

K Ō R E R O







S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 9 | I S S U E 0 1

Nurturing our **Future** from Wānaka Airport

Developing expert leaders in the
New Zealand aviation industry.



Connect with Us

-  @queenstownairport
@wanakaairport
-  @queenstownairport
@wanakaairport
-  @NZQN
-  queenstown-airport-corporation-ltd
-  community@queenstownairport.com
-  wanakaairport.com
queenstownairport.co.nz



Telling our Stories

Welcome to the first edition of **kōrero**, the voice of Queenstown and Wānaka airports.

Over the last 12 months, the QAC team has been working through and understanding our purpose and aspiration and earlier this year we launched our company strategy house to pull all of that thinking together. The strategy house has solid foundations (our values and guiding principles), an overarching roof (our aspiration) and strong pillars that support the house (themes and key priorities) and guides our everyday decisions and strategic thinking.

As part of the process, our thinking led us back to the very thing that defines us — our role to provide safe, efficient and customer centric experiences every day. So we decided what better way to celebrate that than to shine a light on our day-to-day operations, our people, our innovations, our communities, our culture and our heritage.

Enter **kōrero**. This new, fresh quarterly magazine, published in-line with the seasons, promises an insight into the people, projects and initiatives that help make Queenstown and Wānaka airports tick. Adding to our commitment to the environment, as part of our sustainability framework, we've chose an environmentally responsible offset paper. You can find more detail overleaf about the eco100 paper we're using.

Each issue we'll highlight stories and news from our team, airport communities and wider community, including events, what's on and what's new. In this first edition we celebrate the success of NZ Winter Pride week and the fantastic support received from the local community and businesses, we talk more about the recent collaborative arrangement QAC has entered into with Dunedin and Invercargill airports, highlight the work we're doing and plan to do in the sustainability space, plus more news and updates from the airport operators, retailers and an update on WOW 2020 and what we can expect from this world-class airshow.

We hope you enjoy our first edition and we'd love to hear your thoughts via our various channels.

Ngā mihi

Colin Keel | Chief Executive



This document is printed on an environmentally responsible paper, produced using Third Party certified 100% Post-Consumer Recycled, Process Chlorine Free (PCF) pulp from Responsible Sources. Manufactured under the strict ISO14001 Environmental Management System, and carries the internationally recognised Blue Angel, Nordic Swan, and Austrian Environmental Label.



The Lenzing Papier plant in Lenzing, Austria

Recycling for Good

Like what you read? While we haven't gone completely 'print-free' for our new magazine, we have re-looked at the paper we use to print our collateral as part of our goal to reduce the amount of paper we use within the business. Working with our design agency Feast and printers, Print Central (#teamwork) we have chosen the eco100 paper stock from Lenzing Papier in Austria.

eco100 is a first class, environmentally responsible offset paper, produced using FSC® Certified, 100% Post-Consumer Recycled, PCF pulp. Manufactured under the

strict ISO14001 Environmental Management System. It has a number of internationally-recognised environmental accreditations including the Blue Angel and Nordic Swan eco-labels and the Austrian Environmental Label. The paper is also PFC free, which means that no chlorine or chlorine compounds are used in the recycling process. We hope you enjoy this first edition and once you've read it, we encourage you to pass it on to someone else and then please recycle it so we can continue to do our bit for the environment.

Want to go one step further and read it online? Then sign-up for our newsletter or view on our website anytime. Details on page 2.

Our Sustainability Journey Continues

Looking out of the window every day is a great reminder that we have a responsibility to protect and, wherever possible, improve the lives of future generations. And because of the nature of our business, we're working hard to continuously learn, improve and embed sustainability, innovation and resilience across our activities to minimise their impacts.

What's been happening?

Some of QAC's larger initiatives over the past couple of years have included using lower carbon asphalt for resurfacing, improving the quality and resilience of the airport's infrastructure and, on a more personal level, ensuring QAC cares for its team through wellbeing initiatives and the Living Wage. More recently we've added sustainability goals into new procurement contracts to ensure our partners are experts in best practice building and design, pay the Living Wage and are helping us use our energy sources as efficiently as possible.

At a national level we were an early adopter of Tourism Industry Aotearoa's Tourism Sustainability Commitment and became a strong advocate for Tourism New Zealand's new Tiaki Promise — Care for NZ initiative. One of our core values is to 'do the right thing' and we believe that while tourism brings a range of benefits to New Zealand, it must be managed responsibly. The effects, both positive and negative, need to be monitored and measured so that we can all play our part in kaitiakitanga — the guardianship of our place.



Tackling climate change and its impacts is a global issue and one we're all grappling with.

We recently supported Queenstown Lakes District Council's draft climate change action plan and our submission, which includes details on how we're assisting, is available at www.queenstownairport.co.nz. We also continue to work closely with government and industry partners on the greenhouse gas emissions challenge in line with specific actions related to measuring and developing emissions reduction initiatives.

Where to next?

