

February 2009
Newsletter No. 129

AIRTOURER ASSOCIATION



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



NEWSLETTER

<http://www.Airtourer.asn.au>

Editor, John O'Halloran	Mobile:	0411 968901
P.O. Box 778,	FAX:	(07) 54425180
Tewantin QLD 4565	Phone:	(07) 54476604
	Email	John_OH@Bigpond.com
	Skype	joh54476604

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter should be submitted direct to John O'Halloran at the contacts listed above. Please enclose payment for any advertisement. The next Newsletter will be published in May 2009. Contributions and or advertisements are to be with JOH by 15 April 2009.

Small advertisement (3 to 4 lines) \$20.00

Large advertisement \$40.00

Cheque to be made payable to the Airtourer Association. Post with copy direct to the publisher.

Editorial

The first Newsletter of the year is always a lean one and this is no exception. The Christmas and New Year activities tend to distract people and contributions to the Newsletter are in short supply. For my part, I've spent some quality time with the family but then it's been "in the deep end" at work with a busy trip to Seattle to test fly a new B747 Freighter and other meetings. This may sound exciting but the downside of a test pilot's life is the subsequent report writing.

Thanks to Harry Couzin for allowing us to print his address to the Convention at Griffith. I occasionally get snippets from members that I put aside to fill a space. Sometimes these almost get forgotten and I recently rediscovered two from Hector, one of which is included in this issue and is topical in the light of the A320 ditching in the Hudson River after multiple bird strikes. I also have a couple of contributions from Bill Miller for future issues.

Not everyone has been relaxing over the holidays and President John with Neils and Mike have been busy setting up things for Wangaratta. They promise a good and somewhat different Convention. They are also staying ahead of the game and are well advanced evaluating options for the 2010 Convention.

Finally, once again I have to report the passing of one of our members, Paul Cary. Please read my article regarding Paul and his contributions to the Airtourer community.

Safe Airtouring,

John O'Halloran

Cover Photo: The original Airtourer, VH-FMM, currently on display at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Nowra. Photo courtesy of Association Historian Doug Stott.

Vale Paul Cary



Once again the Airtourer community has lost a member who made a significant contribution to the Association and Co-operative.

Paul Cary passed away in November last year after a long battle with cancer. He was active with the Co-operative being involved with the move of the Airtourer project from NZ. In later years he assisted Doug Stott and Andrew Ronald in bringing the RSAF T6s to Australia from Singapore.

In later years he used his business experience to assist Hugh Knox during the long and frustrating legal battle to enforce the terms of the sale agreement to MAI. Their efforts resulted in the Co-op now holding the intellectual property to the Airtourer type and ensuring ongoing support for the Airtourer community.

Paul was keen to entice the Victorian members to “cross the ranges” to a fly-in on the east coast. Finally in 1996 we gathered at Wallis Island and Taree for a memorable, if not wet, weekend with Paul and Olive as hosts.

He was active in the community with Rotary and in particular with the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians (IFFR). Older members will remember his stories of large flying safaries with the IFFR in the US. One wonders what the international Rotarians thought of his stories of the Airtourer crowd.

Paul will be remembered for his contributions to the Airtourer Co-operative as a long serving Director, his forthright views, particularly on political subjects and his no-nonsense practical advice.

HARRY COUZIN'S ADDRESS AT THE 30TH AGM GRIFFITH, MARCH 2008

To tell how it all began, I have to go back to when I was 6 years old. It was 1939 in Scotland, where 300 homeless kids and I were sent to this penal colony Australia, but not as a convict. It was to escape Mr. Hitler's threat on England. I lived with an Aunt and Uncle south of Dalgety. There were a lot of eagles around these parts and I would study them and say to myself, "I wish I could fly". During the war years squadrons of aircraft would fly up the Snowy River. I said, "I will fly like these men one day". I never lost the dream.

Anyway as life went on, houses, kids and mortgages ate up nearly everything you could earn. One day in 1971 out at Hoxton Park I said to my wife, "I'm going to learn to fly." So she said to me, "If you can find a way of doing it without starving the kids and the family then go ahead." So I did. I worked 3 jobs and in 3 years I became a restricted pilot. I formed a friendship with two or three other lads. In 1974 Roy Taylor, Garry McGraw and I flew a Bonanza two-thirds around Australia.

