

RESCUE FIRE SERVICE

As signalled in the last issue we have now established the Airport Rescue Fire Service.

After quite a long journey from Europe the ex demo Rosenbauer Appliance arrived late March.

This is quite a nice vehicle. Built on a MAN chassis the pumping equipment is very advanced, with all the systems being controlled by remote digital displays either inside the cab or outside at the rear.

This appliance carries 3600 litres of water and 500 litres of foam concentrate. It auto-

matically mixes the foam to the water as it is sprayed out at a rate of up to 3000 litres a minute. *We can reduce the flow to make it last longer.* It also carry a dry powder extinguishing system with 135Kg capacity.

Being 4 wheel drive it is capable of running on the grass surfaces to anywhere on the airport.

When it arrived it was quite a rush to get it fitted out with all the equipment we had pre ordered, sign written and staff trained on it.

We don't yet have a fire station building but, we have been allocated funds for one in the May budget and work is being done to get that project under way.

In total we have 8 staff available who are going to crew the appliance (two at a time). This is a 365 day commitment starting before the first Air NZ departure to after the last arrival.

Rescue Fire staff will do other duties relevant to the management of the airport throughout the day, but it is fair to say the RFS itself contributes its own share of work load. Staff have to be drilled on fire fighting skills and kept current on other tasks such as 1st Aid along with the usual up keep of equipment.

All in all this transition to Rescue Fire is a real game changer for us. It really has added a lot to what we do.

The Civil Aviation Authority visited us late May to carry out a certification audit on the RFS implementation. This involved checking we could get to the far points of the runway inside the expected 3 minute response time.

Joke of the month:

When I wear contact lenses, I keep seeing Russian aircraft flying around in front of my eyes.

The doctor said it could be optical
Ilyushins



Sometimes, doing runway inspection before dawn has its merits. A full moon to the west. Thanks to Pete Woolston for the awesome photo

Airline Movements.

From April, Air New Zealand has been able to start their extra daily service to Auckland. Due the gradual recovery from COVID, some flights were initially left off the timetable but there has been a net gain in flights. Now the months have rolled over the service is pretty well fully running. Passenger numbers have recovered to above the levels we had pre COVID. Already in the last couple of months we have seen an increase of passenger movements passing through. — Long may it last.

Burgers with that Airport Safety Meeting?

Airport users/tenants periodically have a safety meeting. After a short Hiatus due COVID we decided that instead of a stuffy meeting in a room we would hold a Sunday lunch time meeting in the Flying Club Hangar followed by a lunch of Penny's famous burgers (courtesy of the airport). Not sure about the meeting but the burgers went down well.

NEST Relocation

Work is going on about the relocation plans for the local part of the Northern Rescue helicopter operation (NEST).

While there is some strong support for the move here there are others who equally

strongly feel it should be prevented. Concerns being based around noise issues.

Considerable work is being done to reduce noise effects and it will take a while to work through it all.

It is a timely reminder that we do have neighbours and what we do, does affect them.

SUMMER IN WHANGAREI

Top Eight Activities To Do

We ran this column last year but it is still relevant today

- 1) Hit the beaches! Popular spots include Ocean Beach at Whangarei Heads, Matapouri & Ruakaka.
- 2) Hundertwasser Art Centre. Located at the Town Basin in the heart of the city is a world standard attraction. Opened in 2022 it has been proven to be very popular. It houses the Wairau Māori Art Centre. It also has a Cafe
- 3) Walk the Loop! Situated at the Whangarei Town Basin, the 4.2km loop is an easy walk over the unique Te Matau a Pohe lift bridge, through artistic sculptures, beautiful scenery and via the cafes and shops of the Town Basin. Don't forget to marvel over the new Hundertwasser Wairau Maori Arts Centre building as you pass.
- 4) Whangarei Quarry Gardens– including a quality café to start/finish your visit, the Quarry gardens are pleasant
- 5) stroll through a re-purposed Quarry.
- 6) Climb Mt Parihaka– the best view of Whangarei; the walk up takes approx. 50mins but the reward of the view is worth it.
- 7) Visit the Big Cats– lions, leopards & cheetahs await at the new Whangarei Big Cats sanctuary. www.bigcats.co.nz
- 8) The airport itself is situated right on the end of a peninsular that has two ring roads. One Beach Road follows the water front right around the airport and is very beautiful. From the terminal it can be reached on foot within 5 minutes.
- 9) From Beach Road you can follow the path that used to be the rail link and walk all the way into town linking up with the above mentioned loop. The 1st 2 Km is in beautiful bush. Very popular with the locals, walkers and cyclist alike.

AIRPORT LANDING FEES

The landing fee review is now completed. A new fee structure will start on 1 January 2022. This is the 1st significant change since 1997.

NEW WEBSITE

The new web page is now up and running. Greatly improved we must say. We will try and keep it current and not let it go stale.

www.whangareiairport.co.nz

WHANGAREI FLYING CLUB

There is a very friendly active flying club on the field at Hangar 10, with two Tecnam P92 aircraft. They fly between 60 and 150 hrs a month.

Flight training is provided free to members.

