

## Goodbye summer, hello winter

The recent polar blast has been a timely reminder that we're rapidly heading for winter but for now it's great to see a number of people around the airport taking the opportunity to head away for a breather after a busy summer and autumn.

Looking ahead to winter, we're thrilled that all four of our airlines will be flying here after dark from the end of June! Virgin Australia and Qantas are in the final stages of approval for their after-dark regulatory approvals and will join Air New Zealand and Jetstar in collectively providing local, domestic and trans-Tasman travellers with more flexibility and choice. More details inside...

As the season turns, we're gearing up for peak winter operations. This year we're investing more than \$1.3 million in new runway and apron snow removal equipment and will introduce new de-icing procedures to complement the recently grooved runway. Workshops with airlines and border agencies will be held shortly to discuss details.

While the airport roading and parking areas are still a work-in-progress as we complete an extensive programme of car park, traffic flow and storm water improvements, it's not long now until it all comes together for the big reveal in June. A big thanks to everyone for your support to date – we do apologise for the inconvenience but this is short term pain for long term gain.

Other projects such as the new 150-space Park & Ride facility, our master plan and a new management lease of Wanaka Airport are also in the pipeline and we'll keep you updated over the next few months.

For now, enjoy a brief respite (and a holiday if you're taking one) before we once again move into another busy winter season.

Take care and stay safe.



**Colin**  
Chief Executive



### April passenger numbers

Passenger numbers for April compared to the same period last year

**+20%** Total passengers

**+19%** Domestic passengers

**+21%** International passengers

## Get into the spirit

With two awesome alpine towns and four diverse ski areas within a 1½ hour drive of the airport, there are plenty of great experiences around the region, both on and off the slopes.

We'll be getting into the winter spirit in a big way so look out for some cool lighting and theming throughout the terminal to welcome our visitors.

We are proud supporters of some fantastic events over winter – here are key dates to get amongst it!

### Ski area dates:

The Remarkables: 10 Jun – 8 Oct  
Cardrona Alpine Resort: 10 Jun – 15 Oct  
Coronet Peak: 17 Jun – 1 Oct  
Treble Cone: 22 Jun – 1 Oct

### Key winter events:

LUMA - 2-5 Jun (Queen's b'day weekend)  
Michael Hill International Violin Competition – 2-10 Jun  
Queenstown Winter Festival – 22-25 Jun  
NZ Mountain Film Festival – 30 Jun – 9 Jul  
Audi quattro Winter Games – 25 Aug – 10 Sept  
Gay Ski Week – 2-9 Sept

## Keep up to date with ZQN news

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# Warming up for winter

## They came, they saw, they grooved!

A \$750,000 project to apply grooves to our main runway was completed in mid-April, three weeks ahead of schedule and under budget.

Our construction team, American grooving experts Cardinal Groovers and Downer NZ, averaged over 100m of runway per night, working six nights a week for three weeks to get the job done.

The grooving was the final stage of a \$20 million airfield upgrade completed over the past year which involved widening the runway, resurfacing it and installing airfield lighting – all infrastructure required to introduce after dark flights.

QAC Project Manager Chris Johnson says that grooving our runway has provided more operational resilience by improving the surface friction for aircraft landing in wet weather. "It's all part our ongoing commitment to ensuring the airport is as safe, reliable and efficient as possible in all weather conditions."



▲ Runway grooving close up

## Bringing out the big guns

None of our team are shy of getting on a shovel on snow days and we have plenty of weapons in our arsenal to proactively and reactively keep the runway clear and the terminal operational.

New this year is a runway sweeper which is arriving from Norway in early June and is designed to clear 230,00sqm of surface area per hour (our runway is 85,000sqm). The blade on the front will clear snow to the side and the sweeper on the back will clean the runway. Then Helga, our monster snowblower which is capable of shifting 2,700 tonnes of snow per hour, will follow and disperse the pile of snow.

We also have a new vehicle which will allow airlines to de-ice their aircraft at the gate rather than being towed to the taxiway area.

Other options include:

- New de-icing treatments for the runway and footpaths. If we get significant ice build-up on the runway, we'll deploy our new de-icing spreader to melt the ice - this acts like a grit spreader but distributes de-icing pellets. We also have a new trolley sprayer for doing the footpaths and forecourt which will be much quicker than the backpack sprayers.
- Our "Bladerunner" fleet of 4WD utes which can be fitted with grading blades
- "Sooty and Sweep" - our tractor with a high speed mechanical brush for snow/slush

- "R3D2" – Rescue Fire 3 fitted with a snow plough
- We also have a number of contractors on call to assist landside and airside.



▲ New runway sweeper

## Airline updates

Our peak winter flight schedule officially kicks off on 22 June.

Over the next two weeks, Virgin Australia and Qantas will be completing proving flights as the final stage of their after dark Individual Operator Safety Cases (subject to approval from their regulator).

Once this is achieved, all four of our airlines - Air New Zealand, Jetstar, Qantas and Virgin Australia - will be certified to fly after dark this winter.

