

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE COLLECTION

'In the azure quilted cushion of the Pacific Ocean nestles a flawless, priceless gem...Norfolk Island.'

Tourism brochures are a common sight on Norfolk Island, but now generally lack the poetic prose contained within this week's interesting item. The *New Zealand National Airways Corporations* (NAC) was one of the earliest commercial providers for flights to Norfolk Island. Both NAC and Qantas started flying tourists in 1947. NAC flew Douglas DC-3 planes to Norfolk until 1955 and the brochure proudly advertises that the flight would only take four hours (today its nearly half the time).

This is an early and very artistic brochure produced by NAC. While the brochure covered the normal history summary and holiday attractions, it also contains some curiosities.

On the Island map, Point Vincent is recorded instead as 'Point Rose'. Rooty Hill Road is labelled as 'House Road' and Middlegate Road is known as 'Stores Road'. The Mt Bates Tea Kiosk is also highlighted on the map. If any locals can use these place names to further narrow the production date from 1947-1955, we would love to hear from you!

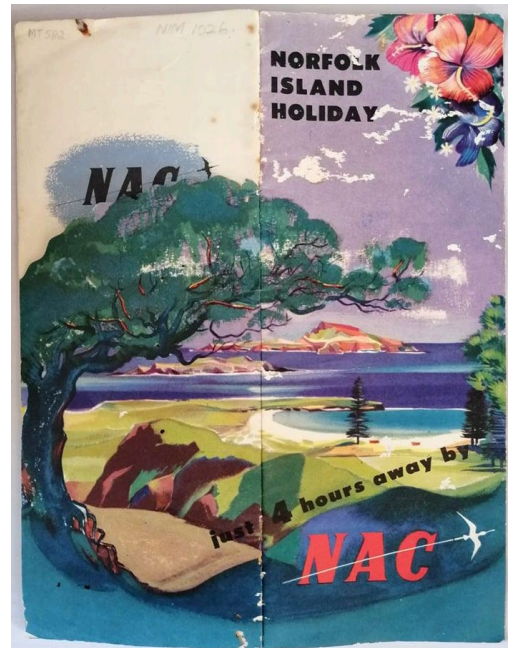


Image 1: Back and front cover of NAC tourism brochure

The NAC brochure also contains information and attractions no longer offered in the twenty-first century. There were weekly dances being held at Rawson Hall, all alcohol was sold exclusively through the Administration offices at Kingston and horses were available for weekly hire. Children under four years old could also fly free on a NAC aircraft and if you are fourteen or younger you could fly at half price. Special rates were offered to Norfolk Island children flying home as well.

Following 1955 another New Zealand carrier, *Tasman Empire Airways Limited* (TEAL), took over the flight route from NAC. Both TEAL and NAC later merged with *Air New Zealand*. Consequently this little brochure is a piece of history that shows *Air New Zealand* (in various forms) has been connecting Norfolk Island to its Pacific neighbors for more than seventy years!

