

WHAT'S NEWS

at Gippsland Aeronautics

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AIRVAN 100 ROLLED OUT



The Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services The Hon Warren Truss MHR officially rolled out Gippsland Aeronautics GA8 Airvan Number 100 at a ceremony held at Latrobe Regional Airport on Wednesday August 23.

The completion of 100 Airvans is considered to be a significant milestone in Australian aircraft manufacturing, as it is understood that only two other manufacturers of civil aircraft have built more than 100 aircraft in the post WWII era; the others being Victa with 168 Airtourer 100 and 115 aircraft and the Government Aircraft Factory with 170 Nomad N22 and N24s.

Gippsland Aeronautics has manufactured 150 aircraft over their two designs being made up of the 100 Airvans and 45 GA200 agricultural delivery aircraft and 5 of the developmental version of the GA200.

In his address Minister Truss congratulated Gippsland Aeronautics on its achievement and acknowledged that it is no mean feat to have built 100 Airvans and exported many of these aircraft to locations across the globe.



Top, Airvan 100 wearing the flags of Airvan countries. Above, from the left, Gary Wight Chairman Gippsland Aeronautics, Peter Furlong Co Founding Director Gippsland Aeronautics, the Hon Warren Truss MP Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Mr George Morgan Co Founding Director Gippsland Aeronautics, Mr Mark Burgin Director and Chief Finance Officer Gippsland Aeronautics and Mr Bill White Director Gippsland Aeronautics.

MAF TAKE DELIVERY OF AIRVAN 100

Following the unveiling of Airvan 100 Mr. Gary Wight, Chairman Gippsland Aeronautics, announced that the aircraft had been purchased by Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) Australia for service in Papua New Guinea and presented the keys to Mr Russell Stebbins, Chairman of MAF.

In accepting the keys Mr Stebbins said, "The GA8 Airvan is ideally suited to the flying conditions experienced by MAF in the places we work. Thank you for the quality that is evident in this aircraft."

MAF Australia is a member of an MAF International, a consortium of independent MAF groups working in cooperation. Worldwide MAF employs around 1000 people, operates a fleet of 136 aircraft, makes approximately 87000 flights a year, and serves more destinations than any airline. On average, somewhere in the world, a MAF aircraft is taking off or landing every 3 minutes.



From the left, Mr. Bill Harding MAF CEO, Mr. Gary Wight Chairman Gippsland Aeronautics, Mr. Russell Stebbins MAF Chairman and Mr. Mike Jelliffe Manager MAF PNG.

MAF Australia, which operates in Northern Australia, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and Indonesia, has a fleet of 34 aircraft including ten Airvans. Seven of these are in Australia's Arnhem Land, one in Indonesia and, with the arrival of Airvan 100, there will be two in Papua New Guinea.

DIRECTOR'S *cut*



In this issue of our newsletter I am pleased to report on a number of significant advances for Gippsland Aeronautics. First of these has been the issue of a Type Certificate for the Airvan by the European Aviation Safety Agency and subsequent delivery of a number of Airvans to European operators. The Airvan is now certificated by the National Aviation Authorities of the majority of the western world aviation countries opening up new opportunities for the Airvan.

On the home front our new state of the art surface-finishing centre has recently been commissioned. While the company has been achieving excellent surface finishing results, the previous facilities were creating something of a bottleneck in our production process. Monarch Industries of South Australia, leaders in spray booth technology with particular expertise in aircraft painting, have carried out the new installation.

A satisfying event for the Company was the award of the Governor of Victoria Export Awards Regional Exporter category for the second consecutive year. The Award was presented by, the then Governor of Victoria, John Landy, and the Victorian State Government Minister for Manufacturing and Export, The Hon Andre Haermeyer MP.

Product development projects continue to absorb a great deal of our time and expertise. The first flight of the definitive Turbocharged Airvan prototype was a major step forward in this area. With many other development projects coming to the certification stage we will have a lot to report in the near future.

The recent Rollout of Airvan serial number 100 was a rewarding moment for all associated with the company. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the development and successful marketing of the GA8, particularly our talented and hard working staff, our suppliers and contractors and the officers of the various aviation authorities through-out the world. I would especially like to thank our customers for their continued interest in the Airvan and for their all-important orders that make it possible to bring this exciting aircraft to the world market.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Peter Furlong in black ink.

