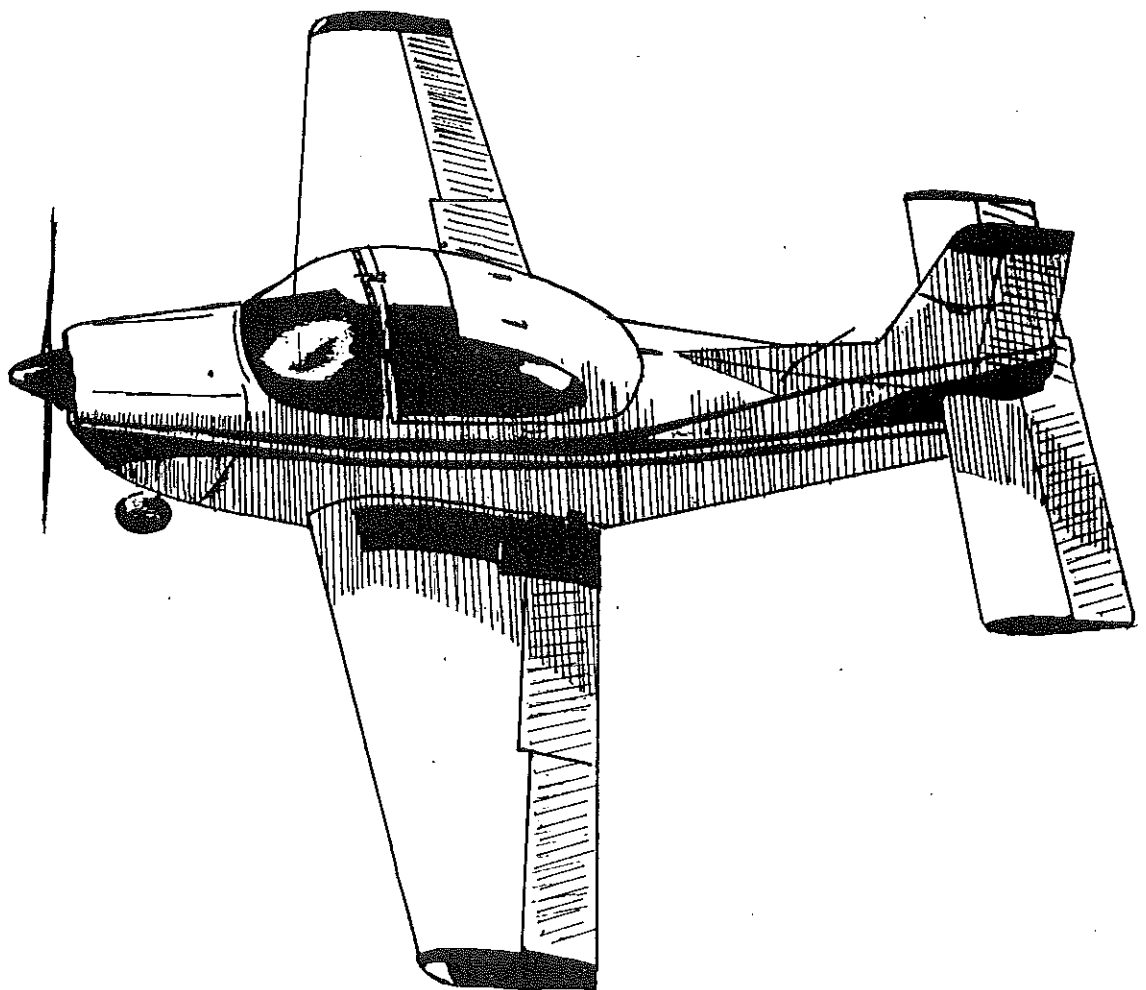


# AIRTOURER ASSOCIATION

AUGUST, 1985,  
NEWSLETTER No. 33

PATRON:- *Dr. HENRY K. MILLICER (AIRTOURER-DESIGNER)*

Dedicated to the preservation and continued airworthiness of VICTA and A.E.S.L. Airtourer Series Aircraft.



