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Number 199

Airtourer Association



Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation and continued airworthiness of
Victa and AESL Airtourer and derivative series aircraft

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Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter should be submitted directly to the Editor at the contacts listed above. Contributions and or advertisements for the next issue need to be received by 21 December 2026. Advertisements are free for Association members.

Disclaimer
The views expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Publishers, the Airtourer Association or the Airtourer Co-operative Ltd.

Cover: Stu Bain skydiving out of a Victa Airtourer 100 in New Zealand in 1984. No, it's not photoshopped. Yes, it's real! See story page 28.

From the President

by Deb Evans (Victa Airtourer 115, VH-IOF)



President's Fly-In – Merimbula

What a wonderful weekend was had by everyone who attended the President's Fly-In at Merimbula!

To say there was one standout event would be a misnomer, as the entire weekend was absolutely spectacular. From Saturday's flight to Mallacoota to Sunday's lunch at Frog's Hollow, there were so many highlights to enjoy.

However, I must say that our guest speaker on Saturday night, Dee Bond, was absolutely sensational! Dee demonstrated exactly why she has been recognised and awarded for her outstanding contribution to aviation. Her presentation was a real highlight of the weekend.

Of course, such a fabulous weekend would not have been possible without the time, effort and dedication of Angela Stevenson and Tony Self, who once again did a wonderful job organising the event.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to you both! Your efforts are very much appreciated.

My sincere thanks go to Stuart Hilsberg for stepping into the role of our "professional" bus driver for the weekend. I really appreciate Stuart giving up his usual tipple and becoming a teetotaller for the duration, ensuring everyone could travel safely and enjoy the weekend. Thanks, Stuart, for being such a good sport and helping make the weekend such a success!

I would also like to sincerely thank everyone who attended and helped make the weekend so special. I am very conscious that, with the rising cost of living and the current economic climate, discretionary spending is under increasing pressure, and choosing to attend events such as these can require careful consideration.

Your decision to join us, particularly in these challenging times, is greatly appreciated. It is the support, friendship and enthusiasm of our members that make these gatherings so special, and I am truly grateful to everyone who made the effort to be part of our wonderful weekend.

Your support, friendship and enthusiasm mean a great deal to me, and I sincerely appreciate the time, effort and expense involved in attending. Thank you for making the effort to join us and for helping create such a memorable weekend for our Airtourer community.

You can read more about our fabulous weekend and its many highlights later in this newsletter!

Proposed New Zealand Aviation Tour

During Saturday evening's gathering, I mentioned that your Committee is exploring the possibility of organising a trip to New Zealand for interested members.

The proposed trip would include a visit to MOTAT (Museum of Transport and Technology) in Auckland to view the display of Cliff Tait's memorabilia, followed by travel to Hamilton to visit NZ AERO, where members could learn more about the production of the CT/4 Airtrainer and the other aircraft manufactured by the company.

We were delighted when Neil Young, Dee Bond's partner in both business and life, extended a personal invitation for our members to visit NZ AERO. This is a wonderful opportunity, and we are very grateful to Neil for his generosity.

At this stage, the trip is still in the early planning stages, but we believe it could be a fascinating experience for members with an interest in aviation, aircraft manufacturing and the history of the CT/4 Airtrainer.

We will provide further information as plans develop and look forward to gauging members' interest in what could be a very special aviation adventure!

Vale – Gerry Lawson, John Wynn and Peter Hupfeld

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Gerry Lawson, John Wynn and Peter Hupfeld.

All three were valued members who played an integral part in the Airtourer Association. Their contributions and involvement will be remembered, and they will be sadly missed by our community.

On behalf of the Association, I extend my sincere condolences to their families and friends during this difficult time. Our thoughts are with all those who knew and loved them. May they all rest in peace.

2027 Convention and AGM - New Location

With the ongoing uncertainty around fuel supplies and fuel prices, along with the rising cost of everyday living, we recognise that the cost-of-living pressures facing our members are very real.

Taking these factors into consideration, we have made the decision to move the 2027 Convention and AGM to Albury, in May 2027. As soon as we confirm the dates we will advise the membership so that you can mark the dates in your diary!

Albury is a new destination for our Convention, and we hope its location will make it more accessible for the majority of our members. We would love to see as many members as possible attend and join us for this special event.

2027 President's Fly-In – Leeton

As part of reviewing our plans for the Convention and AGM, we have also reconsidered the arrangements for the 2027 President's Fly-In.

At this stage, Leeton is looking like a great location!

With the rising cost of travel and everyday living in mind, we are looking at condensing the activities into a shorter event, with members arriving on Saturday and departing on Sunday. This will allow members to enjoy the Fly-In while helping to keep travel and accommodation costs down.

Of course, this does not prevent anyone from extending their stay! Members are welcome to arrive on Friday and depart on Monday if they would prefer a little extra time to explore Leeton and enjoy the company of fellow members.

We hope these changes will make it easier for more members to participate in our events while continuing to provide opportunities to connect, share our passion for flying and enjoy the wonderful community that makes our Association special.

We will share further details as plans progress, but for now, please save the dates and we look forward to seeing you in 2027!

🎄 ✈️ From our Airtourer to yours, Merry Christmas!

May your festive season be filled with joy, your skies be clear, and may 2027 bring us all better days and plenty of happy flying!

Safe skies and best wishes for the New Year!

