

August 2014
Newsletter No. 151

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	Editor@Airtourer.asn.au

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 November 2014. Contributions and or advertisements are to be with JOH by 15 October 2014.

Advertisements are free for current members.

Editorial

This time of year may be quiet for most members after the Convention and before the President's Fly-in. However, for the Committee it remains a busy time, in particular the Secretary is kept busy with membership renewals. This year we decided to send out an email notification prior to this newsletter which in turn will ease the work load in adding the renewal invoices to the newsletter. The response was great with about half of the renewals already paid.

Once again we had to say a sad farewell to a long time member, Hector Blemings. Our thoughts go out to Wendy and the family.

I see the program for the President's Fly-in includes the Echuca Aero Club flying activities on Sunday. Please seriously consider offering a flight to either locals who may not have flown an Airtourer or our members who couldn't fly in but made the effort to drive.

Safe Airtouring,
John O'Halloran

Cover Photo: A piece of Airtourer history. Almost exactly 30 years before this issue was published a group of Airtourers flew across the Simpson Desert. The cover photo shows the line-up after arrival at Alice Springs. Photo courtesy of John Treble. (See also page 11.)

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT No. 6



Last week I had the sad duty to represent the Association at a Celebration of Life for member Hector Blemings. It was pleasing to see members making a particular effort to attend as a mark of respect to Hector and to support Wendy.

Stan and Bonny Tilley flew from Hobart, John Day and Lee Gordon-Brown both looked magnificent wearing their RAAF uniforms which, given Hector's war service in the RAAF, had great meaning. Jan O'Halloran, Stuart Hilsberg and Doug Stott travelled from Brisbane. John Pels, Andy and Jane Morris and I were the locals.

On happier subjects I would like to thank all the many members who have taken the time to complete the Members Survey. The information provided will give us the chance to access just how well our Association activities are conducted and provide some future direction. Suggestions regarding future event locations are very thought provoking which is just the sort of challenge we need to continue driving the Association forward. The disclaimer that past performance is no indication of future returns applies well. A full summary of results will be published for all to see.

Commencing this month flying became cheaper for all of us. The end of the carbon tax, which for us was actually a fuel excise, will reduce the pump price of avgas by 8.869 cents per litre. Given that most fuel suppliers stated publicly on their web sites that fuel was going up because of the carbon tax, they had better make sure it goes down without the carbon tax. I would encourage everyone to contact the ACCC if they feel they are being over charged.

The Programme of Events continues to develop with our next gathering at Echuca for the 2014 President's Fly-In. Members of your Events Committee visited Echuca earlier in the year and were greatly assisted by local member David Wearne in laying out the programme for the weekend. In fact John Day has done so much work on this programme we should consider calling this one the "Vice-Presidents Fly-In".

I look forward to seeing you all at Echuca.

Vale Hector Blemings



The Airtourer community lost another one of its familiar faces with the recent passing of Hector Blemings.

Hector was born in Belfast in 1925 but moved to Australia in 1927. Settling in Sydney he grew up during the difficult times of the depression. Not enjoying school Hector left at the age of 14 ½ to try for an apprenticeship with an engineering company. In those days he had to complete a three month course without pay in an attempt to qualify for being accepted. Despite being the youngest, he was one of the successful 18 out of the group of 25. After his third year he felt that he was not being given the opportunity to progress, most likely because of his age. In particular he wanted to start working on the lathes. His request for a change of work and the opportunity to learn something was greeted with an admonition to “get back to work!”

WW II was not going well with the Japanese attacking the Australian mainland including Sydney Harbour. Apprentices were a protected occupation so he applied to the RAAF listing his occupation as ‘Dairy Farmer’ and increasing age with the cover story that his birth certificate was in Belfast and not practical to obtain. The RAAF of course were happy to take him.

His mother eventually found out and wrote to the RAAF. By this time he had undergone training and not wanting to ‘waste’ this training they solved the problem by posting Hector to New Guinea where he served as a radar operator for two years.

After the war he had no intention of returning to the engineering apprenticeship but rather went to radio school. Being a left hander he was forced to send Morse using his right hand which, “..mucked up my rhythm and I have never considered I could send good Morse”, he commented.

