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## “Liberator Relives”

*Grp Capt Carl Schiller (Ret) OAM CSM*

B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated

**President**

Lyn Gorman  
18 Maddison Circuit  
Darley, Vic. 3340  
Ph: 0488 588 011

Hangar Phone: (03) 9731 1263

**Secretary**

Paul Rourke  
PO Box 156, Werribee, Vic. 3030  
Ph: 0409179254

Email: [liberator@b24australia.org.au](mailto:liberator@b24australia.org.au)

**Treasurer**

Gary Singline  
Box 156, Werribee, Vic, 3030  
Ph: 0420491182

Web page: <http://WWW.b24australia.org.au>

## LEST WE FORGET

### Vale

In the Autumn 2023 issue of Wings magazine (Vol. 75, No. 1, p. 79) we read that a former Patron of our Association, Frank Burt, had passed away in January 2023 aged 82.

He joined the RAAF in July 1962, was commissioned as a Navigator in 1963 and posted to RAAF Amberley. He had a 33-year career in the RAAF, flying with No. 6 and No. 2 Squadrons, including an operational posting in Vietnam.

He later held appointments in Canberra and Melbourne, before retiring in 1995. He was awarded Officer of the Order of the British Empire as well as various service medals.

Post-retirement he was a member of the Veterans Review Board from 1998 to 2014 as well as being Patron of our association. We send our condolences to his family.

### Hangar activities

Our traditional pre-ANZAC Day lunch was held at the hangar on 22 April 2023.

We were honoured and pleased to host three members who served on Liberators in the RAAF: Bill Mackie, Norm Wilson and Vern Roberts. In the photograph they are with our President Lyn Gorman.



Members, family and friends enjoyed a pleasant lunch during which Bill Mackie recited *The Ode*.



### **President's Message**

We were delighted that attendees at the pre-ANZAC Day lunch in April gave very positive feedback about the atmosphere that day. It was marvelous that three World War II veterans who had served with Liberators attended. One of them is now a centenarian, the other two in their late 90s; one had travelled quite a distance with family members to be present.

The Open Day held in May to celebrate the commencement of our Avro Anson project was also a great success thanks to visitors, the Geelong Military Re-Enactment Group and our volunteers (as well as glimmers of sunshine between showers!).

Several groups have visited the hangar recently, and we have bookings for months ahead for further group visits.

Some groups request refreshments and/or an engine run in addition to a guided tour. The costs of these extras are shown on the B-24 Liberator Werribee website.

We also have some new and different merchandise for sale in our shop at the entrance to the hangar.

At each monthly Committee of Management meeting we discuss OH&S

requirements to ensure that visitors and volunteers are protected in our working environment.

If you have not visited recently, I encourage you to do so. You may be surprised by progress to date with the Avro Anson restoration (not to mention the interior fitout of the Liberator and the expansion of the Airspeed Oxford rebuild)!

Best wishes to everyone during these cold winter months.

Lyn Gorman, President

### **Hangar 1 relocation. Update report 1**

**June 2023**

Melbourne Water representatives reported the following: the completion date has been amended from 2027 to 2026; the project cost has increased significantly.

Asbestos removal from the adjacent area has commenced, with plastic dust barriers around the site.

### **Liberator, hangar activities**

Electrical items restoration and re-fitment is in progress, with the restored instrument panel due to be installed this month.

The international search for the cockpit compass mounting bracket continues with no tangible results at the moment.

Aileron control and control lock pulley brackets modifications are in progress. Oxygen outlets for the crew are being restored and re-assembled.

### **Airspeed Oxford, hangar activities**

Progress continues on the assembly of the rear fuselage components in conjunction with the manufacture of details.

Our thanks to Eric Watkiss at 'Saving Amy', the Oxford restoration team based at Blackpool in the UK for prompt responses to our recent technical query.

### Avro Anson, hangar activities

Our 'Welcome to the Anson Open Day' held last month (in a hangar temperature of 10 degrees) was a successful event with just under 200 visitors and donations of more than \$700. It was a busy day for all the volunteers who were present.

Again, thanks to our ladies' team who catered to cold and hungry visitors.



### Our Anson progresses

The current Issue 124 of the 'Classic Wings' magazine contains a complimentary item and a photograph of our restoration, in conjunction with current Australian Anson restoration projects.

### Strange, but true



### The imprint of a Japanese light float plane plane (two crew) on the hull of HMS Sussex, Pacific Ocean, 1945

Because the early Bofors anti-aircraft guns fitted ships could not traverse below the horizon, it was believed that it was safe to attack ships at low level.

### Not quite right!!

The successor to the B-24M was the B-24N. Only 138 production aircraft were ordered and then the order was cancelled. Of note are the twin nose wheels.



### Not Forgotten



**A7 is a DH60 Gipsy Moth at Parafield SA.**

We have retrieved a series of photographs taken by Ed Crabtree during his early days in the RAAF. Ed was one of our hangar volunteers and was also the second-last pilot to fly our B-24 Liberator A72-176.

During June 1940, after basic training, Ed was posted to Parafield in South Australia. The Adjutant was surprised to see him as he had no prior notice of his posting. As Ed explained, the Adjutant was a quick thinker and gave Ed a camera and told him to photograph station activities until further notice. Ed happily complied and spent the next month on that mission, hence the collection of photos in our archives.

### **Thank you**

Thanks to Ed Collingbridge for the donation of a bandsaw for use on our Oxford/Anson projects.

Also thank you to Frank Fleming for the donation of Whitworth spanners Dave Chisholm, a new volunteer, donated a selection of Whitworth spanners. Thank you, Dave.

### **Wanted**

We still require British 1940s-era tools, nuts, bolts and screws to service our Anson and Oxford projects.

Can you help?.

### **Forthcoming events**

25/6 All British classic car club.

9/7 Riley Car club.

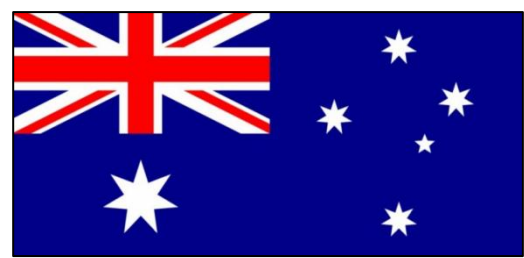
18/7 Lara Lifestyle village tour.

8/8 A Retirement village tour.

### **For Gabrielle**

A girl's mum and dad decided to emigrate to Australia after reading an advertisement about 'Australia, a land of milk and honey'. Later, her father laughingly said: 'I did not know we had to bring our own cows and bees.'

The reason politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would have to make a living under the laws they have just passed.



Compiled by Dave Miller [davezcorio@gmail.com](mailto:davezcorio@gmail.com)

Edited by Lyn Gorman

Packaged and distributed by Paul Rourke

Membership Secretary, Graham Collis

[graham.collis59@gmail.com](mailto:graham.collis59@gmail.com)