Smooth landings,

Deb



Deb with Des Heffernan at Frog's Hollow.

THE LATEST NEWS



Vale Peter Hupfeld

The association received the following sad news from Peter Hupfeld's son Mel.

I'm writing to let the Airtourer community know of Dad's passing late mid-morning on Friday 4 Sep. He had 10 years after his major heart attack, and remained engaged and determined to do what he could.

After I had put VH-WHO back in the air in Aug 2024 I took Dad flying. I had to lift him in and out of the cockpit, but he flew as if he had never been out of the air. He continued to help me with all his aircraft over that time. He declined rapidly over the last couple of weeks and slipped away calmly on Friday. My mum Bernardine was with him and she is going OK now. Dad reflected on the wonderful times he had, and the tremendous people he and Mum met along the way. The Airtourer crowd remain an important part of those memories and the things that Dad enjoyed and made him happy.

My thanks to all of you, and Dad's memory will live on through VH-WHO.



Peter and Bernardine arriving at Griffith in 2018 in a Jabiru. His heart attack stopped him getting a Class 2 medical to fly his Airtourer 100, VH-WHO.

XVV itching to fly!

Tim Glabbatz and Andrew Ronald have been putting in a lot of hours to get Airtourer T6/24 VH-XVV back into the air. Tim acquired XVV from Lee Stanley at the end of 2025, and a quick job to get the Airtourer back in the air turned into a much longer job. Of course. The engine and prop needed a lot of work, some corrosion had to be dealt with, and then there was the paint. But XVV is tantalisingly close to finished!



Caution! Bright (Victoria) in January

The Sport Aviation Federation of Australia (SAFA) is applying for the establishment of a Temporary Danger Area in support of the Bright Open 2027 Paragliding Competition, from 13-19 January 2027. The TDA will be within Class G airspace and is proposed to be a 35 nm radius centred on the town of Stanley, Victoria.

The proposed TDA will make other airspace users aware of up to 100 paraglider pilots flying cross country tasks to set goals. They will not be carrying equipment to enable airband radio communications.

The Bright Open 2027 is an internationally recognised and sanctioned, paragliding cross-country racing competition. The competition will run from 11:00 AEDT on Saturday 13th February until 18:30 AEDT on Friday 19th February. A maximum of 100 paraglider aircraft will be competing.

The tasks will be confined to the volume of Class G airspace up to 8,500’ above mean sea level (AMSL), enclosed by a cylinder of 35 n mile radius, centred on a point in the town of Stanley, located at 36.404987S 146.755287E, as depicted in figure 1 below.

If you’re going to be flying in that area in February, stay clear or keep your eyes peeled! And, of course, always check your NOTAMs.

NZAERO NEWS

Strengthening NZAero's Design and Certification Capability

NZAero has welcomed Richard Andrews as Chief Designer, strengthening the design, certification and continued airworthiness capability behind our aircraft and support.

Richard brings more than three decades of aircraft design and certification experience, with a background spanning design engineering, structural substantiation, technical assessments, continued airworthiness, modifications and concessions. His experience includes direct involvement in the 750XL design programme, where his work covered airspeed and load assessments, control surface and fuselage loadings, fuselage structural substantiation, finite element modelling and structural testing.

Richard has also held senior design and certification responsibilities across the 750XL, E-350, Cresco and CT-4 aircraft families, supporting continued airworthiness, technical assessments, modifications, concessions and design office capability.

Singapore Airshow, NZDIA and Warbirds Over Wanaka

NZAero is staying connected with the aviation and aerospace industry through participation in several key industry events this year. These events included the NZDIA Uncrewed Systems Showcase, the Singapore Airshow, and Warbirds Over Wanaka.



Buy, Swap and Sell

Don't let your unneeded Airtourer and CT-4 bits and pieces collect dust! Put them up for sale here! Or do you need a particular part or instrument? Ask here! Why not try to swap for something you no longer need? Or is it time to re-home your aircraft, or are you looking to buy? Buy, Swap and Sell is your Airtourer and CT-4 marketplace!

It's free to advertise... just send your ad to editor@airtourer.asn.au.

Victa Airtourer 100 - VH-MTI

VH-MTI - Air Tourer AT100, Serial Number 127 built 1965. 3785 AFHR, MR current from 01 September 2026. Continental 0200A engine, MacCauley IA/105/SCM6950 propeller.



New Trig TY96A Comm and Trig TT31 transponder with TransCal encoder, Trig TN72 GPS unit and ComAnt CI-105 transponder antenna. All Pitot/Static instruments serviced and calibrated at previous annual. All fuel hoses renewed, 2 new magnetos and new (Association provided) U/C bolts fitted at previous annual.



All recurring AD's refreshed. Canopy cover, various spares with both steel and lightweight travelling aluminium towbars included. All Logs and applicable paperwork available for viewing electronically on request.

Aircraft located for viewing at Gawler Airfield (YGAW) South Australia. Asking $38000.

Jeremy Jordan 0421182949

Wanted - Mechanical Clock



The Lemania 8 day 24 hour mechanical (wind-up) clock in Capt Scarlett has had enough, and seems to be refusing to work. I've been waiting for it to self-heal, but it looks like that's not going to happen. The local watchmaker wasn't able to help, so I'm hoping someone might have a working (2 ¼ in) equivalent that they would like to sell. (And no, I don't want an electrical one. Trying to keep as original as possible.)

