

PARAPARAUMU AIRPORT LIMITED

Newsletter – May 2007

Welcome to the Paraparaumu Airport newsletter.

This is the first of what will be a periodic update of matters of interest to airport users. You can also visit our website www.paraparaumuairport.co.nz.

AIRPORT MAINTENANCE

GRASS RUNWAY REFURBISHMENT

Grass runway refurbishment work began in late April. The project involves levelling and sowing a 45 metre swath for the entire length of the 16/34 grass runway. Approximately 700 cubic metres of sand and top soil have been introduced in the process. The fresh section will be back in service in the spring after the new grass is established and the ground consolidated. In the meantime grass runway activities continue with some limitations on the remaining 45 metre eastern section.

MAIN RUNWAY MARKING

Main runway marking was completed in April and enhanced with some cautionary marking and taxi off lines approximately 900 litres of paint was used during the work.

LIGHTING

The northern, lighted windsock mechanism was overhauled in April with new head bearings and brush assemblies. The windsock and another to the southwest of the main runway are both connected to the runway lighting system for night visibility.

The night beacon mounted on the tower was manufactured by Vega Industries over 30 years ago; it was one of the products that helped make them world leaders in specialist lighting products. After routine maintenance in March it was discovered that the dual lamp carrier had badly worn contacts and that Vega could not supply spares. Engineering assistance was sought to no avail; the solution lay with the local gunsmith who was able to manufacture new parts within 4 hours of the request.

PILOT ACTIVATING SYSTEM

The recent change made by Airways Corporation to their ATIS frequency in Blenheim has resulted in desensitisation and false triggering of equipment at Paraparaumu Airport

which uses the same frequency. Airways Corporation has been advised and are investigating a solution.

SECURITY

Airport security has been reviewed. As a result, upgraded gate locks and a register of key holders has been established, padlock barrels will be changed at a date in June to use a numbered security key. A suggestion of an automatic closing gate has been made by Wellington Gliding Club for better security behind their glider storage area. Operators are requested to report incursions and other security incidents.

AIRPORT MANAGER

Aerodrome Management Services Ltd has managed aviation operations at Paraparaumu Airport for some years under contract from Kapiti Avion Holdings Ltd, the previous owner of the Airport. Changes effective from 1 February of this year resulted in AMS being contracted directly by Paraparaumu Airport Ltd. Richard Baldwin remains as the Airport Manager for day to day aviation activities.

NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The noise management plan has been submitted to council for their consideration. The airport company has a responsibility to encourage operators to adopt and manage best mitigation practices in respect to noise nuisance. Our airport's neighbours deserve consideration in order that operators might expect the same in return. In due course a small group will be set up to advise on noise issues.

TRAFFIC FLOW CHANGES

The one way traffic flow past the airport terminal is due to change with new signs being placed by the end of May. The flow will remain two way to the top of the tower knoll car park but become westwards only down past the terminal. This is part of a traffic management plan agreed with KCDC and has become necessary due to the increasing volume of traffic to and from the terminal.

SPONSORSHIP

The airport once again sponsored the 'show and shine' sprint event in March. The morning dawned with rain and the start was delayed, cancellation was contemplated until advice was received from a local operator that the rain would be of a short duration. Sunshine arrived within the hour and the day was judged a success by the organisers.

COMMUNITY WALKWAY

The walk/cycle track on the Western side of the airport has a couple of stiles that are difficult to negotiate by cycles and baby buggies/prams. The airport has agreed to replace the stiles with self closing gates to provide easier negotiation of the track pending the substantial improvements planned should Plan Change 73 be approved by KCDC.

MINOR MISHAPS & MISDEMEANOURS

In March a visiting Cessna 185 was tipped on its nose while attempting to turn and taxi after refuelling at the Western Apron in a howling southerly wind. The resultant damage was extensive to engine, prop, tail cone and doubtless, pride. The aircraft was almost fresh after a complete rebuild.

Normally damage to the Kapiti road boundary security fence arises by car assault. Recently a pilot taxiing a small twin engine aircraft veered from the taxiway and somehow managed to poke his wing through the fence. Unfortunately for the pilot his mum was on board, much embarrassment and excuses followed as airport helpers extracted the aircraft from its predicament with little more than a few scratches.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback on any items in this newsletter and/ or ways you think we could improve our communication with you.

CONTACT

Email info@paraparaumuairport.co.nz

PO Box 1613
Paraparaumu 5252



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