# NEWSLETTER

Registered Publication by Australia Post — No: VBH2662

AIRTOURER ASSOCIATION

PATRON : Dr. Henry K. Millicer (Airtourer Designer)

### ### ### ###

Address all Correspondence to the Secretary: 30 Creswell St., West Wyalong NSW 2671

=====

PRESIDENT : D.O. (Sonny) RANKIN, "Yarrandale" West Wyalong. NSW 2671  
Phone: (069) 757322

VICE-PRESIDENTS : E.D. (EARL) JOHNSON, PO Box 662, Taree. NSW. 2430.  
Phone: (065) 524211

S. (Stan) TILLEY, 9 Acushla Crt, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005  
Phone (002) 252302

SECRETARY : R.S. (STAN) WRIGHT, 30 Creswell St., West Wyalong. NSW. 2671.  
Phone: (069) 723703

TREASURER : J.A. (JOHN) TREBLE, 16 Meehan Court, Keilor. Vic. 3036  
Phone: (03) 3362056 Home  
(03) 3116122 Bus.

=====

COMMITTEE : A. (TONY) MATTHEWS, PO Box 74 Parkes. NSW. 2870  
Phone: (068) 621766

A.M. (ALAN) WOOD, 23 The Outlook, Bilgola. NSW. 2107.  
Phone: (02) 9188639 (Home)

=====

AREA & STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Q'LAND : DES SETTER, 27 McFadden St., WYNNUM. QLD. 4178 (07) 3968029 H  
(07) 3965152 B

S.A. : PETER SUTTON, 17 Hill St., SEACLIFF PARK, S.A. 5049 (08) 2964461 H  
(08) 472222 B

N.S.W. : HARRY COUZIN, 53 Douglas St, FAULCONBRIDGE. NSW. 2776. (047) 512865  
: RON STIEBEL, 13 Cameron St., Bexley, N.S.W. 2207. (02) 5879339

VIC/TAS : JOHN TREBLE, 16 Meehan Court, Keilor, Victoria. 3036 (03) 336 2056 H  
(03) 311 6122 B

W.A. : GREG RUTHERFORD, RSD, BRUCE ROCK. WA. 6418. (090) 647325

NEW ZEALAND:

: : PETER CARPENTER, 17 Rewiti Ave., TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND. N.Z. (09) 4443559 H  
(09) 778880 B

U.K. : JEFFREY WORTH, 12 Murren Avenue Great Malvern WORCESTER. (0684) 63748 H  
(0242) 21605 B

\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

AIRTOURER CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

SECRETARY: G.H. (GUY) MAIN, 12 Turner Rd., NARELLAN. NSW. 2567. (046) 461282.

\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter should be submitted direct to the Editor

---

AIRTOURER ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

21/9/85	Yarrandale Fly-In		
22/9/85	Details this Newsletter	7/11/85	Schofields '85 Air Show.
		8/11/85	Details this Newsletter.
26/12/85	East to visit West.	9/11/85	
	A 2½ to 3 Week Journey.	10/11/85	
	Details this Newsletter and next Newsletter		

---

A.O.P.A SAFETY SEMINAR AND A.G.M.

SWAN HILL, 1st & 2nd JUNE, 1985

I fully recommend everybody to make the effort to attend an A.O.P.A Safety Seminar which have been held around the country over the last two years or so. The guest speakers were very enlightening indeed, and I'm sure everybody who attends a seminar would come away having learnt quite a few things.

The Airtourer Association was very well represented over the week-end and below are those who attended.

Geoff and Margaret Storey, Victoria	VH-CIG
Bill and Yvonne Miller "	VH-MUJ
John and Doreen Treble "	VH-CRK
Stuart Robinson "	VH-MFN
Jack Hopgood South Australia	VH-TWG
Glen Sturges " "	VH-BWA

Apologies due to weather, Sonny Rankin and Stan Wright.

---

Secretary Stan Wright advises a change of Phone No. (069) 723703.