Sustainability is one of QAC's guiding principles and part of our strategy house but we're mindful that our journey is a marathon, not a sprint — there's much to learn, decisions to be made and work to be done to ensure we're 'walking the walk'.

Over the next few months we're focusing on bringing our sustainability work together, from longer-term strategic planning initiatives to day-to-day activities, to form an organisation-wide framework. This framework will include our goals; current and planned initiatives showing how we create value which benefits people, communities and the environment over the short, medium and longer-term; and setting up best practice reporting to ensure accountability.

Collaboration is key to creating collective value across Queenstown and Wānaka airports. An internal QAC working group will drive our organisation's efforts and measure our progress while a new cross-airport community 'champions' committee will collectively prioritise goals and initiatives, share knowledge, and work together to achieve the best outcomes. We will also link-in with partners and the wider community to better understand their priorities and how we can achieve an appropriate balance between providing infrastructure to facilitate air services and supporting social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing at a local, regional and national level.

Small changes make a big difference

Learning and sharing knowledge helps us to constantly challenge ourselves to do better, both at work and at home. This can be small things like using reusable cups, aluminum drink bottles and reusable shopping bags to reduce waste, replacing lightbulbs with LEDs to reduce energy consumption, or walking/bussing/biking/ridesharing where possible to reduce carbon emissions — they all add up!

Do you have any sustainability tips you want to share with the airport community to improve our workplace?

Drop community@queenstownairport.com an email.



From Remote Nepal to Queenstown

The Edmund Hillary flagship store, located at Queenstown Airport, has recently welcomed Nepalese store manager Kanchan Pun to the team. We caught up on her love of her native country and the family she now represents.

Growing up in Myagdi, a remote part of western Nepal, and raised on stories of the bravery of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay — the first pair to summit Mt Everest in 1953 — Nepalese native Kanchan Pun never thought she would one day join a company tasked with keeping this legacy alive.

"I learnt about Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay during my school days in Nepal," says Kanchan.

"I really respected their bravery to climb Everest. He created a benchmark and stood as an inspiration for a new generation — which created such a strong bond between Nepal and New Zealand.

"It is a golden opportunity for me to work for the Edmund Hillary store in Queenstown, as I am working for an extraordinary man, that I read about in school. I get a chance to interact with a lot of people and know their perspectives on Edmund Hillary, New Zealand and Nepal. It is a new and exciting experience in life for me."

Kanchan moved to New Zealand five years ago, first studying business in Auckland before moving to Queenstown. Born and raised in Myagdi, she and her family (three siblings and parents) left Nepal's civil war in 2004 and moved to India.



Kanchan's Father Nanda Bahadur Pun and Mother Mina Pun



My father was my hero and a great inspiration. He always encouraged me to achieve my dreams and never give up on life.

"I like hiking and trekking and while I haven't climbed any mountains yet, it's definitely something I'd like to do in the future. I'm planning to go Annapurna basecamp next year."

Since coming to New Zealand, Kanchan says she has enjoyed incredible scenery in both North and South Islands and loves the diverse culture and supportive environment she finds herself in.

"I love working for a clothing brand that helps keep Edmund Hillary's legacy alive and encourages people all around the world to do things they thought they couldn't do.

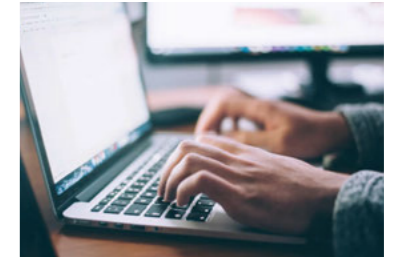
"I really love the range especially Icefall and Khumbu, my favourites and I can't wait for the women's range, that we are releasing in October. Our clothes will definitely make you look stylish as well as keeping you warm."

EDMUND
HILLARY®



New Hybrid Operations Vehicle

When the airport Operations team needed a new airside vehicle to help them get around, it was a chance to upgrade from diesel to a more sustainable option. Meet "OPS2", our Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle), which has been deployed airside this month! Spruced-up in the company colours, it has twin electric motors supported by a 2.0L petrol engine. The battery can be fast-charged in 25 minutes and is easily rechargeable overnight—just set the time on the smart phone app and away you go! OPS2 usually runs on electric charge to reduce our carbon emissions but provides a petrol option if needed (for example, if electricity is knocked out in a large-scale emergency like an earthquake).



Reducing Paper

Since launching in June, more than 178 of Queenstown Airport's commercial operators have used our new DocuSign system to submit and sign documentation online. While there are still improvements to be made, initial feedback has been positive. All commercial vehicle operation applications have now been moved online and this alone has saved more than 5,000 sheets of paper from being printed.

Airport Job Board

Got a job? Get it online. The Queenstown and Wānaka airport online job board is for airport businesses looking for amazing people to join their team and for those looking to join the exciting world of aviation and airports. From baggage handlers to car rental agency support, chefs and customer service roles, there's something for everyone.