For more information about the winter schedule, including the evening flight schedule, please visit [www.queenstownairport.co.nz/stats](http://www.queenstownairport.co.nz/stats)



## Wanaka Airport long term lease

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) recently decided to grant QAC a long term lease for Wanaka Airport. We look forward to working with QLDC on the lease terms and engaging with the community to develop an airport at Wanaka that we can all be proud of well into the future.

## Sign up for winter road reports



If you're keen to find out what the daily road conditions are like during the winter - particularly icy areas or roads that require chains - Queenstown Lakes District Council has several ways you can keep up to date with changing conditions.

@ Sign up for a 6.30am email

📱 Get txt alerts to your phone

🐦 Follow QLDC on Twitter @QueenstownLakes and on Facebook

🏠 Queenstown Lakes District Council



# SAFETY MATTERS

A huge thank you to our airport community for your continued patience and co-operation while we carry out the ground works around the terminal, car parks and roads. Just a wee reminder that when walking to/from the staff car park, please do continue to use the yellow gated road crossing outside the St John building rather than the other side of the roundabout for your safety.

## Car parking & traffic flow improvements

Stage 4 of our programme to improve traffic flow and increase car parking for visitors, airport staff and the broader community is now well underway and will be completed before 30 June when the peak winter season kicks off.

### Here's the latest update:

- 50 car spaces added to the staff car park by St John Ambulance building – completed
- New soak pit and upgraded storm water pipes under Chris Read Green and down Lucas Place to improve drainage in flood prone areas – Lucas Place is now completed
- New roundabout constructed inside the airport entrance – taking shape, first half under construction
- New and expanded coach park area at Chris Read Green – work is underway, landscaping and lighting will start coming together in June
- 2-minute public drop-off zone reintroduced immediately outside the terminal – this will be the last piece of work to be done once everything else is in place (by end June)

Details about each phase are available at [www.queenstownairport.co.nz/transportupdates](http://www.queenstownairport.co.nz/transportupdates)

If you have any questions or feedback regarding the works, please don't hesitate to email Dannielle (our project manager) on [Dannielle.Dendle@queenstownairport.co.nz](mailto:Dannielle.Dendle@queenstownairport.co.nz) or call 027 539 7541.

## Ticket to ride



### Work is also well underway on our new Park and Ride facility.

Shuttles will run to co-ordinate with the airlines' timetables and will change to reflect seasonality of flights – more details about the timetable and launch pricing will be announced soon.

With 150 extra car parking spaces being made available, the Park and Ride facility will

significantly increase the airport's car parking offering and provide more choice and a lower cost option for locals and visitors.

We are working with Queenstown Lakes District Council to co-ordinate the launch of the Park and Ride trial with the opening of Stage 1 of the Hawthorne Drive link between Glenda Drive and Remarkables Park which is due for completion by early winter.

## Up, up and away!

NASA completed its third successful launch from Wanaka Airport, getting its super pressure balloon away on 25 April on the eighth attempt. Unfortunately its flight was cut short after the balloon sprang a leak and was brought down on 7 May.



▲ Tiger Moth and NASA balloon on launch morning, credit Bill Wrigley

# ZQN NEWS

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## AVIATION PIONEERS' REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

There were tears, hugs and kisses as more than 120 old friends caught up and swapped stories at the recent aviation pioneers 70th anniversary reunion. We were very privileged to be part of such a special occasion and wanted to share a few highlights...



## New-look lounge



▲ New Air New Zealand lounge

**Air New Zealand's new-look Regional Lounge opened at the end of March and Queenstown Port Manager Christina Guthrie says her team is receiving excellent feedback from passengers so far.**

"The lounge offers five different spaces where customers can relax and refresh or plug in and get some work done before their flight and we can accommodate around 230 guests - almost double the capacity of the previous lounge," she said.

Located on the first floor of the terminal, the lounge features panoramic views of Coronet Peak, the Crown Range and The

Remarkables mountain range and a sleek interior reflecting the alpine environment. Facilities include a self-service food buffet, bar and an Air New Zealand app-enabled barista station which gives customers the opportunity to order coffee directly from their mobile devices.

Airpoints Elite, Gold, Elite Partner and Koru members, as well as eligible Star Alliance members travelling on domestic and international flights can access the lounge 7 days a week from approximately 6am until the last daily departure. The entrance is past the Airport Infodesk, with access via a stairwell or lift if required.

## Onto a winner



Our Airport Operations Manager Dan Parsons recently won Airways' & Christchurch Airport's

annual Jilly Murphy scholarship for his innovative approach to tackling airside driver safety. Dan says that he's looking forward to using the scholarship to tease out New Zealand's collective knowledge of safe airside driving.

"The hazards are significant and there are some real pockets of wisdom through the industry. I'd like to bring it together, wrap it in a human factors approach and provide a free online training course open to everyone."

## A view to fly for

We were stoked to once again make it to the Top 10 list for PrivateFly's 'World's Most Scenic Airport Landing' annual global poll - thank you to everyone who voted for us! We may not have taken out top spot like we did in 2015 but we're still delighted to come in at #5 against some very tough global contenders. Here's one travel fan's comment that particularly warmed the cockles of our hearts: "Views over a lake not seen anywhere else in the world. Azure blue to great depths preceded by mountains covered in snow on either side as you approach in winter. Absolutely stunning!" We're biased but we couldn't agree more!