Shortly after the war he married Barbara, his first wife. Tragedy struck early in the

marriage when their second daughter Bronwyn died of cancer as a young child. Aiming for a new start the young Blemings family moved to Melbourne where they opened a health food shop and delicatessen. The business thrived with Blemings Fine Foods opening a number of stores around Melbourne.

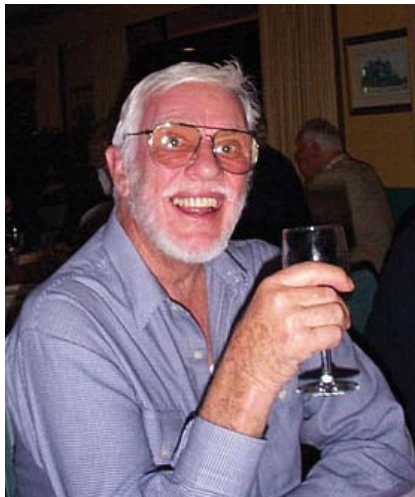
Hector's first encounter with flying was a joyride from Mascot as a child with Bert Ritchie, who went on to run QANTAS. During his time in the RAAF he worked towards becoming aircrew, completing courses to make up for his early departure from school. He also took every opportunity to fly the Link Trainer. After the war Hector, with others, re-formed the Southern Cross Gliding Club where they built a Granau Baby. He continued after the move to Melbourne with the Victorian Motorless Flying Group.

His introduction to Airtourers was a half share in RSI. Subsequently he owned several Airtourers finishing up with CT4 Airtrainer A19-73. One of the later group to be purchased by the RAAF it was in excellent condition. Hector was always generous in sharing the joy of his CT4 by offering flights to our members at our flyins.

Hector and Wendy met in 1978 and were married in 1980. She has supported him with his flying and business activities and is an active supporter of the Association.

Hector served the Airtourer community as a Board member of the Airtourer Co-operative for a number of terms where his business experience provided a valuable contribution.

Although declining health forced Hector to sell '73, he and Wendy remained regulars at our fly-ins. We'll miss his easy broad smiles and our thoughts go to Wendy and the family during this difficult time.



Checking and Updating Your Membership Details via the Website

Have you ever wanted to update your email address or any other details, check if you've paid your subs, or change your username or password for the Association?

All of these tasks can be done by individual members once they have logged into the website. This article will show you what information is available and what you can change.

Firstly, you need to be able to login to the website. If you've forgotten your username and/or your password then all you need to know is the email address registered on the website. The "Forgot Login?" link on the home page will guide you through how to retrieve your username and reset a new password.

Once you have logged in, the Main Menu will have additional links as shown below in Fig. 1.

The new menu item we're interested in is the "My User Profile" which will bring up a page similar to Fig. 2.

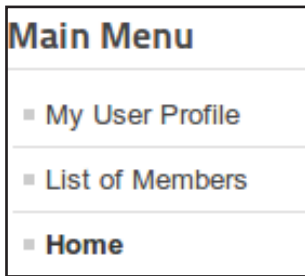


Fig. 1: Main Menu after logging in.

Initially, this page will only allow you to view information. It includes a number of tabs that contain various types of data. The default one is the contact information. The rest of them are generally self explanatory. The tabs for previous years renewals are kept for records purposes. The membership tab shows the current state of your membership, how it was paid, how the amount was broken down to the Association and the Co-op and who entered the data. If it's blank then you are not current! If you think you have paid and it hasn't been entered

