



Mt John Update

New Real Time Webcam

New Earth & Sky Cafe Opens

Council takes action towards World Heritage Sky Park

There is always something new happening on Mt John in the Mackenzie Country and the past few months have seen the installation of a new webcam by Greg Knowles of Tekapo Tourism and Tim Rayward of Air Safaris. These two Mackenzie Country born and bred movers and shakers have always got something new up their sleeves to make the Mackenzie Country experience one to remember.

Tekapo Tourism had operated a webcam on the summit for over a year that was a model of Mackenzie country ingenuity. Funds were short so the camera was constructed from a standard household webcam. It was stripped down to its electronics, placed inside a modified section of water pipe and housed in a waterproof electrical enclosure for its outdoor operation then mounted on one of the science building at the observatory.

This was the first camera accessed through Tekapo Tourism's website. While inexpensive, the compromise was that it was plagued with problems and the observatory's resident superintendent, Alan Gilmore,

often gave up his time to reset an unresponsive system.

Thanks to Alan Gilmore's generous assistance the 'home-made' camera was able to provide thousands of visitors to the Tekapo Tourism website with an hourly image of the changing beauty of Lake Tekapo.

After several months of growing popularity such was the success of this project that Air Safaris stepped up to sponsor a better, brand new, purpose-built camera.

The installation of this camera pictured below was not without its moments; the wind was vibrating the pole and distorting the view.

Another local working bee attached stays to the pole to support the camera, however, you can gauge a gusty wind if a small amount of flickering is experienced. As I write I access Tekapo Tourism's website and there is the Mackenzie Country in all its pristine glory.

It's a clear day down there at Lake Tekapo with a little cloud around Mt John that appears to be on its

From the other side of the world view the Mackenzie Country in real time.



INSTALLING THE NEW TEKAPO TOURISM WEBCAM.
ABOVE: GREG KNOWLES AND TIM RAYWORD
LEFT: UP THE LADDER GREG KNOWLES - BELOW TIM RAYWARD