

May 2010  
Newsletter No. 134

# AIRTOURER ASSOCIATION



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



# NEWSLETTER

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

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Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter should be submitted direct to John O'Halloran at the contacts listed above. The next Newsletter will be published in August 2010. Contributions and or advertisements are to be with JOH by 15 July 2010.

### Advertisements

**Free for members.**

**Non members:**

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

Once again the Secretary's carefully laid plans were interrupted and Jan and I were unable to attend Cowra. Thanks to Mike Fisher and Bonnie Tilley for taking the minutes in a manner that made it easy for me to type up.

Last issue the Committee put out a call for help to reduce the workload on the current Committee members. Thanks to Monique Gillett who stepped up and is now on the Committee. Thanks also to those who offered assistance with the Newsletter. Your offers have not been taken up for this issue only because of poor organisation on the part of the Editor. Rest assured I will involve you in the next issue.

Thanks to those members who have helped with this issue. Monique Gillett for the article on the Cowra weekend, Doug Stott for the photos and Gerry Lawson who couldn't make it but still drew a cartoon as he wondered what he missed.

Continued page 4

*Cover Photo: **Formation Takeoff at Cowra.** Doug Dow leading Stan Tilley during a formation flight at the Annual Convention at Corwa 2010. See page 6 for Cowra report.*

### 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.



# Letters to the Editor

Dear John,

Greetings! A few lines on and a bit of an update on my investigations into moving a Victa to "RA Aus". Through investigations and conversations with various officials, it seems the new President has told his various Officers and Committee, that he will be concentrating on one thing only until it is finished. This year and possibly next year they want to get more use of airspace, i.e. height, distance, controlled airspace and of course as usual there are more city members than in the country. So the weight issue goes to back burner again. In any case, "RA Aus" has grown quite fast and is finding things are not as easy as they thought.

When considering moving the Airtourer to RA category I think a more serious problem is stall speed, i.e. 55-56 for the Airtourer whereas "RA Aus" wants 45kts. This a big ask for an Airtourer, or for that matter any aerobatics aircraft.

This is brief and needs more explanation of course. There are so many things that could be improved on the Airtourer, Henry agreed, but changing things and going through the necessary approval process was a problem.

I will list some aspects I had discussed with Henry. I am not aerodynamicists, just a pattern-maker and toolmaker, i.e. an engineering type, good with my hands.? However I've been around aeroplanes and built aeroplanes for many years and have picked up some knowledge of aerodynamics.

Flaps. I would rather have the extra

notch we had in the beginning.

Also, I don't like the centre section flap, its so messy and makes underneath fuselage possibly the dirtiest airflow I have seen. This, coupled with terrible u/c covers and wing fuse intersection creates a lot of drag which could be reduced.

What tests were done there what can we do? The same with the connection mechanism of the flaps/ ailerons with the system of rods etc., these are also messy.

I would like to see an under-fuse fibreglass cover, or some such smoothing modification, from the fire wall to back of wing. Similarly, a fibreglass root fairing to tidy up airflow, the same with gap between flap in-board against fuse. I don't know if this would effect the flight controls, I suspect not, just reduce drag with the consequent improvement on takeoff distance.

Of course, there are several other favorites of mine such as fibreglass wing-tips as fences up or down to control airflow. Also vortex generators to decrease drag and lower stall speed. Do you read AOPA Pilot Extra magazine. In the October issue on page 14 there was a good article on vortex generator kit on a piper 53. Also page 12 of the same issue of AOPA had an article on wings that waggle similar to vortex.

Do we have people in our ranks, "you" and people who have that schooling, knowledge and training? If someone can tell me where to start I will spend time to make stuff for trials, you certainly have



# Letters to the Editor

continued

the experience to test same but maybe not the time.

As you can see there are so many things that could be improved and cut weight.

I would still like to get rid of the rubber tank and the horrible tank sender system its a nightmare. I would like to make a fibreglass one as this would be the cheapest. I believe there is a drawing of an aluminium tank. Also MAI put tanks in wings, this could be an alternative.

So many things to look at. Sorry I am a dreamer. I hope the members have time to read this and comment,

Yours etc.

*Bill Miller*

## Commiserations Hector

I too have gone through withdrawals after I sold my lovely Corby Starlet one year ago.

After forty years of flying, mostly Airtourers and ultralights, I elected to hand in my licence after a dizzy spell came over me on short final. I had been doing steep turns and changing directions quickly for about ten minutes before setting up a landing. Not a nice feeling, but I survived that time, next time may not be so forgiving, so it was time to stop. We can never forget the inner peace, the freedom and the personal satisfaction flying in control gives one, and the many friends we make all with the same addiction. No one can take away our memories as long as we live, but we lived a dream.

