

## “Liberator Relives”

*Grp Capt Carl Schiller (Ret) OAM CSM*

B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated

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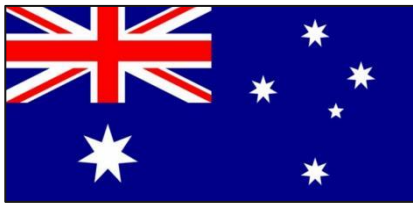
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## LEST WE FORGET



## MEMBERS MATTER



We wish you and yours a merry and safe Christmas with a prosperous and happy New Year.

The AGM was held on Saturday 18 December, with the following to be noted. Three long-term members were granted Life Membership for participation, continued support and encouragement of our projects. They are:

Mr William (Bill) Mackie

Mr Mervyn Schneider

Mr Norman Wilson.

Mr John Phillips was nominated and seconded from the floor to fill a vacancy in the Management Committee.

Mr Phillips then accepted the position of Vice-President, left vacant by the transfer of Mr Graham Collis to Treasurer.

Mr Paul Rourke was awarded the Ken Bullen Annual Trophy for outstanding effort as Hangar Manager and Secretary.

### President's Message

I have been forced to miss key events (such as our AGM) because of surgery and a ban on driving for up to six weeks. I

sincerely thank those who have filled in for me at the AGM and in carrying out other tasks in the hangar. I'm recovering well and hope to be back to normal activities soon.

As you can see from this Newsletter, there has been plenty of activity at the hangar, with our three aircraft restoration and rebuilding projects progressing well and some changes being made so that the Hangar 1 project can proceed.

I wish all our readers a happy festive season and a safe and healthy 2024.

*Lyn Gorman, President*

### Liberator, hangar activities

Two Honour Boards have been created, one honouring our Founder Members and one recognising our Life Members. Many thanks to Tony Muller and Paul Rourke for the organisation and installation. The boards are currently located in our lunch room.

Electrical work continues on the preparation, testing and installation of electrical components.



The 7 OTU Tocumwal nose identification number that our Liberator wore during its service life has been re-created and attached.

### A welcome visitor



Paul Rourke and John Morrissy hosted a detailed Liberator tour for Mr Pavel Turk from Czechoslovakia last month.

Mr Pavel has visited every known, surviving liberator in the world. Not surprisingly, ours was the last on his list.

He presented us with two highly detailed manuals he has compiled of his expeditions. Of particular value is a detailed series of installation photographs of counter-measure equipment that is peculiar to our model and until now was unavailable.

Thank you, Pavel.

### Oxford, hangar activities



Good progress continues with the Oxford, with the rear fuselage assembly more recognisable in structure and form.

If you are visiting, it is interesting to compare the Oxford and Anson assembly materials, wood and steel. The move to steel was considered a major step forward in technology at that point in history.

### **Anson, hangar activities**



Restoration work has expanded to include metal components, namely the nose cone and undercarriage legs.

Modern sand blasting equipment has been purchased and an external work area is being established that will meet OH&S requirements.

### **Hangar 1 progress**

An area ground plan has been received from Melbourne Water for our comments. This item covers the proposed on-site road plan, fire hose points, parking and boundary fencing.

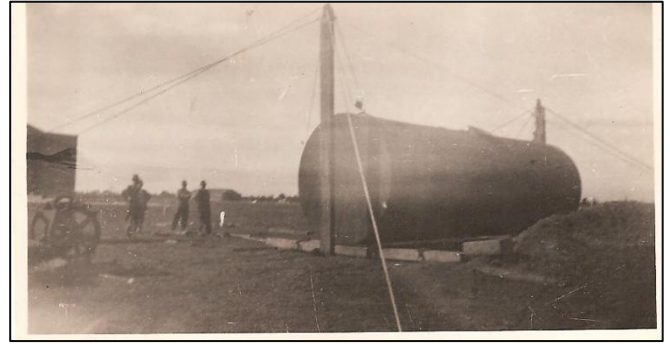
### **Stakeholders meeting, 10 October 2023**

Upon occupation of Hangar 1 we will be deemed responsible for ground

maintenance tasks and formal waste disposal activities.

It has been agreed that a new main entrance will be established in Dutch Elm Avenue (not yet constructed, which runs parallel with the Princes Highway).

### **In the beginning**



A large fuel tank being installed on our airfield during 1943/44. The edge of Hangar 1 can be seen in the background.

### **Experimental guise**



Post-war USAAF B-24 Liberator fitted out for early jet engine de-icing trials, 1946

### **A milestone to be noted**

**An extract from our Newsletter of  
October 2005**

A second alternative is now being developed. Melbourne Water

Corporation, our landlord, is combining with the Victorian Urban Development Corporation in a joint venture to develop the Werribee airfield for residential and community purposes.

Planning for this project is in its early stages, but we have been invited twice to meet with joint venture representatives to make our needs known. Our representations have been well received, and we have been encouraged that both parties, as well as Wyndham Council, are well aware of the significance of our project and our aims and are sympathetic to our cause.

It will no doubt be some time before firm proposals are presented for our consideration on either of the locations, but at long last it does appear that there is movement in the right direction.

There will be many factors to consider before a final decision is taken, but your committee will take all measures it can to further your interests and reach a decision which will result in a Memorial Museum of which we can all be proud.

## **Just a reminder**



Lady riveters at work on the port side of a Liberator rear fuselage at Willow Run during 1944

Lady riveting teams were crucial in the production cycle of aircraft assembly during World War II.

## **Forthcoming events**

We will be attending the annual Geelong Steam Fest held at the Geelong showgrounds on 13 and 14 January 2024 with our two serviceable engines on show and working.

## **For Gabrielle**

The Doctor called Mrs Cohen, saying: 'Your cheque came back.'

Mrs Cohen answered: 'So did my arthritis.'

Sometimes I wake up Grumpy...  
other times I let her sleep.

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