



“Liberator Relives”

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LEST WE FORGET



MEMBERS MATTER

Vale

Former Group Captain Wayne Hall, who was present at the founding meeting of the B-24 Liberator association, passed away in Canberra on 24 January 2025.

We send our condolences to his family as we think of his contribution to the establishment of what is now the B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia.

President's Message

This newsletter, focusing on our activities since the hangar reopened on 14 January 2025, demonstrates how ready our volunteers were to recommence work, whether it was on one of the aircraft restoration projects or continuing to clean up inside and outside the hangar, including finalising the painting to give a consistent look to

our museum precinct. Much progress has occurred in a short time.

Details in the 'Forthcoming events' section show there is a lot to look forward to as well. Perhaps you will be able to participate in one or more of these events. For example, I encourage you to attend our annual commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 23 March.

Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy these days before the daylight hours become noticeably shorter.

Lyn Gorman, President

Liberator, hangar activities

Electrical section activities

The Electrical Division has continued work on bomb bay station 4.0 LHS splice reinstallation and on wiring in the wings, also on the radio compass control; the bail-out bell has been fitted to the aft port side and a new mounting for the UV light for the bombardier panel manufactured and fitted.

Engine Department

Over the last 6-7 months the fuel system for engine runs of the R1830 has been reviewed to be self-contained, simplifying off-site engine runs in particular. The team is reviewing the strategy of

rotating engines to ensure efficiency and appropriate storage of engines when they are not being run.



B-24 Liberator tail fin on stand, showing edge of tail plane from which it was removed

Oxford, hangar activities

The team has been working on the roof for the fuselage and on positioning the stern post at the rear end of the fuselage.



Airspeed Oxford stern post

Anson, hangar activities

Further progress has been made on the fuselage, engine and undercarriage components and the nose cone. For example, window frames and windows have been installed; the nose cone and forward cone have been mated together – with a lot of riveting required!; and engine framework and undercarriage components have been stripped, cleaned and media blasted to be ready for reinstallation on port and starboard undercarriage and engine frames; some internal timber fittings have been manufactured; and the final colour scheme for the project has been ratified by the Committee.



Anson door providing access to the turret, ready for installation

Hangar Happenings

Lunch at the Hangar, 21 December 2024

We were delighted to welcome Carl (our Patron) and Christine Schiller, current volunteers and some we hadn't seen for a while. It was a pleasure to see Helen Landolino from Tim Pallas' office when she called in, even if she couldn't stay to eat with us. We enjoyed a catered meal, partly funded by a grant from Wyndham City Council. Attendees also had fun as raffle ticket winners' names were drawn and prizes collected. We thank Mario Piovesan for his wonderful work in organising

these as well as other donors who gave items to be included.



Photos courtesy of Ron Gillis

Other Hangar Happenings

If you have not seen the exterior of the aircraft restoration hangar and storage containers for some time, you will, we hope, be pleasantly surprised at the transformation. The containers have all been repainted in the same green as the hangar, and the far wall of the hangar itself has been cleaned and repainted. We now have a museum precinct of consistent appearance. Thanks to those who organised and carried out this work.

To facilitate work on the tail plane, space around it has been cleared and storage racks are being made for the tail fins.

Hangar equipment that has been used for a long time has been assessed and we shall be purchasing replacements for the cut-off saw and the vacuum cleaner with cyclone attachment for the sand blaster.



The far side of our restoration hangar after the area was cleared, the wall cleaned and repainted

Strange, but true



Consolidated R2Y Liberator Liner

One was built but no military service eventuated. It served briefly as a freighter.



Last liberator built out of a total of 18,000

Willow Run, June 1945

Just a reminder

Gift vouchers are now available from our shop. You can specify how much you wish to pay for the voucher (with a minimum of \$20.00). For further details, please call 0473 567 146 or enquire when you next visit the hangar.

Forthcoming events

We will be represented at the Scoresby Steam Festival from 8 to 10 March and will have selected items from the hangar on display.

Our annual Commemorative Service will be held at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 23 March. We hope you will be able to attend.

We shall once again attend the Avalon Air Show, this year from 28 to 30 March, taking a number of items to display and with up to ten volunteers representing the B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia. If you are attending the airshow, please come and say 'hello'.

We shall also participate in the 2025 National Trust Heritage Festival from 18 April to 18 May. The theme this year is 'Unearthed' ('bringing to light lesser-known histories ... to empower younger generations as custodians of culture and traditions'). We have some good examples such as the story of the B-24 Liberator nicknamed 'Hazel'.

We shall be represented again 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.

For Gabrielle

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.

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