



THE FLYER

REGULAR NEWS SHEET FROM THE MUSEUM OF AVIATION (KAPITI) INCORPORATED

January 2025

Issue No. 159

Note from the President

I hope you all had a pleasant and convivial Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year.

We are also looking forward to hosting a barbecue at my home on Saturday 15 February. It will be bring a plate, but punch and sausages etc, provided by us. Bring your partners and friends.



Once again, we are participating in this now well-established and popular event on the Kapiti Coast Heritage Calendar. Our Museum will be open to the public over the three days of Wellington Anniversary Weekend, opening hours 10am to 4pm each day. Visitors are encouraged to visit as many of the 10 Museums and venues involved as they can over the weekend, searching for specified clues at each venue. The kids love the chase and bring their parents!

Entry forms in the Clue Hunt will be available at each venue. **Four epic prize packs are up for grabs**, each valued at over **\$600!** For more information, go to www.kapitiheritage.org.nz

As we are committed to having our Museum open for 12 hours in total over the weekend and could be dealing with up to 200 visitors, we would appreciate it if a few more members could spend a few hours assisting those of us on the regular roster. Bring a friend if you like.

Airport Action in January

- Air Chathams DC3 will be running joyrides from the Airport Terminal 25/26/27 January
- Kapiti Aero Club Open Day, Sunday 26 January

THE BROWN ARCHIVE: BEECHCRAFT D-18S N43927



The Beechcraft Model 18 [Twin Beech] is a 6 to 11 seat, twin engine, low wing, tail dragger manufactured by the Beech Aircraft Corporation of Wichita, Kansas. It was continuously produced from 1937 to November 1969 [over 32 years - a world record at the time] with over 9,000 being manufactured making it one of the world's most widely used light aircraft. It was sold worldwide as a civilian executive, utility, cargo aircraft and passenger airliner on tailwheels, nosewheels, skis or floats and was extensively used as a military aircraft.



I took these pictures of the Beechcraft at Omaka, where the aircraft is at present based, in March last year [2024]. This particular aircraft was built in 1945, being a very sought after model with eight passenger seats and reputedly being one of the best equipped Beech 18's in the world. It is one of the first post WW II variants with 1,035 being built.

With its twin-tailfin configuration the Model 18 often is mistaken for the larger Lockheed Electra series of airliners.

A Beechcraft AT-11 Kansan [ZK-AHO] ex USAAF manufactured in 1943 is at present on display at MOTAT in Auckland. This particular aircraft was used by Piet van Asch's company "NZ Aerial Mapping" for 37 years and together with the General Aircraft Monospar [ZK-AFF], photographed much of NZ. This aircraft was retired in 1980 and donated to MOTAT in 1982.

Acknowledgements for source information: Wikipedia / MOTAT

Planespotting

As usual, we present a selection of photos from around Kapiti, taken by Stu Brown

At right: KAZ sucking a windsock



*Left: Cessna C185F
ZK-TLV
Private owner*

Right: Air Chats nibbling a rope sculpture



Visitors from the Past

MORE FROM THE CON PELLOW COLLECTION

A Douglas C-54 (DC-4) Skymaster operated by the United States Military Army Transport Service on the old apron below our Museum.



Note the NAC DC-3 just airborne, and the Bristol Freighters by the old hangar in the background



RNZAF de Havilland DH104 Devon NZ1802 and RAF Avro York LV633 on the same hardstand

Upcoming Programme 2025

Tuesday 7 January 2025	No Meeting
Tuesday 14 January 9:30 am	Forum or Video
Tuesday 21 January 9:30 am	Forum or Video
Saturday, Sunday, Monday 18/19/20 January 10am to 4pm	DKHG Clue Hunt
Tuesday 28 January 9:30 am	Forum or Video
Tuesday 4 February 9:30 am	Forum or Video
Tuesday 11 February 9:30 am	Forum or Video
Saturday 15 February 12.00pm	Summer barbecue at 387A Te Moana Road, Waikanae
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MUSEUM HOURS:	SUNDAYS 1pm to 4pm
PRIVATE AND GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT	
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