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Houston, we have lift off

Auckland Airport congratulates Air New Zealand on its announcement that it will begin flying a direct Auckland to Houston, Texas service.

Commencing mid-December, the new direct service between Auckland and Houston will see a Boeing 777-200ER aircraft operate up to five flights per week.

Norris Carter, Auckland Airport's general manager aeronautical commercial, says he is delighted by the announcement which will see an additional 126,000 seats per year added to the American market, contributing an estimated \$110 million to the New Zealand economy.

"The United States is New Zealand's third largest international tourism market with



226,600 visitor arrivals in the year ending February 2015. This is an increase of 10.3 per cent when compared to the same period the year before," says Norris.

"This new Auckland to Houston service will help stimulate further growth as it provides a direct connection between New Zealand and Texas for the first time. It also offers a new gateway for New Zealand travellers visiting popular American East Coast destinations, such as New York, allowing for more one stop connections from Auckland."

"This new direct service strengthens Auckland's position as a hub airport for Asia, Australasia and the Americas. Air New Zealand and its partner airlines offer 54 return flights per week to Asia, 110 return flights per week to Australia and, with the addition of this service in December, 30 return flights per week to the Americas," finishes Norris.

Web: www.aucklandairport.co.nz

We will remember them



Auckland Airport in association with Auckland Council marked the 100 year ANZAC Day centenary with billboard imagery encouraging people to experience the 1914-1919 First World War Heritage Trail.

Auckland is rich in wartime history; endowed with monuments and memorials, honour rolls with names etched in bronze, war memorial buildings, stone archways and open spaces used as camps and other wartime activities.

The Heritage Trail includes 56 sites around Auckland from Wellsford to Waiuku that enable visitors to gain an understanding of how different parts of the city were used during World War 1.

The sites can be visited in any order and are a great way to learn about the local community's contribution to the war effort and the experiences of those left on the home front.

World War 1 (1914-1918) is one of the most significant events of the 20th century. The number of New Zealanders who served overseas (120,000) equated to more than ten percent of the country's population at the time (one million). Over 40,000 were wounded and tragically, more than 18,000 died.

The imagery designed by Snapper Media, will be on display for the next couple of months on George Bolt Memorial Drive as well as on the CTV screens in the public arrivals area.

To find out more about the Heritage Trail visit [here](#).

342,143

Number of international passenger arrivals in March 2015. Up 12.7 % from the same month last year.

Community leaders recognise Good Eggs

Auckland Airport and other like-minded businesses celebrated their commitment to the community and corporate social responsibility at a recent awards evening.

BACS (Business and Community Shares) is an organisation made up of businesses and community organisations who aim to share skills, knowledge and wisdom equitably throughout New Zealand.

Last month in Wellington, BACS held their third annual Good Business Eggs Awards event to showcase community investment by New Zealand businesses in areas including Health, Education, and Community Empowerment.

Throughout the year, BACS used surveys, questionnaires and community feedback to compile a list of 97 socially responsible businesses that fitted the awards criteria. The main group was then whittled down to just 53 businesses, then down to a final shortlist of 20 businesses, including Auckland Airport.

A panel of 17 community leaders used publically available information such as annual



reports, indications of business good practice in the community and their own experience in grading the finalists.

Auckland Airport was nominated in both the Education and Community Empowerment categories and on the night was announced runner up for Community Empowerment, a significant achievement.

To learn more visit www.bacshares.org.nz

Auckland Airport updating the community

Auckland Airport has wrapped another series of community updates engaging local community members and neighbouring businesses.

Held over several evenings at Mangere Community Law Centre, MIT Manukau Campus and MIT Otara Campus, the updates were an opportunity for the community to learn about developments that are taking place at Auckland Airport.

Charles Spillane, Auckland Airport's general manager of corporate affairs, led the discussions, providing information on Property development plans as well as details surrounding the works commencing as part of the Airport's 30 year vision.

Also discussed were recent activities and engagements involving local schools and community groups through the Airport's scholarship, art and community performance programmes. Feedback from the local community members was welcomed by airport representatives.

Life Education Award goes to an unsuspecting volunteer

Quentin O'Malley, Auckland Airport's building services manager, has been awarded the prestigious 'Outstanding Volunteer Award' for his work with Life Education Trust, Counties Manukau.

Lured to the Life Education Trust Annual Conference as a casual diner, Quentin was astonished to be presented the award in front of over 200 guests. This is the first time in the 27 years that Life Education Trust has been operating in New Zealand that the award has been given to a non-Trustee.



