation and de-inking plant.

With over 160 employees, some fifth and sixth generation workers, it produces over 100,000 metric tons of paper per year. As Queenstown and Wānaka airports continue on the sustainability journey, we're continually looking at developments in this space to learn from others. So if we have to print things like magazines, and we are working hard to reduce our printing footprint, then we believe it

should be on the most environmentally-friendly paper we can find. We sat down with the Lenzing Papier team to find out more about their sustainability framework.

### So what does 'simply sustainable' mean?

As a fully integrated paper mill with a minimal carbon footprint, it's all about making the world a little greener, preserving the unspoilt natural environment of the Austrian mill's site for current and future generations. QAC chose the eco100 stock for the new magazine as the values of Lenzing align with QAC's. The fact that the town of Lenzing looks uncannily like Wānaka is just a coincidence.

### Why is Lenzing Papier mill different to other mills?

Lenzing Papier is in a unique position as their mill is integrated with a de-inking plant and a pulp mill. This is unusual when making recycled paper. Lenzing Papier's processes produce significantly lower emissions than most other paper products. Not only with respect to fossil carbon emissions, but also to water use, to wastewater purification and the prevention of landfill. For people who want to go a step further, they offer options of offsetting unavoidable fossil emissions as another contribution to climate change prevention.

### How do you keep the carbon footprint so small?

Lenzing's sustainability framework measures, monitors and reduces its footprint in a number of areas; Clean Air, Water, Landfill, Energy and Recycling. There are lots of things they do to ensure a smaller footprint, here's just some of them.

**Clean Air**— Strict statutory requirements, rigorous monitoring and state-of-the-art plants ensure the least amount of air contamination.

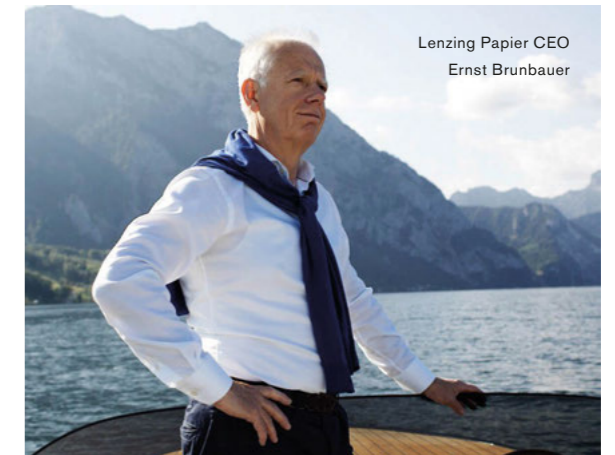
**Water**— Situated at the outflow of Lake Attersee, the water quality is drinkable and allows direct use for production. As part of their environmental program they work on the continuous reduction of water usage.

**Landfill**— Production processes are created to minimise residuals and waste. Organic residuals are collected and incinerated in the in-house boilers to utilise their heat capacity. The high-pressure steam is then fed into a steam-turbine for electricity generation. There is therefore no necessity for waste to go to landfill.

**Energy**— The papermill is linked into the energy generation plants of the pulp mill. After separation of cooking liquor and fibres, the heat capacity of the organic residuals is utilised in black liquor boilers, thus, generating high pressure steam. The steam drives the steam turbines and generates electricity, which is enough to feed all processes and is self-sufficient. Therefore, Lenzing Papier's carbon footprint is relatively small.



*As a fully integrated paper mill with a minimal carbon footprint, it's all about making the world a little greener, preserving the unspoilt natural environment of the Austrian mill's site for current and future generations.*



Lenzing Papier CEO  
Ernst Brunbauer

### How much waste does the mill produce?

Lenzing is very proud of the fact that it does not produce any waste that has to go to landfill. The raw materials are re-used as much as possible and at the end of their lifecycle those substances are incinerated in a very efficient incinerator. The generated energy is then put back into the milling process.

### True or False...the team swim in the same lake the water from the mill is pumped into.

Yes, that's true. They take all their fabrication water out of the lake's outflow and use it with only mechanical cleaning for production. After responsible use and careful cleaning of the water, they put it back into the river. People swim and fish at the outlet from the wastewater treatment plant.