---

Monduran Station,  
GIN GIN, 4671  
QUEENSLAND

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Bundaberg Aero Club, I'd like to invite all members of the Airtourer Association, to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Club. By way of celebrating we are holding an Air Pageant on the 1st September.

The Bundaberg Wing of Australian Air League will be conducting a Fijian Hungi for aviators and friends on Saturday 31st August.

It would be appreciated by the Air Pageant Committee for as many Airtourers as possible to fly-in for the occasion. The Club has owned 2 Victa/115 and still has one for cross-hire for members private use.

Our programme on Sunday September 1st is varied and interesting. It includes two displays by Frank Fry in his Laser, Peter Larsen in his Pitts, Army Aviation Displays, many Ultra Lights, Parachuting, Gliding, Homebuilt and Vintage aircraft and large scale models. There will also be displays by Gyrocopters, D.O.A. Gulfstream, Tiger Moth and Winjeel as well as an agricultural display and a fly-past by U.S.A.F. C141 Starlifter.

This is our proposed programme. For further details, ring Alan Plath, Phone (071) 715573.

Yours sincerely,  
J. J. Mullett  
per A. Mullett.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Due 1-7-1985

Name .....

Address .....

.....State.....Postcode.....

Telephone STD ( ).....Home. STD ( ) .....Work

Has there been any changes in the above information during the last year ?

.....

Please renew my membership of the Airtourer Association for the year ending 30-6-86.

Annual Subscription \$20.00 Overseas Members A\$16.00  
Overseas Members payable by Bank Draft in Australian Dollars

Signed.....Date.....

Make cheque payable to Airtourer Association and post to:

John Treble, 16 MEEHAN COURT, KEILOR, 3036.



*We are having an excellant response to our request to send in your Membership Renewals early. I thank everyone so far for there Co-operation.*

*For those who have yet to send in their Remittance, please do so at their earliest convenience.*

For Sale

STAN TILLEY'S

**AIRTOURER 115 — VH-BQK**

SERIAL No. 79

**In Excellent Condition**

ENGINE: Lycoming 0235 115 HP only 350 hours since Major Overhaul - 1550 hours to run.  
PROPELLER: New 1980 about 1200 to run before Overhaul. AIRFRAME: Total time 4784 (at 8.5.85), 12,416 to run. FUEL CELL: New 1980. New 100 hourly Inspection. Major Airframe Inspection July, 1986. Fitted Com 11A with Intercom. Headsets - Boom Mikes. ADF - King KR86. VOR - Narco 121. Transponder - Narco AT150. Other features include Dual Instrument Lighting, Dual Beacons, Map Light, EGT, Solid Rivets, CHT, Split Cowls, Riv Nuts. Fully Aerobatic with Christen Inverted Oil System. Nav Charges paid until Feb., 1986. Good Paint with Original Colour Scheme in Beige and Brown. Night VMC Rated. A "Go Anywhere" Aerobatic Aircraft - 5 hours Endurance at 100 knots (185 klms) per hour, using 26 litres per hour. This Superb Little Aeroplane is only for sale because I have bought back MTL, an Airtourer I previously owned and am having it rebuilt with a 150 HP Engine.

**Price for BQK Complete is \$19,500**

**Contact: STAN TILLEY on HOBART (002) 25 2302 Home, (002) 34 5922 Work**

EAST TO VISIT WEST

On the 24-6-1985. I sent a personal note to each Western Australian Member thus :-

John Treble,  
16 Meehan Court,  
Keilor, 3036

Dear Member,

No doubt you read our article in the last Newsletter regarding East to visit West.

At this time 6 Airtourers have indicated their interest in participating.

We will be arriving at Bruce Rock on 31-12-1985 to visit Greg and Judy Rutherford, on to Perth for a week; the returning home via Bunbury, Albany, Esperance etc.

You will hear from Greg in due course to arrange a combined get together fly-in to suit everyone in Western Australia.

Hope you can find the time to join us and make it a memorable day.

