

5 December 2019



MEDIA RELEASE

AIR CHATHAMS DC3 NEW LOOK FOR SUMMER

The pride and joy of Air Chathams fleet, DC3 ZK-AWP, just got a new look for the summer season of scenic flights. New, but also old, as the aircraft has returned to National Airways Corporation (NAC) colours in recognition of its long and extensive history in New Zealand. The classic aircraft has donned this livery before and was given the name "Kaitaia" while in NAC passenger services from April 1953 until the late 1960's. Changing from the green of Air Chathams, the DC3 is now resplendent in red and white.

Red and white were the NAC company colours at that time with the logo featuring a stylised kūaka (godwit) because of the bird's association with long distance flying.

Whilst establishing services for Air Chathams in the Pacific, Craig Emeny became the proud owner in 2009 when he purchased the aircraft as part of the hangar's contents. Full restoration and airworthiness work was undertaken with the aircraft then re-painted in the familiar green of Chathams Pacific colours. Flying island group passenger services before returning to New Zealand, the DC3 now mainly undertakes charter work and scenic flights.

"Our Douglas DC-3 holds a special place in New Zealand aviation history. We feel its real mark was made during its time with National Airways Corporation (NAC) during the development of NZ's regional passenger air connectivity," says Duane Emeny, General Manager. "This holds true with our airline values around connecting smaller communities and providing safe, reliable air services. So it feels right to revert her to that livery for what may be the remainder of her flying life."

Passengers will have their first chance to fly in the new look DC3 from the 14th of December at the Classic Flyers Museum, Tauranga Airport. Regular scenic flights are scheduled throughout the summer months giving locals and visitors alike 30 minutes of vintage flying in a "grand old dame" of the skies. A once in a lifetime opportunity to revisit history, the flights are popular and ZK-AWP's new look will attract plenty of attention this summer.

The aircraft will also provide scenic flights at the Kāpiti Coast Airport on the 11th and 12th of January 2020, Whanganui Vintage Weekend on the 18th, 19th and 20th of January 2020 and in Whakatāne over White Island, the Eastern Bay of Plenty coastline and district lakes as part of the Air Chathams Sunshine and a Plate event on the weekend of the 29th of February and 1st of March 2020, and the 7th of March 2020.

Ends.

For more information about ZK-AWP and scheduled scenic flights, please visit:

<https://www.airchathams.co.nz/specials/dc3-scenic-flights>

Events:

<https://www.sunshineandaplate.nz/air-chathams-dc3-scenic-flights>

<https://whanganuivintageweekend.nz/>

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