

Australian Piper Society

at the Avalon Airshow 24th Feb – 1st March 2015



Preparation for Victoria's massive airshow at Avalon began for the Australian Piper Society months ago and with the help from many we managed to make our presence felt in the GA industry.

Five days began with a display set up day that at times could be likened to a circus tent with ladders hanging photos from the roof and the walls. APS Logoed fans (paddles) spinning in the wind and cute "Angel Flight" teddies suspended on fishing lines. Our banners blew about around the outside of the tent while a Lycoming engine and a



shiny three bladed propeller welcomed our visitors to step inside.

Thursday was another Trade Day with a fairly brisk flow through the tent.



Friday started as the day before and as the afternoon presented itself open to the public we had new faces appearing. This time with children in tow! It's wonderful to see their bright questioning eyes, with what is for some the first time they have been up close with the huge aircraft on display. The evening show was loud with fire, lights and the smell of aviation fuel creating a great atmosphere.

Saturday and the first full day open to the public. It began with a flood of families and the aviation minded making an early start to see and experience the Hero's of the sky. All day there was plenty to taste, touch, see and smell and by the time the show began and the earplugs were affixed it was time to settle back and watch. The speed of the FA18s, the noise from the G17A Globemaster, the size of the USA B52 Bomber, the aerobatics of aircraft & helicopters, and the formation flying was all completely amazing. I asked a couple of children what their ambitions were and as you would guess they all wanted to be pilots. Our tent was in a great position with a steady flow of people coming in and asking loads of questions on who the APS were and what we do. Our displays created interest with visitors asking questions on our many flyaways





Ron Koenig invited children to sit in his PA28-140 and when they finally stepped out their smiling faces said it all. Budding aviators for sure! A very popular initiative on the part of Ron

Most had left the area before dark and by 7.00pm the weather was making some threatening signs. At 9pm the front unleashed itself with severe wind gusts followed by a downpour. No real damage but a few tents must have dug their pegs in further in a show of defiance.

Sunday began sunny and with a slight wind the ground began to dry out. Again the surge of people started early

and the queues snaked over the tarmac waiting a turn of a walk through the larger Military aircraft. The day flowed on with people coming into our tent for a natter. Outside our tent our display of Piper aircraft created great interest with Rod again lifting children big and small into his aircraft. Ron took the older children for a walk around his plane explaining the ailerons, flaps etc. What a wonderful introduction those children received. By mid afternoon it was time to start pulling our display down and pack it all away till the next Avalon Airshow in 2017.

Help from our volunteers, pilots and committee made it possible who we thank enormously and list below.

Aircraft on display	Ron Koenig VH-DXF. PA28-140.	Mike Walker VH-CVZ. PA28R-200
	RVAC VH-TPW. PA28-161.	Bob Boyd VH-PXG. PA32-300
	Jonathon Merridew VH-CWW. PA28-161	

Volunteers	David Long & Cath Lincoln	Melissa & Phil Fisher
	Ian Thomson & Irene Lawson	Mike Walker & Michelle Tither
	Rod Shearer	Adrian Basile
	Tony Collett	Doug Johnson
	Gordon & Bronwynn McCaw	David Law
	Duncan Morris	Amanda Collins (Douglass Aero Space)



