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MEDIA RELEASE

COMMERCIAL BIG GUNS FACE OFF AT THE AIRSHOW

Aviation enthusiasts will get to see two of the newest commercial big guns at this month's Australian International Airshow.

Qantas, and the country's newest International carrier V Australia, will go head to head on the tarmac at Avalon with their respective Airbus A380 and Boeing 777-300ER.

The Airbus A380 with its double deck, wide body and four engines is the largest passenger airliner in the world. Qantas currently has three A380's in service, with another 17 on order.

Virgin Blue's International Arm, V Australia is the first Australian operator to receive an Aircraft Operators Certificate for a Boeing 777-300ER. The 777's inaugural commercial flight to Los Angeles is scheduled for the end of February

Subject to operational change, the Qantas A380 will be on public display at Avalon 2009 from 8am on Saturday March 14th until approximately midday that day.

While the public won't be able to see inside the aircraft, they will be able to experience the enormous power of this giant carrier as it takes off from the flight line just metres away.

Qantas will have a 747-400 on display and open for public inspection on Sunday March 15th.

Virgin Blue's new International star, V Airline's, will have its new Boeing 777 wide body open for viewing at selected times on both Friday and Saturday of the Airshow. Visitors will be able to take a peak inside the next generation of long haul carrier.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see both aircraft up close and personal on the tarmac at Avalon Airport.

The Australian International Airshow is being staged at Avalon Airport near Geelong from March 13th to March 15th. Avalon 2009 is presented with major support from its principal partners – The Australian Department of Defence, the Government of Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong.

Media Information: Lauren Deale (03) 52820503 or 0407 309232 Ideale@amda.com.au

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