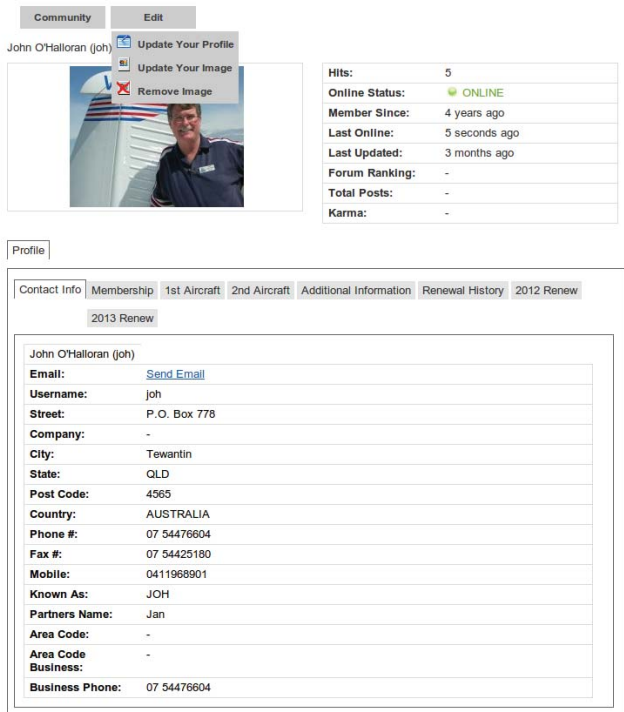


Fig. 2: My User Profile. Certain fields can be updated by following the Edit>Update Your Profile link.

send an email to membership@airtourer.asn.au so the Secretary can check up.

While you can see all the information we keep there's also some of it that you can change or update. By placing the cursor over the EDIT tab at the very top, a drop down will appear with two update options, one for the profile and one for your image. The Update Your Image selection will bring up the page shown in Fig. 3 and allows you to either select one of the stock images or upload a photo yourself.

Fig.3: Update Your Image selection

Obviously we would like to see a photo of yourself, with your aircraft if you have one. The image, when displayed, will be resized to a maximum of 200 x 500 pixels, however you can upload a larger file but not exceeding 2Mb in size.

The Edit>Update Your Profile tab brings up a page similar to Fig. 2 but will allow you to edit some of the fields. There will be some additional fields under the Contact Info tag such as Backend Template Style, Language and Editor. Ignore these as the related features are not enabled on our website. If in doubt, leave a setting in Default or don't change it.

The phone number fields include

two for Area Codes (near the bottom of the page). These should be blank and are a hangover from the previous database system where the area codes were recorded separately. The area code now should be included with the phone number.

If you wish to update the email address there are a few considerations. Most importantly, the database uses the email address to uniquely identify a member. Therefore the email must be unique, and you will receive an error message if an email

already in use by another member is entered. There are a number of families with more than one member but only one email address. In these cases, and for members who don't have email, a dummy email address is used. This is usually in the form of@invalid.com.

The User Name and Password fields can be changed to something easier to remember. There are password rules, at least 6 characters, no spaces etc., but the page will let you know if your password does not meet it's rules.

A note about passwords. The Association does not keep a copy of your password and therefore cannot send it to you if you forget. To do so indicates weak security and you should be wary of any site or organisation that can send you the forgotten password. The only secure way of replacing a forgotten password is to have it reset to a new one.

The other tabs where the user can edit information are the 1st and 2nd Aircraft tabs as well as the Additional Info

Title:	Mr.	
Known As:	JOH	
Partners Name:	Jan	
Area Code:		
Area Code Business:		
Business Phone:	07 54476604	

Required field | Field visible on your profile | Field not visible on profile

Fig. 4: The Update button to have all your changes uploaded and saved to the website.

tab. While the other tabs, in particular, Membership, can be viewed only certain Committee Members have the privileges to edit. The fields will be displayed but greyed

out and not editable.

Once the necessary fields have been changed it must be saved to the website by selecting the Update button on the lower left corner of the page as shown in Fig. 4. However, we now run into something that could be seen as either a nuisance or a security feature. The password must be entered twice for ALL updates, even if the password itself was not changed. The current password will have been automatically entered in the first Password box but you'll still have to manually enter it into the second box. If you don't it will tell you.

Now you can keep us all up to date, with a nice picture.

Victorian Winter Gathering



The Victorian winter gathering, with President Mike Fisher taking centre stage, at Jon and Mon's house on Riddells Creek Airfield.

Airtourer Cooperative News

Control Surface Skins. The Cooperative has been looking for some time for a supplier of replacement skins for the flap and aileron. There are currently no new skins in stock and we rely on repair of existing skins.

