



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AVIATION MUSEUM

Aircraft Profile

Victa Airtourer 100

Two seat light aircraft for training or touring

History of VH-BWT

Victa Airtourer 100 VH-BWT construction number 64 arrived at SAAM on 15 March 2023.

The aircraft was originally registered as VH-MRG on 18 September 1964 to the manufacturer Victa Ltd. It was sold to the Royal Aero Club of SA on 11 October 1966 and re-registered VH-BWT on 12 October 1966. After many years' service the aircraft was sold to aerobatic champion Chris Sperou on 13 March 1975 to use as an aerobatic aircraft. Ted Acres, another aerobatic pilot also used it.



The aircraft was withdrawn from use on 29 May 1980 and struck off the civil aircraft register. It languished for a few years at Parafield before Trevor Lynch purchased it and transported it to his house in Fairview Park, along with the fuselage of sister Victa 100 VH-BWS.

Earlier this year, due to Mr Lynch's ill-health the family decided to donate both Victas to SAAM. A Victa Airtourer from the Royal Aero Club of SA had long been sought after by SAAM.

A team of two SAAM members volunteered to undertake the restoration of VH-BWT. The fully restored aircraft is now on display in Royal Aero Club of SA markings in Hangar 1 along with an original Victa lawnmower.





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History of Type

The Victa Airtourer evolved from a design by Dr Henry Millicer, the chief aerodynamicist of the Government Aircraft Factory in response to a competition for light aircraft design sponsored by the UK Royal Aero Club. A wooden prototype of the design powered by a 100hp (75kW) engine was constructed and first flew on 31 March 1959.

The Victa company developed an all-metal aircraft from this design and the first prototype powered by a 100hp (75kW) flew in December 1961. The first production Victa Airtourer 100 flew in June 1962, with a 115 horsepower version, the Airtourer 115, flying in September 1962.

The Victa company produced 168 Airtourers before ending production due to the impact of cheaper imported aircraft and the lack of tariff protection for Australian aircraft production. The New Zealand company AESL purchased the design and purchase rights to the Airtourer and also a four seat Aircruiser design and built a further 94 Airtourers to 1974. AESL (now PAC) developed the Aircruiser into the successful CT-4 Airtrainer.

The Royal Aero Club of South Australia operated a number of Victa Airtourers from the early 1960s, including VH-BWT now on display at SAAM.

Technical Specifications

Engine : Rolls Royce Continental O-200-A 4 cylinder horizontally opposed piston engine with 2 blade metal propeller

Maximum Take-off Weight : 748 kg (1650 lb)

Length : 6.33 m (20 ft 9in)

Wingspan : 7.92 (26 ft)

Height : 2.3 m (7ft 6 in)

Cruising Speed : 203 km/h (126 mph)

Ceiling : 3962 m (13000 ft)

Range : 1287 km (800 miles)

Crew : 2 (pilot and passenger / student)