To find out more about the sustainability work of Lenzing Papier, visit the website

[www.lenzingpapier.com/en/sustainability](http://www.lenzingpapier.com/en/sustainability)

We worked with local printing company Print Central to source the most sustainably-sourced paper stock we could find.





F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets return for WOW 2020.

**F/A-18 Hornet** Ten years after they debuted at Warbirds Over Wanaka, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets are returning for Easter 2020. The RAAF is planning to bring five Hornets to NZ providing a 4-ship for the Wanaka Airshow led by New Zealand-born Commanding Officer Jason 'Easty' Easthope.



P-40 Kittyhawk firing guns. Credit: Gavin Conroy

**P-40 Kittyhawk** Auckland-based pilot Frank Parker is returning to Wānaka to fly the P-40 Kittyhawk. Frank will be firing the guns as part of an aerial display but there will also be a test firing of the guns on the ground on the Friday of the Airshow. Warbirds Over Wanaka General Manager, Ed Taylor, says Wānaka is the only Airshow in the world where you can see a P-40 firing its guns.



Steadfast in cloud. Credit: Gavin Conroy

**Yak-3 — 'Steadfast'** The latest fighter aircraft to find a new home in New Zealand will make its WOW debut. The Yak-3 known as 'Steadfast' has been bought by Blenheim-based owners, Mark O'Sullivan and Ronan Harvey. It arrived from Australia in September and is currently being readied for Wānaka. The Yak-3 was one of the most feared WWII fighter aircraft due to their high speed and manoeuvrability, making them ideal in dog-fights.

**Rides Day** Organisers have added two exciting aircraft to their 2020 Rides Day line-up including the chance to fly in a Spitfire and the only airworthy Avro Anson Mk 1 in the world. The two-seater Spitfire MH367, owned by Auckland-based Doug Brooker, last displayed at Wānaka in 2012. Sporting a desert camouflage paint scheme this aircraft saw plenty of action in North Africa during WWII. Doug Brooker will also be bringing his MXS aircraft to Wānaka. "Doug is a very accomplished aerobatic pilot and I'm sure his MXS display will be a big crowd pleaser," says Ed.



Doug Brooker's Supermarine Spitfire.

**RNZAF Return** Royal New Zealand Air Force has announced its first display for the event, with confirmation the 5-ship Black Falcons aerobatic team will be back to wow the crowds next Easter. The Black Falcons were formed in 2015 when the RNZAF took delivery of its new Texan T-6C trainer aircraft. There was a two-ship display at the 2016 airshow with the full five aircraft display debuting in 2018. The Black Falcons have been working up a new routine to be performed at Wānaka next year.



Credit: Steve Zimmerman



Credit: Philip Hosking

## Stellar line-up for Warbirds 2020

With only four months to go until Easter, the team at Warbirds Over Wanaka International Airshow have been busy, announcing a steady-stream of impressive aircraft and displays for the 2020 Airshow, to be held at Wānaka Airport on 10, 11 and 12 April.

With more announcements still to come WOW 2020 has announced a number of highlights so far.

For more information, up to date announcements as they happen and to purchase tickets, visit [www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com](http://www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com).