If you can help, please contact Angela at angela@writespeakfly.com.

Victa Airtourer 115 - VH-RQL

Serial number 84, middle of the Australian Victas built in 1964.

TTIS 8369. Low empty weight 502 kg. MR to 20-6-2026.

115HP Lycoming O-235 smooth running with good compressions on condition. New baffles.

- 2 x ICOM IC-A210 radios.
- 1 x GTX 327 Transponder factory reconditioned 2025.
- 1 x new DG.



Passenger side IPad mount. New LED landing and nav lights.

New master cylinder and brake gaskets.One of two Victas with wheel spats.

Original factory paint scheme 4/10 but repainted tail plane and elevator 10/10.

Good canopy seals and new studded Pumpkin Head cover - a reliably waterproof aircraft for outdoor parking.

Contact Robin Hilliard 0418 414 341

Call out

Lisa Trani is currently researching the life and employment history of an aviation tradesman who she believes was involved in the early commercial production of the Victa Airtourer in Sydney during the early 1960s.

She is reaching out to see if (her grandfather) Ian's name appears anywhere within historical factory rolls, company rosters, assembly logbooks, or early production line archives.

Here are the details of the individual:

- Full Name: Ian Gordon Craig
- Date of Birth: 13 May 1921 (Born in Glasgow, Scotland)
- Qualifications: LAME (Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer) / Sheet Metal Worker
- Background Context: During the 1940s and 1950s, he worked on the Beaufort Bomber production and maintenance contracts at the Chullora Railway Workshops. Family history indicates that as a highly skilled aviation sheet metal worker and licensed engineer, he subsequently transitioned into working on the assembly and production of the Millicer/Victa Airtourer under Henry Millicer's division when Victa consolidated commercial production in Sydney.

Does anyone have any mention of an "Ian Craig" or "I. G. Craig" stamped on early airframe conformity records, signing off logs, or appearing in early factory group photographs?

Any information, anecdotes, or advice on other aviation repositories to check would be incredibly appreciated. Send any information to editor@airtourer.asn.au, and it will be forwarded on to Lisa.

Aircraft Insurance for Members

Agile Insurance have put together a special package for Airtourer, Aircruiser and CT-4 Airtrainer owners. This arrangement is for current Airtourer Association members only. There is a good chance you can reduce your insurance costs with this offer, and there's absolutely no obligation. To get a quote, use your member details to log in to https://airtourer.asn.au/ and then click the Agile link on the home page.

Short Stay Accommodation at Yarrawonga



Airtourer Association members who have passed through Yarrawonga in the last couple of years will know that Angela (and Tony) have been busy building two-level accommodation into their hangar. Well, it's finished, and The Aeropartment is now available for short-term accommodation! Stay on the airfield, in a very comfortable and well-appointed apartment, with your Airtourer/Airtrainer visible in the hangar through the glass doors! Booking is done online, and if you are a current financial member of the Association, you can use one of the three codes AIRTOURER, AIRTRAINER or AIRCRUISER to get a 20% discount! More at https://aeropartment.lodgify.com/

Advertise here! Buy, Swap and Sell advertisements for Association members are free!

Victa Airtourer 115 VH-MVF



We are selling MVF! Aussie built 115, serial number 19. MVF was a demonstrator for Victa and was on static display at Sydney Royal Easter Show in 1963.

- TTIS: 8378.6 hrs.
- Engine TSO: 1959.5
- Prop TSO: 341.8

Call or text Mark Barnett for details Ph: 0400 051 528

Members Only Offer!



Punkin Head Air Sports are offering Airtourer Association members a 5% discount on all canopy, propeller and pitot/intake covers for Airtourers and CT-4s. Dianne has the patterns for all models, and can provide covers in different materials and weights. Phone Dianne on 0429 938 426 or visit www.punkinheadair.com.au

Merimbula President's Fly-in

Sapphire Coast event was a gem

The weekend of 10 and 11 October saw the President's Fly-in to Merimbula proceed in mostly sunny but sometimes windy weather. The first arrivals were the organisers Angela and Tony in VH-FVV; they arrived a couple of days early to make sure everything was in place.



First task was to secure the "crew buses", looking very much the part with their (magnetic) Association logos on the doors.

First to arrive on the Friday was Murray in CT-4A VH-LAH. Then a Dash 8 brought in Stu Hilsberg from Queensland. Stu's first task was to assume the role of Crew Bus 2 driver. (He is a professional driver, after all.)

John Sheehan arrived after a very short journey in a car; he is a local with his Airtourer 115 VH-KHP hangared at Frog's Hollow, but KHP was having some weird magneto problems.

Headquarters for the event was established in Tracy Bolt's distinctive Merimbula Air Services building. Tracy learnt to fly in a Victa, and has a faded postcard-sized photo of VH-CND stuck to the wall above her desk. Her affection for the Airtourer family of aircraft was the source of her generosity in not only letting us take over her building, and helping with logistics, but also loaning us her awesome hangar car, The Pink Peril.