*Harry Couzin.*

Continued from page 2

Bill Miller has offered some food for thought on ways to improve the aerodynamics of the Airtourer with a view to registering it in the RA category. Thanks Bill, it should promote some discussion around the hangar or over a beer.

Enjoy the issue and remember that it's your organisation and we'd love to hear about your Airtourer activities.

Safe Airtouring,  
*John O'Halloran*

# Your Committee



**President**  
John Treble



**Vice President**  
Mike Fisher



**Secretary**  
John O'Halloran



**Treasurer**  
Gerry Pels



Alan Wood



Niels Jensen



Jan O'Halloran



Monique Gillett

# MTC's Road Landing

In the last edition of this Newsletter Stan Tilley reported on a precautionary beach landing by MTC. The aircraft was determined to be serviceable, but sadly the pilot was found deceased, most likely from a heart attack.

We were dismayed to see MTC once again in the news in early April. Fortunately this time the pilot was unhurt, however the aircraft was severely damaged.

MTC was flying near the Tasman Bridge in Hobart when the engine lost power. The pilot elected to land on a section of highway that was clear due to traffic being held up by traffic lights. He flew under an overpass then made a turn before the wing was torn off by a tree. The aircraft skidded some distance down the road before coming to a rest. Considering the strength of the wing, and the clean break, the impact must have occurred at quite a speed.

The pilot reported that he exited the aircraft as soon as it stopped in case of fire.



*MTC where it came to rest having flown under an overpass around the bend in the road in the distance.*



The lack of damage to the cockpit, the absence of a fuel leak or fire and the lack of injuries to the pilot are once again testament to Henry's "design for survival".



*Photo showing the clean break in the wing suggesting a high energy impact. Nevertheless there is no fuel leak and associated fire risk due to Henry's design of a rubber bag contained within a collapsible structure. The critical cockpit structure also remains intact.*

# Cowra 2010.

*Monique Gillett.*

Nestled in the rather beautiful Lachlan valley, Cowra was the host of our 2010 AGM and Convention.

Friday was arrival day and with the weather Gods on our side, the Airtourer clan were blessed with clear skies and light winds, (although Stan and Bonnie found a headwind somehow). The vast rolling green pastures in the area were a pleasant surprise considering summer had only just finished. As always, the tarmac chatter immediately began with each new arrival and continued on the bus ride to the motels. Within 10 minutes of climbing aboard the bus, we learned many important things from the local bus driver - Cowra had 100mm of rain in the previous week, the correct pronunciation of the next town Canowindra was Can-own-dra instead of Can-o-win-dra, population was 9500 and the Chinese restaurant was over the hill and on the left past the traffic lights. The stage was set for what would be a fantastic weekend to come.

Every town has the obligatory Chinese restaurant complete with elaborate decor and the Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant was no exception. Settled in our exotic surroundings, we all had a good catch up.

Saturday morning was either free time, Committee meetings or Co-op Board meetings. With the morning's formalities completed, an afternoon of flying activities at the airfield followed. Cowra Aero Club provided a scrumptious BBQ and Gerry Pels was the entertainment by managing to dribble an entire sandwich-worth of coleslaw down the front of his polo shirt. Andy Morris was able to provide members

some insight into CASA's decision to no longer issue AD's and as always, Airtourers darted across Cowra's skies in formation. A tour of the Brumby light aircraft production facility gave us all an appreciation of the direction new aircraft are taking. However, I secretly thought the aircraft looked rather flimsy in comparison to our fine solid Airtourers.

After such an active flying day a quick rest was snuck in prior to the Convention dinner, held at the Cowra Services Club. Our host for the evening, Mike Fisher, guided us through a journey themed on Inspiration. There were many anecdotes shared that night, but one particular story which stood out to me was Liz Matthews' account of her extraordinary meeting Sir Douglas Bader. The signed hot dog plate was a quirky addition to her presentation. Award presentations were woven between meal courses with Andrew Clement receiving Best Presented Airtourer for his painstaking refurbishment of VH-KGR and Hector Blemmings receiving the inaugural Tony Matthews Award. Glen Sturges also presented his Millenium award to Richard and Deborah Evans.

Sunday morning saw the usual Airtourer Association AGM and Co-operative AGM. All went swiftly to schedule and before another tea was had, we were all herded onto the coach for a grand tour of the district.

