



Years in Operation: 1947 - 1948

Aircraft Operated: Supermarine Walrus, Airspeed Oxford

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Blenheim, Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland

HQ: Paraparaumu

In mid-1947, Jack Gould, a garage proprietor from Paraparaumu, bought two Supermarine Walruses and several Airspeed Oxfords from the War Assets Realisation Board, which were declared surplus after the end of World War II, and stored at Woodbourne, near Blenheim.

His plan for the Walruses was to strip the wings off and use the hulls as runabouts for fishing, and for the Oxfords, he planned to sell these off, although two were eventually made airworthy again and flown to Paraparaumu.

Although Jack had not previously had any direct involvement or interest in aviation, his experience with the purchase of the Walruses and Oxfords, raised a new interest in exploring the use of aeroplanes for freight purposes, especially as aviation was developing in NZ after the Second World War.

Jack was something of a character and became involved in numerous aviation issues and incidents including taxiing a Walrus across Cook Strait to Paraparaumu Beach, flying without a licence, and operating aircraft without certificates of airworthiness.

Jack engaged Tom Empson (a local pilot at Paraparaumu) to fly the Oxfords on sightseeing flights around Paraparaumu and for some unusual flights to Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

Jack became aware of an opportunity to transport crayfish from Christchurch to Auckland to catch a Pan American Airways flight to the US, where there was a lucrative crayfish market. Jack and Tom carried out the flight without incident.

On another occasion, Jack arranged for a party of mainly local Otaki and Te Horo farmers to travel to Christchurch for the Grand National horse racing.

Jack eventually registered Gould's Air Freight as an air freight company, and in December 1947, submitted an application for an Air Service Certificate to operate charter air freight services to airports in NZ.

In December 1947, several consignments of cherries were flown from Blenheim to Wellington and Auckland for the Christmas market, and were carried by Gould's Air Freight.

Jack, who did eventually gain a pilot's license, also owned a Tiger Moth, but he crashed this on Christmas Eve 1947, and was killed.

The air freight company ceased in March 1948.



Gould's Supermarine Walrus



Gould's Airspeed Oxford



National Airways Corporation

Years in Operation: 1947 - 1959

Aircraft Operated: DC3, Lockheed Lodestar, DH 89B Domine

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Rotorua (via Napier), Napier, Blenheim, Nelson, Hokitika, Christchurch

HQ: Wellington

NAC was established by the New Zealand National Airways Act, 1945, as the national domestic airline of New Zealand, and was formed from an amalgamation of RNZAF 40 Transport Squadron, Union Airways and several small operators.

NAC relocated temporarily to Paraparaumu from 1947 to 1959 while Rongotai was upgraded.



NAC DC3s, Lockheed Lodestars and DH 89 Dominic



Straits Air Freight Express

Years in Operation: 1951 - 1986

Aircraft Operated: Bristol 170 Freighter Mk.31

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Blenheim

HQ: Blenheim

Safe Air was initially owned by the NZ Railways Dept & RNZAF, and acquired by NAC in 1972.

The airline was set up primarily to transport rail freight across Cook Strait connecting the railway systems in the North and South Islands.

Freight operations between Paraparaumu and Blenheim commenced in May 1951, under the *Rail-Air* banner. A unique *cargon* loading system was used to load the aircraft, and this provided for quick loading and turnarounds.

The last freighter flight from Paraparaumu was made in September 1986.



Safe Air Bristol 170 Freighter



Years in Operation: 1972 - 1974

Aircraft Operated: Cessna 172, 177, 207, 337

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Wellington, Westport, Greymouth, Hokitika

HQ: Paraparaumu (Rex Air Charter), Hokitika (Westland Air)

This was a partnership between Harry Jenkins (Rex Air Charter) and Nash & Elizabeth Taurau (Westland Air), and was set up to provide air services connecting Paraparaumu with Westport, Greymouth and Hokitika. It commenced in January 1972, but the partnership ended in mid-1972. However, Harry Jenkins continued on with Rex Air Charter until it was sold to Dalhoff and King in late 1974. Harry went on to establish Associated Air in 1975 (refer also to Associated Air and Associated Airlines).



Rex Air Charter Cessna 207



Westland Air Cessna 172



Years in Operation: 1975 - 1998

Aircraft Operated: Cessna 150, Cardinal, 310, 402B, 421 Golden Eagle, Piper PA23-250 Aztec, Jetstream 31 (Origin Pacific)

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Auckland, Nelson, Christchurch, Blenheim, Palmerston North

HQ: Paraparaumu

Harry Jenkins started Associated Air Charter (Associated Air) in Paraparaumu in 1975, and the company offered flying training and limited charter work from Paraparaumu.

In 1981, the company began operating air-taxi flights between Paraparaumu and Auckland, and in April 1982, approval was given for the flights to be operated on a scheduled basis.

