

AVALON DRAWS A CROWD

Thousands turned out to Avalon for the eighth Australian International Airshow, the biggest in the southern hemisphere and they weren't disappointed. Quite a number of members from the Aero Club made their way over to experience seeing the military might, the world's best stunt pilots, helicopters and aircraft from yesteryear.



Justin Davies in the Gold Pass grandstand, in the background thousands of people line the runway

Justin Davies said "I'd go again, I would like to see more commercial Jet liners Rex Qantas etc. I've haven't been for a few years and I thought the flying display was good despite the windy conditions." "The static display was a little poor, all the DC3's were great to see including the Ansett one. Overall still very enjoyable from an aviation enthusiasts point of view."



Above left Pilot **George Newell**, **Dave Jennings** Lancaster Pilot, and **Richard Hurn** Spitfire Pilot, all flew across in George's C172 'Ole Harry'. "A very slow trip over pushing into a very strong headwind, at one stage there we were only managing 48 kts over the ground." said George.

If you like Military aircraft Avalon is for you with the ever popular F-111's to the US Airforce as it showed off it's super fast F-16's.

Bain Morgan and his dad were there, Geoff joked "I don't think he knows how old I am, up at four not back to the Hotel until ten!"

Another father son team were

John Breaden and son Thomas, "This was the first time I'd ever been, it was a bit of an eye opener, we walked for miles I didn't realize how big the site was really. We went on the Friday afternoon and the Saturday so we had two good days there. Climbed in everything, saw everything. I think the Jets were good but



L: Geoff Morgan & his son and Club member Pilot Bain



A: Mark Nichols climbing aboard the PBY-6A Catalina. B: The really big stuff was on display to walk through, to the little birds.

Don Prairie was there for the second time he said "It's worth seeing and good value, five days is too long, I reckon next time I would see everything on static display on day one and then pay the \$150. for the Gold Pass, sit in my grandstand seat, eat the gourmet food, have a beer and watch the show unfold right in front of me. Mind you a beer does cost seven dollars!" laughed Don.

Having been to the World's other major airshows Farnborough in the U.K. and three times to Oshkosh in the USA. **Pat Cliffe Hickling** said the Australian International Air Show shapes up equally as well, certainly with Farnborough which is it's comparison.

"There was a tremendous number of people there, and a lot of heavy military Aeroplanes, it's a big roar!" "I really enjoyed the Aerobatics done by World Champion Jurgis Kairys in his special aircraft the Juka, absolutely phenomenal, he can take the aircraft up and stop it in mid air and then move it sideways, quite incredible." "It's worth the money, when you take into account the organization and the cost to put it together," said Pat.



for me it was the Globemaster, just because of the bulk of it. I like to watch planes takeoff and land, but something of that size you just can't beat it" John said.