First stop was the visitor information centre which boasted a beautiful rose garden containing approximately 1000 rose plants of over 100 varieties - nearly all in flower. It was amusing to watch



*Left:* Deb Evans and Sue White.  
*Below:* Bob West, Brian McWhae and Des Heffernan.  
*Middle Left:* Graham Wood cutting his 60th birthday cake.  
*Bottom:* John & Rebecca Day in foreground with Andrew and Sharon Clement.

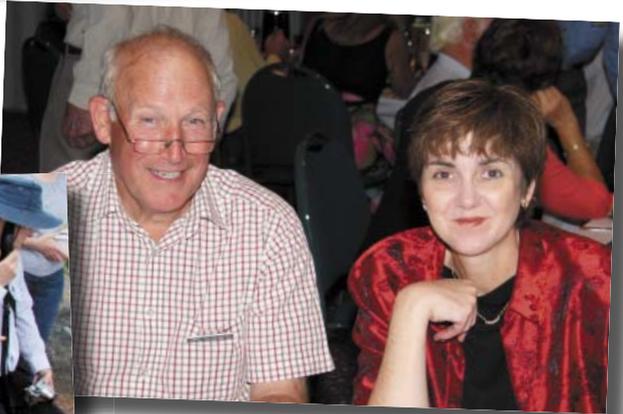




*Left:* Graham Wood, there I was in the Bonanza, 1,000s ft above the Airtourer... Bill Penell doesn't look convinced.

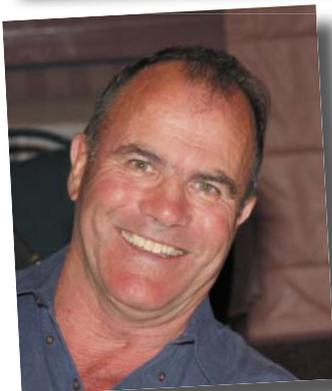
*Below:* Doug Dow and Lorraine Wood.

*Below:* Beryl, "That woman", Marshall telling Jon Pels where to go.



*Above:* A pair of blondes. "The Phantom" in a thin disguise with Sue White.

*Left:* David Hall





Glenn “The Phantom” Sturges (right) presenting the Millenium Award to Rick and Deb Evans.



President, John Treble and Vice President, Mike Fisher presenting Ray Heilman of the Cowra Aero Club with a plaque acknowledging their help during the weekend.

## Best Presented Airtourer Andrew and Sharon Clement VH-KGR



members happily sniffing each variety and locating their favourite. Next destination was a quick drive-by of the Lachlan River bridge pylons. These pylons were extensively decorated by local aboriginal artist Kym Freeman. We then visited the Italian frienship monument which recognises the Italian POW's and Internees in Cowra during WWII. Next stop was lunch and a decent stroll around Cowra's award-winning Japanese gardens. A tour of Cowra's POW camp followed. This particular camp mainly housed Japanese POW's and was the scene of Cowra's break-out in 1944. Naturally, the next stop was the Australian and Japanese War cemetery. A couple of hours galavanting around old train carriages and memorabilia at Cowra's "Fun Museum" was a novel diversion as was our ringing of the peace bell, (If Cowra hadn't yet heard the Airtourers were in town, now was the time to find out!).

After such a busy afternoon, a casual dinner at the bowling club was a welcome respite offering a chance to unwind. Dinner lasted as long as the bowling club would have us. The staff closing the bar and turning off the music was a subtle hint.

Monday morning at the airfield was, as always, crawling with members preparing their aircraft for departure. One by one, each Airtourer glistened as it set course for home.

Another successful AGM complete thanks to our organising committee John Treble, Neil Jensen, Mike Fisher and assorted helpers.

### Attendees

John & Doreen Treble	CRK
Murray & Andrea Wallace	CTK
Lee Gordon-Brown	JVV
Lindsay & Beryl Marshall	MRF
Stan & Bonnie Tilley	MTL
Gerry & Denise Pels	DWT
George Penfound	MWR
Graham & Lorraine Wood	MGM
Hugh & Maureen Knox	Car
Hector & Wendy Blemings	Car
Alan & Merle Wood	POB
Mike Fisher	BNV
Clin & Barbara Ashton-Martin	MYN
Pat Sheil	MWR
Jon Pels & Monique Gillett	LVU
Bob & Pat Peak	EQG
Sue White	Car
Doug Sott	Car
Andy & Jane Morris	FVV
Niel & Kathy Jensen	CND
Ian Donovan	MKL
Judy Riddel	Car
Des Heffernan & Brian McWhae	MVR
Lizzy Matthews	Car
Bill Pennell & Lorraine Howson	Car
Deb & Rick Evans	Car
David hall & Glenn Sturges	UQX
Doug Dow	BQK
Andrew & Sharon Clement	KGR
John & Rebecca Day	VRT
Frank & Jean Murray	Car
Bob West	MVA



Dear Hector,

Hearty congratulations on you receiving the inaugural, prestigious, 2010 Tony Matthews Convention Award.

