

Pilot doctor chooses Hokitika for launch

by Janna Sherman

'Flying doctor' Dave Baldwin has a Hokitika launch planned for his latest book, *The Bushman's Bible*.

Based in Bulls, in the lower North Island, he has been visiting the West Coast for almost 30 years to help with certification medical checks for pilots from Karamea to Haast, landing at some of the more remote airstrips, such as Creswick Flat in the Landsborough Valley.

He runs clinics for pilots at Hokitika, Fox Glacier, Jackson Bay and Milford during one week of the month.

His next flying visit however will have a wider focus on the overall health of all men.

The ex-Royal New Zealand Air Force base medical officer, GP and pilot is also the author of a trilogy of non-PC men's health books under his 'Healthy Bastard' campaign which he launched 25 years ago. His latest offering, *The Bushman's Bible*, will be launched next week in Hokitika, as home to one of his "heroes", pioneering doctor

Ebenezer Teichelmann.

The book looks beyond the material world to complete a holistic health series following on from the physical, mental and spiritual subjects of his two previous books, *Healthy Bastards* and *The Flying Doctor*.

In the *Bushman's Bible*, which will be delivered to every mountain and bush hut in the country, Dr Baldwin said he had recognised that most of his clientele were not interested in developing their spirituality in a more formal way because of the fundamental or extremist face of religion these days.

"The essence of the *Bushman's Bible* is doing the same I did in the *Healthy Bastards* for physical health. In this one I've loosened up and explained Judaism, Islamism and Christianity. I am trying to start getting people thinking along the spiritual lines and this book and its trilogy may well light a spiritual fire in a few readers, so fingers crossed."

It will be launched at the Carnegie Gallery on Monday at 7pm.



Dr Dave Baldwin at the Hokitika Airport where one of his West Coast flying doctor clinics operates.

PICTURE: Janna Sherman