Check-out the latest vacancies at careers.queenstownairport.co.nz/



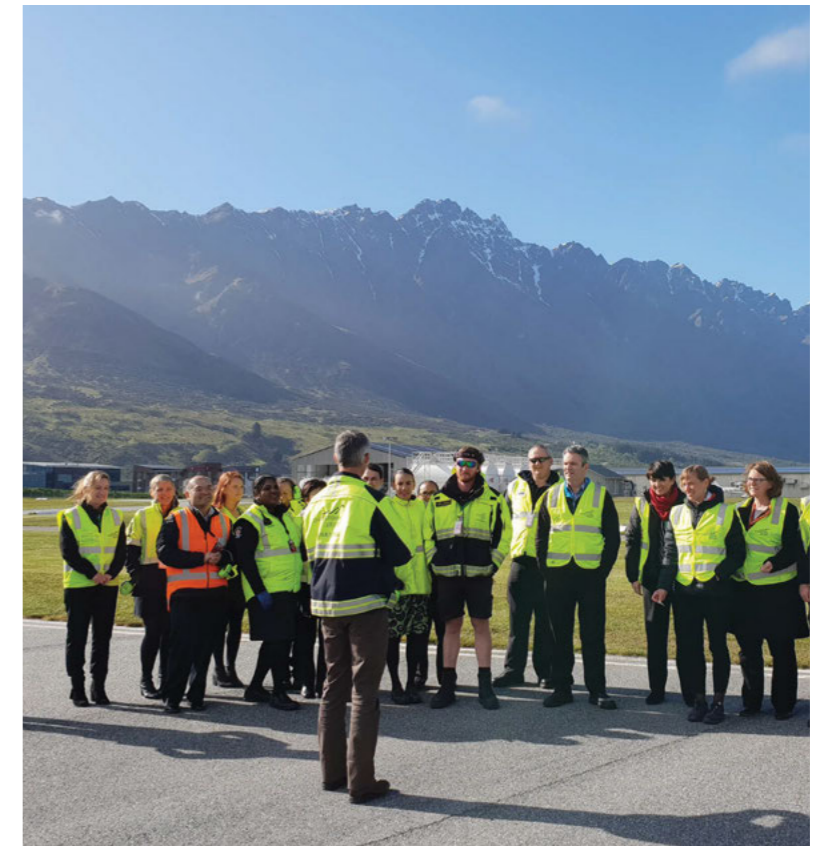
General Aviation News

Air Milford has just finished a \$500,000 upgrade of the Company's first Cessna Caravan. In a true WKA/ZQN collaboration, the work has been completed in Wānaka with the team at Performance Aviation supporting the Air Milford team and engineers on the upgrade. Airplane ZK-SKB will be predominately used on ZQN – ZMF scenic flights, but also Doubtful Sound, Mt Cook and other charter destinations around NZ. The aircraft joins Air Milford's fleet of 4 Cessna Caravans and Cessna 185.



Airport Safety Week

Airport Safety Week will once again be held at Queenstown and Wānaka airports under this year's theme 'Our Airport Our Community'. Building on last year's event, and the recently-signed Southern Airports Alliance MOU, representatives from Dunedin and Invercargill airports will be coming to Queenstown and Wānaka to take part in the week-long event. **Save the Date** Monday 14 – Friday 18 October 2019





Brad Lynton: A Lifelong Passion

Well-known Southern Lakes aircraft engineer and maintenance controller, Brad Lynton, has retired from the aviation industry after a long-standing career spanning 56 years.

Part of the 'old-school crew' widely regarded as the pioneers of aviation and flight seeing in Queenstown and the Lower South, Brad is probably one of the longest serving General Aviation Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (or LAME as they are known) in the country. While some exact dates may be a distant memory after so many years on the job, Brad clearly remembers starting his apprenticeship on 7 January 1963 with Southern Scenic Air Services (SSAS), which was transferred to Tourist Air Travel in 1965.

Known as the pioneers of general aviation in the south of NZ, SSAS launched in 1947 although the name was

changed in 1952 to Southern Scenic Airtrips. In the early days flying was done from the grass airstrip which was formerly Queenstown's racecourse. The remains of its cob grandstand are still visible today behind the current GA hangars which date back to the early 1950s. Southern Scenic was started by Fred "Popeye" Lucas (Lucas Place, home to the current generation of general aviation operators in Queenstown, is named after him) and Bill Hewett, both experienced wartime pilots, and Barry Topliss, a licensed engineer with experience in Cook Strait Airways and the Fleet Air Arm.

"Coincidentally I finished my 10,000-hour apprenticeship exactly five years later on the evening of 6 January 1968," says Brad.

Brad remained with the company, which was then Mt Cook Airlines following the now famous takeover in January 1968 of the previously combined collection

of SSAS, Ritchie Air Services, WCA and Tourist Air Travel. With bases in Invercargill, Te Anau, Queenstown, Hokitika, Mount Cook and Auckland. These pioneering small airlines of the 1950s and 1960s were run by former wartime servicemen and were colourful examples of post-war optimism and the can-do attitude prevalent in New Zealand at the time.