This award was created for outstanding service by a member of the Airtourer Association over a period of time.

The name of the award also recognises life member Tony Matthews for his twenty-year contribution to the Airtourer Association.

For you to be considered by your peers to be a worthy winner of this award, is an award you shall always cherish.

You thoroughly deserve such an honour and I know you will display your award in a prominent place at home.

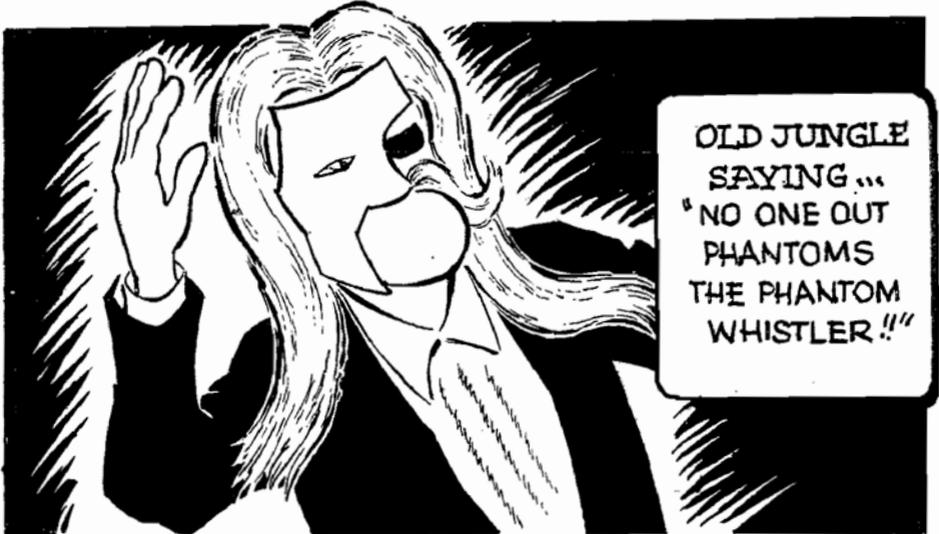
Yours sincerely,  
*John Treble (President)*

OH TO HAVE BEEN IN  
( AN ABSENT ARTIST WONDERS )

DID "THAT WOMAN" BEHAVE ?



AND WITH NEW COMPETITION ON THE HORIZON  
DID THE PHANTOM HAVE ANOTHER IDENTITY CRISIS ?

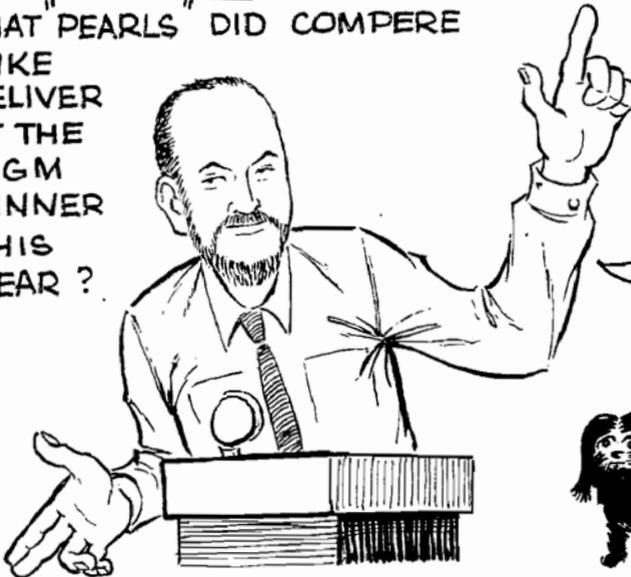


# COWRA

HOW DID ALAN AND STAN CHOOSE THE "BEST PRESENTED" FROM ALL THOSE PRISTINE AIRTOURERS ?



WHAT "PEARLS" DID COMPERE MIKE DELIVER AT THE A G M DINNER THIS YEAR ?



FRIENDS — AIRTOURERS COUNTRYMEN LEND ME YOUR EARS... TO BE OR NOT TO BE.. BERYL.. BERYL WHEREFORE ART THOU BERYL !!