Sincerely,



*Below is a reply from longtime member John Mulheron who also put forward some thoughts regarding the Association which he has given permission to print in this Newsletter.*

Dear John,

I must say how delighted I was to receive your letter inviting me to participate in your touring safari to W.A. in the New Year. While I realise your letter was a circular to all the Airtourer owners it is the first positive step in co-ordinating the very fragmented movement in this State - with very few of present seven W.A. Victa owners being members of the Association to my knowledge anyway ! - In fact I had my resignation already written out since hearing of the absurd 46% increase in subscription, all for the return of two (possibly) very indifferent Newsletters describing the latest cavortings of the "Yarrandale Set" - a high price to pay.

Anyway off my 'hobby horse' and on to more positive activities :-

Regarding the proposed tour let me contribute the following.

I would be most happy to act in the role of your Perth Agent for the forthcoming tour and offer the following comments for what there worth :- Arrival, my wife (Jill) will be on holidays at the time (being a schoolteacher) and will be able to fly to Bruce Rock for the grand arrival, (I hope to be there too, work permitting) and meet you all there. We would suggest the following may be worth thinking about.

You write to the Royal Aero Club Jandakot advising of your intentions as your itinerary firms up, and request their co-operation. The Aero Club is very good at this sort of thing and will make you all most welcome. They have good facilities and a very active social group, even though your visit will be in the middle of the holiday season, you may nominate me as 'Liason Officer' as I'm fairly active in the club and lead the local small but dedicated Airtourer Clique.

I will hopefully arrange through the Airport Manager a discrete parking area for the Airtourers (hopefully near the Aero Club) and involve the D.O.A. in your arrival. We may be able to arrange some formation flights over the city if your group are suitably endorsed!

My small hanger and spares/stock are available for your use if necessary and the Aero Club Chief Engineer is an expert on the Airtourer.

It would be a good idea for you to advise the S.A.A - W.A. of your itinerary. The local chapter is very active and have their own sealed airfield with club house and private hangers, all about 15 minutes flying time from Jandakot, I'm sure they will turn on some impromptu fly-in for your benefit if at all possible in the time available. I'm also a member of S.A.A. and will happily act as co-ordinator if you think this desirable.

A must for visiting aircraft would include a day at Rottnest Island, 15 minutes from Jandakot and is fairly unique, despite being the peak of the holiday season when you arrive, I will be happy to co-ordinate and try and rake up the lifejackets if necessary.

Accommodation; we can put up the majority of your group most happily. My wife is well organised and as an Airtourer pilot is fairly used to the scene, so no problems. I would imagine that some of your group have friends and relatives here who they will stay with.

Can't help with transport at the moment, anyway our two cars can be made available to the group, but you may have to make supplementary arrangements.

Sorry can't help much with your ongoing tour through the South West, but will liase with Peter South a hangar neighbour. Peter's Father Harry is a businessman/farmer in Bunbury and owns most original 115HP A/T. (No. 4 or 6 I think), he may be able to help a bit.

Thats enough for now, please let me know if you want me to help in any further capacity, and let's hope your visit is not only a success from your groups aspect, but helps consolidate the Airtourer movement in the West.

Good luck and regards,

John Mulheron.

P.S. Enclosed is my subs for the next year anyway.

---

*I guess John is not alone with some of his thoughts, so I will try to answer them, hopefully to the satisfaction of everyone.*

*(1) There are 7 Airtourers in W.A and they are all financial members of the Airtourer Association, plus 2 non owners. (The best percentage of all States.)*

*(2) Membership fees had not increased from 1979, but with increased costs over those years (see Balance Sheet, Newsletter No. 32) plus our projected costs in the future and to remain financially healthy, I as Treasurer recommended at our A.G.M. a 29% increase from \$14.00 to \$18.00. An amendment from G. Penfound (Newsletter No. 32) was unanimously carried by all members present that the fees be \$20.00, a 43% increase.*

*Here are some reasons why I believe every Airtourer owner should be a member of the Association, and what you get for your \$20.00 (39 cents per week).*

*(a) The extension of Main Spa Life etc. from 12000 hours to 17,200 hours (Newsletter No. 29).*