Initially when I told people I was a retired Aircraft Engineer their response was "there's plenty of work for engineers up here." There is no escape, laughs Brad.

In 1972 the Company needed a 2IC at Mechanics Bay in Auckland to back-up the then Chief Engineer Don Andrews, so Brad spent two years there before returning south in 1974 when the Station Engineer's position became vacant at Mt Cook village.

"I spent a total of four hectic years there before moving back to Auckland and Mechanics Bay this time working for Sea Bee Air. The novelty soon wore-off so I took up an offer from Gibson Aero to branch out into the world of helicopter maintenance at Te Anau. I spent two years there and then towards the end of 1981 Mt Cook Airlines offered me a job as licensed engineer at the Queenstown base, so it was back to the future for me."

When fellow engineer Eric Ewington retired, Brad became Station Engineer and then Engineering Manager working for various owners until mid-2012. This was until then owner, Totally Tourism, decided to outsource the maintenance to Flightline Aviation in Dunedin.

"Ironically Flightline asked me to contract to them to help maintain the aircraft they were now responsible for. I did this on a part time basis and worked part time for Aoraki Mt Cook Ski Planes, Avtek (a maintenance provider in Timaru) and Air Milford," recalls Brad.

Working mainly for Air Milford and Hank and Antz Sproull in the last few years, Brad finally downed tools and retired to Nelson, taking with him an illustrious 56-year career and the knowledge that goes with the kind of tenure rarely seen in today's business world.

When asked to chat to us about his career, Brad joked that his intention was just to fade quietly away into retirement. He thought he had got away with it until we came knocking.

Brad now finds himself surrounded by what seems to be "half of the rest of NZ's aviation personnel" who've also chosen the warm temperatures of the top of the South as their retirement place of choice.

"Initially when I told people I was a retired Aircraft Engineer their response was "there's plenty of work for engineers up here." There is no escape," laughs Brad. Though he's not tempted to bust out the tool bag and get stuck in again just yet. Happy retirement Brad, the local aviation community here will miss you.

Left hand page image: Taken at the current Milford Sounds Flights hangar on Lucas Place circa 1966 with some of the Tourist Air Travel crew (formerly Southern Scenic). Back Row L to R: Dave Wilkes, Jim Dimoff, Brad Lynton, Ted Crawford, Peter Banks, Les Lamond, Colin Reid, Mike Hockey, John Muir, Barry Topliss and Allen Parker. Front Row L to R: Eric Ewington, Sam Sands, Bill Davies, Inky Bill Davies (Sir John Davies' Dad)





The Future of Aviation

Family owned and operated since 1992, and now into its second generation, Wanaka Helicopters is one of New Zealand's largest and most experienced helicopter flight schools.

Located at Wānaka Airport, and surrounded by the spectacular Southern Alps, mountain flying is one of the company's specialities, offering leading tutoring and experience unrivalled in Australasia.

The well-respected flight school, which sits along the company's scenic tourism and commercial operations, is led by CEO Pete Spencer-Bower and Chief Flight Instructor Simon Spencer-Bower, one of the country's most experienced helicopter instructors. They have a team of ten pilots including eight B and C-Category instructors, including Simon's two sons Chris and Pete.

"Exploring our backyard by helicopter is everyday life for us, but something most people only dream about. For our students, our Wānaka location provides an essential pilot

training tool, flying on variable horizons and mountain wind patterns," says Simon.

Last week four of the company's current Diploma in Aviation students completed their qualification passing their Commercial Pilots Licence (CPL). Sam Wanklyn, Theo Darling, Logan Stirling and Josh Axtens have completed the diploma, with the next four set to sit their licence in three weeks' time.



We are passionate about developing exceptional pilots, it is a huge privilege and one we are proud to be committed to.

"The students have been working really hard over the past eighteen months and are looking forward to starting their aviation careers. We celebrated with all staff, eight graduates and their families with a graduation ceremony and dinner event in our hangar. It has become a great tradition with family and friends coming from all over the country and as far as Australia to celebrate the achievements," muses Simon.

Along with private PPL, CPL and specialist training, Wanaka Heli's Level 5 Diploma in Aviation (NZDipGA) is a two-year full-time qualification with all flight theory ground courses taught at Wānaka Airport. Developed by the aviation industry for both fixed wing and rotary wing pilots, it is a nationally recognised qualification administered by NZQA and ServiceIQ.

Once training's complete with Wanaka Helicopters, students typically enter the workforce with three type ratings including the R22; the most common mustering helicopter in Australia and New Zealand, the Cabri G2; the newest entry in light training aircraft from Guimbal inspired by Eurocopter design principles and the R44; the aircraft new CPL pilots are most likely to fly as part of a commercial operation.

Diploma students also participate in seven flight safety and management courses in addition to eleven flight skills courses before gaining their CPL. As well as flying, trainees frequently have the opportunity to participate in loading, unloading, briefing and working with international commercial clients to build a personal experience and essential career skills.