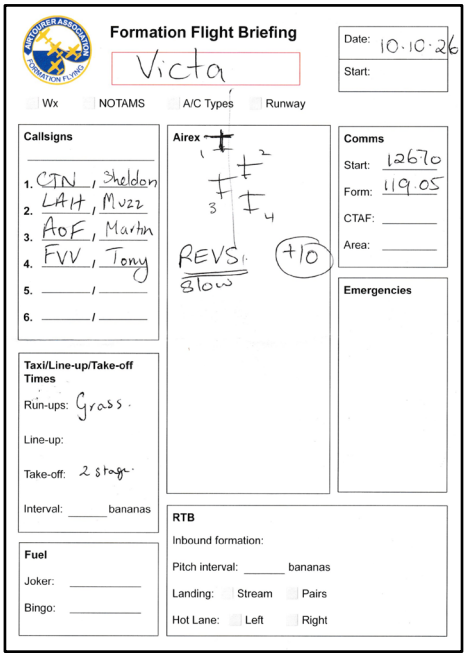
Arrivals continued on the Friday, and the grass apron in front of Rex Koerbin's Merimbula Aircraft Maintenance hangar was soon graced by CT-4B VH-YCX (Robin Hilliard), CT-4A VH-AOF (Martin and Sally Hughes), and CT-4A VH-CTN (Margot Rainer and Sheldon Jones).

The arrivals by car continued with Jane Morris and Chris Camier, Deb and Rick Evans, and Dee Bond and Neil Young. Last to arrive were Doug Gould in his Seneca VH-STT, accompanied by Sally McDonald and Ian Close.

Although the number of participants (and aircraft) wasn't as strong as hoped, by the time the Friday night welcome was underway, there was an early sign that this was going to be a great event. Not one person took even one photo! Everyone was too busy chatting and laughing and smiling!

Sheldon Jones provided the gravitas for the Friday event, sharing his knowledge on ditching and coastal flying. Then the pizzas arrived, and as the sun set, the conversation did not. Eventually, people had to be cajoled and ushered into the crew buses and despatched to the accommodation. And still no-one remembered to take a photo!

The Saturday activity centred around a flight to Mallacoota (for the flyers) and a suggested outing to Eden (for the non-flyers). But first, breakfast was provided at Club Sapphire, and then a serious briefing ensued in the Tasman Room to prepare for the Mallacoota flight. Four aircraft were to proceed in formation as **Victa Formation**:



- Sheldon and Margot in CTN
- Murray in LAH
- Martin in AOH
- Angela and Tony in FVV

Neil Young (who gets to fly a CT-4E home in New Zealand) was to go with Robin in his (new-to-him) CT-4B, VH-YCX. Doug Gould was to follow up in Seneca STT, loaded up with Sally, Ian, and John Sheehan.

Tony Rettke and Eric Johnston also coordinated to arrive from Frog's Hollow in a Sling.

Mallacoota Hotel sent out a mini-bus to shuttle the flyers to the pub for lunch, which was served with amazing efficiency. Again, participants had to be cajoled back into the minibus for the trip back to the aerodrome, and then independent (most chose coastal) flights back to Merimbula.

The next activity was back at Club Sapphire, with the **Fast and Not So Furious 3** sessions. Unfortunately, Dr John, who was going to talk about aircrew medicals, was called away to Sydney, so we settled in to Fast and Not So Furious 2. First speaker was the very brave Patrick van Prooyen from Aviation ID Australia, who told us all about the ASIC process, and gave a good explanation for the price increase (being careful not to justify it) . *[Spoiler Alert: it's really not Aviation ID Australia's fault.]* Then, Neil Bourke, with the help of Suezy, explained the Plan, Land and Stay site, which is turning into a hugely useful resource for pilots who like to get around the country.

Next item on the agenda was the Grand Dinner at the magnificent Wharf Restaurant and Aquarium. And here's where we got to meet the gems who really made the Fly-in this year: **Frog's Hollow Flyers**. It would have been a pretty small dinner if it was just our members, but the Frog's people helped us fill the main part of the restaurant.

Dee Bond, our guest speaker, shared some fascinating stories from her flying adventures and extensive aviation career, and updated everyone on the re-opening of the CT-4 production line with the G model. (Dee with partner Neil Young own NZAero.) It was great having both Dee and Neil from across the ditch; they have turned into proud members of the Association. The three-course meal was fabulous, and the views across the water were especially memorable.

Sunday was centred around a lunch at Frog's Hollow, which is around 10 nm from Merimbula. But first, Rex Koerbin (who learned to fly in an Airtourer, of course), gave a thoroughly informative and detailed instruction on how to do a pre-flight. Credit must also go to Angela Stevenson who volunteered to help by providing FVV as an exemplar, and it was a great formula. Even the most experienced were heard to say they had learned something new. Rex knows his stuff, and was good at sharing his knowledge. And to top things off, Rex provided an unexpected morning tea, with Neil Bourke helping things run smoothly.

Stu navigated Crew Bus 2 carrying non-flyers, and five aircraft flew in. We were joined by Dean Davidson in his beautiful CT-4F, VH-XFR. John Sheehan was able to pull his Airtourer out of the hangar to add to a magnificent line-up.

Frog's Hollow Flyers also pulled out their amazing assortment of members' flying machines, including a powered parachute and a pair of gyrocopters. The atmosphere was amazing. So many people, so much enthusiasm. Frog's Flyers were keen to find out more about the Airtourers and CT-4s, and the Association members were keen to find out more about the Flyers and their aircraft. There's a longstanding connection between Frog's and the Association: the Aircruiser was based there for many years, and previous owner Des Heffernan was on hand to share some stories. (He was at the Grand Dinner too!)
All good things must come to an end, and some participants departed directly from Frog's Hollow to their home bases. The weather forecast for the following day, especially for those departing south, was a bit sketchy, so by the time evening arrived, only FVV and LAH remained outside Rex's hangar.

