



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE

April 11, 2008

Sir Tim Wallis to dedicate historic area of terminal

Aviation legend Sir Tim Wallis will dedicate the historic display to aviators past, present and future at the new terminal building of the Te Anau Airport at Manapouri during the airport open day on Saturday April 19.

The historic area displays were designed by David Clark, of Lakes District Museum, and incorporate local flora and fauna with the deer hunting and crayfishing industries which have made a significant impact on aviation in Fiordland.

Sorted Architecture Project Director Steve Humpherson said the Southland District Council had asked for an area within the airport to host historical displays from the Lakes District Museum.

“We were inspired to take this cue further, so the region’s heritage became a cornerstone of our concept for the Te Anau Airport at Manapouri.”

Complementing the extended and upgraded runways, the new 380sqm airport building has been designed to enhance passengers’ travel experience by capturing the essence of Southland, Mr Humpherson said.

This was achieved by incorporating local materials and elements of the region’s heritage and landscapes such as bridges into the creation of versatile spaces for the airport.

“Throughout the building, the use of materials favoured in the Southland district such as Southland beech, macrocarpa, local schist stone and corrugated steel helps foster a sense of tradition and authenticity. The terminal building’s rugged sheddy aesthetics ensure it blends into its surroundings.

“At the main entrance and when accessing the tarmac, visitors are greeted by kingpost truss bridges constructed from recycled hardwood. These span across purpose dug sunken gardens, which underpin the building and give the impression it is floating above the planting. The sunny viewing deck and tarmac are thus separated by a natural barrier.”

Commissioned to act as the main gateway to Fiordland, the upgraded Te Anau Airport at Manapouri now has the capacity to host three operators, regular operational aircraft up to 70 seats, with the occasional flight of aircraft up to 130 – 150 seats.

Council Group manager Assets and Services Cameron McIntosh said the Council is pleased with the final look of the airport.

“It suits the environment very well and will be a wonderful entry point into the beauty of Fiordland,” Mr McIntosh said.

The new airport is to be opened on Saturday April 19 by Southland Mayor Frana Cardno, and the general public is invited to the open day which runs from 12noon to 3pm.

For further information, please contact:

Southland District Council Group Manager Assets and Services Cameron McIntosh
Telephone: 0800 732 732

Projenz Project Manager Brad McLeay
Telephone: 021 222 8998

Te Anau Community Board Chairman Ron Egan
Telephone: 03 249 7139, Mobile 027 434 1552