"With numerous aircraft available to train in and a large team of knowledgeable instructors, we are able to provide a world-class training programme for those looking for self-directed study or comprehensive, fully-supported Diploma in Aviation programme."

"The fact students get to live and experience flying in this region is certainly a drawcard. We are passionate about developing exceptional pilots, it is a huge privilege and one we are proud to be committed to," adds Simon.

Student loans, NZ Maori Scholarship (up to \$10,000) and FeesFree funding (up to \$12,000) are available for eligible students. For more information call the Wanaka Heli team on 0800 46 36 26 or check-out their website at www.wanakahelicopters.co.nz.

The Mount Cook Experience

I've been lucky enough to have flown in rotary and fixed wing craft across the globe, taking in the sights and sounds of some of the world's "must-see" attractions. Uluru, The Grand Canyon, Milford Sound, the Vegas Strip and Stewart Island to name but a few.

Earlier this year I was lucky enough to experience Southern Alps Air's scenic flight from Wānaka Airport around Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain located in the mighty Southern Alps.

I can quite honestly say that it was one of the most breathtaking experiences of my life so far. Having spent the day prior seeing the 'grand lady' from the ground at the Mt Cook village centre, seeing it from the air was mind blowing and helped complete our Mt Cook experience.

Ironically the trip was a meeting of chance. Earlier in the year I'd hoped to treat my Dad, who was visiting from the UK, to a once-in-a-lifetime flight to Milford Sound; one of the most scenic flights in the world and my favourite NZ 'WOW factor' destination. Cloud and bad weather in Milford meant our trip was cancelled but this was our one and only day to get Dad in the air before he headed home.

Ryan Cooper and the team at Southern Alps Air recommended their Mt Cook and glacier trip as an alternative option and promised us "an experience to remember."

They weren't wrong. Our group of four was transported high into the sky by pilot, Wānaka local Michael Pearson, climbing steadily over the mighty Clutha River which sparkled below us like a green snake hugging the riverbed coastline. Unimpeded views of Lake Wānaka and Hawea as we continued to climb to altitude allowed time to get our bearings, with Michael pointing out famous landmarks along the way, including Mt Aspiring.

“

I can quite honestly say that it was one of the most breathtaking experiences of my life so far.

There are no bad seats on this trip, with a picture postcard window view guaranteed for all, whether you're the co-pilot like Dad or a back-seat passenger like the rest of us. While the engine noise is obviously present, there's a quiet eeriness about the trip as we slowly approach the Southern Alps mountain range.

The lush green hills around Wānaka are soon replaced by cloud-piercing snowy white peaks and cascading glaciers, including Franz Joseph, Fox and Tasman, which glimmer and shimmer from all sides like solid pieces of ice glued to the mountainside.

Cruising at around 10,000ft, the 12,346ft Mt Cook and its smaller cousin Mt Tasman come into view, gliding into sight like a computer-generated movie set. The snow-capped peaks seemingly are 'dressed' in thick wedding cake icing and you really feel like you could just reach out and touch the very top of this monumental natural giant.

A smooth turn here and there ensures we get to see all sides of the peaks, before turning slowly to head back to base. The return journey affords the opportunity

to see the 'other side' of the spectacular views and time to once again gape in awe over the pristine alpine environment we are lucky enough to call home. Rivers, lakes, mountains, glaciers, rolling hills and more make this the ultimate air alpine tour.

Once more, the views over the Lake Wānaka township appear and the all too familiar sights come to the fore before we're cruising over the Clutha River again and into land at WKA. A bird's eye view that not many people get to see. Almost two hours of scenery you can only imagine or see in a movie is right on our doorstep and ready for you to explore.

Southern Alps Air, Wānaka's only locally owned and operated fixed wing scenic flight company, operates from Makarora and Wānaka Airport and is celebrating 40+ years of operation this year.

Run by Paul and Anne Cooper, it's been operating in the region since 1975 and has an excellent safety record, offering other scenic flights to Milford Sound, Mt Aspiring and their famous 'Siberia Experience' — a unique New Zealand wilderness adventure where you get to 'Fly, Walk, and Jet boat through New Zealand's most spectacular alpine environment.

"We take pride in offering unobstructed views from window seats and a personalized service on all our trips," says Paul who's spent most of his life in Wānaka.

"I'm still captivated by the spectacular landscapes we get to share with people on a daily basis and the best part of being involved in the business for Anne and I is seeing the delight on the clients' faces and listening to the excited chatter when they return from their scenic adventure."

The Southern Alps Air hour and 40-minute Mt Cook scenic trip costs \$525 (children \$360) per person. Book by calling 0800 345 666 or find out more online at www.southernalpsair.co.nz.

Words Naomi Lindsay



Airports of the Lower South Collaborate

Working together is one of QAC's values as a business and so it was rewarding to announce recently that we have entered into a cooperative arrangement, through the signing of a memorandum of understanding, with Dunedin Airport and Invercargill Airport Limited.