During that period I got addicted to the fact that I had to get more control over this. So I started studying for my unrestricted licence with the College of Civil Aviation. During this time I was traveling from Springwood to Strathfield by train. I had a reserved seat in car 3. One day that seat became vacant, then a few days later the seat was occupied. The person sitting in there was reading the same magazine that

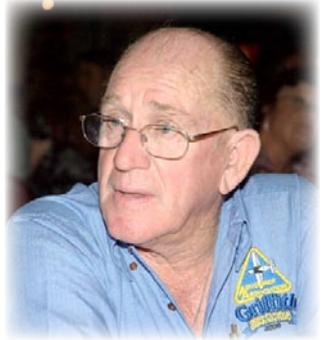
I was, on the College of Aviation. He turned out to be Bob Page, who, if you didn't know,

was one of the driving wheels of the whole association. Bob was very motivated, and very stubborn.

At that particular time we got to know one another pretty well and we studied through, and used to go with, other pilots at week-ends. We built up our cross country flying which took us another year or so. Bob was flying with Laurie McIvor at Hoxton, and I was flying with the Hoxton Park Flying School.

One day Bob said, "I've just found a Victa at Bankstown for about \$6000, why don't we form a group of four and buy it. Well, we were all as poor as church mice, but we all borrowed and scraped together the money. I borrowed from my boss at work and we formed a group of four. There was Bob, Roy Taylor, Geoff Osmond and myself. So anyway we purchased RQL which turned out to be the flagship of the whole thing.

During the flying training I got to know my good friend Alan Wood whom I've known for 30-32 years. When we were going to buy RQL I asked Alan would he give it a look over, so they flew it from Bankstown to Hoxton Park. Alan looked over it and



he said, "Yes, there's a few things on it, but she's not a bad little aeroplane". I said, "Well we're going to buy it, how much to look over it?" He said, "Pretty cheap - no charge." To repay that small debt I helped Alan in the workshop as often as I could, usually at week-ends and whenever I had time. I did this for two reasons, not only to repay his kindness but I also wanted to know more about the servicing and handling of the aircraft. Over the years I must have worked with Alan for about 20 years on part time. In the finish I used to help him overhaul undercarriage legs etc. and I think he must have trusted me because a lot of times he never bothered checking it, and just said, "It looks good".

After we had RQL for a while, Graeme White, who was one of the Instructors at Hoxton Park, borrowed RQL 'cos we had to cross hire it to a few good pilots as we needed extra money to pay for fuel, and bits and pieces. Anyway, Graeme taxied at Roulston in the mountains and put the nose wheel into a rut, had a prop strike and bent the prop. So this was when the whole show really started, we needed a new prop and that's when we really ran into trouble.

People may remember the letter which Bob Page wrote to AOPA and some of the "S" hit the fan I can assure you. Doug will probably remember that as well. Now when things settled down, Bob said to me, "If we're having all these problems then other Victa owners must be having the same problems or something similar. I'll get the register and find out how many Victa Airtourer's there are and contact them in view of starting an Owners group". He did so, as he was always positive in what he was going to do. The response was absolutely fantastic. Doug Stott was the first one to contact us as a result of Bob's letter and

was part of the group from there on. This prompted us to form a group who might be interested in setting up some sort of an association so we arranged a meeting on 17 August 1977 at the Royal Aero Club, Bankstown. The ones who were present are still here or passed on. They were Bob Page, Alan Wood, myself, Fred Tieffel, Les Taylor, Phil Hamer, Gerry Walsh, Adrian Phoeffler, Dick Sims, and Vic Walton. At that particular meeting we decided to go ahead and get the Airtourer Association going. We got in touch the designer, Henry Millicer, early in the piece, and he pledged his support to us. Well, everyone knows the type of person Henry was and the support he gave us at that period of time.

The Association was formed and we had our first fly-in at Schofield. This was actually before it went to 'Yarrandale' and Sonny Rankin took over. We had a demonstration fly of the Victa's with Vic Walton and Dick Sims in RSJ and RQL, and the group were so impressed with it they asked us to continue performing at air shows etc. during the years, which we did. So Dick and Vic demonstrated the ability of RQL and it was great.

The first official Association gathering was at Griffith in 1978 where the Association was actually formed, and Sonny Rankin was elected President. So 30 years on we're still here and at the same place. I think Doug covered the rest of the story in the Newsletter, from where I knocked off to where we are now. So if you read the Newsletter you will know the history from here on.

But boy! 30 years on, looking around at all the boys we had, they are now big boys, all a little older.

It has been the greatest of pleasure of being associated with this group.

Airtourer Co-operative News.

The Co-op has received little feedback from the NZ CAA regarding transfer of the NZ Type Certificates. However, we know the project is progressing as we've received another invoice for their services.

We have previously reported that Alan Wood is moving from Hoxton Park to Wedderburn. His FAX number has changed, the new number is 02 9918 8022. All enquiries regarding parts support should be directed to this number.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Airtourer Co-operative Ltd

The Annual General Meeting of the Airtourer Co-operative will be held at the Parkview Motel, Wangaratta, at 9.30 on 8th March 2009.