The control surface skins on the Airtourer obtain significant strength from the fluting that is stamped into them at manufacture. Unfortunately, the process of stamping the fluting generates some challenges.

The Cooperative is investigating having CT4 surfaces approved for Airtourer use. This in turn presents additional challenges. The current CT4 material is weaker than the originally specified Airtourer or CT4 material. (Both were different). The change was made due to cracking of the fluted areas during manufacture. Since the material is weaker a structural analysis is required, hopefully using the original Pacific Aerospace as well as Airtourer data. If this data is not available or sufficient then structural testing such as sandbag testing may be required.

Another consideration is flutter. The aileron is a balanced surface and a flutter analysis is required to approve the new material.

All this work requires engaging the services of qualified professionals with the associated cost.

Upgrade to 150 HP Engines. A member is currently having a number of problems having his modification to 150HP approved by CASA.

We all know that a number of 100 and 115 Airtourers have been modified to take the larger engine. In the historical

Australian context this was done usually under the authority of an Engineering Order (EO) raised by an engineer approved under CAR35. As you would know, CASA has been running various regulatory reform programs since the Dick Smith days, with varying levels of success. One impact has been CAR35 being replaced by Part 21 based on the EASA system. Unfortunately this has resulted in a reduction of privileges for the engineers approved under CAR35. Most of them are now limited to Part 21(M) which is limited to approval of repairs in maintenance. Changes such as upgrading to a 150 HP engine are assessed by CASA as a change to the Type Design and requires a Supplementary Type Certificate (STC). An STC is VERY expensive!

Most of the previous modifications done under an EO used AESL Service Bulletin 006 as substantiation. SB006 is owned by the Cooperative and prima facie should be acceptable to CASA, however there are some problems.

The Cooperative is looking at the option of amending the SB to make it acceptable to CASA but, similar to the control surface skin problem, this will incur cost.

Cooperative Rules. At the last AGM the Chairman advised of a national change to Cooperative rules. In general, this appears to be advantageous to the Airtourer Cooperative but may require an amendment to the current rules. A set of model rules has been published and we need to cross check them with our current rules for compliance with the new regulations. The Dept. of Fair Trading has given a grace period up to March 2015 for Cooperatives to change their rules at no cost.

The Board is asking for volunteers to conduct this review and make recommendations on changes.

Directors Insurance. The issue of Directors insurance has been a thorn in the side of the Cooperative for a number of years. The Association reported a change in their liability insurance at the last AGM

however the Cooperative requirements are different. One thing that has become apparent is that the advice of the brokers is not always aligned with the common interpretation of the policy wording. This issue remains open.

For Sale

Victa Airtourer VH-RSJ (S/N 124)
\$45,000



TTIS 7685 hr, Engine 160HP Lycoming O-320-D1A, 1481 hr TSO (on condition),
Propeller CSU Hartzell HC-C2YL-1BF 40 hr TSO

Next Annual due 19 Feb 15 or 7762 hrs.

Current owner 5 years and hangared at Gympie (YGYM). Cowl, pitot and canopy covers included.

Aircraft has approved modification of metal main and AUX tank giving 160 litres total fuel.

TAS 120kts at 24"/2400 & 38 lt/hr

VFR Panel

Narco COM120, Narco XPDR AT150, Narco Encoder AR850, Intercom SPA403

Phone: 0419 784 715

Simpson Desert Crossing

John Treble reminded us of a little Airtourer Association nostalgia.

Almost 30 years ago, (3rd of August 1984), we left our homes from every State in Australia, flying to meet up at Broken Hill to begin our planned historic 7 day Safari, featuring the crossing of the Simpson Desert from Birdsville to Alice Springs.

A total of 36 people, (members, wives, partners and mates), made the journey in 18 Aircraft comprising five 100's, eight 115's, four Super 150's and the Aircruiser.

Fast forward 30 years and I'm occasionally reminded by fellow flyers of that journey, especially that it was about the best and happiest flying adventure they have ever experienced.

Of those 36 members and wives etc., 15 remain as members of the Airtourer Association.