The multi-lateral airport arrangement is the first of its kind in New Zealand and has the purpose to foster a collaborative working relationship across the airports of the Lower South and to make a positive contribution to the region. We will work together to identify and explore opportunities and undertake joint initiatives, prioritising collaboration on environmental sustainability, health and safety and regional tourism initiatives. To support achieving these shared goals, the leaders across the airports will

meet on a quarterly basis and members of the respective leadership teams will come together for an annual summit.

QAC Chief Executive, Colin Keel says the airport leaders have been discussing opportunities to work together over the past two years. "We've had discussions in a number of areas including health and safety, environmental sustainability, operational excellence and supporting strategic regional tourism initiatives. Entering into this cooperative arrangement formalises our shared commitment to work collaboratively."

The airports combined facilitate approximately four million passenger arrivals and departures on scheduled flights and over 100,000 general aviation movements each year. They also provide almost \$10 million in dividends annually to their collective shareholders, mainly local district councils and their communities.

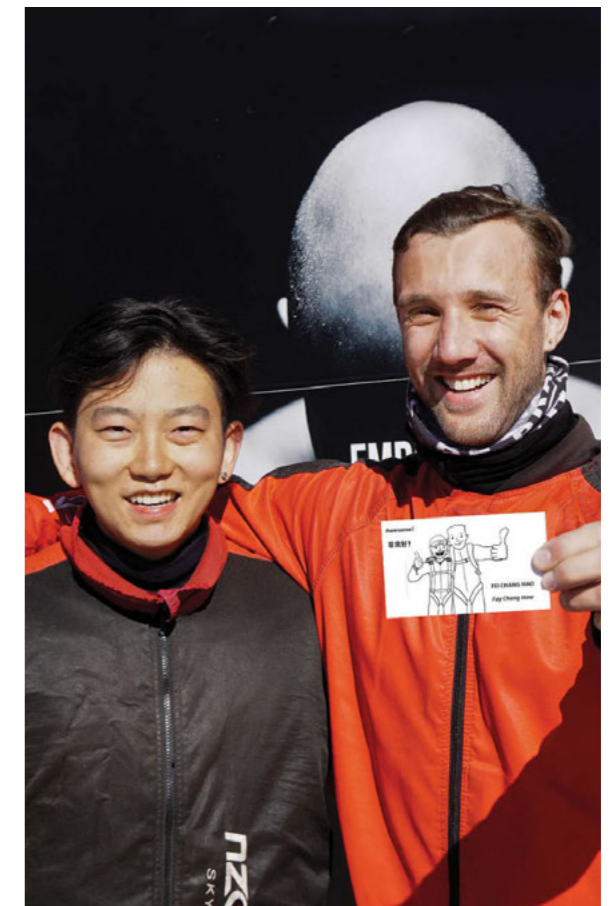


Blue September

We're a close-knit bunch and often host fundraising events to raise awareness and funds for local and national charities, often focused around food. This month for Blue September, the Prostate Cancer Foundation's annual awareness and fundraising campaign, Queenstown Aviation Security Officer Siobian Smith organised an airport BBQ breakfast event. Egg and Bacon Butties, Zamora Sausage sandwiches and a tasty vegetarian option were a hit with the airport community, with outstanding baking from Officer Jo Hicks-Beach and Siobian giving those with a sweet tooth a reason to come along and 'get blue' for the morning. The ever-hungry airport community helped raise \$1,320 for the charity, thanks to the support from locally-based Zamora "The Meat Preachers" Deli and the local New World franchise, with both businesses donating product to the event. A special thanks to Nik Karlson from Zamora who not only donated his fine meat product but also gave up his morning to man the BBQ, the Avsec staff who pitched in and the wider airport community for supporting this event.

Chinese Language Week

Experience Co., the company behind local operators Skydive Wanaka, NZONE Skydive and Skydive Southern Alps, have brought a new twist to engage customers during Chinese Language Week, held in New Zealand 22-28 September. The team has taken the #5Days5Phrases arm of the campaign and put on a skydiving twist, says Business Development Manager, Derek Melnick. "We decided to do things a little differently this year and introduce five phrases that are specifically relevant across our operation, with a focus on customer service, safety and our beautiful location," said Derek. The team produced five business card sized reference cards with each day's message on them in Mandarin, Pinyin and English with a visual animation of each so all staff across the business have a handy and easy reference. "Our goal is to have these five phrases adopted so that they become part of our everyday dialogue with our Chinese Customers," added Derek. "We hope we can inspire other businesses to support Chinese Language Week so we can collectively make our Chinese Visitors feel more welcome in our destination than any other".





C-17 at WOW 2018
 The C-17 Globemaster III has a 52m wingspan and is 53m in length. The aircraft weighs more than 128 tonnes, is powered by 4 x Pratt and Whitney PW2000 engines, has a range of just over 10,000kms and a cruising speed of 830kph.
 Credit: Steve Zimmerman



US Air Force for **WOW**

The United States Air Force has confirmed the first of its aircraft for next Easter's Warbirds Over Wānaka International Airshow held at Wānaka Airport.