A good fly-in made great by the broader aviation community: Tracy, Rex, Neil, Suezy, Patrick, Tony Rettke and all the Frog's Hollow people, Tony and Sal from The Wharf, Dee and Neil. Thanks to everyone who attended!



Merimbula Photo Gallery



FVV passes Lakes Entrance en-route.



Stu Hilsberg arrives via QantasLink.



Robin Hilliard arrives in YCX.



Parking starting to fill up with arrivals.



Impressive welcome packs! Not shown are the Aviation ID sunglasses!



Tracy's flight school building where everyone forgot to take photos.



Saturday briefing



Pre-flighting at Merimbula



What a bunch of dags in their Aviation ID emergency sunglasses! Someone quipped this looked like a meeting of the Blind Pilots Association.



Sheldon sharing the METAR and TAF



Margot and Sheldon in CTN



Martin in AOF



Murray in LAH



Neil and Robin in YCX



Angela and Dee



En-route to Mallacoota



Stu, Jane, Deb and Chris at Eden



Eden Killer Whale Museum



Gorgeous weather



The line-up at Mallacoota



Lunch underway at Mallacoota Hotel



The other table, caught mid-bite.



Doug's Seneca competes an impressive line of aircraft at Mallacoota.



Patrick fastly and not so furiously explaining the ASIC process



Neil and Suezy demonstrating the Plan, Land and Stay interactive map.



The view from the Wharf Restaurant, venue for the Grand Dinner.



Tony Rettke, President of Frog's Hollow Flyers, says a few words.



Angela, Deb and Dee



Great food, great company, great speaker, great staff, great vibe.



















Deb Evans, Graham Wood, and Des Heffernan



The Three Tonys: Tony Rettke, Anthony Daly (The Wharf), Tony Self





Dee Bond delivers her address, describing her very cool flying adventures!

Couldn't make it to Merimbula and have a severe case of FOMO*? Then start putting Airtourer Association events in your own diary! Check the calendar on page 26.

**Fear Of Missing Out*



Rex Koerbin guides participants through a *Preflight to the Max* as part of the Pilot Proficiency Programme (PPP).









Departing Merimbula for Frog's Hollow





Welcoming line-up of Frog's aircraft



So many flying machines!



Crew Bus 2 on the Airtourer line-up



So many aviation people!



Angela doing her best to organise people for the group photo









The Airtourer family line-up at Frog's Hollow (YFGS)



John Sheehan's KHP



Dean Davidson departs in XFR



Neil Bourke departing in Falco DJD



Robin sets course for home in YCX



Rex heads back to Merimbula in his Cherokee 140



FVV with Merimbula on the nose

Photos these pages: Neil Young, Chris Camier, Jane Morris, Rick Evans, Tony Self

Roll Call - President's Fly-in Merimbula 2026

Aircraft with People

VH-FVV	Airtourer T6/24	Angela Stevenson and Tony Self
VH-LAH	CT-4A Airtrainer	Murray Joel
VH-YCX	CT-4B Airtrainer	Robin Hilliard
VH-AOF	CT-4A Airtrainer	Martin Hughes and Sally Hughes
VH-CTN	CT-4A Airtrainer	Margot Rayner and Sheldon Jones
VH-XFR	CT-4F Airtrainer	Dean Davidson (Only at Frog's)
VH-KHP	Victa Airtourer 115	John Sheehan (KHP at Frog's)
VH-STT	Piper Seneca	Doug Gould, Sally McDonald, Ian Close

More People

- Stu Hilsberg
- John Sheehan
- Graham Wood
- Lorraine Wood

Frog's Hollow Flyers (and other locals)

- Neil Bourke
- Suezy Bourke
- Tony Rettke
- Michael Young
- Lindsay Campbell
- Joanne Campbell
- Rob White
- Lesley White
- Fiona Dunham
- Michael Dunham
- Rex Koerbin
- Lynne Koerbin
- Paul McCooey
- Lisa McCooey
- Des Heffernan
- John Heffernan
- Sally Anscombe

Calendar of Events

October 2026	President's Fly-in, Merimbula, NSW	9-11 October 2025 Book now!
6-8 November	Formation Camp, Yarrawonga	Too late! Fully booked months ago!
2 December	Zoom Social Meeting - Christmas drinks	The link will be emailed to you before the date
23-28 Feb 27	Australian International Airshow, Avalon	Details coming…
May 2027	AGM and Convention, Albury, NSW	***Note location change to Albury*** Start planning! Exact dates TBA.
22-23 May 2027	Wings Over Shellharbour	Contact committee@ if you're planning to attend!
2027	President's Fly-in	Dates and location TBA
27-39 April 2028	50th Anniversary of the Airtourer Association Convention	Griffith, NSW. This is the big one! We are returning to Griffith to celebrate 50 years of the Association
22 July 2028	Solar Eclipse Flight to celebrate Associations' 50th anniversary	Location(s) TBA

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mY7PbK88zM

Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon

by John O'Halloran (Airtourer Super 150, VH-COI)

The Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon Rule says that every actor in Hollywood can be connected to prolific actor Kevin Bacon through having worked together. It's easier to explain with an example: Michael Caton (The Castle) was in *Never Tell Me Never* with Joel Edgerton who was in *Black Mass* with Kevin Bacon. This gives a Bacon Number of 2.

