

## “Liberator Relives”

*(Patron) Grp Capt Carl Schiller (Ret) OAM CSM*

**B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated**

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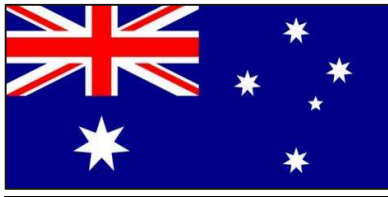
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## **LEST WE FORGET**



## **MEMBERS MATTER**

### **President's Message**

I hope you will feel very content when you read this Newsletter. Our volunteers have made wonderful progress during the past year on all three of the aircraft restoration and rebuilding projects; we offered different activities - Metal- and Wood-Working workshops - during the 2024 Seniors Festival; and matters are progressing satisfactorily with the Hangar 1 project. We still look forward to the Don Williams' Author Talk, Book Launch and Book Signing (his book focuses on the CAC Boomerang) in our museum on 8 December, and to our pre-Christmas lunch at the hangar on 21 December. If you wish to attend the lunch, please let us know (for catering purposes) by 10 December at the latest. So, in this final issue of our Newsletter for 2024, I wish you a happy and safe festive season and all the best in 2025.

### **Hangar Activities**

#### **Metal and Wood-Working Workshops during 2024 Seniors Festival**

We held three workshops at our restoration hangar as part of the 2024 Seniors Festival in October. These were designed to introduce senior visitors to the wood- and metal-working skills used by volunteers on our three aircraft, to give them some hands-on experience if they wished, and to provide free morning teas and/or sausage-sizzle lunches thanks to a grant from Wyndham City Council (WCC). The three workshops attracted a total of 46 visitors, and we had around 30 volunteers present for each workshop. Seniors who completed a feedback form were very positive about their experience at the hangar.

After consultation with WCC, we were able to use some of the remaining funds from the grant to cater for a light lunch at our Annual General Meeting on 9 November; the remainder can be used for afternoon tea at Don Williams' talk and launch of his book on the CAC Boomerang on 8 December (see below), and after our review of 2024 at our pre-Christmas lunch on 21 December. We very much appreciate Wyndham City Council's support.



Attendees at one of the three metal- and wood-working workshops in October  
(Photo taken by Ron Gillis)

### Author Talk, Book Launch and Book Signing



On Sunday 8 December at 2.00pm, with the Boomerang aircraft in our hangar as the backdrop, Don Williams will talk of his book on the CAC Boomerang, respond to questions from the audience and sign copies of his book. There will be light refreshments afterwards. Attendees will have the opportunity to view our other aircraft as well, the B-24 Liberator, the Airspeed Oxford and the Avro Anson.

Don sought to understand the role of the Royal Australian Air Force in the Pacific War in the 1940s. He was surprised and disappointed to find that no book telling the complete story of Australia's own wartime emergency fighter, the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Boomerang, had been published. He decided to fill this gap by writing a book dedicated to the Boomerang. He is also a keen amateur photographer and is pleased that some of his photographs are included in the book.

Don Williams, *The CAC Boomerang Australia's Own WWII Fighter* (Avonmore Books, 2024). RRP \$36.95.

## Aircraft Restoration Projects

As indicated in the September-October Newsletter, in this issue we are pleased to provide updates on our three aircraft restoration/rebuilding projects, offering an overview of progress during the past year.

### B-24 Liberator A72-176

- Because of the model mix (B24D, B24M, PB4Y-2), surface control systems related to aileron control pulley assemblies and tab control have been refurbished as well as pulley bracket assemblies that did not fit correctly. The lower pulley bracket is being reinstalled; the mid-position and upper brackets are being rebuilt from components recovered from Moe and stored in the hangar.
- In the bomb bay temporarily installed assemblies were removed and rebuilt using spare parts and assemblies.
- The fuselage was checked for corrosion, cleaned and repainted. Rebuilt assemblies are being installed.
- Because the outer wings and ailerons are PB4Y-2 and B24D, actuating systems are different and incompatible. It is proposed to modify the aileron and tab operation to later model standard. Components for tab operation have been adapted from parts of other tab controls. Modification of the aileron and tab is to be researched.
- Oxygen system work covered the refurbishment of regulator units for crew stations to non-operating standard. Oxygen bottle mounting brackets and straps were refurbished, and new parts were made for 24 oxygen bottles to be installed. We have sufficient bottles, with some still to be stripped, repainted and stencilled.
- Limited work has been done on the hydraulic system, fitting existing piping for the tail skid. Work has commenced on pipe assemblies over the top of the bomb bay, using original piping as templates for new. As the landing gear and brakes will be inactive, piping is being retained in existing assemblies on the wing and right side of the bomb bay.
- Off-site work on the rear turret has continued.
- Engine runs continue to be popular with visitors and are a useful way of ensuring we maintain the Pratt and Whitney engines in good working order.
- The Electrical Division continues to make a significant contribution to the project (see below).