The USAF C-17 Globemaster III Demonstration team based in Hawaii will be making their third visit to the Southern Hemisphere's biggest Warbirds airshow.

Warbirds Over Wānaka General Manager, Ed Taylor, says it's fantastic news to have such an impressive aircraft back to wow the crowd once more.



"The C-17 is one of the world's most popular military transport aircraft and is around twice the size of a C-130 Hercules," says Ed. Because of its size the C-17 will once again be hosted at Christchurch International Airport, who also play a crucial role in supporting visiting aircraft and crews.

Ed says being a member of military demonstration teams requires a high level of experience. Veteran pilots who have been instructors, evaluators or aircraft commanders are selected. "In terms of the C-17, displaying at an airshow takes flying these large aircraft to the next level, with precision and speed required to put on a proper demonstration for the public. Although the flying profile is not much different from an operational mission, it is very fast-paced so the pilots need to have additional training to ensure safety and precision flying."

The C-17 Globemaster first flew at Wānaka in 2016 and returned for the 30th Anniversary Airshow last Easter along with the F-16 fighter jet demonstration team. A number of other military displays will be confirmed over the coming months.

Warbirds Over Wānaka International Airshow is being held at Wānaka Airport on April 10th, 11th and 12th next year. For more information and tickets go to www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com



The C-17 is one of the world's most popular military transport aircraft and is around twice the size of a C-130 Hercules.

Features of the 2020 Airshow include:

- Free public display on Friday 10th April at 4:30pm over Lake Wānaka
- Catalina Flying Boat
- Jet racing is back
- The majority of NZ's Warbirds will be displaying
- Sport Aircraft displays with around 100 'homebuilt' craft, microlights and replicas
- RNZAF and aircraft from the RAAF and USAF
- Rides Day on Monday 13th April
- American Classic Car display



Catalina landing on Lake Wānaka 2016 Airshow. Credit: Phil Hosking

It's All About the People



It's taken us a couple of weeks to pin down QAC's first Manager of People and Culture, Donna Darlington, who's joined us from Yealands Winery in Blenheim. Now she's back from her trip overseas spending time with family in the UK we spent some time getting to know what makes Donna tick.

Used to basking in the balmy temperatures of Blenheim, Donna initially felt worried about the move 'down South' due to the colder winters and her friends and colleagues thought she was a "bit crazy" moving to a place where its 'freezing' in winter. She needn't have worried.



I have felt truly welcomed with open arms and I'm really grateful for that and overwhelmed by the amazing welcome I have received from the entire airport community—thank you.

"I can't tell you how grateful I am to be living and working in such a dreamy location, with the proximity to the

mountains for skiing and tracks for tramping, trail running and biking. I too have discovered the little slice of paradise and I'm proud to be part of the community," says Donna.

Donna's been at QAC since June and after a month she took 3 weeks off—as you do—but she saw it as a great opportunity to reflect on her short time with the company flying over NZ on her way to the UK, her country of origin.

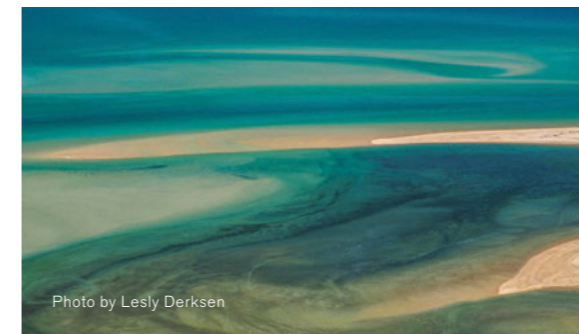
"I have felt truly welcomed with open arms and I'm really grateful for that and overwhelmed by the amazing welcome I have received from the entire airport community—thank you. I think it's pretty cool to be working for a company where the relationships extend beyond that of the immediate company and you begin to see the familiar faces of the wider airport community."

Donna's a welcome addition to the team for many reasons but she has already wowed us with her extreme baking talents and ability to nail everyone's favourite birthday cake on their big day. Welcome aboard Donna and we'll have to watch our tummies don't grow larger now you're on board with all that cake flying around.

We couldn't let Donna start without asking some "Get to know you questions"

Favourite NZ getaway is...

to Golden Bay. I just love being remote, out of any kind of cell phone range with the ability to relax with the sound of the waves in the warm sun, with access to great tracks for biking and running.



If I were deserted on top of the Remarkables for 48 hours...

I'd like to be stranded with my husband Dave as he's used to being on mountains for days at a time and is always prepared for anything. I'd also want David Attenborough as wouldn't it be cool to hear him describe the epic scenery and wildlife and perhaps Russell Howard. I think humour is so important and he always manages to make me laugh.

He tangata, the Maori proverb, perfectly sums up Donna's view on her role as Manager People and Culture

He aha te mea nui o te ao
What is the most important thing in the world?
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata
It is the people, it is the people, it is the people

If I could fly anywhere right now...

I'd fly to Melbourne for a few days to visit friends, enjoy the food and culture.