There is a Web site that you can use to find the Bacon number.

https://www.oracleofbacon.org/index.php

At the Airtourer Convention in Temora (in May 2026), participants on the tour of the Temora Aviation Museum got to see a very shiny Ryan STM (pictured below). This particular aircraft has a Bacon Number of 2 to the Airtourer. How can this be?



The answer is that this Ryan, VH-RSY, was owned, and eventually donated to the museum, by Richard (Dick) Sims. Dick was the Sales Manager for Victa and displayed the Airtourer at many airshows during that time.

He was quite a character and was the guest speaker at our Convention in 2003. Dick observed that when the Victa Board asked the government for tariff protection, no one came to him, as sales manager, to ask whether he could sell them at an equivalent higher price. He felt the board wanted to get out of aircraft production altogether.

Got to be AI, right? Wrong!

from Tony Self (AESL Airtourer T6/24, VH-FVV)



The photo on the cover… has to be Artificial Intelligence, right? Photoshopped. CGI. Made up.

Nobody would be silly enough to skydive out of an Airtourer. And a Victa 100 at that! But look closer. It's a New Zealand registration. Yes, the Land of the Long White Cloud, bungy jumping, jet boats and Zorbing. (Look it up.) If anyone was going to voluntarily jump out of an Airtourer, it would have to have been a Kiwi.

His name is Stuart Bain. The location is near Woodbourne, on the top bit of the South Island. Near Omaka. The date must have been sometime in 1984. The aircraft is Victa Airtourer 100, c/n 82, ZK-CHE, manufactured in 1965. It had spent most of its time at Auckland Aero Club, before being acquired by the RNZAF Base Woodbourne Aviation Sports Club.



Stu was an RNZAF armourer (that's him in a Strikemaster) and a keen skydiver. One thing led to another, and it happened. Photographed in Kodachrome from a Piper Super Cub (ZK-BQY). (In one of the photos, you can see the wheel of the Super Cub.)

Stu landed in the garden bar of a pub on the road to Dip Flat, much to the surprise of the patrons.

The full photo sequence - proof that it happened - appears on the following pages.

Quick history of Victa Airtourer 100, ZK-CHE

- Completed 1964 and exported to New Zealand for Auckland Flying Club.
- Retired and sent to AESL. On-sold to Northern Wairoa Aero Club in 1973.
- Cross-hired to Northland District Aero Club.
- Sold to RNZAF Woodbourne Aviation Sports Club in Febuary 1992.
- Sold privately in 1992.
- Removed from register in October 1996.

CHE wasn't the only Airtourer to operate out of RNZAF Woodbourne. The RNZAF operated one or two Airtourer T6/24s from there, including for "wacky backy" reconnaissance missions to help out NZ Police.

The Proof













All photos via Stu Bain

Where are they now?

Doug Stott (Life Member, previously Airtourer VH-CTM)

In 1978, the first Airtourer Association fly-in and convention was held at Griffith, NSW, over the Australia Day weekend. Twenty-six Airtourers and CT-4 Airtrainers participated. To answer the question of "where are they now?", I did some investigating. In the intervening 49 years, six had crashed, two are in long term storage, and of the remaining on the register, around 10 seem to fly regularly.

Rego	1978 Owner	Now	Aircraft Status 2026	Current Owner
FMA	Sonny Rankin*	Dec	Unreg in storage	c/o Helen Day
MOA	Adrian Pfoeffer	Member	Reg	Phil Usher
TWE	Bill Kelly	Dec?	Reg	Stewart Graham
MUL	Alan Wood	Dec	Cr TYB 3/3/04	---
CTM	Doug Stott	Member	Repaint	Doug Gould
PHP	Mike Garrett	u/k	Now VH-RIC	Ric Davies
RQG	Ray Abernathy	OK	Ok now VH-EAQ	HARS
MVL	Howie Schriever	u/k	Cr Old Bandana 23/8/90	---
MUA	Stu Hilsberg	Member	Cr Singleton 4/10/83	---
MVA	Keith Nolan	u/k	In storage	Bob West
MOG	Bob Gilmour	Dec?	Reg	Kev Rogan
MTH	Geoff Paddison	u/k	Reg	Ross Nunn
MTP	Earl Johnson	u/k	Reg	Mel Hupfeld
MRI	Kym Brougham	u/k	Reg	Sue Clarke
YAD 028	RAAF Simon Ford, Don McNaught	---	Cr Oakey 8/79	---
YAF 030	RAAF Gary Ryan, Graham Dutton	---	VH-ANH	Ben Thompson
MUP	Jim McNamara	u/k	Reg	JM Dental Svc
MRF	Lindsay Marshall*	Dec	Reg	Mark Aitken
WAU	Bernie Kitchell*	Dec	Reg	David Wearne
SHR	Gary Seymour	u/k	Reg	Wendy Peters
RQL	Harry Couzin	OK	Reg	Robin Hilliard
RNV	Les Carter	u/k	Reg	David Gebran
MTF	Des Setter	u/k	Cr Boonah Q 15/11/80	---
DAM	Elaine Sage	Dec	Cr Bombala 23/2/04	---
BQK	Lyndall Mason	u/k	Reg	Doug Dow
WHO	Greg Wardman	u/k	Reg	Mel Hupfield

If you can help with the unknown (u/k) statuses of any of the pilots, or have more information on the owners or aircraft, please contact Doug Stott, or email the Editor at editor@airtourer.asn.au.