GL

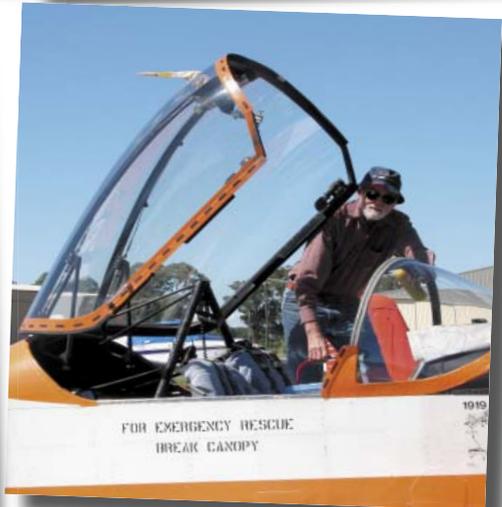
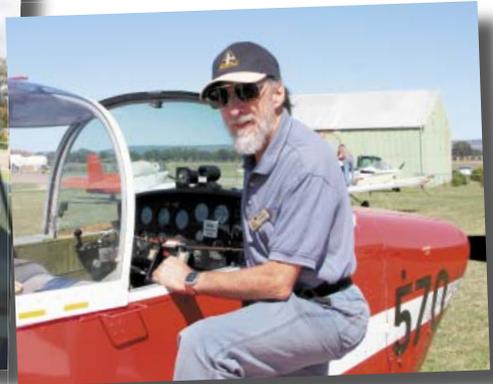


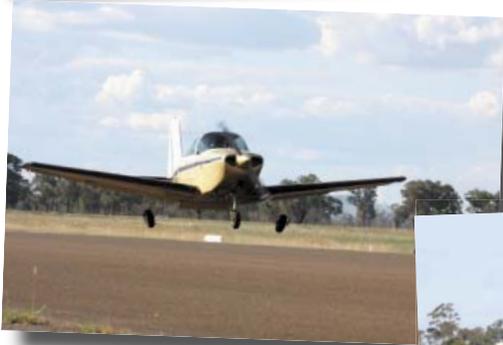
Clint Ashton-Martin's Avro Cadet proved popular, particularly with Deb Evans. (Middle Left)

*Middle Right:* Andy Morris,

*Below Left:* Ian Donovan,

*Below Right:* Murray Wallace.





*Top Left:* Pat Sheil (rt seat) with George Penfound in MWR.  
*Above:* Alan Wood landing POB after the formation.  
*Top Right:* Murray Wallace handling a crosswind in CT4 A19-40.



*Left:* New and the old. The newer CT4 leading Andy Morris in his T6, VH-FVV. The T6 was the last of the Airtourer Series.

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# Committee News

**Membership Fees.** Any proposal to increase the cost to members is sure to generate discussion. This was the case at the AGM. The meeting agreed to increase subscriptions to \$40 for the upcoming renewals. Mike Fisher has done some research and applied the annual CPI increase to the membership fee from the date when it was increased to \$30. The result was \$42.61 at Jun 09, which suggests that the current amount is about correct.

**New Committee Member.** A warm welcome to the Committee for Monique Gillett who answered the "Wanted" advertisement in the Newsletter. As a young, lady, professional pilot with a wealth of instructional background, Monique will provide a valuable new perspective to the Committee.

**Web Site.** A new website is progressing slowly with a target date of mid year. It has been a steep learning curve with it's fair share of backward steps. In the short term there have been minor updates to the current site. Unfortunately, this has involved learning another set of skills, which on one hand is very useful, but does take time. Building the new website is like building a kit plane with all the pieces pre cut and drilled, you just have to assemble and apply the details. Working on the old site is like building from plans, you have to know the basics. Nevertheless, these skills will be useful in the longer term.

**Email Addresses.** Email addresses are one of those frequently used pieces of information that do sometimes change, more so than traditional contacts such

as house addresses or phone numbers. If you do change your email address it is important to let us now, the easiest way is, of course, is via email.

**Badges.** Thank you for the timely response to the name badges order. Jan had them ready to distribute at Cowra but then was unable to attend. She currently plans to hold them until the President's Fly-In in September. If you know you will be unable to attend the President's Fly-In or would like badges prior to then, please drop Jan an email.

**Advertisements.** Traditionally the Association has charged for ads in the Newsletter. The Committee considers this should be a benefit of membership. Consequently, non commercial ads will be free for members. Please forward any ads to the editor at the email address listed at the front of the Newsletter.

**Audit.** The Association is not required by law to have the finances audited. Nevertheless, the Committee considers it prudent to have some independent oversight. Therefore an Association member, or group of members, independent of the Committee will be asked to audit the accounts and record their findings as a matter of record.