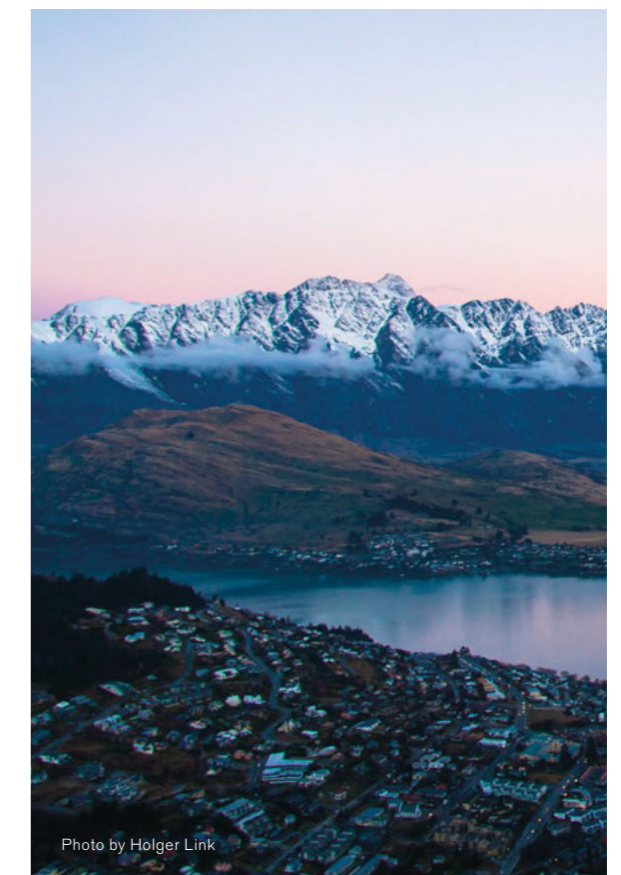
My desert island disc is...

This is a tough one. I have too many to mention. But if I HAVE to choose one it would have to be Chet Faker. It has some great memories for me.



I never travel without...

A good book and a pack of playing cards. I love a good card game.





Rainbow's End to Winter Pride

You'd have been hard pushed to not have a smile on your face walking around Queenstown during NZ Winter Pride Week.

The range and sheer volume of rainbow colours and flags throughout town was simply spectacular. Buses, taxis, police cars, shop fronts, lanyards, clothing, flag poles and ski fields all donned the rainbow in support of diversity, showing Queenstown's true colours as an inclusive town to visit, work and live. Congratulations to this year's Winner, The Remarkables, for their incredible Rainbow Conveyor — with a total of 85 Rainbow Flags used to

create a stunning display and statement of inclusion. QAC was proud to host Roll out the Rainbow as a sponsor. The QAC team took to wearing rainbow neck lanyards in support, which are now a permanent fixture for many. The Lunch 'N' learn event we hosted with Pride organiser Martin King was an inspiring and insightful opportunity for the QAC team and is testimony to the advocacy work the NZ Pride team do as part of the event. Congrats again for a great event and we look forward to rolling out the rainbow with you in 2020.

Shades of Grey



Members of Wānaka's self-named 'Shades of Grey' group enjoyed a visit airside at Queenstown Airport as part of the airport's education initiative to enable members of the community, and those interested in aviation, to get behind the scenes of a working international airport. The group of retired businessmen, who now call Wānaka home, enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour and dog display from Guinness the Beagle and his handler Bel at MPI, an up-close look at the work of the Airport Rescue Fire team and the airport's new winter snow clearing equipment, a presentation from Airways, followed by an update from chief executive Colin Keel.

Event organiser, Michael Johnston, said it was a memorable day for the group, visiting areas that the general public are not usually able to access. "We were amazed how all elements work together to form a modern airport. The group was also treated to a talk from a senior Air Traffic Controller at Airways, who spoke about the modern method of keeping Aircraft safe. "It's good to know that NZ is ahead of the world for some of these new technological activities. An unexpected visit to the top of the control centre made the day for us, said Michael.

Summer Outlook

Believe it or not summer is almost upon us and that means that flights to/from ZQN for the busy summer months have been finalised and are on sale, providing people with the opportunity to pay us a visit in the beautiful Southern Lakes.

We've pulled out some highlights of the summer schedule to help the airport and wider community plan ahead. Overall capacity is scheduled to increase 4% over last summer's schedule (November – March).

- International capacity is increasing 13% from November through February, while domestic capacity is flat on the previous schedule. The schedule has one less day in March compared to the previous year.
- The peak summer weeks are over the Christmas period from December 16 to 5 January, with an average of 64 daily flights for this period (arrivals and departures). Peak period for the previous year was 24 December to 13 January with an average of 64 daily flights.





Queenstown Airport Corporation Limited
PO Box 2641, Queenstown 9349, New Zealand
Phone: +64 3 450 9031
www.queenstownairport.co.nz

Wānaka Airport
Lloyd Dunn Ave, State Highway 6, Wānaka
Phone: +64 3 443 1112
www.wanakaairport.com