Quentin O'Malley with Trust Chairman Paul Cressey

As the principal sponsor of Life Education Trust, Counties Manukau, one of Auckland Airport's responsibilities is the storage and maintenance of a fleet of mobile classrooms.

While most Trusts only have one or two, Counties Manukau has a whopping six mobile classrooms all requiring care over the school holiday periods.

Quentin's dedication to maintaining the mobile classrooms and his selfless volunteering at numerous Life Education events was what prompted Michelle Kidd, general manager, Life Education Trust, Counties Manukau to nominate him for the award.

"Quentin goes above and beyond on every job he does for us. His dedication and positive can-do attitude made him an obvious choice for this year's award."

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank Auckland Airport and Quentin for their continued support. Their huge efforts ensure the smooth running of the Trust and we couldn't do it without them."

Plane spotters get up close to the action

Over the past two months, members of Auckland's plane spotting community have been competing to win the opportunity to get closer to the action on the runway.

The Plane Spotters' Day Out was organised by self-confessed plane geek, known as Dan News, in association with Auckland Airport. Enthusiasts had to submit their best plane spotting photos via Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #NZPlaneGeeks to be in to win.

The five winners who ranged in age from 12 - 20 years old, got to spend 3 hours inside the airfield grounds watching planes land and take off, something they usually only see from the distance of the Puhinui Road lookout. One of the highlights was witnessing three Airbus A380s land.

Dan News commented that the opportunity was one in a million.

"I would like to thank Auckland Airport for providing a once in a lifetime opportunity for five lucky enthusiasts. Plane spotting is highly addictive and, for many of us, it is a passion rather than just a hobby."

Check out more photos and videos [here](#).



United Emirates A380 as photographed by NZPlaneGeek Daniel Winters

1103 steps, 51 floors, one big cause

That's the message for this year's Firefighter Stair Climb Challenge.

Held at Sky City, the annual event raises money for the Leukaemia & Blood Cancer Foundation (LBC) to help support the tens of thousands of Kiwis living with blood cancer and related conditions.

Firefighters dedicate hundreds of hours to fundraising and training in the lead up to the challenge and to date, over \$427,000 has already been raised for this year's challenge.

The event first began in 2003 when eight firefighters raced each other up the Sky Tower. Year on year the event has grown both in terms of participant numbers and also in money raised. In 2014, more than 700 firefighters completed the challenge and raised \$915,000 for LBC.

As a major sponsor, Auckland Airport has the opportunity to participate in the event and this year, Jason Gray, Auckland Airport's Engineering Services Manager has stepped up to the challenge.

"When I got the call asking me if I would be interested, I jumped at the chance. Completing the Stair Climb will be a huge personal achievement and I am hoping to raise as much as I can for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer Foundation."

Jason will be required to race in full firefighting kit (minus the respirator) adding a staggering 25kgs to the already grueling climb.

The 2015 Stair Climb Challenge will be held on Saturday 23 May. To help Jason reach his fundraising target, please visit Jason's page [here](#).



Jason decked out in firefighters kit and training hard for race day

Chinese New Year lights up



As part of Chinese New Year celebrations in February, Auckland Airport worked with three community groups to create a lantern installation merging Chinese and local culture.

The three sheep lanterns are positioned outside the international terminal and welcome travellers with a warm glow in the evenings. Similar installations also sit inside the international and domestic terminal for travellers to enjoy.

Chinese New Year fell on 19 February this year and 2015 is the Year of the Sheep (goat or ram) according to Chinese astrology. These animals are known for their gentle and calm nature and formed the inspiration for the installation's final shape.

Led by Angus Muir, from Angus Muir Design, the project incorporated artwork from Wei Lun representing the Chinese Community Centre, Ya Wen Ho from the SPCA and students from Waterlea Primary School.

The collaborations will be on display the entire year.

Check out a behind the scenes video around the 'making of' these artworks [here](#).

Students show a keen interest in aviation careers

Papatoetoe High School students were able to gain valuable insight into the different roles and employment opportunities at Auckland Airport during their recent Careers Day.

During the four hour session, Kande Wright, Auckland Airport's community engagement coordinator, chatted to year 12 and 13 Papatoetoe High School students about employment opportunities based at Auckland Airport.

Students were interested in specific aviation careers while those with less defined ideas showed a keen interest to learn more about the aviation industry in general.



Kande commented that it was a great opportunity to make students aware of the career and job opportunities that are right on their doorstep.

"The discussion included a prolonged Q&A session. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm that the students showed for careers in the tourism industry."

73.5%

Increase in South African visitor arrivals during March 2015 compared with the same month last year. Stimulated by the ICC Cricket World Cup.

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Auckland Airport

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