

# Whangarei Airport

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## INCOMING ARRIVAL TO WHANGAREI AIRPORT

With the predicted increase to Air New Zealand flight numbers comes the need of the implementation of Rescue Fire Services to Whangarei District Airport.

CAA require airports to have a RFS once a threshold of airline flight numbers has been met; something that our thriving regional airport has rapidly approached in 2021.

The deadline for implementation is set for 1 April 2022. This looming deadline has set in motion a flurry of planning in the WDA

management offices, first and foremost being the acquisition of the piece-de-resistance of a Rescue Fire Service— the fire appliance! “It’s every man’s dream to have the opportunity to buy a real-life fire truck, I can die happy now.” Says Bernard Luiten, Operations manager of WDA.

The Rosenbauer fire truck (pictured) is being imported from Austria and is estimated to arrive in the country mid January.

Further purchases of the relevant kit & equipment are being planned, a crew of top-notch rescue fire staff is being assembled and potential sites for a base for the service are being eyed up across the airfield.

“Our main priority is getting the bare bones of the service up and running in time. The truck can be housed temporarily in the Northland Aviation hangar and we can be based there until we organize a permanent location on the airfield.” says Mike Chubb, WDA manager.

Conveniently, Mike is currently the CFO of the local Onerahi fire brigade so is well-



positioned to launch such a service at Whangarei Airport— coincidentally the original base for the Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade was ALSO in the Northland Aviation hangar at Whangarei Airport, so it seems to have come full circle.

Eventually, Mike & WDA management anticipate having a 6-8 person crew to man the service, and alongside crewing the RFS during AirNZ departures and arrivals, will undertake general airport duties the same as the current WDA team.

Mike also expects to eventually purchase a 4WD vehicle to add to the cohort of rescue vehicles for ease of access, but a purchase is yet to be made.



## GOOD BYE BERNARD...HELLO STEVE!

The end of 2021 has brought some big changes to the management team of Whangarei District Airport.

In December we will be sadly farewelling Bernard Luiten from the role of Operations Manager. Bernard has worked on the airport since 2017 Starting as Operations Manager. Once

settled into that role Bernard took on the role to design/write and then implement the Safety Management System that the CAA required the airport to have. This was quite a big job in itself. After a CAA audit the SMS certificate was issued Christmas Eve 2019. This project of course changed to one of Safety Manager which was added to Bernard's job description. Bernard has done an excellent job and

bedded in the SMS. Always a practical man Bernard has taken a lead in many of the day to day tasks on the airport.

Bernard is leaving us to live a life of leisure roaming about the South Island in his caravan, with sights set on doing the same in USA/Australia.

In turn, we welcome Stephen Jennings to the role. Steve comes from a solid workplace health & safety background and has a wealth of experience to enrich the WDA management team. Welcome Steve!!



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*Joke of the month:*

*Researchers have discovered they can create an invisible aircraft.... but no one can see it taking off.*



# NEST ON THE HUNT FOR A NEW NEST

The local rescue helicopter service formerly known as Northland Emergency Services Trust is on the scope for a new location.

Northland Rescue Helicopters provides Northland with vital emergency helicopter services and has become increasingly essential to the Northland emergency infrastructure, attending several call-outs per year.

Currently based in Kensington, the lease on their current site is expiring, triggering the hunt for a new site at which to be based.

Their sights have alighted upon Whangarei District Airport as both an appropriate and

logical location, given refuelling and training already takes place on the airfield; although no final decisions have been made.

This is significant for the Airport as it will require a considerable amount of infrastructure, will have people based at the airport 24hrs a day. Mike Chubb, WDA manager says “We acknowledge that some residents are anxious about the implications of increased noise, but we will work through these issues

once a final decision has been made.”



## SUMMER AIRLINE ACTIVITY

With the lifting of travel restrictions coinciding with Christmas, we are experiencing and expect to have continued a influx of Air New Zealand Passengers through our terminal.

The week leading up to Christmas has several extra flights scheduled. Indeed this continues after Christmas as well which is un-usual as its normally a period of reduced flights.

Perhaps we can expect an influx of private aircraft as well.

## AIRPORT LANDING FEES

Landing fees have not been reviewed for quite some time. The process was started in 2019 but COVID got in the way.

The review has just re-begun and much of what was decided in 2019 will be revisited and probably some action taken to increase fees in about April 2022

## NEW WEBSITE

A new web page is being designed, that will greatly improve on the current page. It is nearing completion and hope to go live with it soon.

## SUMMER IN WHANGAREI Top Seven Activities To Do

- 1) Hit the beaches! Popular spots include Ocean Beach at Whangarei Heads, Matapouri & Ruakaka.
- 2) Walk the Loop! Situated at the Whangarei Town Basin, the 4.2km loop is an easy walk over the unique Te Matau a Pohe liftbridge, 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.
- 3) Whangarei Quarry Gardens– including a quality café to start/ finish your visit, the Quarry gardens are pleasant stroll through a re-purposed Quarry.
- 4) Climb Mt Parihaka– the best view of Whangarei; the walk up takes approx. 50mins but the reward of the view is worth it.
- 5) Visit the Big Cats– lions, leopards & cheetahs await at the new Whangarei Big Cats sanctuary. [www.bigcats.co.nz](http://www.bigcats.co.nz)
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.