Editors Note: The adventure was reported in Newsletter 29 which is available for download from the website. I am aware that there were some movies made, does anyone have a copy? John Treble has provided some photos, including the cover page but what other photos are available. It might be appropriate to update the NL 29 report as a website article.

Australia's First Airmail

A re-enactment of Australia's first airmail flight was conducted in early July between Essendon and Bankstown. The aircraft conducting the re-enactment included a CT4 flown by Association member Michele Schiffer.

Oshkosh!

Every pilot dreams of attend the greatest general aviation gathering in the world, Oshkosh. Some, like Doug Stott and Stuart Hilsberg, (lower left photo), seem to make it a habit.

There's the chance of meeting all types of interesting people as John Day is seen having a chat with test pilot and air show legend Bob Hoover (lower right photo.)



President's Fly-In Echuca, Victoria

20-21 September 2014

This year's President's Fly In will be held in the historic town of Echuca. Founded in 1850 as Hopwood's Ferry, the name of the ex-convict settler who established a punt service across the Murray River, the settlement was re-named Echuca in 1855. 1853 saw the arrival of the first paddle steamer on this part of the river and the town grew to become Australia's largest inland port. Echuca is located at the closest point on the Murray to Melbourne so the two were linked by a railway in 1864. This allowed wool from properties along the Murray, Goulburn and Campaspe Rivers to be sent south for eventual shipment overseas. A dozen red gum mills in the area processing over 1000 logs per week met the local demand for timber to build boats, railway sleepers and buildings. More recent growth and development of the town has fortunately left the Port area well preserved and it is now a declared historic precinct.

The organised part of this year's event will be held on a Saturday and Sunday but there is nothing to stop you arriving earlier or departing later. There is plenty to do and see in and around town. Members of your Events Committee visited Echuca earlier in the year and were greatly assisted by local member David Wearne. We inspected several local motels and recommend bookings at one of the three noted below. These three are all of a good standard with a range of prices to suit any budget. All three suggested motels are in close proximity to each other and the dinner venue. They are also a short stroll to cafes, bars, shops and the Port area. This is a very busy time of the year so none of the motels were willing to hold a group booking. They have plenty of rooms available but anticipate filling up.

Please note that this weekend is the beginning of VIC/NSW school holidays so the earlier you book the better the rate you will get.

- **Mercure Echuca:** Probably the best in town with many room options. Rates starting at \$135
- **Settlement Motor Inn:** Nice country motel with rooms starting at \$125
- **Nirebo Motel:** A variety of rooms from \$89.25 if you book at least 30 days in advance and mention Airtourer Association.

President's Fly-In Program

20-21 September 2014

Saturday

- 1200 Onwards: Plan your arrival to be in time for a BBQ at the Echuca Aero Club (EAC) at 1300. Parking will be near the EAC and AVGAS is available using Visa/MasterCard at the self-serve facility.
- 1400: Short workshop on CASA Registration List and AFMs. Bring your AFMs!
- 1500: The bus departs for the Great Aussie Beer Shed, which is located near the airport. This is a great display of Australian agricultural machinery, beer memorabilia and of course you can have a drink. Admission includes access to all the exhibits, a tour, souvenir stubby holder and your first drink!
- 1700: The bus departs for the motels. All three suggested motels are in close proximity to each other and the dinner venue. They are also a short stroll to cafes, bars, shops and the Port area.
- 1845: Bus pick up for dinner for those that would like a ride or, alternatively, it is a short stroll to our dinner venue.
- 1900: Dinner at the Echuca Workers and Services Club in our own private dining and bar area. Please note, if you would like a ride home a Courtesy Bus is provided by the Club. (Neils gets the night off).

Sunday

- 0930: Bus pick up for one hour cruise on the PS Pevensey or you may choose to meet at the wharf after finding your own way there via breakfast at one of the numerous eateries nearby.
Check out of the motel and bring your gear, the bus will not be returning to the motels.
There is a lot to see in the Port area including the Port of Echuca Discovery Centre for those who wish to get there early. It opens at 0900.
- 1015: PS Pevensey departs.
- 1200: Bus departs for the airport. Lunch will be a roast provided by the EAC at 1230. Club flying activities are conducted between 1000 and 1430 so join in and enjoy.
- 1430 Onwards: Depart at your leisure or stay an extra night.