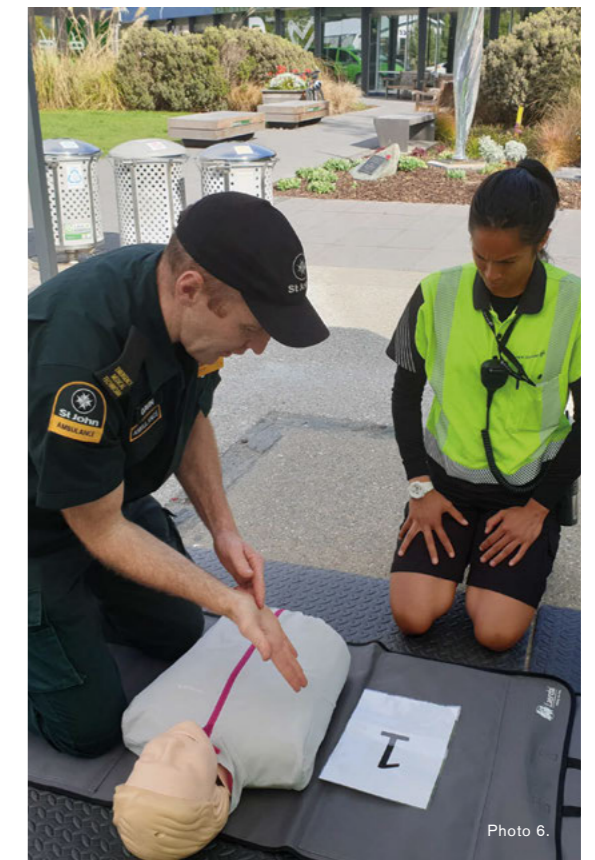


**Photos:** 1. Vanessa Watson trying out the Otago Rescue Heli. 2. From L to R—Thais Amano (Air NZ), Liz Kaloudau (Remarkable Sweets), Michaela Jewson (Glenorchy Air), Susan Sheridan (AvSec), Elena Dal Pra (K-Copy). 3. Restart the Heart, the race is on. 4. Ralph Fegan talks through the FOD work at Wānaka Airport. 5. Sean Roff and Jamie Waaka from QAC testing out the speed sign. 6. Gavin Mason demonstrating how to perform CPR to Maima Wohler from Air New Zealand.

# Airport Safety Week 2019

Hundreds from the Queenstown and Wānaka Airport communities stepped out in support of this year's Airport Safety Week, under the theme 'Our Airport Our Community'.

From drone awareness, fire extinguisher training, emergency preparedness to managing stress and resilience and environmental wellness, there was something for everyone. Here's just a snapshot of some of our amazing people getting amongst the action.



# Sustainability Initiative of the Year

**A collaboration involving crushed beer bottles and printer toner proved to be a winning formula for Queenstown Airport and Downer NZ, who picked up the NZ Airports' 'Sustainability Initiative of the Year' award for their ground-breaking approach to resurfacing the airport's aircraft parking area in 2018.**

The award, presented at the NZ Airports Association Conference in Auckland last month, was based on the project team's innovative and sustainable infrastructure delivery techniques and strong community engagement.

#### Award-Winning Partnership

QAC had previously partnered with Downer NZ to complete the widening and resurfacing of the airport's runway in 2014/5, a complex project which ultimately enabled after-dark flights for Queenstown and earned them the NZ Airports 'Major Airport of the Year' award in 2016.

QAC's General Manager of Operations and Safety Mike Clay said that the airport's aircraft parking area (or "apron" in airport speak) needed to be resurfaced about once every 10 years so it was a great opportunity to "step-change" the way the infrastructure was delivered, from concept to execution.

"We looked for a partner who could help us deliver a sustainable, innovative and operationally resilient solution and meet the airport's stringent health, safety and security standards. Once again, Downer stood out and their innovation and collaboration with other Kiwi organisations in pioneering a new generation lower carbon asphalt proved to be a winner.

"The award is a real testament to the hard-working team who delivered this complex project. It required two months of heavy duty overnight work and absolute precision to ensure we were operationally ready each morning," he said.



*We looked for a partner who could help us deliver a sustainable, innovative and operationally resilient solution and meet the airport's stringent health, safety and security standards.*

