VH-TLA

LOCKHEED 188A ELECTRA

Construction Number: 1061

It was also registered as: N188LA; XW-PKA

History Of This Aircraft …

The order for two Lockheed Electras was placed by Trans-Australia Airlines - October 10, 1958

First flown - May 19, 1959

This was the first Electra delivered with the uplilted engine mounts incorporated during construction

Entered onto the Australian Aircraft Register as VH-TLA - June 15, 1959

Registered to Australian National Airways Commission, Melbourne

It arrived at Melbourne (Essendon) on completion of the delivery flight - June 24, 1959

Delivery route: San Francisco - Honolulu - Canton Island - Nadi - Melbourne

Flight crew: Captains F. Fischer, J. Maloney, J. Hickey; Navigator H. Cast; Engineer A. Wright

It performed a flypast with the newly arrived Viscount VH-TVQ and Friendship VH-TFA before landing

The aircraft was named 'John Eyre'

Operated its first revenue service Melbourne (Essendon) - Sydney (Kingsford Smith) as TN534 - July 08, 1959

Set a speed record between Melbourne - Brisbane of 129 minutes (Captain W. O. James) - February 15, 1960

Departed Melbourne (Essendon) for Burbank for wing and engine mount modification - January 25, 1961

Ferry route: Melbourne - Nadi - Canton Island - Honolulu - Burbank

Flight crew: Captains R. B. Keig, I. A. F. Clarke, R. Lauchland; F/O D. W. R. Pummeroy; F/E R. C. Lane

Entered the Lockheed (LEAP) Program as LEAP #71 TAA-1 - January 27, 1961

LEAP modification completed - February 23, 1961

Departed Burbank on the ferry flight to Melbourne (Essendon) - February 23, 1961

Flight crew: Captains V. C. Austen, M. I. Fitzgerald, T. R. Bennet; F/O K. J. Purnell; F/E F. C. Storer

Set a speed record on Brisbane - Melbourne (Essendon) sector of 148 mins 30 seconds - March 13, 1961

Set a speed record on Melbourne - Sydney sector of 54 minutes (Captain G. J. White) - July 08, 1961

The aircraft was grounded by a Department of Civil Aviation order - July 24, 1964

This was the result of corrosion specks being found in the wing of TAA Electra VH-TLB

These specks had been misidentified as being wing cracks

This grounding order was lifted on the Australian Electra fleet - July 27, 1964

Operated its final revenue service Canberra - Sydney (Kingsford Smith) as TN406 - April 30, 1971

Ferried Sydney (Kingsford Smith) - Brisbane for storage (Captain Humphries) as TN2890 - April 30, 1971

The aircraft had flown 34,063 hours with 26,925 cycles

Test flown at Brisbane (Captain S. Arnold, R. Hickey; F/E R. Verity) - September 15, 1971

Test flown at Brisbane before being ferried Brisbane - Melbourne direct in 2 hrs 35 mins - February 07, 1972

Flight crew: Captains S. Arnold, A. Hofman; F/E R. Verity

Sold to Concare Aircraft Leasing - March 12, 1972

Entered onto the United States Aircraft Register as N188LA - March 1972

Test flown at Melbourne (Tullamarine) as VH-TLA / N188LA - March 26, 1972

Cancelled from the Australian Aircraft Register - April 05, 1972

Departed Melbourne (Tullamarine) on the ferry flight to the United States - April 12, 1972

Ferry route: Melbourne - Port Moresby - Wake Island - Hilo - Burbank

Lease / purchased from Concare Aircraft Leasing by Transair Corp - 1972

Leased to Royal Air Lao - May 1972

Entered onto the Laotian Aircraft Register as XW-PKA - 1972

The aircraft was named 'Tiao Anou'

It arrived at Vientiane on the ferry flight from Miami, Florida - July 18, 1972

Grounded and used as a source of parts to keep Electra 'XW-PKB' airworthy - December 1973

Fearing seizure by the new Lao Government work commenced to return it to airworthy status - August 1974

Parts were sourced from 'XW-PKB' which was in Hong Kong for overhaul

Departed Vientiane for Singapore (Seletar) for overhaul by Lockheed - September 20, 1974

Flight crew: Captains A. Ogle; F/O A. Adolph; F/E W. Dettori; Mechanic P. Dreith

The aircraft arrived at Seletar after an exciting ferry flight - September 21, 1974

This aircraft did not fly again

Sold to American Jet Industies along with Electra 'XW-PKB' - 1975

Entered onto the United States Aircraft Register as N188LA - January 13, 1976

Registered to American Jet Industries Inc

Scrapped at Singapore (Seletar- 1976

Cancelled from the United States Aircraft Register as 'destroyed' - March 16, 1976

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - somewhere over California - June 1959.

