

# MOORABBIN AIR MUSEUM & LUNCH

8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Commentary and photos courtesy Keith Wilshier and Ray Binks



*Near the end of our tour, a group of us assembled outside the Eurocopter AS365 Dauphin 2 police helicopter from the late 1970's.*

We met and parked outside the Moorabbin Air Museum at 9.45am for the tour starting at 10am. Warren - our tour guide, greeted us and gave an interesting introduction to the history of the museum – founded in 1962, and its association with the Moorabbin Airport complex - which is far more extensive than we ever imagined. We entered the main hanger to behold a huge range of aircraft, motors, models, uniforms, and many other artifacts associated with Australia's aviation history. The hanger was very full, with very little room for expansion (*In September 2021, the Museum was granted a lease on land opposite the current site, increasing total size by around 4000sqm. A new facility will be built there as part of Stage One of the Community Heritage Precinct and will finally see all aircraft undercover and protected for the first time in the Museum's history*).

The first plane Warren described to us in the main hanger was the French Dassault Mirage III with its massive engine removed alongside (photos below). The collection includes a number of rare and unique examples of Australian made aircraft including the oldest surviving Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation – Wirraway A20-10, a Victor Airtourer and a DAP Mk21 Beaufighter, one of only two Australian made variants left in the country and the only one left in the world capable of ground running. The collection now totals 52 machines, and is an aeronautical collection larger than half the world's airlines and a third of the world's air forces.



After a good look around in the main hanger, we moved outside to inspect aircraft not undercover which included some of the larger planes such as the Air Express Bristol type 170 Freighter, GAF Canberra Mk20 Jet Bomber, TAA Vickers Viscount, RAN Fairey Gannet and more.

We finished the tour around noon, then walked, or drove to our booked lunch at "The Flight Deck Bar and Grill" where we had a most enjoyable lunch and drinks before making our way home.



Arriving at the Museum.



French Dassault Mirage III and Motor.



Warren telling us about the Mirage III.



Mirage III from behind.



John entering the CA-27 Sabre Jet Cockpit.



Warren discussing the Gipsy Moth "Dianna".





Navy de Havilland Sea Venom.



Wandering amongst the collection.



Warren telling us about the display.



Virginia at the controls.



Eleanor enjoying the tour.



Keith in the Sabre ready for take-off.





DAP Bristol Beaufort Mk V. in the background. ?



Milling around the Sabre Jet Fighter.



Mick at the controls of the DC9 Simulator.



Barry in the captain's seat.



Alan about to enter the cockpit.



Keith and Jenny - novice aviators.





Allan admiring the Canberra Jet Bomber.



RAN Fairey Gannet.



John ready for take-off in the Police Helicopter.



Judy, Jenny and Barbara ready to fly.



Eleanor about to Fly TAA.



Late 1970's Vintage Police Helicopter.

Produced using standard Website Template.

Expand photos using your browser ZOOM feature or with your fingers in the normal way on your phone or tablet.

\*\*\*\*