Merimbula Fly-In - some thoughts

Angela Stevenson (Airtourer T6/24, VH-FVV)

Well, it certainly was an excellent weekend!

The biggest thing I learned is the value of collaborating wholeheartedly with another Club prior to and during the event.

Members of the Frog's Hollow Flyers turned out for drinks on the deck, the Mallacoota run, the Grand Dinner, and appeared in their dozens for what was their regular BBQ reimagined to include us on the Sunday.

Not only did we all make a heap of new av-friends from the camaraderie at each of those events, but both organisations gained and offered much in the way of connection and exposure.

The Association has long connected with the local Aero club from wherever our events are held - where possible - but this time we purposely included them in on almost the whole weekend and really, if I had my time again with it, I would not have excluded them from the PPP or the brekkies or the afternoon teas, either. Because connection is strength and strength offers hope.

All aero clubs are suffering at the moment with dwindling memberships - it's common knowledge. But to see such a fantastic turn out of Frog's Hollow flyers to our event, warmed the coddles of my heart.

Frog's Hollow Flyers will gain from the exposure that we will give them through this newsletter, by word of mouth and social media as to what a fabulous bunch they are; welcoming and interesting! (They have a regular fly-in BBQ!) And, our Association also garnered invaluable exposure by being able to show off our beloved Airtourers and CT-4s as the fun, friendly and simply fabulous aircraft that they are to fly!

I believe that connection to other aero clubs is key to future club and event success - we can stay smaller and remain exclusive with dwindling memberships, or we can gather round the firepit as one and be all the stronger for it - as in the end we are all just aviators flying under the same sky and we all want the same things; fun, friendship, and flight.

The Treasury

by Angela Stevenson (Airtourer T6/24, VH-FVV)

Woohoo, Airtourer friends! On the downhill run to Christmas…

Formation Camp Fees

Formation Camp fees are now due! If you haven't received your invoice, please let me know and I'll get another out to you asap.

Merimbula

Expenses are being reimbursed and the remaining accounts due paid for the President's Fly-in at Merimbula. The event reported a loss of $1290.93; although it sounds disappointing, it really isn't. The event tying in closely with the Frogs Hollow Flyers proved itself with a HUGE attendance at the BBQ (and about 25 aircraft!), and lots of aviation camaraderie at the Grand Dinner at the Wharf.

Credit card payments

With the new legislation taking effect as of 1 October, the 'transaction fee' charged by MYOB can no longer be passed onto the customer. MYOB is continuing to charge a commensurate amount as a 'transaction fee'. Due to Merimbula commitments, the Committee has decided that research into how we deal with this new cost imposed on our Association and for the interim has decided to absorb the fee. What this looks like in MYOB and/or whether a fee increase to cover the cost be considered, will wash up and be sorted out in the Q4 financials.

Q3 financials as at 30 Sep 2026

Reporting has been completed to the end of September 2026.

The financial position of the Association remains healthy with a bottom line edging closer to $100,000 - with no considerable costs to be outlaid until insurance falls due at the end of the year - we are hoping people will come up with some great ideas for ways to spend it in line with the aims of the Association.

Happy Airtourerist-ing, everyone!

Angela Stevenson
VH-FVV



Farewell to Stan Tilley

by Jane Morris (previously AESL Airtourer T6/24, VH-FVV) and Chris Camier

Stan Tilley, Airtourer legend, was farewelled on 31 August 2026. Stan's service at the Royal Hobart yacht club had to be capped at 200 people. He was certainly a popular and respected person.



It was quite a collection on the memorabilia table including trophies for flying, aerobatics, the Targa Tasmania Rally, life membership of the Airtourer Association as well as the Royal Regatta Association for 40 years of aerobatic flying over the Regatta.

Six flying log books were on display and a number of longest distance Airtourer Association awards. A map compiled by TAA had all his flying adventures drawn on it. The tracks over Bass Strait became a very very thick line. The choir in which he sang regularly had 50 members take part and sing his favourite songs. A large cake decorated with sketches of snow skiing, water skiing, choir, his cars and Airtourer was shared by everybody.

His old MG was displayed at the entrance of the venue. The Finale was a fly over by the new owner of MTL - a very fitting end of service celebrating Stan's life.





Addendum from Beryl Marshall, Life Member

Monday was a special for me to be able to attend the celebration of Stan's life. Among approximately 200 friends, Airtourer Members attending were Jane Morris, Chris Camier, Doug Dow, Doug Gould, and myself.

From the Archive



The Advertiser, Thursday, June 5, 1986 4

OLD kit bags, leather jackets, coats, suitcases &c. Ph. 293 3146 or 271 9204.

PAIR OF full glass wooden sliding doors for a 2065 x 1640 wide opening. Ph. 272 6507.

PAWNBROKER Tredrea, Victoria Sq. Arcade. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ph. 51 5630.

PIANO, any type, any condition. Pay cash. 45 7727.

