

WINGS OVER HAWKE'S BAY

THE STORY OF OUR AIRPORT

FLEDGLING BEGINNINGS

Hawke's Bay Airport's history evolved in an incredibly unique way.

Wings Over Hawke's Bay: The Story of Our Airport by Michael Fowler explores aviation history in the region right from fledgling attempts by Bertram Ogilvie during 1908/9 to build and fly an aircraft on Riverbend Road, Napier, to an airport which had to continually evolve to meet demand for air travel.

Aeroplane flight was a novel activity in the 1910s and crowds flocked to see American Arthur "Wizard Stone" do an exhibition flight in 1913 and the Walsh Brothers "flying boat" in 1917 in Napier.

Pioneering New Zealand airlines began to fly from Hastings to Gisborne in the 1920s, and these met with no success.

Visits by Australian Charles Kingsford-Smith to New Zealand in 1928 when he crossed the Tasman Sea caused a surge in aviation interest – and individuals met to form what would become the Napier Aero Club.

NEW LAND – NEW AIRFIELD

Napier pre-1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake struggled to find land on which the Napier Aero Club could use as an aerodrome. Hastings had no such problems and had a strong Hawke's Bay & East Coast Aero Club.

After the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake created a vast expanse of land on a former tidal lagoon, the Napier Aero Club set in motion what we have today as the Hawke's Bay Airport.

The creation of the Hawke's Bay Airport, which occurred in 1964 on the former primitive Beacons aerodrome, resulted in severe disagreements between the Hastings and Napier councils as to its location.

A GROWING NEED

As international travel became more widespread the Hawke's Bay Airport's infrastructure quickly on a regular cycle needed upgrading.

Over the years, many issues have made the Hawke's Bay Airport grab its fair share of news headlines – whether it be attracting international jets, lowering domestic airfares or solving the complex issues of managing growth under a joint venture ownership.

Despite the many challenges it has faced, the Hawke's Bay Airport has been fortunate with its management and boards to guide its growth under these challenges.



The freighter Kotuku in 1947 with the Hawke's Bay Airport's first purpose built terminal.
WA-08343-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/30647103



Huia of East Coast Airways at the Beacons aerodrome in the 1930's.
Ref: WA-17003-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22701646

Huia and Tui DH – Dragons in the mid-1930's.
Richard Waugh Collection.



An NAC courtesy bus at Hawke's Bay Airport around 1964.
Richard Waugh Collection.



We will be releasing **Wings Over Hawke's Bay - The Story of our Airport** in the coming months. Copies will be limited – so pre-order by going to www.hawkesbay-airport.co.nz and fill in the order form. Copies are \$59.95.