Peter Furlong
Director

Airvans in Europe



Gippsland Aeronautics received European Aviation Safety Agency certification for the GA 8 Airvan in August 2005.

EASA certification of the Airvan has proved to be an important achievement for the company as it has opened the door for sales of the rugged eight-seat utility aircraft into a number of European Union countries.

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), based in Cologne, was set up by the EU in 2003 to promote the highest common standards of safety and environmental protection in civil aviation. The Agency's main tasks include the certification of aircraft and equipment as well as the approval of design, production and maintenance organisations. EASA drafts common rules and procedures in the area of aviation safety and provides technical expertise to the EU and its partners.

There are now six Airvans flying on European registration. One is with Ostfriesische Luft Transport (OLT), which operates an extensive public air transport network throughout Europe, is based at Emden Germany. The OLT Airvan was the first of type to enter commercial passenger and freight operations in Europe and will service the Friesian Islands off the northern coast of Germany.

Four Airvans are based in the UK. One of these is the Demonstrator aircraft while the other three are used by skydiving operators. The Boogie Club, based in Surrey, operates two and the other one is with the Sunderland Parachuting Centre at Durham.

Further aircraft are on their way to the UK.

A Dutch operator KammAir has recently taken delivery of an Airvan for commercial work at Rotterdam. See Recent Deliveries article.

The seventh "European" Airvan is on the French register, but is based in New Caledonia in French Oceania in the Pacific Ocean.

Gippsland Aeronautics is represented in the UK and Europe by Neil Plumb. Neil will conduct Airvan flight demonstrations in the company demonstrator aircraft, which is based at Cranfield Airport in Bedfordshire in the UK, and will also provide product support services.

Neil can be contacted by phone on +44 (0) 1908 270 911, fax on +44 (0) 7881 623 459 or by Email at neil@fly-unlimited.com

Above, the first Airvan to enter commercial service in Europe.



TECHNICALLY *speaking*



First flight for Turbocharged Airvan

Certification of a turbocharged version of the Airvan has moved a step forward as the prototype aircraft has commenced flight testing. Initial performance figures are very encouraging. The chosen engine is the Lycoming TIO 540 AH1A engine, which is a turbocharged version of the currently installed normally aspirated engine.



Airvan Africa's demonstrator Airvan was used in the making of the forthcoming one billion US dollar budget movie "Blood Diamond", which stars Leonardo DiCaprio.

The film is set against the backdrop of civil war and chaos in 1990's Sierra Leone, Blood Diamond is the story of a South African mercenary and a Mende fisherman. Both men are African, but their histories are as different as any can be, until their fates become joined in a common quest to recover a rare pink diamond that can transform their lives. A release date for the film has not yet been announced.

RECENT AIRVAN DELIVERIES



Kammair of Rotterdam has recently taken delivery of Airvan PH-KMR "Jan Peters". This is the first Airvan to enter service in Dutch skies and will be commercially exploited for scenic flights, daytrips, freights skydiving and photo flights.

The outstanding Kammair paint scheme was inspired by the KLM scheme from the 1920-1930s and is a retro version of the scheme used by KLM on Fokker Aircraft in that period. "Jan Peters" was named at a special reception at the Vliegclub Rotterdam, in mid October.

AIRVAN IN SOUTH AMERICA

Gippsland Aeronautics displayed an Airvan at the FIDAE 2006 International Air and Space Fair at Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport in Santiago Chile in March/April.

The appearance of the Airvan at FIDAE, which is recognised as the premier Aerospace and Defence trade show in Latin America, was part of an extensive demonstration tour of South America.

The tour commenced from California in early March. Piloted by Phillip Paul of Barnes Aviation Fox Field Lancaster CA, the Airvan toured through Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, to Chile via the west Coast of South America.

The Gippsland Aeronautics exhibit at FIDAE, which was supported by AusTrade and the Australian Trade Commission in Chile, was visited by Crispin Conroy, the Australian Ambassador to Chile.