Agenda:

- Presentation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting. (Published in the May 2008 Airtourer Association Newsletter.)
- Business Arising from the Minutes.
- Chairman's Report
- Presentation of Accounts
- Determination of Annual Subscription
- Election for retiring Board Members
- Other Business

Note: Only active members may vote at an AGM.

Nomination for election as Director

Airtourer Co-operative

The Airtourer Co-operative rules require that at the AGM two Directors stand down but are eligible for re-election without nomination. Additionally, other members may nominate for election if they are either, active members in accordance with Rule 18 or, are a person having expert knowledge of the requirements to maintain the airworthiness of Airtourer series aircraft.

Any person wishing to nominate for election as a Director should do so in writing to the Chairman prior to the AGM.

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.

Airtourer Co-operative PROXY FORM

(Use this form or separate sheet with similar wording)

I _____
 of _____
 appoint _____
 of _____
 or in that person's absence, _____
 of _____

or [in that person's absence] the chairperson of the meeting, or a person nominated by the chairperson, as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Airtourer Co-operative to be held on 8th March 2009 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

Signature:

Dated:

Note:

- Rule 29 (c) No person shall act as a proxy unless the person is an active member under Rule 18.
- Rule 29 (d) No person shall act as proxy for more than 10 persons unless the instrument appointing a proxy specifies the manner in which the proxy is to vote in respect of a particular resolution.

A Feathered Flight - Hector Blemings

I was flying leisurely towards Wilsons Prom. at 2000 ft, head down checking the panel, all fine, but when looking up the windshield was covered in black streaks. Oh! here we go - OIL!! Take a deep breath and think. By that time maybe 20 seconds or less I realized I was in the middle of a flight of birds, black and white "Ibis" (I think). It was an amazing sensation like flying down a tunnel watching them peel away as we converged. At a closing speed of around 130 kts it seemed to last a long time, although maybe only 10 seconds. I was waiting to hear and see a bloody windshield or worse a thump on a wing. Then came the light at the end of the tunnel. Just as fast as it happened it was over. I continued to fly on - all seemed to check out. On landing I went over YVV thoroughly, no sign of contact anywhere, quite an exciting experience, in hindsight.

VICTORIAN BRANCH CHRISTMAS FLY-IN

The 7th of December saw 26 people, 11 aeroplanes and 3 cars gather at the Shepparton aerodrome for our annual end of year Fly-In together with a perfect day for flying.

After refreshments at the aero club we departed at 12pm by mini-bus to the Olive House restaurant for a very well presented lunch which everyone enjoyed. Mid-afternoon saw us on a scenic coach and walk tour of Shepparton to a picnic area for a cake and coffee afternoon tea. I must say that so far conversations have been full on and continued until all had departed for home. It was now getting time to move on back to the aerodrome and to view the restoration of Andrew's Airtourer before departures. Andrew intends to show us his pride and joy for all to see at Wangaratta. A big thanks to Andrew and Sharon for organising this day for all of us to enjoy.

It was great to see Lindsay Marshall back up on his feet again and we all wish him well.

Those in attendance were:-

VH-CND Niel & Kathy Jensen
VH-FVV Andy & Jane Morris
VH-CRK John & Doreen Treble
VH-KGR Andrew & Sharon Clement
VH-WAU David Wearne & Joan
VH-MRL Col Taylor & Val
VH-BNV Mike Fisher & Jacqui
VH-MKL Ian Donovan
VH-CTK Murray & Andrea Wallace
VH-MCT Matt & Karen Henderson
VH-DWT Gerry & Denise Pels
Ian Close & Sue Harris
Lindsay & Beryl Marshall
Dot Ross



Airtourer Association Nomination for Election to the Committee

I nominate _____

for the position of: *(mark appropriate position)*

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Ordinary Members (three positions)

Nominated by (Signature) _____

(Name) _____

Seconded by (Signature) _____

(Name) _____

I agree to being nominated for the above mentioned position.

Signature of candidate:

A LIFE CHANGING DECISION

Unfortunately we are all facing a time when active flying will no longer be available to us. As I approach the age of 84 I am faced with this dilemma. Do I sell while I am still flying, even though it is becoming difficult to climb in and out and push the a/c out of the hangar?

So I'm sounding the market . I would like YVV to go to a member of the Association or a potential member. It has an excellent history , always serviced by Gippsland Aeronautics to RAAF standard R1, R2, R3 Manuals . It was one of the last built for the Rhodesian Airforce , they were the first of the CT4B,s a real warbird with rocket hard points , Bomb rack etc. first flew in '86 .

Hector Blemings 03 98595793 or 03 56342421

Welcome

Peter and Anne McLean, our hosts for recent President's Fly-Ins from the Lore of Flight at Yarrawonga.

