



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**

THE BLENHEIM BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

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Guest Speaker – Dave Park MRAeS

NASA BALLOON LAUNCHES AT WANAKA AIRPORT

Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 7.00pm

Marlborough Aero Club – Clubrooms – 100 Aerodrome Road Omaka

Members, non-members, interested persons and guests welcome- please forward this notice

Tea and Coffee available, Dress - Casual

A voluntary gold coin donation is welcomed from non-members to defray supper costs.

Dave Park is a degree-qualified aeronautical engineer with 40 years industry experience in airline flight operations, aircraft performance and airport design.

Dave spent the first half of his career with Air New Zealand in various Flight Operations technical and managerial roles, culminating in management responsibility for the Airline's Boeing 737 operations for 5 years.

In 1997 Dave left Air New Zealand to set up his own aviation consultancy and aside from a period in 1998-2001 when he went back to the airline industry, has been consulting ever since. Clients have ranged from small airstrip owner/operators to large international airports and airlines in the UK and Middle East.

Dave's involvement with Wanaka Airport started some 15 years ago when the potential of the airport started to become apparent to its owner, the Queenstown-Lakes District Council. Dave provided input and technical advice on various iterations of the airport's Master Plan and on airside layout.

NASA's interest in the airport sparked a new wave of development in support of super-pressure balloon launches in 2015, 2016 and 2017. For the 2015 and 2016 launches Dave worked closely with the NASA team and their launch contractor Orbital ATK as safety liaison between the Airport, Queenstown Airport Corporation (the operator of the Airport) and various agencies involved.

Dave's talk will describe the background to the balloon launches, the technical specifications of the balloons, the outcome of the launches and the scientific research that drives the balloon programme at Wanaka.