*(b) A submission is now with D.O.A. regarding the extension of life and an extension to the magnafluxing period of Airtourer legs. Every owner received a circular dated 20-9-1984 asking to supply information re their Airtourer legs. (also Presidents Report, Newsletter No. 32)*

*(c) Preliminary work is in progress on the legal use of Mogas in Airtourers (Presidents Report Newsletter No. 32).*

(d) Newsletter No.1 was produced during February 1978 and No.33 during August 1985, which is 4 issues per year. As for thoughts on the very indifferent Newsletters, well I guess the Output can only be as good as the Input and I welcome any suggestions on how to improve it. Remember the Newsletter can only exist on happenings and contributions from all members, so its up to you all out there to submit material.

(3) There is no truth in the rumour of a conspiracy by the Association to have approximately 75% of the Airtourers geographically based in the South East of Australia !! So to meet regularly at "Yarrandale" or nearby is a natural.

We realise everyone is not in the mainstream, hence our visit to the West.

Last August we had the 1984 Airtourer Association Adventure of which 18 Airtourers represented every State in Australia. There is no "Yarrandale Set" but there certainly is a very active "Australia Set".

(4) I must make mention of the chaps, all at their own expense (Airlines, Hire Cars, Motels etc. and for up to 2 weeks) who went to New Zealand to wrap up the deal with Aerospace, to get the Airtourer Co-Operative Ltd., off the ground, so as to guarantee spares etc., for all Airtourer owners.

Let me remind you who they were, Doug Stott, Randy Green, Sonny Rankin, Frank Rogers, Andrew Ronald and Paul Cary, not forgetting the Directors of the Co-Op and Committeemen of the Association who travel plenty of miles and put in many hours, for no compensation, to uphold the aims which are :-

"Dedicated to the preservation and continued Airworthiness of VICTA and AESL Airtourer Series Aircraft"

As Henry coined "To bring back the farm"

In 1978 \$10,000 would buy a very good Airtourer, today that may only be a deposit, thanks mainly to the members of the Co-Op, (Who would buy an aeroplane if no spares were available) a big effort indeed.

(5) Last but not least the comradeship Next Newsletter, there will be an updated list of current financial members. Leave it in your Airtourer and when doing a cross country, contact your fellow member when passing through, and its odds on for bed and breakfast.

(6) If some of those reasons (there's plenty more) aren't worth 39 cents per week, I give up.

Anyone who has a question, please use your democratic right to ask and I will answer to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,  
John Treble.

---

Anyway John, by the time we leave your place in a mess, eat all your food and drink all your booze, you probably will resign !!

Looking forward to meeting Jill when we arrive at Greg and Judy Rutherford's place (formation of course) and everyone else, on our Western Australia visit.

So come on Easterners, lets go and meet them.

Many more details in our next Newsletter.

'YARRANDALE' FLY-IN 21st and 22nd SEPTEMBER 1985

REGISTRATION FEE

A \$20.00 Registration Fee will be charged per head to cover expenses, and will include meals (Saturday – Lunch and Dinner; Sunday – Breakfast, Lunch) drinks and transport to and from West Wyalong.

WEST WYALONG ACCOMMODATION

Golden Way Motel .....Phone STD (069) 7212, except for those staying at "Yarrandale" (sleeping BAGS ETC.) Motel accommodation is members own responsibility.

FUEL

Fuel will be available at "Yarrandale" on a CASH only basis. Re-fuelling facilities are also available at WEST WYALONG.

GUEST SPEAKER

Victorian Member John Wynn, will be Guest Speaker at "Yarrandale." His subject will be, Flying the London to Sydney Air Race in an Airtourer/100.

AGENDA

FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER !

Members welcome to arrive on this day .

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

0900 onwards	Arrival of Members, Guests and Visitors Please register on arrival \$20.00 fee payable per head (all inclusive).
1200 – 1400	B.B.Q. Lunch
1400 – 1630	Local flying activities and general discussion with other visitors. Some flying displays may be organised.
1630	Drinks.
1900	Social Evening and Dinner. Guest Speaker.
2300	Or when required – Transport to West Wyalong.

SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

0800	Motel guests depart WWL for breakfast "Yarrandale"
0830	Breakfast
0930	Informal discussion on technical, maintenance and performance topics. Flying by arrangement.
1200	Lunch. Departures: (An early takeaway lunch by arrangement)

Members are welcome to stay longer if they wish. A quiet social evening is planned for those remaining.

RIVERINA AIRMOTIVE PTY. LTD.

For Aircraft Engine Overhauls, contact our Airtourer Association member Barry Kenyon, Proprietor L.A.M.E. Building 123, Parafield, South Australia, 5106. Phone: (08) 258 2209 A.H. (08) 44 6003.



To Lake Congellico



To Forbes

To Ungaria

Gravel Road

2900M 14NM

HIGHWAY

(sealed)

WEST WYALONG HWY

(sealed)  
NEWELL

To Ardath and Newidone

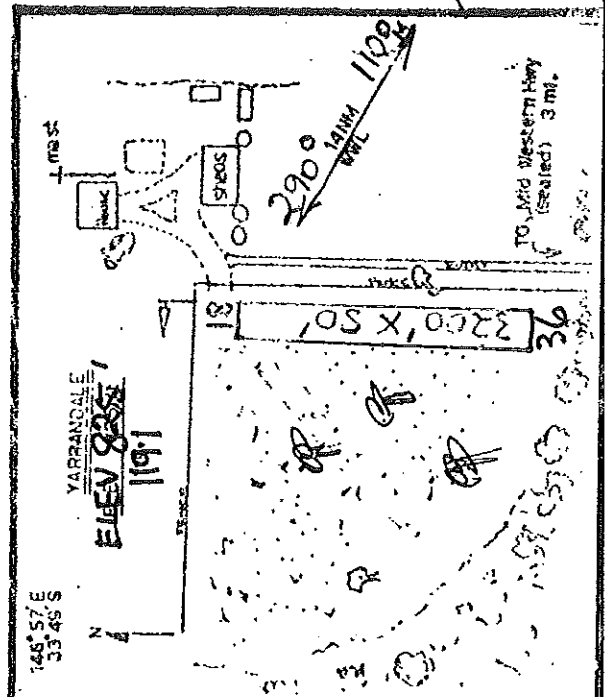
"YARRANDALE"

62m

Rising Ground

Yalgogrin Nth. MID

To Hwy (Store and P.O.)



SCHOFIELDS '85 AIR SHOW NOVEMBER 7,8,9,10

Harry Couzin  
53 Douglas Street,  
Falconbridge, N.S.W.2776.

Phone:(047)512865 (H)  
(047)511911 (W)

Dear Member,

I have been requested by the Schofield Air Show organisation to invite (through our newsletter) all the Airtourers to the November Air Show in sunny Sydney.

We are the only Association presenting and flying the only private Australian built aircraft at the Show. The organisation people are very anxious to have as many Airtourers at the Show as possible, to perform and display.

We have been asked to present our own Mini Air Show, any help needed will be given, and a time slot will be worked out accordingly. I have suggested to our local members that we should train a formation team of seven members for the Show. Members wishing to train will be welcomed about August, I think this would be time enough.

This '85 Show is going to be a test run in many ways for the biggest Air Show to be held in Australia in 1988 at R.A.A.F. Richmond. Schofield people have been selected to organise the whole thing which will include the World Countries, which we are still friendly with.

I for one would like to take part in this once in a life-time event and include every Airtourer we can muster to take part. This is why we should try and perform in same way in 1985 so we will be invited to join the professionals who will be taking part in 1988.

We should show the rest of the World what our own little aircraft can do and we should get excited about taking part in both events.

I can be contacted any time to assist members who expect to attend the Show, if tent sites are requested or whatever.

A marquee will be available for members to keep out of the sun.

The attempt to tow Sydney west of the ranges, to get better flying weather has failed, so lets get together and have the biggest Airtourer fly-in under the sun in November '85.