Peter Jarvie and Noel Young from Parkdale, Victoria who have CT4 VH-CTV.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Airtourer Association Inc.

The Annual General Meeting of the Airtourer Association will be held at the Parkview Motel, Wangaratta, at 0900 on 8th March 2009.

Agenda:

- Presentation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting. (Published in the May 2008 Newsletter.)
- Business Arising from the Minutes.
- Presentation of Reports
- Proposal to set Annual Membership Renewal to \$35.
- Election of Office Bearers
- Other Business

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY - AIRTOURER ASSOCIATION

(Use this form or separate sheet with similar wording)

I _____ of _____

 (full name) (address)

being a member of the Airtourer Association hereby appoint:

 of _____

_____ (full name of proxy) _____ (address)
 being a member of the Association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on the 8th March 2009 at the Parkview Motel, Wangaratta, and any adjournment of that meeting.

I instruct the proxy to vote for the proposal to increase membership fees to \$35 as follows:

For [] Against [] Abstain [] Proxy's discretion []

Signature of member appointing proxy:

Date:

NOTE: A proxy vote may not be given to a person who is not a member of the Association.

2009 Convention and AGM Program Wangaratta, 6th, 7th, 8th, March 2009

Friday 6th		Arrivals. Aero Club will be open. Transport available from 2.00pm till 5.30pm Visit Australian Country Spinners and Bruck Mills.
	2.00pm	
	6.30pm	Bistro dinner at Hotel Pinsent.
Saturday 7th		AIRFIELD DAY
	10.30am	Transport to the aerodrome for Registration and lunch at the Aero Club followed by flying activities, details which will be advised on the day. WGT Aero Club can provide AFR's or any other renewals.
	6.30pm	Convention Dinner at Murdoch House. Entertainment with none other than "Elvis Presley" himself, so bring along your dancing shoes and let the night swing!!
Sunday 8th	9.00am	Airtourer Association AGM followed by the Airtourer Co- Op AGM, to be held at the Parkview Motel.
	10.30am	Coach tour to Rutherglen for morning collee followed by lunch at the famous Pickle Sisters Winery. On our return journey a visit to the Buffalo Brewery and for those leaving us mid afternoon, transport will be available to have you back to the aerodrome in time for you departure.
	6.30pm	Chinese Smorgasboard Dinner at the Wangaratta Club Bistro.
Monday 9th	9.00am	Transport to the aerodrome.

- All of the Dinner venues are within walking distance of the Motels, but the Shuttle Bus will also be available.
- A detailed program and information pack will be provided to all participants on arrival at Wangaratta.

Calendar of Events

2009 Convention and Annual General Meeting

The 31st Convention and Annual General meeting of the Airtourer Association to be held at Wangaratta on 6th, 7th, and 8th of March 2009.

For details see page 11 or the Association website.

Good Friday 10th April 2009

Informal gathering of the faithful at the Kyneton Aerodrome to celebrate 50 years to the day since the first flight of prototype FMM. It is just to be a celebration day with no special time to arrive or depart, no catering organised. BYO lunch, or just drop in for a visit. A good reason to have a good old chinwag.

If you can't make Kyneton then make an effort to fly and let us know how you celebrated the first flight.

Victorian Branch 2009 mid-year Dinner Night

Annual mid-year Dinner Night at the Old England Hotel, Heidelberg, on 7 Jun 2009

2009 President's Fly-In

The President's Fly-In to be held at Yarrawonga on the 18,19, 20th of September.

Heard at the Hangar Door

Long time member and aviation historian **Robert Zweck** will be attending and bringing along some of his extensive collection of Airtourer photos and slides.

Christine Scholfield, wife of Chris Scholfield, the UK Airtourer representative has been ill recently. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Cliff Tait, AESL's test pilot who gave new meaning to the term airtouring, with his around the world trips, is planning to attend Wangaratta. We look forward to meeting Cliff again.

Ralph and Hazel Vincent of the UK are enjoying their around the world cruise. They have been entertained by the Phantom in Adelaide and the President and others in Melbourne. Peter Bons showed them the sights of Sydney. Unfortunately no one from Brisbane was available but John O'Halloran hopes to meet them in Hong Kong. Finally, the Internet is an integral part of life these days, in both good and not so good ways. One site gaining popularity is "youtube" which is a site where anyone can upload videos for the world to see. CT4 owner, **Matt Henderson**, sent me a link to some of his videos. While there I searched for "airtourer" and was surprised to see how much content there was, including one of a 1982 formation in the UK. Go to www.youtube.com and see Matt's videos by searching under "ARDUCT4", or simply search for "airtourer" or "ct4".