#### Improving Operational Resilience

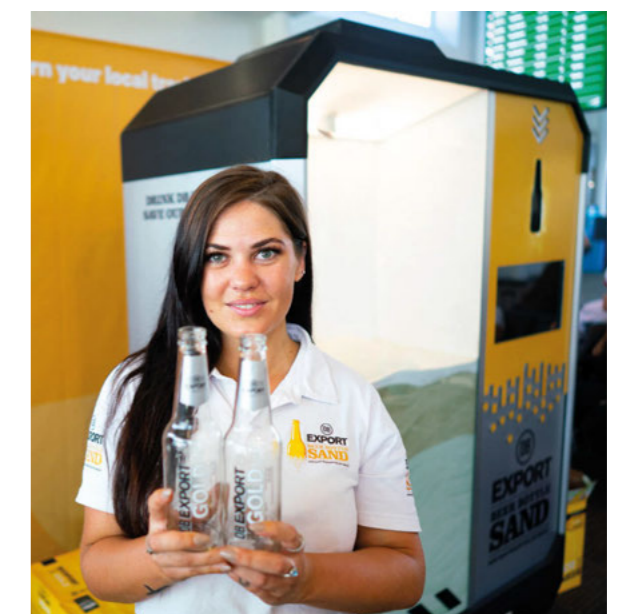
The \$7 million project was a milestone in Queenstown Airport's continuing sustainability journey, with sustainable

alternatives — mixing recycled toner cartridge residue (Toner Pavé) and beer bottle sand derived from crushed, recycled beer bottles — used in place of traditional non-renewable aggregates. The new asphalt is operationally resilient and considered ideal for Queenstown's alpine climate, providing a robust, durable surface in all weathers.

"Because Queenstown Airport is a Civil Defence Lifeline Utility, operational resilience must be a key consideration in our planning. Investing in top quality airfield infrastructure gives us the best chance of being able to get the airport operational quickly in the event of a major disaster," said Mike Clay.

#### Innovative Solution

By choosing Downer, QAC was able to piggyback off its considerable Research and Development investment in innovative sustainable construction methods. While TonerPave is already used across Australia and at one site in New Zealand, Downer's adaption of the product for Queenstown Airport made it a first-of-its-kind project in New Zealand. Most importantly, the project demonstrates the future possibilities for sustainable pavement construction.



Reducing the project's carbon footprint was also a key consideration and Downer used an onsite mobile Ciber Asphalt plant which reduced the cartage and haulage requirements by about 70,000km. The plant was chosen because of its low emissions and fuel consumption, and ease of transporting and set-up.

QAC took advantage of the onsite asphalt plant to complete another small project that would have been far more costly otherwise — sealing the airport's new commercial vehicle waiting area.

**More About TonerPave**

TonerPave is a modified toner polymer developed in 2014 by Downer Group (Australia) in partnership with Close the Loop (an Australian R&D company focused on sustainability). It's an innovative asphalt mix that uses toner cartridge residue to replace a large portion of bitumen binder. In New Zealand it diverts this waste away from landfills whilst also preserving the use of non-renewable quarried aggregates.

This project also incorporated the use of recycled beer bottle sand into the TonerPave asphalt mix as an alternative to the non-renewable sand usually sourced from beaches and rivers used in traditional asphalt mixes. Downer's pavement R&D division Road Science developed the idea of beer bottle sand as a replacement for sand in asphalt mixes, from a recycling issue highlighted by DB Breweries.

**Community Participation**

Sharing the project with the airport community and visitors and creating opportunities for their participation and feedback was also a strategic goal. QAC and Downer created an in-terminal experience where visitors could turn their 'trash to treasure'. The interactive stand gave

people the opportunity to donate beer bottles and toner cartridges and learn more about the project and benefits of TonerPave. There was also a bottle crushing machine so people could put bottles in and watch them convert to sand. Both companies also shared project updates, stories and videos through their online channels.

**Minimising Disruption**

Being a responsible neighbour and minimising disruption to surrounding residents were key considerations, particularly given the fact that most of the resurfacing work needed to be completed outside of the airport's operating hours (6am–10pm). Issues such as noise and dust, with appropriate mitigations, were built into Downer's health and safety plan and QAC shared project updates with neighbours and ran a 24/7 hotline in case they needed to get in touch.

**Behind the Scenes**

Watch the YouTube video [bit.ly/ApronOverlayZQN](https://bit.ly/ApronOverlayZQN) to see how it was done!

