

## “Liberator Relives”

*Grp Capt Carl Schiller (Ret) OAM CSM*

B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated

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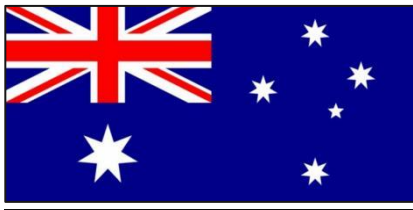
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## LEST WE FORGET



## MEMBERS MATTER

### Vale

#### Doug Sinclair

Doug passed away on 17 January 2024. He was one of our long-serving hangar volunteers and a highly respected carpenter.

Doug was one of a team of two who initiated the start of our Oxford replica build. Prior to his retirement he had successfully created the port and starboard wings, the centre section and numerous components. It was a pleasure to watch and learn from Doug when he

was practising his skills, gained from past experience.

### President's Message

As I read the Newsletter from 2003 (see below), I was struck by the number of volunteers mentioned who are no longer with us and felt so appreciative of the work they contributed to our project. I also thought of the long-running dedication of several mentioned in 2003 who continue to do sterling work in the hangar. I am grateful that we continue to welcome new volunteers with various skill sets. We are indeed fortunate that our volunteer numbers continue to be replenished.

Our Commemorative Service at the Shrine of Remembrance on 23 March is now a firm fixture in our annual calendars. This year the service will be on a Saturday. We hope you will be able to join us during this opportunity to reflect and to give thanks for all who served on/with Liberators.

### **Liberator, hangar activities, August 2003!**

A bit different this time, after I [Dave Miller] received a copy of our Newsletter dated August 2003 from Alan Baker's son. I offer this 'Snapshot in time' of the volunteers and the Liberator work in progress during August 2003.

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**Patron:** Frank Burt, OBE, FAIM

**President:** John Temby

**Secretary:** Colin Grey

**Acting Treasurer:** Robert Mikolajczyk

### **Business**

**Colin Grey** will travel to Sydney on 9 August to conclude several items of business. This will include the final arrangements for the recovery of the two PNG airframes.

### **Front Fuselage**

Top skins from the cockpit to the nose just completed. Remaining skins in this area are being removed for rework and structure.

**Ken Bullen** has made great progress with the lower front fuselage framework, and the armoured glass is in work off-site.

### **Centre Fuselage**

**John Temby** is refurbishing all the bomb door drives and flight control pulleys.

**Vic Garcia** is in the process of making form blocks for the new bomb door roller tracks.

**Ken Hindle** and his team are busy rebuilding the rear keel section and the rear bomb bay bulkhead area.

### **Rear Fuselage**

'**Jock**' **Lindrus** is progressing steadily with the lower rear fuselage restoration. The frames around the camera window and rear access door were extremely corroded.

### **Wings**

**Ian Young** and his crew have completed the trailing edge shrouds on both wings, and they have done a terrific job considering their original state.

### **Armament**

**Tony Muller** and **John Devlin** have done a great job rebuilding the upper turret, and it is basically operational.

**Dave Miller** and **Ed Crabtree** have almost finished the nose turret, and they also have done a great job.

### **Stores**

**Mario Piovesan** is doing an excellent job in organising, storing and identifying the equipment in our main store. It is all being put on computer, for our use and to identify parts that can be sold through the Internet.

### **Perspex Moulding**

**Ron Platt** is researching the repair and future use of a secondhand perspex moulding machine that we have acquired. If this proves successful, we will be able to manufacture perspex components for ourselves and overseas customers.

Also included in the package is a full two-page article from the *Herald Sun* dated 16 August 2005.

This article has photos of **Vern Roberts, Ian Young, Nat Eichler, Charles Cull, John Temby, Ron Platt** and **Ed Crabtree** at their work stations.

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And now, back to 2024....

### Oxford, hangar activities

The main work has been construction of the rear fuselage to the current stage so that the Oxford team can commence skinning of the frame and attaching the rear fuselage capping.

### Anson, hangar activities

The sand blasting room is up and working. Mark Pilkington has loaned door templates, and Ron and Lindsay are already making the new ones. Bruce has almost finished the timber window frames. There was a visit to Ballarat Anson, and two and a half Cheetah engines were brought back for parts.

### Anson anomaly

Contained in issue 124 vol. 27 of the magazine *Classic Wings* is an article on our Anson project.

This article lists the serial number as N4955, formerly located at Balaklava in South Australia.

This contrasts with the information contained in the ADF Anson serial number listings which state that N4955 only existed

as cowlings and nose section in the mid-1980s.

As aircraft serial numbers are based on the parent fuselage, the serial number from SA appears invalid.

As our fuselage was donated by the RAAF History and Heritage section without a traceable serial number, the mystery remains.

### Hangar 1 progress

### Stakeholders' meeting, 13 February 2024

We welcomed several new attendees, including representatives of Melbourne Water and Wyndham City Council.

Several main points were made at the meeting. A lot of discussion has occurred between Melbourne Water (MW) and potential contractors about the detailed requirements for deconstructing Hangar 1. This phase is likely to end in September or October 2024. Potential contractors are excited about the project because there is very rarely such a unique building of historical significance on which their specialists can work. There have been delays with the Planning Permit to Wyndham City Council, but MW's work with the tenderers can proceed in the meantime. The Heritage Victoria permit amendment application was approved so that the truss from Hangar 4 can be located inside the relocated Hangar 1, behind a perspex screen. The amended date for

completion of the project, February 2027, was also approved by Heritage Victoria, as was the changed access point to the B-24 museum precinct (Dutchelm Avenue, not Farm Road). The next Stakeholders' Meeting will be held in May 2024.

### **Day out!**



Our P&W 1830 engine being loaded for a trip to Geelong's annual 'Steam Fest'

We thank Tony Muller and his team for organising our participation in this annual event.

### **Strange, but true**



Skin repairs on the Graf Zeppelin high over the Atlantic, 1934

### **Just a reminder**

We also have a CAC Boomerang under restoration in the hangar.



The prototype boomerang shed bits of its propeller during an early test flight from Melbourne and force landed on the Werribee airfield near our hangar.

### **Wanted**

If someone has an unwanted (used) mono (B&W) A3 laser printer they would care to donate, it would be much appreciated (and used).

### **Forthcoming events**

Our annual Commemorative Service will be held once again at the Shrine of Remembrance on 23 March, a Saturday this year. We hope you will be able to attend.

### **For Gabrielle**

Reading while sunbathing makes you well, red.

A book hit my head and I have only my shelf to blame.

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