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Thanks to the folks who opened and staffed our Museum over the Saturday and Sunday of Labour Weekend as part of the Wellington Heritage Festival event. We had 83 visitors over the two days, predominantly from the Greater Wellington area, a great result.

We managed to have four more of our new display panels in place for the Festival Weekend, covering the Paraparaumu Aerodrome development and early operational history including the NAC operations here during the Wellington Airport construction phase and the 1954 Royal visit. These give a very professional look to our displays and are part of our display upgrade programme, made possible as a result of a grant from the Kapiti Coast District Council. Two more are in the pipeline over the coming months.



About 15 members and partners gathered for lunch at Club Vista recently. Great company and well fed. We will do it again sometime. Great to catch up with Bob Hamilton, a past committee member now living in Karori, who was ferried out here and back by Miss Daisy.

## AIRLINES OF PARAPARAUMU : ASSOCIATED AIR

### *Researched by Keith Mackersy*

Harry Jenkins started Associated Air Charter (Associated Air) at Paraparaumu in 1975, as an adjunct to his Associated Aviation Flying School and the company initially offered 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 and in 1983, scheduled flights to Nelson and Christchurch commenced. Blenheim was included as a stopover on the Christchurch service from 1984.

In 1986, scheduled flights Paraparaumu - Palmerston North - Nelson commenced and, in June 1987, weekday night flights commenced to carry the National Business Review, which was being published in Paraparaumu, to both Auckland and Christchurch in time for the early morning delivery using the Cessna 402s and a Cessna 310.

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 Fairchild C-26 Metroliners took over the Paraparaumu-Auckland and Paraparaumu-Nelson services in 1991 until 1994 when Associated Airlines took over the Paraparaumu-Nelson service using their Cessna 421 Golden Eagle. Air Nelson withdrew their Paraparaumu-Auckland service and Associated Airlines resumed weekday Paraparaumu-Auckland flights in November 1995.

In November 1997 the Cessna 421 operating the Paraparaumu-Auckland route 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.

Routes flown to and from Paraparaumu included Auckland, Palmerston North, Nelson, Blenheim, and Christchurch,

Aircraft operated over the years included: Cessna 150, Cessna 177 Cardinal, Cessna twin-engined 310, 402B, and 421 Golden Eagle models, Piper PA23-250 Aztec, and Jetstream 31 (Origin Pacific).



*Cessna 421C Golden Eagle ZK-DCN, (ex Ministry of Transport)*

**Tillamook Air Museum**

*Wilson Lattey*

Back in 2010, while staying with family in Portland, Oregon, I had the opportunity to visit the Tillamook Air Museum, situated on the Pacific Northwest coast. It is housed in what is touted as being the world’s largest wooden structure, a World War 2 blimp hangar some 330 metres long, 90 metres wide 59 metres high with doors nearly 40 metres high. The floor area is around 2.8 hectares (7 acres!)



*To give a sense of scale, note the Boeing Stratocruiser-based Mini-Guppy and the Douglas Dakota parked outside*

*The Mini-Guppy, used for transporting large booster rocket engines in the 1960's*

Inside was a delectable display of WW2 and other aircraft, including Mustang, P.38 Lightning, Corsair, Wildcat, Douglas Invader, etc, plus some more exclusive types like the Martin Mauler, Grumman Duck, and a Bellanca Aircruiser.



*Douglas A-26 Invader*



*Bellanca Aircruiser*



*Martin AM-1 Mauler*



*Grumman J2F-6 Duck*