### Airspeed Oxford

- Good progress continues with the Oxford rebuild.
- The main body of the fuselage is almost complete; construction of the rear fuselage is proceeding; the basic structure of the cockpit is done and is awaiting installation of all fittings, controls and gauges; work on the rudder has been progressing.
- The team continues to find sufficient space for their work by careful storage of completed components.
- This project continues to be well-funded, thanks to a generous donor.

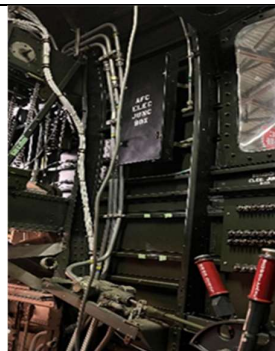
### Avro Anson

- There has been considerable progress with the Avro Anson restoration. There is a strong team working on this project, including former Point Cook RAAF Museum volunteers. The team ensures that the work on the Anson is carried out to high standards.
- Good use is being made of the sand blasting equipment, which is now housed suitably in an area behind Hangar 2. Having the air compressor serviced was very valuable for this team's work.
- Components that have been cleaned for the undercarriage are painted prior to being assembled; woodworking is progressing well, with formers and floors installed, volunteers having made a template based on remnants obtained on loan; the doors have been made and windows reconstructed with the proper alignment; work has also been done on the nose cone.

### Electrical Division Activities



*The Bulkhead 4.0 Bomb-Bay Connection Panel was replaced after being removed for refurbishment and to allow the correct location of associated cable runs.*



*The Auto Flight Control Panel has been refurbished and refitted in the forward compartment.*



*The Bomb Bay Bail-out Bell has been refurbished and re-fitted at the aft portside bulkhead.*



*The forward compartment Bombardier's Panel has been relocated to its correct place so the Navigator's Panel and Intervalometer can be positioned.*

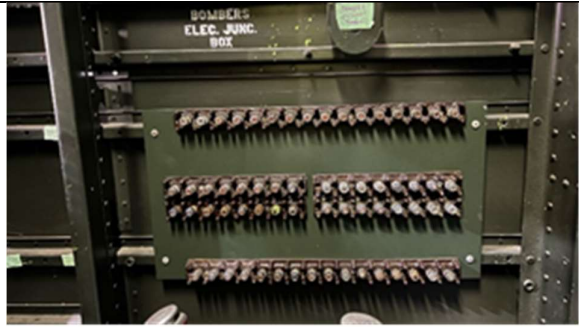


*The Connection Panel, bomb-bay portside midship, has been re-manufactured and installed and is awaiting cables to be run and connected.*



*The Navigator's Communications and Flight Suit Heater Control Mounting Plate has been refurbished and re-installed.*





*The Bomber's Electrical Junction Box has been refurbished and re-installed into the forward compartment.*

### **Hangar 1 Project**

A Stakeholders' Meeting was held in Hangar 2 on Tuesday 19 November. Both external bodies and the B-24 Liberator group were well represented, and there was very useful discussion of several issues, including: Melbourne Water assistance in the maintenance of Hangar 2 (particularly the external buttresses on the southern side); the process for temporarily removing struts inside H2 to move A72-176 into Hangar 1 once that hangar has been relocated and restored; the change in location of the entrance to the museum precinct. The next Stakeholders' Meeting will be held in March 2025.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 9 November and began after the arrival of a couple of local members at the eleventh hour to give the meeting a quorum!

Our Patron provided a welcome, reminding us of the significance of Remembrance Day on 11 November.

Membership of the 2025 Committee of Management was confirmed as follows:

President: Lyn Gorman

Vice-President: John Phillips

Treasurer: Gary Singline

Secretary: Graham Collis

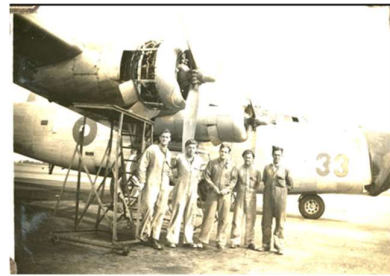
Other members: Marge Albert, Roger Duncan, Ron Gillis, John Keevins, Peter Perryman, Paul Rourke.

The Financial Reports and Auditor's Report were accepted.

We congratulate this year's winner of the Ken Bullen Award, Frank Zielinski. The award recognises long and outstanding service to the B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia.

Attendees enjoyed a light lunch at the conclusion (lunch costs covered from the Wyndham City Council grant).

### **Strange, but true**



Some of the men who kept them flying....

The photo was probably taken at Tocumwal, judging by the nose numbers.

*(Photo supplied by Dave Miller)*

### **Forthcoming Events**



We wish all our members a happy and safe Christmas season and contentment and fulfilment in 2025.

### **Christmas and New Year Closure**

The hangar will be closed from 3.30pm on Thursday 19 December to 9.20am on Tuesday 14 January 2025.

*For Gabrielle*

*From the Church newsletter:*

*Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and meditation to follow.*

Compiled by Cathy Gutierrez

Edited by Lyn Gorman

Packaged and distributed by Paul Rourke

Membership Secretary, Graham Collis

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