



“Liberator Relives”

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B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated

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LEST WE FORGET



MEMBERS MATTER

We were delighted to have one of our veterans and his daughter visit the B-24 Liberator museum in late April.



World War II veteran Bill Mackie, aged 103, and his daughter Fiona beside A72-176 with Committee member Ron Gillis

(Photo: courtesy of Paul Rourke)

President's Message

The very good news for this issue is that Melbourne Water (MW) has contracted Safety Focused Performance Joint Venture (SFP JV) to carry out the Hangar 1 Project. Members of our Committee had a very useful site walk with MW and SFP JV representatives; I participated in an online Safety in Design workshop that analysed possible risks in various areas (architectural, civic, hydraulic, electrical, fire safety, etc.); and we now see contract site workers in high-vis clothing doing preliminary assessments on the adjacent site. A community bulletin will be provided to nearby residents and there will be an open day at our museum so that residents can ask questions before work on Hangar 1 begins.

We have had many other activities as well, so it has been a wonderful time of year.

I wish you well during these cold months.

Lyn Gorman, President

Visitors to the Hangar

We welcomed the Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan and the Member for Werribee John Lister to our aircraft restoration hangar just before Anzac Day. Several volunteers spoke with them about our current projects and our aspirations for the future development of the museum precinct.



*Premier Jacinta Allan and Werribee MP John Lister in the Liberator cockpit, with our Vice-President John Phillips nearby
(Photo: courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*Victorian Premier and Werribee MP discussing our projects with our Vice-President
(Photo: courtesy of Paul Rourke)*

ANZAC Day March in Melbourne

The B-24 Liberator group was represented at the Anzac Day march in Melbourne by Paul Rourke and Roger Duncan.



The banner of No.24 Squadron is held by Air Force Cadets, with Paul Rourke at the left and Roger Duncan at the right of the photo



*At Federation Square, the No.24 Squadron banner is held by Air Force Cadets, ready to march
(Photo: courtesy of Paul Rourke)*

Hangar Happenings

We recently acquired a new compressor, a welcome replacement for outdated equipment in the hangar. This new one makes very little noise when being used.



*Vice-President John Phillips with the new compressor
(Photo: courtesy of Colin Hamilton)*

Liberator, hangar activities

The front wheel and main portside wheel are back on the aircraft after repair, cleaning and painting. In recent weeks, work on the tailplane assembly has progressed with the fitment and connection of the rudder push-pull tubes to the bell cranks at the outboard end of the tailplane. The rudder cables have been connected to the push-pull fitting. The rudder trim tab tubes have been installed and the sprocket and chain assembly are being fitted. (See also the sections on electrical and engine work.)

Oxford, hangar activities

The project team continues to work on the fuselage, and the new DeWalt heat gun was used to good effect on the mountings for the tailplane. The stern post on the fuselage is complete. All the structural ribs for the rudder are complete and await assembly. The project team is waiting for advice from the RNZA regarding the rudder mounting brackets.

Anson, hangar activities

The Anson nose cone has had some internal pieces fitted and new stands made, allowing for proper fit to the aircraft in future. Both port and starboard undercarriage and engine frame works are continuing. The portside and internal fuselage framework teams are making good progress.

Electrical section activities

The B-24 bulkhead 4.0 terminal strip has been refitted and connected. Work on the wing wiring continues. The horizontal tail fin navigation lights preparatory wiring has been done, and the bombardier's navigation panel has been completed and is awaiting paintwork.

Engine department

Work continues to ensure the 1830 engine currently used for engine runs is running effectively and safely. This team is also testing and checking the MK9 Cheetah engine.

Hangar 1 Project

At the end of May we had a very useful site walk and discussion with Melbourne Water representatives and members of the company they have contracted to undertake the Hangar 1 project. They reassured us we would be notified regularly of project developments and progress.

How wonderful to have reached this stage and to have such good communication!



Stakeholders' meeting, June 2025

This meeting focused on matters requiring discussion now that MW has appointed SFP JV to implement the H1 Project. It was very useful, and again we appreciate the open communication. We were able to ask about the nature of the permanent fencing once Hangar 1 has been relocated, about landscaping around our precinct (including the area where the Memorial Wall will be) and about size and positioning of our updated museum signage.

B24 Liberator Model

David Crosbie kindly sent us photos of this B-24 Liberator model (1:32 scale) that he completed. He estimated he spent a couple of hundred hours over a few years. He found Australian markings, No. 12 Sqn RAAF. It was a labour of love, but he found it enjoyable.

David included a photo of his late father who passed on his love of aircraft, especially those of World War II.



Liberator graveyard, Arizona 1947



Visitors to the hangar during June

We recently welcomed the following groups to the hangar:

- 15 members of a retirement village in Sunbury
- 16 members of No. 100 Squadron RAAF (during this visit we were delighted to have a flypast by the Mustang aircraft from Point Cook)
- 34 members of Lara RSL
- a large number of members of the Werribee Fire Brigade (including John Lister, MP for Werribee) for a photoshoot outside the hangar.

For Gabrielle

The Church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

Strange, but true

Hawker Hurricane assembly 1942

"Spot the Managers' secretaries"



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