Harry Couzin.

---

*For those who have yet to enjoy the hospitality of Harry and Eunice,  
I strongly suggest you make the effort this year, you won't regret it.*

*Editor.*

---

*Starting with this Newsletter, we are beginning a complete History of  
members aircraft as supplied to our Historians. (on back page)*

*Our aim is to publish 1 or 2 Histories with each Newsletter.*

*To be able to accomplish this aim, we need to support our Historians.*

*If you haven't already sent in your questionnaire, give Kerry and Stuart  
your support. by returning the History Questionnaire on the following page.*

P.O.Box 34,  
SUNBURY, VICTORIA,  
3429

Dear Members,

At present we have had no more than a dozen replies to the History questionnaire included in the last few Newsletters. These have ranged from the basic facts to 3 pages of intimate histories. Several members have sent us their own photos from the dim and not so dim past, but unfortunately the majority have sent nothing at all.

We ask all members to dive in amongst the dust of their aircraft's log books and send us their tales from the glorious past so that future AIRTOURER devotees (and there will be many) can be proud of their aircraft, its Association and its history.

Your Historians are now looking forward to being swamped with replies.

You faithfully,



KERRY & STUART HILSBURG,  
ASSOCIATION HISTORIANS.

---

AIRCRAFT HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

To help complete an individual Aircraft History, please fill out and return to Stuart Hilsberg, Box 34, Sunbury, Victoria, 3429.

Any photographs would also be appreciated.

Reg.. VH-.....Serial No.....Date of Manufacture.....

ORIGINAL OWNER

Name.....Date of Delivery.....

City/Town .....Hours at Disposal.....

.....A/C Base .....

---

ANY SUBSEQUENT OWNERSHIP DETAILS IN ABOVE FORMAT

Name .....Date of Delivery .....

City/Town.....Hours at Disposal .....

.....A/C Base .....

---

PRESENT OWNER

Name .....Date of Delivery.....

City/Town .....Hours as at .....

.....A/C Base .....

---

## AIRTOURER HISTORY

REGISTRATION: VH-FME (originally VH-RQO) SERIAL No: 9 MODEL: AT115  
TYPE: VICTA DATE OF MANUFACTURE: 1st March, 1963

---

PRESENT OWNER: J. Crocker, Boort, Victoria  
Purchased 30th June, 1980

PREVIOUS OWNERS:

Royal Queensland Aero Club, Brisbane, Queensland  
John Erwin, Ungaril  
22.10.1975 W.K. & A.J. Newton, Essendon, Victoria  
A. Jenhen, Parkes, N.S.W.  
5.11.1976-30.6.1980 T. Powney, Bendigo, Victoria

BRIEF HISTORY:

This aircraft was the first 115 series ever built with a Lycoming 235 engine.  
The aircraft won the best performance by an Australian designed and built aircraft in the 1983 Southern Cross Air Race.

---

REGISTRATION: VH-UQX SERIAL No. 47 MODEL: VICTA TYPE: AT115  
DATE OF MANUFACTURE: 25th March, 1964.

---

PRESENT OWNER: Stephen Fankhauser, Mentone, Victoria  
Purchased 10th December, 1983

PREVIOUS OWNERS:

25.3.64-Nov.1965 Victa Ltd. Aviation Division, Milperra, N.S.W.  
Nov. 1965 Alice Springs Aero Club, Alice Springs  
Encounter Bay Flying Group, Victor Harbour, S.A.  
Meningie Air Services  
John Pope, Aldgate  
R.C.Williams, Burwood, Victoria  
Jean Thorpe, Mt. Eliza, Victoria  
Mijay Engineering, Clayton, Victoria  
25.3.82-10.12.1983 Robert Cross, Albury, N.S.W.

BRIEF HISTORY:

This aircraft was originally manufactured for Gary Richardson, the Director of Victa Aviation Ltd.

---

*The next Newsletter No.34 will be published during November, 1985  
Contributions to be with the Editor by 31st October, 1985.*