

Ardmore Flyer

November 2022



The Safest General
Aviation Airport In NZ

NEW TOURIST CHARTER SERVICE

Volta Aviation Ltd's owners hope their Ardmore Airport-based company will become New Zealand premier helicopter charter service for overseas and local tourists alike.



James Brown with fellow company pilot, Peter Davies, outside Volta Aviation's Ardmore Airport base.

Using a Sikorsky S76 C++ capable of carrying 13 passengers, the company has begun flying clients to luxury venues around the country.

A privately owned company, Volta Aviation bought and remodelled Grant Biel's Rural Aviation hangar at the corner of Kitty Hawke and Harvard Lanes in preparation for the launch of its charter service.

After gaining regulatory approval in May to run Civil Aviation Authority-approved operations, Volta Aviation began charter flights with its Sikorsky [ZKICG], the only commercially-operated model of its type in the Southern Hemisphere.

James Brown, the company's chief pilot and chief executive, said Volta Aviation expected to take delivery of a second Sikorsky S76 C++ later this month, such was the demand for its charter service. Its five-strong staff numbers would be increased to cope with the expanding business.

Both Sikorskys are 2008 models previously used to service the oil and gas industry, the first in Western Australia and Brazil and the second in Malaysia.

James told the *Ardmore Flyer* ZKICG had been stripped of its old seats and its interior revamped to include more leg-room, noise cancelling headsets, soundproofing and leather seats for up to 13 passengers bound for exclusive golf courses and lodges around New Zealand.

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GREETINGS FROM THE CEO



Dave Marcellus

It's been great to see Ardmore Airport users' flying hours increasing during longer daylight hours and warmer weather conditions.

And there's plenty of upcoming ground-level activity around the airport as well, including reconstruction and widening work on a significant portion of Corsair Lane as well as planned runway maintenance.

The addition of new stakeholders to the airport, plus awareness of new government legislation and regulation such as the National Emergency Management Agency, the Spatial Planning Act, the Aviation Amendment Bill and the Crowded Places Strategy requirements, have combined to keep the airport company busy. They all have a bearing on the airport's management and activities.

I'd like to mention the recently released Transport Accident Investigation Commission's report on the tragic mid-air collision near Masterton in June, 2019. In my opinion, the report, which can be downloaded from the TAIC website, is well worth reading.

And finally, we have some great events coming up soon. The NZ Warbirds at Ardmore air show "Warbirds on Parade" will be staged at Ardmore Airport on Sunday, December 4. Then, on the following Thursday, December 8, Ardmore Airport will hold its annual Christmas celebration. I look forward to seeing you there.

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James Brown

James said: “There’s always been a lack of multi-engine, fast, comfortable aircraft for high net-worth individuals in New Zealand so we’re trying to plug that gap.

“We had a request from inbound tour operators who have these people coming in here and they couldn’t get aircraft of the Sikorsky capabilities [to transport them]”.

He said Volta Aviation chose the Sikorsky because its brand name was so well known to the world’s rich. They used similar helicopters extensively in the United States.

Of the Sikorsky’s capabilities, James said: “They have two engines, two hydraulic systems and two auto pilots and can be flown by single or dual pilots.”

James said that, with a luggage capacity of 300kg and a cruising speed of 155 knots, the Sikorsky took 45 minutes to fly up to 13 passengers from Ardmore to the Bay of Islands.

“We are the only one [private charter company] who has a commercial nine-seater aircraft,” he said. “We can get eight golfers and their clubs to Te Arai Links [north of Auckland] for a great day out.

“We pick up clients from private jets at Auckland International Airport and take them to destinations of their choice, such as Kauri Cliffs or Cape

Kidnappers.”

“I think New Zealand tourism has been relying on the backpackers and large tour groups. There’s been a shift in the market. The Lord of the Rings has done us a massive favour. It has put New Zealand on the map.

“It is unbelievable. They [tourists] see this scenery and they want to experience it. Amazing lodges have been springing up around the country.”

Volta Aviation, he said, could provide comfortable and efficient transport for visitors needing to get to such venues.

Born in Queenstown and educated at Christchurch Boys High School, James is no stranger to tourism. He was South Island sales manager for Tourism Holdings Ltd for a time before he gained his helicopter pilot’s licence in Wanaka in 1994 and changed careers.

Since then he’s done more than 10,000 hours in 28 years flying helicopters in places like Australia, the Caribbean and the United States.

He spent 15 years as a fire fighting helicopter pilot with the US Forest Service. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina of 2005, he flew rescue missions and water drops in an Airbus H125 B3 Squirrel helicopter.

James and his family returned to New Zealand in 2014 and, until 2019 when Volta Aviation was formed, he commuted between here and the United States to continue work as a helicopter pilot.

Making use of his earlier tourism links, James contacted past acquaintances and people associated with tourism companies, telling them: “Hi, I’m back and this is my new toy.”

--- **By John Andrews**



The Sikorsky delivers tourists for off road vehicle experience in the South Island High Country.

FROM UNICOM TOWER TO AIRLINE PILOT

Zac Attwood believes the experience he's gaining as an Ardmore Airport UNICOM operator and airside supervisor will prove an invaluable springboard for his dream role -- fully-fledged airline pilot.



Zac Attwood

In June the 21-year-old former St Kentigern College student was awarded his diploma in aviation at Ardmore's Southern Wings flight training school, gaining his commercial and private pilot's licence and multi-engine instrument rating.