**AOPA Membership.** The AGM decided to continue to maintain membership of AOPA as an affiliated club. Members are reminded that this entitles them to a discount on individual AOPA membership.

**Four Day Fly-Ins.** The President has noted that Fly-Ins have effectively grown to be four day events, with organised activities spanning most of Saturday and

Sunday. He appreciates that not everyone can take Friday and Monday off and intends to reduce the Sunday activities at the next President's Fly-In so that those who have to leave do not miss out. He is interested to hear the members thoughts

on this.

**Feedback.** The day to day running of the Association is done by the Committee. If you have opinions on any of the foregoing, or any other relevant matters, please feel free to contact any Committee member.

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# Co-operative Board News

**Membership Renewals.** The AGM set the Co-operative membership to \$50 and renewals will be sent out shortly. The Association membership will be sent out the following month, please be aware that two payments may be required for members of both organisations.

Overseas members are faced with additional costs of currency conversion and international transfers. These costs are minimised in the UK by a single payment of both Association and Co-operative fees, which are subsequently split to both organisations. May we suggest that the NZ members consider the same arrangement. Auckland based member, Dave Brown, has agreed to be the focal for all NZ payments. Dave's contacts are in the Association's membership list.

## **Co-operative Service Bulletin No. 2.**

Lee Gordon-Brown has consolidated the list of SBs, both current and cancelled, and published them in SB002-1. This is available via a download link on the front page of the Association website.

**Co-operative Logo.** The Co-op has used various logos over the years. The Board considers it's time for an update and requests suggestions from members. Some considerations would include it being

suitable for colour and black and white printing, should be easily scalable, i.e. not too complex, and generally made of solid colours, not a photograph. Suggestions to Director Administration, John O'Halloran.

**Unusable Fuel.** In August 2003, Airtourer VH-MVP, suffered an engine failure after a touch and go landing with fatal results. Approximately 6.8L of fuel was removed from the tank after the accident and the ATSB found that, "the fuel pickup point in the tank was probably unported, interrupting the fuel flow to the engine thus causing it to lose power." As a result of the ATSB finding, CASA approached the Co-op regarding certification data. Lee Gordon-Brown was able to assist and discussions are ongoing regarding the amount of unusable fuel currently stated in the AFM.

MVP was originally an Airtourer 100 that had been modified with a 180HP engine. Neither the pilot nor the owner were members of the Co-operative or Association.

**AGM Minutes.** The minutes of the AGM, including the financial report will be published in the next Newsletter.

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## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Airtourer Association (Inc.) held at Cowra on 14th March 2010**

Present: Mr. John Treble President  
Mr. Mike Fisher Vice President (Minutes Sec)  
Mr. Gerry Pels Treasurer  
Mr. Alan Wood  
Mr. Niels Jensen  
and 37 members. (List attached as Annex A, not included in Newsletter)

Apologies: Mr. John O'Halloran Secretary  
Mrs. Jan O'Halloran  
18 members. (List attached as Annex A, not included in Newsletter)

The President opened the meeting at 0910 AM.

### **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were published in the May 2009 Association Newsletter. Moved Bob Peak, seconded Doug Stott, that the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.  
*Carried.*

### **Business Arising From The Minutes**

#### **Association Website.**

The meeting was asked for an indication of the number of members that used the website as their primary source of Association information. Nine members responded affirmative. This number was small and the Committee would continue their efforts to upgrade the website to keep it relevant and informative.

## **Reports**

### **President's Report**

John Treble presented Presidents Report which is attached at Annex B.

Proposed John Treble, seconded Bonnie Tilley that the President's report be accepted.  
*Carried.*

## **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Gerry Pels presented the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, included at Annex C.

Proposed Gerry Pels, seconded Liz Matthews that the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure be accepted and that any two Committee Members be authorised to make the necessary certifications as required by the Department of Fair Trading.

*Carried.*

## **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary passed his apologies to the meeting for not being able to attend but forwarded the report attached at Annex D which was read to the meeting by Mike Fisher. Proposed Mike Fisher, Seconded Doug Stott, that the Secretary's Report be accepted.

*Carried.*

## **General Business**

### **Convention 2011.**

The President advised the meeting that the next Convention and AGM would be held at Corryong, Victoria, over the weekend of 19 & 20th March 2011.

### **Membership Subscriptions.**

Previously, the membership at an AGM, directed the Committee to consider and make recommendations regarding the annual membership subscription. After careful consideration of current finances, costs and inflation the Committee recommended an increase of \$5 to \$40. After general discussion the following motion was put to the membership.

Proposed John Treble, seconded Hector Blemings that the annual membership subscription be set at \$40.

