

INTRODUCTION

I have been an aircraft photographer, author and writer since my teenage years.

I first became interested in aviation in the late 1950s when my brother Paul and I were taken to a RAAF Mallala Air Show by our father Brian. The latter had been a wireless operator/navigator on RAAF Douglas C-47s during World War II and had always retained his interest in aviation and encouraged his boys in that area.

In 1960 the family moved from Gawler to Adelaide, and it was not long afterwards that my brother and I started to cycle to Adelaide Airport to photograph passenger aircraft such as the Douglas DC-3, DC-4, DC-6B, Vickers Viscount, Lockheed Electra, Convair 440 and Boeing 727, just to name a few.

The interest expanded to Parafield Airport and to airfield visits all around Australia and many overseas countries. Through this pastime I have made numerous lifetime friends.

In the 1960s I joined the West Beach Aviation Group and I remain a member in 2024. In 1972 I established the *South Australian Air Journal* which reports on aviation events in SA on a quarterly basis. This magazine is still in publication today.

After a very satisfying 42-year banking career until retirement in 2007, I have since then has been involved with the South Australian Aviation Museum where I am serving my third year as president.

In 1982 I self-published the book *Adelaide-West Beach Airport – A History of Operations* and in 2012 I jointly published the book *An Iconic Airline, The Story of Airlines of South Australia*.

Hence this book *Regional Airlines of South Australia 1967 to 2017 – The First Fifty Years* is the result of 55 years of recording of the history of these airlines as they were established and many that did not succeed. It is the story of the people who operated these companies, those who were passengers and the air routes they operated.

These stories need to be told and that is why I have published this book. Enjoy the read.

Nigel Daw
January 2024