

## Media Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 24, 2010

### **CATHAY PACIFIC MAKES FLYING MORE CONVENIENT FOR WAIKATO PASSENGERS**

Travellers are now able to depart from Hamilton International Airport to long haul destinations, for the first time ever, thanks to a new partnership between Pacific Blue and Cathay Pacific Airways.

Waikato passengers will travel on the services of Pacific Blue to Sydney or Brisbane, and then on connecting Cathay Pacific services to Hong Kong and to the rest of the airline's network.

To celebrate the launch of this new service, Cathay Pacific has released a special fare of \$2091.00 to Cathay Pacific's eight destinations in Europe. This fare includes fuel surcharges, but not government/airport taxes which vary between destinations, from \$62 on a return ticket to Rome to \$198 on a ticket to London, Heathrow.

Ian Herald, marketing services manager for Cathay Pacific in New Zealand, said the new service would appeal to Waikato passengers as well as those from the Bay of Plenty.

"A 40 minute drive across to Hamilton is much more appealing and convenient than the two hour drive on a busy state highway to Auckland. To be able to depart locally without having to worry about missing your flight from Auckland due to delays or hold ups in the drive to Auckland takes a lot of stress out of the start to that overseas trip."

Herald said that special arrangements have been put in place to make the service as convenient as possible for Waikato passengers. On arrival at Sydney or Brisbane airports, passengers will be able to stay airside, ie without having to pass through Customs or Immigration desks. They will then report directly to Cathay Pacific's gate to be checked in while their bags are transferred from the Pacific Blue flight.

Passengers will be able to depart from Hamilton four times a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday) to either Sydney or Brisbane where they will connect to a Cathay Pacific flight to Hong Kong. Cathay Pacific operates up to four flights a day between Sydney and Hong Kong and up to two times a day from Brisbane to Hong Kong. From Hong Kong there are daily connections to dozens of destinations across Asia, China, the Middle East and UK/Europe.

Cathay Pacific is Hong Kong's international flag carrier and regularly wins awards as one of the best airlines in the world. Cathay Pacific was voted Airline of the Year 2009 in the Skytrax airline awards, an award voted for by over 20 million airline passengers worldwide.

Hong Kong International Airport, Cathay Pacific home base is also renowned as one of the best airports in the world. In the same Skytrax survey, Hong Kong International Airport has been voted best airport seven times in the last nine years.

Full details of the schedules and fares are now and can be booked through all bonded travel agents throughout the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. Fares will be available through Cathay Pacific's own website within the next week.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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*The Cathay Pacific Website can be found at [www.cathaypacific.co.nz](http://www.cathaypacific.co.nz)*