

“Liberator Relives”

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B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated

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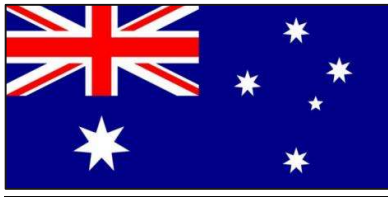
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LEST WE FORGET



MEMBERS MATTER

Vale

We have been notified that Mr Robert (Bob) Cherry passed away on 26 January 2025. Bob served as a radio/air gunner in Liberators of No. 200 Squadron. We extend our sympathies to his family.

President's Message.

What a very satisfactory two months we have had! Our annual commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance on 23 March was another memorable one. I thank our Patron Carl Schiller, Dale Capron at the Shrine and all those who contributed to making that event run smoothly. All our aircraft restoration projects are going well; and we continue to clean up and review our needs in the hangar (replacing ageing equipment when

necessary). We had a wonderful reception at the Avalon Air Show and at our hangar and museum during the air show, demonstrating significant interest in our work and providing welcome income from the sale of merchandise and generous donations from visitors. My sincere thanks to the volunteers who contributed to our success. I approach the cooler months with gratitude and optimism.

Liberator, hangar activities.

The nose wheel assembly was prepared for installation. The tail plane fins were removed and put in purpose-built cradles, allowing the horizontal stabiliser to be placed on a lower stand for installation of elevator and rudder controls. Work is progressing well.

Oxford, hangar activities

Good progress has been made with the main fuselage, which is now about 80% complete. The team is proceeding with work on the main rudder post, and most of the rudder pieces have been constructed. They are almost ready to put together the final parts of the tail with the main fuselage.

Work on the Airspeed Oxford fuselage and rudder



Anson, hangar activities

Good progress has also been made with the Avro Anson. The portside cockpit windows and framing are about 50% complete. The internal door to the rear compartment has been fitted and tested, and further internal framing to the cockpit area is being worked on. The nose cone is almost ready to be trial fitted and painted.

Both undercarriages and engine frames have been mounted on new higher, movable stands which show the full extension of the undercarriage oleo legs with wheels and tyres fitted. Both support frames have been painted bright yellow so they do not create a hazard. The frames have been fitted with timber flooring to enable work on the engine and undercarriage to continue without safety issues.



The Avro Anson nose cone and stand for work on undercarriage oleo legs



Electrical section activities.

The Electrical Division has continued work on the Liberator bomb bay station 4.0 LHS splice reinstallation and on wiring in the wings, also on the radio compass control. Work has begun on wiring the horizontal tail fin navigation lights. The navigation panel for the bombardier's position equipment is under construction. The Electrical Division has assisted the Engine Department regarding the 1830 engine fuel shut-off valve indicator light fitted and with a problem with the engine throttle controller.

One of the electricians is in contact with a volunteer for the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler, Georgia, US. They are in the process of acquiring a B-24 from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana and have a pristine B-24 cockpit from the Imperial War Museum, UK and are willing to share photos with our team for reference.

Engine Department

The Engine Department hopes to have the Cheetah Mk 9 engine from Adelaide operational soon. The R1830 engine on the rig was swapped, and the first engine run after the swap revealed some problems. One of the volunteers is methodically going through the wiring and labeling circuits to make the engine more robust, reliable and safer.

The team also plans to get the Oxford Cheetah Mk 10 out of storage, run it and use inhibitor before returning it to storage.

Hangar Happenings

We have been able to sell more scrap metal after another cleanup. Better signage for the museum is being arranged through a different company. After replacing some out-of-date equipment at the hangar, we are now working on what can be done about our ageing compressor.

Avalon Air Show

Our volunteers worked together wonderfully, preparing for and manning our display at Avalon Air Show 2025, as well as keeping our hangar and museum open every day of the air show. There was great interest in our display in the large marquee with other museums (we gave more than 750 brochures to visitors), we sold a lot of our shop merchandise and benefited from generous donations. Meanwhile, at the hangar extra visitors showed the high level of interest in our work and we benefited there too from shop sales and donations. After a couple of months of higher expenditure than usual to replace old equipment in the hangar, the extra income during the air show was very welcome. Three Committee members will prepare a report on our participation in Avalon Air Show 2025 so that preparations for the next one will be easier.





Annual Commemorative Service at the Shrine of Remembrance

Once again, our service was a memorable event that was well attended. Group Captain Annette Holian welcomed those present on behalf of the Trustees of the Shrine. We welcomed newcomers including Mr John Lister, recently elected MP for Werribee. Once again, a number of people assisted in ensuring that all went well during our service and we thank them.



Insurance

Our insurance broker attended our April Committee meeting, provided a useful update on the impact of current events on the insurance industry and responded to questions from Committee members. This discussion will make renewal of our policies in a few months a lot easier.

Forthcoming Events

As indicated in our last Newsletter, we shall be represented at Wyndham City Council's Volunteer Expo on 3 May at the Encore Centre. If you know of anyone interested in volunteering at our museum, please encourage them to visit our stand at the Volunteer Expo or to visit the hangar and discuss volunteering with our Secretary, Graham Collis.

Strange, but true



***B-24 Liberator from 21 Squadron RAAF being serviced at RAAF Darwin in 1945.
Image reference: Argus newspaper collection of photographs, State Library of Victoria
(Note: colourised photograph)***



R101 airship loading passengers



A PB-4Y-2 Privateer, a B-24 Liberator spin off



Servicing crew on A72-40 at Tocumwal

For Gabrielle

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house.

Bring your husbands.

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