**Fun Facts**

- Over 55,000m<sup>2</sup> milled/asphalted
- 12,000 tonnes of asphalt used
- 1.5 million bottles recycled, turned to sand and used as an alternative to virgin aggregate
- 330,000 printer cartridges used as alternative asphalt binder product
- 70,000km saved in cartage and haulage requirements by using an onsite mobile asphalt plant



# Air NZ Check-in Downtown

**Air New Zealand introduced a pop-up check-in and bag drop service in downtown Queenstown at the end of November to provide added convenience to its customers.**

Travellers flying on the airline's domestic and international services will be able to use the Air New Zealand downtown check-in on their day of travel as part of a three-month trial. The service is open seven days a week at 5 Earl Street opposite the Novotel Hotel from 8am to 2pm. Air New Zealand staff will check the travellers in, allow them to drop off their bags and have the bags securely transported by the airline's trial partner OACIS

(Off Airport Check-In Solutions) to the airport and straight into the airport's baggage system.

The check-in and bag drop service has a charge of \$15 per booking with customers able to pay using credit card or Eftpos at the site. Customers with excess, oversized and special baggage such as strollers, along with wheelchair passengers, are also able to use the service. Customers are encouraged to use the Air New Zealand app to check-in prior to dropping their bags at the site if they wish.

Following the three-month trial, Air New Zealand will look at the possibility of introducing a similar concept in other locations.



Queenstown Airport, BECA and Downer NZ teams at the NZ Airports Association Awards.

# Mountain Biking Reaches New Heights

**One of New Zealand's most experienced tourism operators, The Alpine Group, has announced the launch of its latest brand, Southern Lakes Helibike.**

With almost fifty years' experience operating iconic tourism brands including Alpine Helicopters, Southern Lakes Heliski and the much-awarded luxury lodge Minaret Station, Managing Director Jonathan Wallis says the time is now right to expand in time for the busy summer season of biking.

"The advancement of electric mountain bike technology, coupled with helicopter access to phenomenal terrain and experienced guides, means we can now provide access to our stunning backcountry for adventurers of all ages and stages," says Wallis.

According to Jonathan the focus for Southern Lakes Helibike will be "authentic adventures" tailored to any ability level. With a variety of terrain, much of it private access only, Southern Lakes Helibike will take guests exploring private lakeside rolling trails, right through to remote downhill single track for experienced riders seeking otherwise inaccessible new challenges.

"We know from over 30 years of heliskiing, that our clients are looking for a great day out. They want the experience to match their ability, so they can best absorb the scenery and get the most enjoyment. Our biggest market in winter is intermediate skiers and riders. We anticipate this being very similar with Southern Lakes Helibike," he explains.

"A great day out should have your cheek muscles tired from smiling, as much, if not more than your legs burning," adds Jonathan.

Operating daily from both Queenstown and Wānaka, Southern Lakes Helibike will offer a variety of half and full day small group adventures, as well as unique private charters for those looking to maximise their day across multiple locations.

"Right from our early days, our skilled pilots and guides, as well as our deep local knowledge and passion for hosting, have combined for a unique and memorable guest experience," says Wallis.

"Southern Lakes Helibike will continue this legacy."

## About Southern Lakes Helibike

Southern Lakes Helibike is part of The Alpine Group. With operational bases at both Queenstown and Wānaka Airports, Southern Lakes Helibike is powered by our sister company Alpine Helicopters.

Southern Lakes Helibike packages will include the High Country Classic, Alpine Explorer and Southern Lakes Ultimate.



*A great day out should have your cheek muscles tired from smiling, as much, if not more than your legs burning.*



The half day High Country Classic (\$950pp) begins with a morning departure flying guests to the top of New Zealand's high alpine to explore flowing downhill tracks with snacks and refreshments along the way. The day concludes with a road transfer back to guest's accommodation by midday.

The Alpine Explorer (\$2,800pp) is a premium full day adventure which combines exploration with an incredible scenic flight to your remote drop point. Venture through winding trails, historic huts, working high-country farms and stunning lakeside beaches with a gourmet lunch to fuel the journey.

Enjoy total freedom on the Southern Lakes Ultimate (\$13,950) full day private charter. Perfect for small groups or families the Southern Lakes Ultimate travels to multiple exclusive locations paired with a delicious gourmet meal and New Zealand's most renowned scenery.

**For more information and to book please visit [www.southernlakeshelibike.com](http://www.southernlakeshelibike.com)**



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