Air-taxi flights to Nelson were started in late 1982, on a trial basis.

In 1983, scheduled flights to Nelson and Christchurch commenced, and Blenheim was included as a stopover on the Christchurch service from 1984.

In 1986, scheduled flights Paraparaumu-Palmerston North-Nelson commenced.

In June 1987, night flights commenced to carry the National Business Review, which was being published in Paraparaumu. From Monday to Friday, Cessna 402s and a Cessna 310 flew the NBR to both Auckland and Christchurch in time for the early morning delivery.

Harry Jenkins passed away in November 1987, and Mary (his wife) and Russell (eldest son) took over the company (and rebranded it Associated Airlines in 1989).

Air Nelson's Metroliners took over the Paraparaumu-Auckland and Paraparaumu-Nelson services in 1991, but in 1994, Associated Airlines took over the Paraparaumu-Nelson service using their Cessna 421 Golden Eagle. Air Nelson withdrew their Paraparaumu-Auckland service. However, Associated Airlines resumed weekday Paraparaumu-Auckland flights in November 1995.

On 10 November 1997 Associated Airline's Cessna 421 operating Paraparaumu-Auckland, was replaced by Origin Pacific Jetstream 31s on behalf of Associated Airlines. The company ceased operating in May 1998 and their Cessna 421 was transferred to Origin Pacific.



Associated Air Cessna 402



Associated Airlines Cessna 421 Golden Eagle



Origin Pacific Airways

Years in Operation: 1997 - 1998

Aircraft Operated: BAe Jetstream 31

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Auckland

HQ: Nelson

Origin Pacific Airways was established in Nelson by Robert Inglis and Nicki Smith in July 1997, and had an initial fleet of four British Aerospace (BAe) Jetstream 31s.

The company's first airline work began in November 1997 when Origin Pacific was contracted to operate Associated Airlines Paraparaumu-Auckland service with Jetstream 31s. These flights ended in May 1998 when Associated Airlines terminated their Paraparaumu-Auckland service.



Origin Pacific Airways Jetstream 31

AIR WAIRARAPA
AIR KAPITI

Years in Operation: 2002

Aircraft Operated: Piper PA31 Navajo

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Masterton, Auckland

HQ: Masterton

Guy Hingston, a specialist at Masterton Hospital, setup Air Wairarapa as a local airline to operate between Masterton and Auckland.

In March 2002, the airline started flying scheduled services between Masterton and Auckland., and in June, this was changed to Masterton-Paraparaumu-Auckland, with the return flight direct to Masterton. The aircraft used carried the name Air Wairarapa on one side and Air Kapiti on the other side. However, the service ended in August 2002



Air Wairarapa Piper PA31 Navajo



Air Kapiti Piper PA31 Navajo

AIR NEW ZEALAND 



Years in Operation: 2011 - 2018

Aircraft Operated: DHC Dash8-300, Fairchild Metroliner

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Auckland, Christchurch

HQ: Auckland (Air NZ), Nelson (Air Nelson)

In October 2011, Air NZ commenced regular flights between Paraparaumu and Auckland under its Air NZ Link brand. The services were operated by Air Nelson, a subsidiary of Air NZ. In November 2013, regular flights between Paraparaumu and Christchurch commenced but due to limited demand they were terminated in February 2016.

The flights between Paraparaumu and Auckland ended in April 2018.



Air NZ/Air Nelson Bombardier Dash 8-300



Air Nelson Fairchild Metroliner

Air Wellington



Years in Operation: 1992 - 1999

Aircraft Operated: Cessna 172, Piper PA23-250 Aztec, PA31-350 Chieftain, PA31-310 Navajo

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Nelson, Palmerston North, Napier, Gisborne

HQ: Paraparaumu

In 1992, Welair Ltd was formed by Richard Bull, Brian Davidson, Richard Joel and Richard Baldwin when they took over Paraparaumu based Gold Coast Air Ltd, which offered training and charter services.

In 1996, Richard Baldwin purchased a Piper Navajo and formed his own company, Air Wellington Ltd. The aircraft was leased to Welair and scheduled services from Paraparaumu to Nelson operated under the Air Wellington name.

In July 1997, Welair trading as Air Wellington, started operating courier and passenger flights from Paraparaumu to Palmerston North, Napier and Gisborne. However, all services ceased in February 1999 when the operating certificates held by Welair were suspended by CAA.

HQ – Paraparaumu



Air Wellington Piper Navajo



WelAir Cessna 172



Years in Operation: 2004 - 2018

Aircraft Operated: Cessna 208B Grand Caravan, Vulcanair P68C, Piper PA-31 Navajo, Reims/Cessna F406 Caravan, Beech 200 Super King, Jetstream (from Originair)

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Masterton, Wellington, Blenheim, Palmerston North, Whanganui

HQ: Paraparaumu

Murray Cole, chairman of Integra Investments, and former owner of Paraparaumu Airport, initially established air2there in 2004 as a “city-hopper” operation using single and 10-trip ticketing. It was launched in 2004, but the “city-hopper” concept did not take off and the airline adopted a daily shuttle type service, with flights operating to a number of airports in the lower North Is and upper South Is.

