

# Aviation Historical Society of Australia (NSW) inc Airmail Centenary Commemoration Group

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**Please continue to send me email addresses of people who would be interested in this project. If you are new to the project and want basic information, go to the website, 'Latest News' and read the 'Basic Information' file.**

## Monday 23 June: 19 days to go

This is a very unusual event. All that AHSA is doing is inviting a whole lot of aircraft owners to take their aircraft for a private flight, sometimes carrying a mail package; there is no contract, no formal arrangement, but the enthusiasm of the aviators, the philatelists and the historians is such that we have a remarkable event in prospect.

Here are some details of the aircraft participating, as of Sunday 22 June. Of course, last minute serviceability, weather issues and other factors may cause alterations, but also there are many people who have indicated that they will fly a section or two for the fun of it, and many others are planning to visit an en-route airfield or to bring their aircraft out on the day if housed on an en-route airfield. But the aircraft whose registration is listed below are can be regarded as definite.

The flagship plane will be a Jabiru 230, flown by Owen Zupp, provided by Jabiru, and though this is definite we do not know its VH- registration. The picture is a publicity shot. Jabiru are providing special decals for this plane.



The escort / all weather aircraft will be Aminta Hennessy in her Cessna 182 VH-TZX.



The Jabiru will carry the basic 'Guillaux' package of postcards and token air freight. The Australia Post material will be carried by a relay of aircraft:

Essendon to Mangalore: CT-4 flown by Michele Schiffer as described in an earlier bulletin.



Mangalore to Benalla: Winjeel VH-CZE owned and flown by Mark Carr of Benalla.



Benalla to Wangaratta: sailplane from Benalla Gliding Club. This is being organised to recognise the 2017 world gliding championships that are being held at Benalla.

The Winjeel and the CT-4 will continue the flight to Wangaratta and possibly to Albury. Ken Broomhead's Tiger Moth VH-SSK in training yellow will join in from Benalla to Wangaratta, so we will have three generations of RAAF trainers, covering sixty years. Mark Carr's Moth Minor will also be at Benalla.



Does anyone have some informal contact with East Sale who might be able to persuade a PC-9a to drop in on a training flight? What an amazing collection we would then have!

Arrival at Albury will be from 1430 about 1600 hrs. The Australia Post mail carrier for the Wangaratta / Albury section has yet to be finalised.

The Albury Aero Club is having a major gathering on the afternoon of Saturday 13 July, and the re-enactment aircraft will arrive during the afternoon, details to be finalised. By about Wednesday the events at Albury will be more settled and we will have more information then.

#### **Overnight stop at Albury.**

**Sunday 13 July:** The Albury to Wagga stage is not finalised but there is considerable enthusiasm for this, and within a few days we may have something really special here – and if not we already have a good fallback option for the Australia Post package.

Wagga to Temora: Ryan STM-S2 VH-RSY – pilot not yet known.



Temora to Harden: Avro Cadet (Avro Cadet, full title Avro 643 Mk II VH-AGH, flown by Clin Ashton-Martin (below): it is likely that he will carry 'intermediate' mail for Harden; the Australia Post mail will be carried by a Piper Cub from the Temora Aviation Museum



Arrival at Harden about 1400: **overnight stop.** Harden is having a major celebration! Guillaux stayed for two nights at the Carrington Hotel and this will be a centre of evening activities.

**Monday 14 July:** Canberra to Goulburn: three aircraft of the Formation Group of the Canberra Aero Club plus camera plane: the final details are not known, but the group is flying to Harden on the Saturday and joining in the celebrations there, leaving for Goulburn early on Monday.



Goulburn to Mittagong: This is being arranged by John Ferrara, who has recently purchased Goulburn airport, and has a number of interesting aircraft to choose from. The choice will be made depending on weather and timetable considerations. John has big plans for the airport, which has been neglected of recent years. The website <http://www.gftc.com.au/> gives an indication of this.

Mittagong to Bankstown: Several aircraft have indicated their intention to participate, and the Australia Post mail will be carried by an Aero 145 VH-DUH described in an earlier bulletin:



As far as the aircraft are concerned, the mail flight will effectively conclude at Bankstown. The idea of landing at Centennial Park has had to be abandoned.

We would be happy to hear from other aircraft who would like to join in: please email us. Judy Rainsford is also organising a fly-over of Sydney Harbour at lunchtime on Monday 14 July. More details soon! Tony Coleiro has prepared a participant handbook which will shortly be available for interested aviators.

### **Philately**

The stamp collectors would like to have what they call 'intermediates' – letters delivered to, and collected from, airfields en route. Australia Post has considered offering this service, but there were insurmountable problems. We have found some post offices that are willing to co-operate at an informal level, and have worked out a procedure that may be practicable. We will put the proposal to the post offices this week and are hopeful that we will be able to do this at some stops. Harden is particularly keen to participate, and we are very optimistic that this will work out.

### **Press Release**

Next week to coincide with the stamp launch on 2 July we are going to issue a major press release with full information about the re-enactment flight and the Sydney fly-over. If you know of a person or group that might be interested in receiving this, please send their email or postal address. If you intend to take part eg by flying a stage, running a part of a stopover, or anything similar, send the details so that it can be included. Thanks!

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