

COVID Kills Worldflight in Victoria

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[Flight Simulation Australia](#)

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Worldflight is an annual virtual flight around the World intended to raise money for a local charity. It also brings together teams of virtual pilots to participate in a major simulated flying event. The concept was initiated by a team in the United Kingdom and has expanded into a coordinated global event with teams across the globe. The event is sponsored by VATSIM which provides 24/7 ATC support for the week of the circumnavigation flight. According to the Worldflight Australia website, there are four Australian teams participating this year, all raising donations for the Royal Flying Doctor Service:

Team Mangrove – Caves Beach, NSW

Team Airbus – Cambewarra, NSW

Team Illawarra – Illawarra Region, NSW

Team Perth – Perth, WA

There was to be a fifth – Team Southern Air – hosted by Greg Looker in regional Kilmore, Victoria. Planning had been under way for some time with Greg preparing the 737-800 simulator in his garage workshop and getting a team together. This was to be the first venture of Team Southern Air into Worldflight. Unfortunately, restrictions due to COVID 19 has killed World Flight in Victoria.

There was some hope that the government's roadmap to a COVID safe Victoria would enable Team Southern Air to proceed. However, the easing of restrictions for Melbournians on Wednesday did not extend to a removal of the 25-kilometre restriction of movement which would have would have legally allowed team members to travel to Kilmore.

That aside, it was agreed by the team to err on the side of caution. While the virus remains prevalent in the community, albeit low in recorded numbers, a group of people from across metropolitan and regional areas, sitting in close proximity and operating flight equipment together, was still too greater a risk. Accordingly, it was decided to cancel the event and notify the Worldflight organizers.

This, of course, was disappointing for the team members, particularly Greg Looker who had for some time wished to host a team in Victoria. As a small consolation, some team members will now be flying legs of the flight solo with their own simulators at home on the VATSIM network.

The grounded Team Southern Air, wishes all the interstate teams a safe and enjoyable week of flying. We'd love to be up there with you, but not this year.