In 2008, Richard Baldwin, who had been managing air2there, and was also the Paraparaumu airport manager, bought the company. In addition to offering passenger services, the airline gained a reputation for flying unusual passengers including SPCA puppies, transportation of coffins, prisoner transfers and shuttle services for the RNZAF.

In September 2016, Originair resumed flying after being grounded from March 2016, but used air2there aircraft. Originair reinstated operations with their BAe Jetstreams in June 2017, and from 23 October, air2there used Originair’s Jetstreams to operate some of their services. air2there faced increasing competition from Sounds Air, especially across Cook Strait, and also from Originair as it expanded its own services .

In November 2018, air2there was placed into liquidation and closed down.



Air2there Piper PA-31 Navajo



Air2there Cessna 208 Grand Caravan



Years in Operation: 2009 - 2011

Aircraft Operated: Cessna 172, 185

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Takaka

HQ: Takaka

Remote Adventures was founded by Jim Larsen at Makakao Junction, about 80 minute's drive north of Whanganui to provide a variety of scenic flights, and flights especially catering for trampers and bikers. In mid-2004, Remote Adventures moved to Takaka, and in 2009, scheduled flights were started between Takaka and Paraparaumu but ceased in 2011.



Remote Adventures Cessna 185



Years in Operation: 2002 - 2012

Aircraft Operated: Piper PA23-250 Aztec

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Gisborne, Napier, Palmerston North

HQ: Tauranga

In 1985, Sunair was established by Dan Power and his wife Bev in Tauranga, offering aircraft maintenance and aircraft import and sales. Air service operations commenced in 1988.

In 2002, Sunair operated a courier service from Napier to Paraparaumu via Palmerston North, on behalf of Air Freight East Coast Ltd. Paraparaumu was offered as a passenger destination from 5 April 2010 in conjunction with the courier service from Napier. On 4 June 2012, Sunair offered daily passenger flights to Napier and Gisborne from Paraparaumu. However, all services to Paraparaumu ended in July 2012 when the Courier service was terminated.



Sunair Piper P23-250 Aztec



Years in Operation: 2004 - Present

Aircraft Operated: Gippsland GA8 Airvan, Cessna 208B Grand Caravan, Pilatus PC12

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Nelson, Blenheim

HQ: Blenheim

Andrew Crawford and Steve Handyside formed Sounds Air Travel and Tourism Ltd in October 2003, and this was changed to Sounds Air in December.

In 2004, the airline purchased a new Gippsland GA8 Airvan and on 19 July it operated flights between Wellington and Kaikoura. A Cessna Caravan was also used when a larger aircraft was needed. Sounds Air also operated regular services between Wellington and Picton. However, the Kaikoura service ended in May 2009 due to low demand. Sounds Air's network started to expand when the company took over flying the Dominion Post newspaper from Wellington to Blenheim and Nelson on the 9th of January 2006. Passenger services to Blenheim and Nelson followed and became very popular. Several new routes were subsequently added including Wellington to Wanganui, Taupo, Westport and Napier, as well as between Blenheim and Christchurch and Christchurch to Wanaka. These were operated using a mix of Cessna Caravans and Pilatus PC12s. But all of these services eventually ceased due to changes in demand and increasing costs. Flights between Paraparaumu and Blenheim were introduced on 26 January 2015, followed by Paraparaumu to Nelson on 15 June. In 2025, due to high operating costs, the airline made a decision to sell its fleet of Pilatus PCs and to focus entirely on its core Cook Strait operations using only its Cessna Caravan fleet. The final PC12 flights concluded at the end of September 2025.



Sounds Air Gippsland GA8 Airvan



Sounds Air Cessna 208B Grand Caravan



Sounds Air Pilatus PC12



Years in Operation: 2018 - Present

Aircraft Operated: Saab 340A & B, ATR72-500

Airports flown to/from Paraparaumu: Auckland

HQ: Auckland and Chatham Is

Air Chathams is owned by Craig and Marion Emeny and was established in 1984, initially to provide freight and passenger services between the Chatham Is and mainland NZ.

Regular scheduled flights between the Chatham Is and Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch commenced in 1991.

When Air NZ decided to withdraw their services from Whakatane, Whanganui and Paraparaumu in 2015, 2016 and 2018 respectively, it opened up an opportunity for Air Chathams to step in. As a result, Air Chathams commenced scheduled passenger flights between Auckland and Whakatane from 28 April 2015. Whanganui was added in 2016 and Kapiti in 2018.



Air Chathams Saab 340



Air Chathams ATR 72-500