Airvan at FIDAE Airshow in Santiago Chile



Above, from the left, Jose Carrasco Weber, Gippsland Aeronautics Global Sales Manager Marguerite Morgan, Ambassador Crispin Conroy, Trade Commissioner Nigel Warren and Ian Frederick from the Australian Trade Commission in Santiago.

At the conclusion of FIDAE the Airvan flew local demonstrations and was inspected by the Chilean DGAC before the tour continued further south through Chile. The Airvan, flown by David Wheatland, Gippsland Aeronautics demonstrator pilot, and Phillip Paul, crossed the Andes to Argentina, the first of five Andes crossings during the tour. After returning to Chile the tour continued north to Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Mexico before returning to California. Interest in the Airvan in Latin American countries has been very encouraging.

Below, "Aconcagua" in the Andes, as seen from Airvan VH-AQF cruising at 14,000 ft, tops at 22,841 feet. Aconcagua is the highest mountain in the Americas and second only to the peaks of the Himalayan mountains.



our PEOPLE



This issue, we introduce Betty Rogers, a long-term employee, who "adopted" the company after retiring from private business.

Betty is a tireless worker and a key behind the scenes person. She fulfils many roles but her job would best be described as the company caretaker. In this position she not only takes care of the buildings, facilities and aircraft which she keeps in immaculate order, but she takes care of the well being of the staff through her active involvement in the staff social club. Betty's monthly sausage sizzles on the last Friday of the month are legendary.

Betty is a complete aviation buff. She lived in a house immediately adjacent to the West Sale Aerodrome. Seeing all of the flying activity and being so close to aeroplanes she decided she just had to learn to fly. So she literally jumped the fence and took lessons with Latrobe Valley aero Club gaining her Private Pilot Licence in 1966. For many years she was the driving force behind the Aero Clubs West Sale flight.

Betty has attended many airshows in Australia and of course the EAA AirVenture at Oshkosh in the USA, tending the company demonstrator Airvan.

In her rare spare time she can be found working at the Latrobe Flying Museum attending the museum's aircraft collection, which includes a P51 Mustang, a DC3 and a CAC Winjeel. Betty often flies to Airshows in the Mustang to give it that extra polish before it goes on display.

CLIENT *profile*

Wings Over Whales

Kaikoura, New Zealand, the home base of Airvan operator Wings Over Whales, is a popular eco tourism destination for visitors from all over the world. Kaikoura is the acknowledged whale watching capital of New Zealand.

Many visitors find that the best way to experience the magic of the magnificent marine mammals that abound off the Kaikoura coast is to enjoy a spectacular scenic flight with Wings Over Whales.

During a typical flight guests will see the majestic Sperm Whale and up to 500 Dusky Dolphins cavorting with each other. On occasion sightings include Southern Right, Humpback, Fin, Sei, Brydes, Pilot, Southern Bottlenose and the mighty Blue Whales, and a variety of other whale types. The company has a sighting rate in excess of 95% for Sperm Whales and a cancellation rate of less than 5%. Wings Over Whales, established by John MacPhail and Geoff Harmon in 1992, operates a mixed fleet of light aircraft including a Cessna 172 and a GA 8 Airvan on tourist and general charter work.

Wings Over Whales is an active member of the Tourist Flight Operators New Zealand, a group of that is dedicated to safety and Quality. The company is accredited by Qualmark®, New Zealand tourism's official mark of quality.

John says "The Airvan is an excellent aircraft for viewing whales and marine mammals from 500 feet. The ability to fly low and slow allows a great view from the large windows. The passengers love it and the company has the ability to improve the bottom line immensely. The company has been operating Britten Norman Islanders until it purchased the Airvan and is very pleased with the change."

Wings over Whales can be contacted at
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The WOW website at www.whales.co.nz is worth a look.



John McPhail, with passenger Ms Helina Lam from Hong Kong, prepares for a flight over the whales at Kaikoura in Airvan ZK - KBZ.

Your Thoughts

Your contributions to *What's News at Gippsland Aeronautics* are most welcome. Please let us know of any articles you would like to see appear or other suggestions or feedback you may feel is relevant. Information can be directed to Marguerite Morgan at Gippsland Aeronautics.



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