

*PA*

## “Liberator Relives”

*Grp Capt Carl Schiller (Ret) OAM CSM*

B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated

**President**

Lyn Gorman  
18 Maddison Circuit  
Darley, Vic. 3340  
Ph: 0488 588 011

Hangar Phone: (03) 9731 1263

**Secretary**

Paul Rourke  
PO Box 156, Werribee, Vic. 3030  
Ph: 0409179254

Email: [liberator@b24australia.org.au](mailto:liberator@b24australia.org.au)

**Treasurer**

Gary Singline  
Box 156, Werribee, Vic, 3030  
Ph: 0420491182

Web page: <http://WWW.b24australia.org.au>

## LEST WE FORGET

### Annual remembrance service

Our annual B-24 Liberator service was held at the Shrine of Melbourne on 23 March.



Floral tributes were laid.

### Obituary

#### Harold Mackinlay (Mac) Ford

We heard in early March with great sorrow of the passing of Mac who had been one of our Association's very few remaining WWII veterans. Mac was one of the original intake of volunteers and maintained his interest in the Liberator until his passing.

I send my condolences to his family.

Lyn Gorman  
President

## Membership Matters

It is the annual membership renewal time and so I think it is time to reflect on the achievements of our past and present members over the previous 35 years.

A72-176 has progressed from virtual scrap to an internationally recognized, major restoration project, now 96% complete.

We have commenced the rebuilding of both an Avro Anson and an Airspeed Oxford.

Our Hangar 2 has progressed from a temporary occupation to a heritage-listed precinct which will eventually become Crown Land under our stewardship.

We have negotiated and facilitated the project to restore and relocate Hangar 1 to our precinct.

**We have been awarded Museum accreditation, which is also internationally recognised.**

**The foregoing was the dream of our founders in 1988.**

**We were granted the Engineering Heritage Award (Vic.) in 2014.**

**In addition, we have arranged an annual B-24 Liberator Remembrance Day at the Melbourne Shrine, where our Flag is flown for the day.**

**Sometimes it is easier to recall the setbacks and disappointments, but it is also important to celebrate our achievements.**

**Well done everyone, and thanks.**

**Dave Miller**

**B-24 Historian**

### **President's Message**

I endorse Dave Miller's comments above, and I also encourage you to celebrate our recent achievements documented in this Newsletter. My thanks to all volunteers who worked hard at the Avalon Airshow.

I also look forward to forthcoming events: in particular, our pre-Anzac Day lunch (two of our Association's WWII veterans plan to attend), and the Open Day on 7 May to celebrate the commencement of the Avro

Anson project. We thank RAAF History and Heritage branch for donating a container of Anson parts and a fuselage to assist us in this restoration.

Our hangar is a hive of activity once again, and it is wonderful to see volunteers at work and visitors appreciating the results of our labours.

Lyn Gorman

President

### **Hangar 1 relocation report 21 March 2023**

The majority of the previous meetings' actions have been completed.

Melbourne Water will now seek approval for an amended completion date, mid-2027 rather than 23 July 2025. The Committee will discuss how we can use this additional time to our advantage.

### **B-24 Liberator, hangar activities**



Our Exhibition at the Avalon Airshow was well patronized, and the working Liberator

upper turret created a lot of interest and questions. Our efforts were topped off with Tony Muller and the team receiving a 'Thank You' plaque from GA Airsport's Mr Glen Smith and Ms Cherie Biggs.

The combined cash total from the hangar shop and the Avalon site was just over \$4000, a very good result.



The Avalon Airshow in March also encouraged a number of international visitors to visit our hangar and sample the delights of our P&W 1830 engine's noise and smoke distribution at close quarters. These visitors were from the UK and NZ.

### **Airspeed Oxford, Hangar activities**

During March we had a visitor from Alberta, Canada, Mr Vern Dueck, Vern is a volunteer with the Harvard Historical Aviation Society based at Red Deer Airport, where they are restoring an Oxford in a similar start up condition as ours.

### **Avro Anson, Hangar activities**



### **As received January 2021**



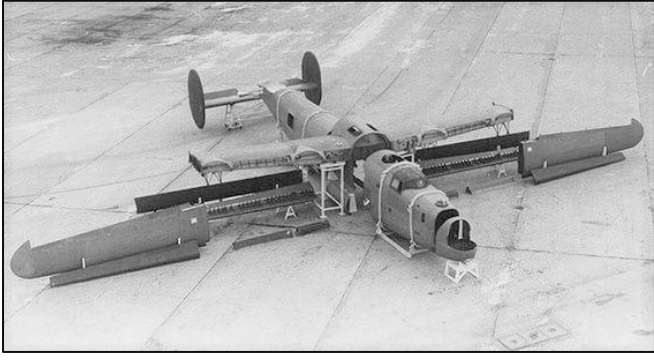
### **As at April 2023**

An Open Day and welcome to our Anson project will be held at the hangar on Sunday 7 May from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

Free morning tea and sausage sizzle lunch provided.

Donations appreciated.

**Strange, but true**



This photo illustrates all the full-size major components of a B-24 prior to assembly and testing. It was taken at Willow Run as a War Bond promotion. These components were sourced from all over America and required a massive logistical effort in a world without computers.

**Your membership renewal form for 2023/24 is included in this mail out.**

**(Just a reminder).**

**Early planning error (4) !**



**Goodbye to an old friend!**

On the evening of 6 December 2022, the 1547th and last Boeing 747 (Jumbo) rolled off the production line, 55 years after the first. The 747 was a mighty aircraft bringing international air travel within the reach of

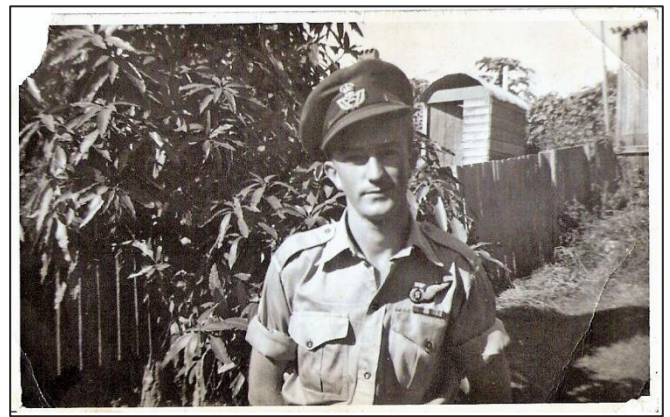
the general public. This was particularly noticeable in Australia, allowing many migrants to reunite with their families on a scale never before envisaged. It also opened up international holiday travel both outbound and inbound.



The first QANTAS 747, VH-EBA, 'City of Canberra' on a crew training flight from Avalon, Victoria in 1971.

**Not Forgotten**

**Flt Sgt KW Beale's story**



This concludes our series of photographs and explanatory notes taken by Flt Sgt Beale.

### **Thanks**

Our thanks to Mr Bryan McFarlane for donating two PA horn speakers for the hangar PA system.

### **Wanted**

We require Whitworth spanners and other British 1940s-era tools to service our Anson and Oxford projects.

Can you help?

### **Forthcoming events**

7 May 2023 – An Open Day to celebrate the beginning of our Anson project will be held at our hangar.

### **For Gabrielle**

New airline passenger: 'How often do these aircraft crash?'

The response: 'Once.'