



“Liberator Relives”

Grp Capt Carl Schiller (Ret) OAM CSM

B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated

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LEST WE FORGET



President's Message

Even though I have not been able to go to the hangar since surgery in early May, the Vice-President gives me regular updates on the many activities and promising developments with our aircraft and with the Hangar 1 project.

The large number of group visits to our museum in May and June has been wonderful. I'm sure these numbers will increase after we have the B-24 Liberator on display in restored Hangar 1 in 2028.

There has been good coverage of our work in various media: the *Star Weekly*; the *Herald Sun*; the *Western Leader*, Radio 3AW and Wyndham TV.

My sincere thanks to John Phillips for the wonderful work he is doing as Vice-President during my absence.

Aircraft Restoration Projects

B-24 Liberator

Structural repair of the bomb bay supports was undertaken.

LED lighting has been installed throughout the aircraft, showing the interior under much brighter lights than before.

Trim tabs for the rear elevator were fitted on the tailplane.



*B-24 Liberator bomb bay repair patch
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*B-24 Liberator bomb bay repair patch
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*B-24 Liberator Elevator trim tabs manufactured
and fitted to tail plane
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*LED lighting in B-24
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*LED lighting in B-24
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*B-24 Liberator Elevator trim tabs manufactured
and fitted to tail plane
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*

Avro Anson

Several members of the team were absent because of illness, so progress slowed somewhat. However, there was work on the upper turret, where cupola supporting frames were stripped, repaired and reconstructed ready for priming and painting.

Problems with the mobile construction stand still need to be solved.



*Anson turret dome structure
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*Anson turret dome structure
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*Anson windscreen Plexiglass being installed
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*



*Anson windscreen Plexiglass being installed
(Photo courtesy of Paul Rourke)*

Airspeed Oxford

Reinforcement of the tail roof is proceeding (it had to be redesigned because the wrong plan was used initially).

The tail wheel assembly is going ahead, and the tailplane fixture is under way.

Hangar 1 Project

Good progress with the Hangar 1 (H1) project continues.

New in-ground services have been completed. The pouring of the new concrete slab for H1 and the apron is ongoing.

All the cladding has been removed from H1. Asbestos clearance is being staged to ensure thoroughness.

Member labelling and temporary works installations are set to begin.

Members

If you have not already renewed your membership, we do hope you will do so very soon.

Also, if you know anyone who might be interested in joining our association, please encourage them to do so.

New Volunteers

We were very encouraged by the response to our presence at the Wyndham Volunteer Expo on 16 May with 14 prospective volunteers responding. They are being invited to the hangar to identify the area best suited to them and for us to ensure one of our existing volunteers will be available to work closely with them when they commence work at the hangar.

Group Visits

We recently welcomed the following groups to our museum: Niddrie Air League, Probus Club Belmont, Hobsons Bay Men's Shed, Probus Club Waurin Ponds, Rotary Club of Wyndham (the club posted a congratulatory message and a number of photos on Facebook – see examples below) and the Australian Air League Point Cook Squadron Cadets.





We are seeking financial support for this project. Sponsorship opportunities include a plaque and naming rights. Each room will cost approximately \$8000, and we are seeking donations of \$2000 or more towards each room.

While we cannot offer tax deductibility because that only applies to donations for aircraft restoration, this offers you an opportunity to make a lasting contribution and a meaningful difference to our efforts to preserve Australia's military aviation heritage.

For Gabrielle

Did you hear about the deer that went to the dentist?

It had buck teeth.

If your club would like to visit our museum, please contact us at the hangar beforehand so that we can best meet your needs and have volunteers to give you a guided tour.

Assistance Needed

We are very fortunate that Melbourne Water is organising the H1 project that should deliver the restored, larger World War II hangar to us by the end of 2027. However, we need to arrange the interior fit out (in accordance with Heritage Victoria requirements) so that there is a Heritage and Archives Room, a meeting room, etc.

The sub-committee planning our move into H1 has recommended the use of repurposed shipping containers to minimise the impact on the heritage-listed hangar. They will be carefully designed to fit between the upright beams along the internal edge of the hangar and tastefully modified in-house to have all the amenities needed.

Compiled by Cathy Gutierrez

Edited by Lyn Gorman

Packaged and distributed by Paul Rourke

Membership Secretary, Graham Collis

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