Zac's interest in UNICOM tower work was piqued by what he heard and saw during his months of flight school training. A year before graduation, he asked Allan Bostock, UNICOM's general manager, about his chances of getting a job with Ardmore Airport Ltd.

Zac was successful. His ability to juggle pilot training obligations, resulted in him being given a part time role monitoring the airport's online system of recording aircraft landings and touch and goes. Then came his appointment to a permanent post.

Zac said: "I now see aviation from a different point of view. I've learned a lot from the situational awareness of flying. In the tower you have to be aware of everything that is going on in Ardmore's airspace.

"There have been a lot of learning curves and adjustments to seeing things from different perspectives."

Zac, a keen hockey player, is only too aware it's going to take years of hard work to achieve his ultimate aim of becoming an airline pilot.

WARBIRDS AIRSHOW AT ARDMORE

To attract more aviation enthusiasts, New Zealand Warbirds at Ardmore officials have decided to promote their big event next month as an air show.



Mike Curwood

Mike Curwood, Warbirds general manager, hopes more than 7000 spectators will flock to Ardmore Airport on Sunday, December 4, for "Air Show Ardmore" to witness NZ Warbirds displays commemorating the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.

Mike said: "To me, an air show attracts people's attention. As an aviation enthusiast, when an aircraft goes overhead, I tend to look up. I think most people who are into aviation are attracted to air shows."

While the range of aircraft displaying their prowess would not be as many as those at a typical Wanaka air show, he said, the number of aircraft involved in the Warbirds on Parade event at Ardmore Airport constituted an air show.

As well as NZ Warbirds' stable of aircraft, historic military, classic and sport aircraft being put through their paces, show organisers expect to see three Yak 52s and one Yak 55 on show.

"It feels like the aviation scene is coming alive after a hiatus prompted by Covid 19," said Mike. "Like any aviation-related business, Warbirds was in the eye of the storm with Covid."

Warbirds' finances were looking brighter, he said. In the months since he took over as general manager, more tenants had taken up leases in Warbirds' hangars, the visitor's centre had been busier and film companies and car clubs had been asking about space availability.



NZ Warbirds
AT ARDMORE

Presents

WARBIRDS ON PARADE

Sunday 04 December 2022

9:00am to 4:00pm Ardmore Airport

(Hamlin Road entrance only)

Commemorating Pearl Harbor with flying displays at 10:30am | 12:30pm | 2:30pm

On show: Static Aircraft / Military Vehicles / a Mock Attack / Merchandise

Food and Refreshments and so much more.

Online Tickets*: Adults \$30.00 / School Age \$7.00 / Under 5's Free / Family Pass** \$65.00

Gate Sales: Adults \$35.00 / School Age \$10.00 / Under 5's Free

*a full refund will be available if the event is cancelled in advance due to weather, please see our T&C's

** Family pass: 2 adults + 3 children - only available online.

www.nzwarbirds.org.nz





ARDMORE AIRPORT

New Zealand's busiest general aviation airport

Situated approximately 1 km from Papakura and a short 10 minute drive from the centre of Papakura business community, Ardmore Airport is a vital economic base for Papakura. Ardmore Airport was established in 1943 and became an airport for General Aviation in 1952. The majority of tenants are businesses such as flying schools and aviation related services with others including non-aviation business, private aviation enthusiasts and clubs. Ardmore Airport is primarily a training airfield and the majority of the pilots

are training for the purpose of gaining professional pilots licenses and a career in the airline industry.

In addition to pilot training, Ardmore Airport provides a home for kiwi aviation businesses on the world stage. More than 600 people are employed at the airport. Retailers and other businesses in and around Papakura benefit significantly through the employees and students being based at Ardmore. For more information visit www.ardmoreairport.co.nz

Ardmore Cafe

Situated on Harvard Lane is open 7 days with views to the main runway.

For opening times and bookings phone 09 298 484

NZ Warbirds Association Inc.

Have a new visitor centre on Harvard Lane, visit their website <https://www.nzwarbirds.org.nz> or phone 09 298 9207 for more information.



511 Harvard Lane, Corner Harvard & McBride Lanes
Ardmore Airport, Auckland 2582
www.ardmoreairport.co.nz Phone: 09 298 9207



Ardmore Airport Limited
proudly supports
Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust,
Kidney Kids and Burns Support Group,
NZ Warbirds at Ardmore

Events

Airshow—Warbirds on Parade—Sunday 4th December 2022

If you have an event you wish to have listed here
please contact **Melanie Nelson** on 09) 298 9544 or
melanie@ardmoreairport.co.nz



Ardmore Airport Ltd - Team

Dave Marcellus - Chief Executive - dave@ardmoreairport.co.nz
Duncan White - Asset and Compliance Manager - duncan@ardmoreairport.co.nz
Roslin Quigley - Finance & Administration Manager - roslin@ardmoreairport.co.nz
Allan Bostock - General Manager UNICOM - allan@arunicom.co.nz
Zac Attwood - UNICOM Operator and Airside Supervisor - zac@arunicom.co.nz
Rob Fleet - UNICOM Operator - rob@arunicom.co.nz
Melanie Nelson - Administration, Events and Reception - melanie@ardmoreairport.co.nz
John Andrews - Journalist/Editor - johnandrews@xtra.co.nz

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