Original livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-508)

An 'AussieAirliners' copyright image

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - somewhere over California - June 1959.

Original livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-183)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Melbourne Essendon Airport - June 24, 1959.

Original livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-526)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Brisbane Archerfield Airport - circa 1961.

'Dayglow tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-932)

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VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - June 1962.

'Dayglow tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-184)

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VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Brisbane Archerfield Airport - July 1962.

'Dayglow tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-186)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Unknown location - July 1962.

'Dayglow tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-344)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Brisbane Archerfield Airport - circa 1962.

'Dayglow tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-565)

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VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Melbourne Essendon Airport - circa 1962.

'Dayglow tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-391)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Melbourne Essendon Airport - August 24, 1963.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-778)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Melbourne Essendon Airport - July 1966.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-188)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - date unknown.

'White tail' livery

J. Hopton (#1808-633)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Brisbane Archerfield Airport - date unknown.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-775)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - December 29, 1966.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith (#1808-189)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Brisbane Archerfield Airport - February 1967.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-509)

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VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Melbourne Essendon Airport - June 1967.

'White tail' livery

J. Hopton (#1808-505)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Melbourne Essendon Airport - January 17, 1968.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-560)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Melbourne Essendon Airport - date unknown.

'White tail' livery
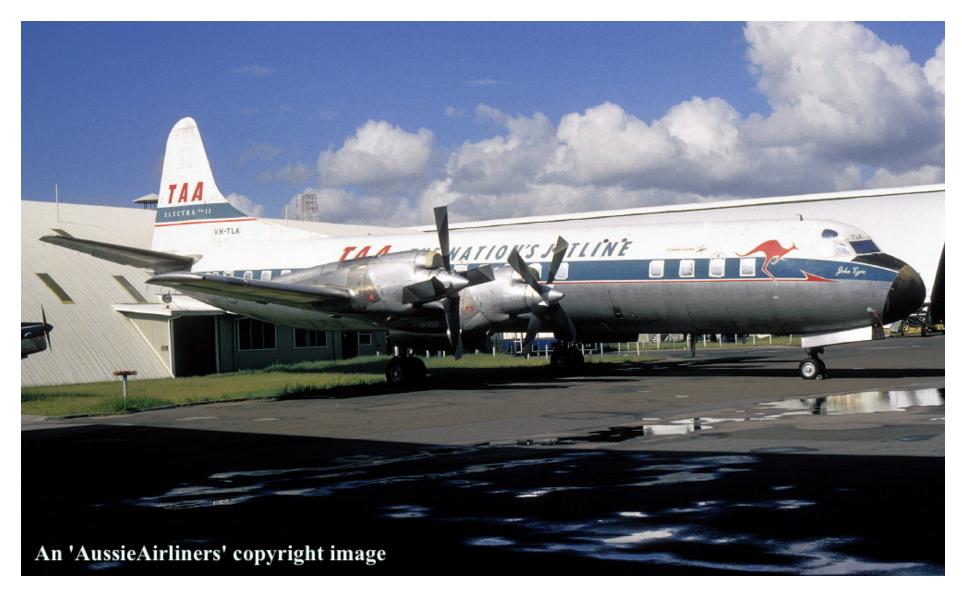
R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-776)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - April 14, 1970.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith (#1808-880)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport – April 14, 1970.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith (#1808-566)

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VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Brisbane Archerfield Airport - December 1971.

'White tail' livery

E. D. Daw (#1808-195)

An 'AussieAirliners' copyright image

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Brisbane Archerfield Airport - December 1971.

'White tail' livery

E. D. Daw (#1808-194)

VH-TLA. 'John Eyre' - Melbourne Essendon Airport - February 1972.

'White tail' livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-191)

N188LA. Concare Aircraft Leasing - Melbourne Tullamarine Airport - March 1972.

'All-white' livery - no titles

G. Bennett (#1808-737)

N188LA. Concare Aircraft Leasing - Melbourne Tullamarine Airport - April 1972.

'All-white' livery - no titles

G. Bennett (#1808-202)

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XW-PKA. Royal Air Lao - 'Tiao Anou' - Singapore Seletar Airport - November 1972.

Standard livery

R. N. Smith Collection (#1808-547)

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