Monday

For those that want to stay an extra night there are lots of things to do in the area but there are no organised activities.

President's Fly-In 2014

Registration Form

20 – 21 September 2014

Note: This form can be printed from the Association website or filled in on-line. (This saves Gerry retyping everything!)

Accommodation has been arranged and if you are planning to attend this event and to avoid disappointment it is recommended you secure your accommodation ASAP due to the start of school holidays on the same weekend.

- **Mercure Port of Echuca,**
465 High St Echuca 3564
Phone (03) 5482 5666
Email: info@portofechucamotel.com.au
Rates start at \$125 per night
- **Comfort Inn Settlement,**
405 High St Echuca 3564
Phone (03) 54824777.
Email: mail@settlementmotorinn.com
Rates start at \$125 per night
- **Nirebo Motel,** 251 Hare St Echuca 3564
Phone (03) 5482 2033
Email: info@nirebo.com.au Rates start at \$90 per night

Captain and Passenger name:.....VH-.....

Accommodation details:.....

If attending all functions the total cost will be \$130.00 per person, which includes Bus Transport. For catering and venue requirements, complete the following details indicating Yes or No.

Will you be attending

- | | |
|---|--------|
| BBQ lunch Saturday Echuca Aero Club? | Yes/No |
| 'Great Aussie Beer Shed', Saturday afternoon? | Yes/No |
| Saturday dinner Echuca Services Club? | Yes/No |
| Sunday River Cruise? | Yes/No |
| Sunday Roast Lunch Echuca Aero Club? | Yes/No |

\$50 deposit per person.

Number of persons.....X \$50 = \$.....

Are you paying by Internet. Yes/No

There are two options on how to pay your deposit:-

- (1) By the 5th September, send this completed Registration form with deposit cheque payable to the Airtourer Association. Post to:-

Gerry Pels,
84 Santa Rosa Boulevard
East Doncaster, 3109

- (2) Pay deposit by Electronic Funds Transfer.
Bank account details:
Airtourer Association,
BSB No. 033-028, Account No. 460085. Quote Name.

Post your completed Registration form to above address or via email:

treasurer@airtourer.asn.au

OR

Fill out the online registration form on the Association website.

Registration form and deposit to be forwarded by 5th September. After this date the return of your deposit cannot be guaranteed.

Calendar of Events

President's Fly-In
Echuca, Victoria
20-21 September 2014

A weekend of fun, flying, a little bit of education and a visit to the Great Aussie Beer Shed. All the details on the website and in this Newsletter.

Victorian End of Year Gathering
Milawa
6th & 7th December 2014

This year's End of Year Gathering was going to be held a little earlier than usual to avoid the Christmas rush. Unfortunately accommodation was a problem on the planned weekend so please take note of the new dates. It will be held over the 6th & 7th December at Milawa but watch the website for updates.

2015 Convention and AGM
20th & 21st March 2015
Orange / Bathurst area. Watch the website for details.

Welcome

Roddy Smith from South Bragar in the Isle of Lewis off the north west of Scotland. Roddy is the new owner of Airtourer 115 G-AZOE.

Dean Beverley from Auckland, NZ who is a member of the syndicate operating Airtourer T6, ZK-CPG. Dean flies Airbuses for Cathay as his night job.

Dr. Marcus Skinner from Hobart who is the new owner of Airtourer 150 EQA.

Membership Renewal

It's membership renewal time again. At the recent AGMs, the membership set the renewals for both organisations at \$50.

An email was sent about a month ago advising the renewals were due. Thank you to those who were happy to renew on this informal advice. For those who prefer a more formal notice there should be a renewal invoice included with this newsletter.

If paying by Internet banking please ensure that the latest account is used. The old account has been closed and any memorised transactions will fail. The correct account is listed on the invoice. (Also on the previous page). Also email membership@airtourer.asn.au so we can keep track of the payments.