*Carried, one against.*

### **AOPA Subscription.**

The Association held AOPA membership as an affiliated club. There was general discussion on the benefits of this membership and whether it should continue. There were two main benefits, being discounted individual membership of AOPA, but more importantly, providing AOPA with support and credibility in it's advocacy activities for

general aviation. The meeting felt that membership should continue and no motion was presented to change the current arrangements. Therefore the Committee would renew the AOPA membership when it fell due in April 2010.

### **Committee Workload**

The meeting acknowledged the request for volunteers in the February Newsletter. Three members have offered their services and the Secretary would be following up these offers. It was noted that Jan and John O'Halloran managed the Newsletter, Secretary and membership duties for the Association as well as some Co-operative duties. It was felt that some of these tasks should be separated and the President would follow up with the Secretary. Stan Tilley moved a vote of thanks to the O'Halloran's for their contributions.

*Carried.*

### **Election of the New Committee**

The President declared all positions vacant. Mike Fisher reported that the number of nominations received was the same as the number of vacancies for the office holders as defined by the Rules but there was one additional nomination for the general committee members. After considering the Committee Workload item reported above the meeting agreed to add one additional member to the Committee. The new Committee was appointed as follows:

President	Mr. John Treble
Vice President	Mr. Mike Fisher
Treasurer	Mr. Gerry Pels
Secretary	Mr. John O'Halloran
	Mr. Alan Wood
	Mr. Niels Jensen
	Mrs. Jan O'Halloran
	Ms. Monique Gillett

### **Closure**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10:00 AM.

## **2010 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Fellow Members of the Airtourer Association, as stated in last years President's report there were challenges and changes during the previous two years which had been addressed successfully, but still some challenges remained for 2009/2010 which have now been finalised or nearing completion.

Noteable achievements during the year were: -

- (1) Bringing the presentation of the Balance Sheet into line with common practice. The Balance Sheet will be presented on an annual basis from the 1st of January to 31st December and to be published in the February Newsletter for members perusal prior to the AGM.
- (2) The Airtourer Association's Short Message Service, which is proving a winner, with improved up to date considered necessary communications.
- (3) The set-up of the Internet Banking facility of the Association has been a very welcome and successful addition.

Newsletters reported that we had well attended events during the year with our 31st Convention and Annual General Meeting at Wangaratta, the President's Fly-In at Yarrowonga, Victorian branch events included their June Dinner night and annual 2009 Christmas lunch Fly-In at Lilydale Airport, courtesy of Roger & Neroli Merridew.

I must make mention of the WANTED advertisement, on page 9, February Newsletter.

If there is someway you could volunteer and be willing to help with any of those requests, please apply and remember, it's the family Airtourer Association you're helping.

My thanks go to my fellow Committee and sub-Committee members and in particular the volunteers for their continued support and collective input throughout the year.

In closing, I would also like to thank the membership, for your continued support throughout the year and look forward to serving you in the future.

*John Treble*  
**President**



## **Airtourer Association AGM 2010 Secretary's Report**

Firstly my apologies for not being able to attend in person due to work commitments.

Correspondence during the year was of a routine nature, mostly associated with membership, and not requiring the attention of the AGM.

### **Membership**

Membership is currently at 149, mostly in Australia, with one each from Fiji and Hong Kong, three from New Zealand and 18 from the UK.

Managing the membership records is a major task for the Secretary, (and his secretary). Renewals time is always busy and we understand that it's easy for members to inadvertently overlook making the payment. The renewals are sent out around June with reminders in the August Newsletter. Finally, email reminders and sometimes phone calls pick up the last couple before the Membership List is published in November. Payment by internet banking has generally reduced the workload but occasionally the email notification to the Secretary and Treasurer goes astray and the renewal not recorded. Internet access to the Association account for the Secretary is being implemented and will help with the follow up.

In the past the Secretary has created problems for himself as a result of his work arrangements with copies of the membership database on computers in Hong Kong, Australia and a laptop. While his version control generally worked well, occasionally an out of date version was inadvertently used and current members did not receive Newsletters. This has been addressed by maintaining a single copy on Google Docs allowing access and updating by all Committee Members.

### **Association Website.**

The Association website was set-up and managed by Doug Stott with the assistance of a friend who looked after the technical aspects. The friend was not a member, helped voluntarily, but is no longer able to assist.

The Secretary has therefore been teaching himself about websites and is in the process of developing a new site. This is still under development but should be published by mid year. It is envisaged that the site will be frequently updated and be the first point of contact for members seeking information on Association activities. The Association would like to use email as a means of passing on information quickly but historically at least 10% of emails are undeliverable. It is therefore important for members to keep the email address up to date.