PIANOS. Always buying, any condition, all suburbs. Ph. 344 9524; A.H. 388 7291.

PIANOS. Buying today, any age or condition. Pay good price. Inspect anywhere. Ph. 276 8391; A.H. 79 4918

PIANOS urgently wanted [illegible] types, will pay top cash p[illegible]. Ph. 344 7367, or 295 3838, [illegible]. 269 2917.

RECORDS and CASSET[illegible]S. Good money paid, any qua[illegible]y PHONE 51 5425 28 Bank Street, Adelaide

SNOOKER TABLE, 10 ft. x [illegible] playing area, must be condition. 43 5046 after 5.[illegible]

STAMPS AT TOP PRICES. PHONE 42 6936

TRAILER 6 x 4. CASH NOW. Ph. 356 5763.

TRAILER 8 x 5 or larger. Phone 277 8341 and tell me your price.

VIOLIN or other musical instruments wanted. 352 8448.

WASHER auto, any condition. Spot cash. 260 1850.

(021) PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SUMMONS FOR WINDING UP
RE: TRUMP CARD (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Trump Card (Australia) Pty. Ltd. has brought a summons in action No. 1403 of 1986 in the

LOST Certificate of Title, Register Book Volume 4063 Folio 768, being registered in the names of Mario Giaccio and Dante Giaccio. Reward offered. If found please contact M. H. Critchley, Licensed Land Broker, 264 9999.

LOST, Certificate of Title Register Book Volume 2036 Folio 159 Registered proprietors William Ross Appleby and Kenyon George Goslin. Reward. Finder please return to Robert Northcott and Associates, Licensed

MIKE, Tango India. — Born this day June 5, 1965 to Henry and Mervyn — a true blue Australian. Abandoned by its own country, nobbled by bureaucracy, but cherished by all friends of the family.

Annual General Meeting, will be held June 30, 1986, at Southern Districts Working Men's Club, Morphett Vale, at 7.30 p.m.

NOTICE OF FIRST CREDITOR'S MEETING
Bankruptcy Act 1966
Bankruptcy District of The State of South Australia
No. 250 of 1985
TAKE NOTICE that the first meeting of creditors of Ian Robertson of 22 Susan Street, Auburn in the State of New South Wales, who became bankrupt on the seventh day of April 1986 will be held at 10 o'clock in the forenoon on June 30 1986 at 3rd Floor, 170 Greenhill Road, Parkside 5063.
W. R. Haslam
Trustee
Ernst & Whinney
Chartered Accountants
3rd Floor
170 Greenhill Road
PARKSIDE S.A. 5063

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
IN THE SUPREME COURT
No. 661 of 1986
RE: HAMEROCK PTY. LTD.
and
THE COMPANIES (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) CODE
BETWEEN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION
Plaintiff
and
HAMEROCK PTY. LTD.
Defendant
RE: NOTICE OF WINDING UP ORDER
On Monday, the 26th day of [illegible]ay, 1986, the Supreme Court of South Australia in Action No. [illegible]1 of 1986 made an Order for [illegible]e winding up of HAMEROCK [illegible]Y. LTD. and appointed Wil[illegible]am Ross Haslam of 170 [illegible]reenhill Road, Parkside in the [illegible]tate of South Australia to be [illegible]e liquidator of that company. This Advertisement is Inserted by Australian Government Solicitor, Solicitor for the Plaintiff of and whose address for service is 7th floor, Mutual House, 99 Gawler Place, Adelaide, South Australia 5000. AB1/86300506.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
IN THE SUPREME COURT
No. 481 of 1986
Re: ROBERTS ALUMINIUM ENGINEERS PTY. LTD.
and
THE COMPANIES (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) CODE
between
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION
Plaintiff
and
ROBERTS ALUMINIUM ENGINEERS PTY. LTD.
Defendant
Re: NOTICE OF WINDING UP ORDER
On Monday the 26th day of May, 1986, the Supreme Court of South Australia in Action No. [illegible] made an Order for

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

PURSUANT to Section 309 of the Local Government Act, 1934, as amended, notice is given that it is proposed to determine the alignment of the following roads, and the boundaries of any or all or any part of, any allotments or sections and the like which abut thereto, in the area named Glenelg South, being subdivisions of Section 205, Hundred of Noarlunga laid out in LTRO Filed Plan Nos. 15389 to 15392, and being 1st., the southern side of Pier Street between Moseley Street and Hastings Street; 2nd., Hastings Street between Pier Street and Broadway; 3rd., the northern side of Broadway between Hastings Street and Moseley Street; 4th., the eastern side of Moseley Street between Broadway and Pier Street; 5th., Alma Street between Pier Street and Baker Street; 6th., Ramsgate Street between Pier Street and Broadway; 7th., Chester Street between Pier Street and Victoria Street; 8th., Bentham Street between Hastings

This is a bit of a weird one! The Association recently lost Gerry Lawson, who owned Victa 100 VH-MTI for over 38 years. When MTI turned 21, Gerry placed a public notice in the *Adelaide Advertiser*, celebrating the little Victa's birthday while having a dig at Australia's abandonment of the aircraft industry.

VH-MTI is for sale; current owner Jeremy Jordan is looking for a new custodian (see Buy, Swap, and Sell on page 9).

Airtourer Association Inc
P.O. 778, Tewantin, QLD 4565
Australia