*John O'Halloran*  
**Secretary**

## Heard at the Hangar Door

Congratulations to **Fee Galvin and John Sheehan** on the birth of their daughter Cindy Ann on 24th March. Mother and child doing well, John's still adjusting. Look out Des, they'll be wanting to borrow the Aircruiser to get to fly-ins now.

Congratulations also to **Monique Gillett** on being offered a job flying Bombardier Dash 8s with QantasLink. Ground school starts in June but she's not sure where she will be based. Obviously Monique's hoping for Melbourne.

**Andrew and Sharon Clement** made it into their local paper the Tatura Guardian with an article and picture about their winning the Best Presented Airtourer award at the convention.

The editor has had a couple of chats recently with **Cliff Tait**, courtesy of Skype. He keeps his flying skills honed with the help of Microsoft Flight Simulator. Last November we reported that a model of Cliff's Airtourer "Miss Jacy" was being developed. It has now been released in Microsoft Flight Simulator 2004 format and is downloadable from [www.flightofthekiwi.co.nz](http://www.flightofthekiwi.co.nz). The model depicts "Miss Jacy" as she was for the around the world flight, complete with Cliff wearing a yellow life jacket, fuel tank in the passenger seat and HF aerial trailing cone protruding under the aircraft. Cliff's first book "Flight of the Kiwi" can also be found at the same site and is also downloadable for free.





## SHERIFF OF LOCKINGTON COWRA FINES.

The Sheriff did her usual with a donation to the RFDS of \$130-00, so a big thank you to all those who willingly (and begrudgingly) paid their fines. Perhaps those who didn't get to the AGM, or avoided paying, should cough up when they next meet the lady with the star badge. Most of those fined are those who regularly get caught for doing something, good or bad. Some of the naughty ones fined were: Sue for still having a body like she does, and sitting in the beautiful Brumby registered LSA - Does that stand for "Lockington's Sheriff's Aircraft"? so Beryl should have had the privilege. Bob West got into trouble for not bringing his son David with him to keep him in control. David Hall for bringing the Phantom, and the latter fined along with Gerry Pels for littering the restaurant with "Phantom Boomerangs". Graham Wood - holding an illegal weapon when cutting his birthday cake, and not looking like he's nearly 60. And the best was Deb Evans for winning the 100 yard dash fighting everyone else off for a flight in the Avro.

### **Victorian End of Year Event 4-5 Dec 2010 A SHORT WEEKEND IN THE SPA COUNTRY**

#### **Sat**

- Fly in to Kyneton Airfield where a light lunch will be available. After which we will travel by bus for a short tour of some Kyneton highlights, including Simpson Street where some of the town's grandest properties are to be seen.
- Then it's on to the town of Trentham for a visit to the Red Beard Bakery for coffee and a walk around town as the mood takes you.
- Our destination is Kattemingga "a special secluded place in the heart of the spa country" and it will be special because we are taking over for the night!
- The maximum number that can be accommodated is 30, so there will be an upper limit on numbers, a good reason to book for this event early.

#### **Sun**

- After breakfast we will visit the Kattemingga film set before heading off to Daylesford to visit the markets this resort town is famous for.
- Sunday lunch can be a relaxed affair but not too relaxed, the weekend is almost over just as we are all getting into the swing of things. It's time to find the bus and return to Kyneton airfield.

A full programme and pricing will be published later in the year.

# Calendar of Events

## **Moruya Aero Club Open Day 9th May 2010**

Currently there will be Des's Aircruiser, an Airtourer and CT4  
but more are required.

## **2010 Victorian mid-year Dinner Night**

Annual Dinner Night at the Old England Hotel Heidelberg,  
13th June.

If attending call Wendy Blemings on (03) 9859 5793 by 10th June.

## **2010 President's Fly-In**

The President's Fly-In to be held at Yarrawonga,  
17th, 18th, 19th of September.

Registrations to be sent out with membership renewals in June.

## **2010 Victorian Branch Christmas Fly-In Weekend**

An overnight event with the location being the "Kyneton & Spa Country"  
to be held on the 4th and 5th of December, 2010.

See page 23 for more information.

## **2011 Convention and 33rd Annual General Meeting**

2011 Convention and 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Airtourer Association.

Corryong Victoria,  
18th, 19th, 20th March.

### **Welcome**

**John and Margie Walton** of Mornington, Victoria, who have purchased Airtourer 115 VH-SHR from David Ryan. Margie is learning to fly and hopes to meet us all at the President's Fly-In, subject to John's work committments.