



Summer Newsletter 2023 - 24

Good afternoon members. Christmas and New Year passed by very quickly and I hope you and your loved ones had a relaxed and pleasant break...my best wishes for the year ahead.

Our restoration team returned to Beresfield on January 8th and we are now well into various parts of the restoration.

As flagged in the Spring Newsletter the handover / takeover of the aircraft and memorabilia took place at Beresfield on Nov 17th. Air Force History and Heritage were present and represented by their Director General, Air Commodore Robert Lawson and Wing Commanders Dyson and Ryan. A good gathering of members and their families were present. We had a brief 'ceremony' and a signing of deeds of transfer. We took the opportunity to celebrate the birthday of 'Our Girl' and a cake was procured and cut by the D.G, Penny and Terry...photos tell the story.



To briefly recap...with the lack of support from Lake Mac Council we looked at the best future options for the aircraft and our hard-working restoration team. I believe we have achieved our goal.

Our AGM was delayed awaiting the completed audit of our Financial Years accounts. The audit found all to be in order, and we held the AGM at Beresfield on December 10th. Can I say how delightful it was to have the meeting and subsequent committee meetings at 'our premises' rather than 'a room at a club'.

Despite an early completion of our FY accounts and submission to the auditors by our Treasurer, this was the second year that our audit was late in completion. We have spoken to Amanda Sullivan, the Principal at Quay Accounting, here in Toronto, and she has agreed to undertake future audit work, at minimal cost. Amanda has done work for us in earlier years.

Your committee remains largely unchanged...President Bill Anderson, Vice President Terry Woolard, Secretary and Treasurer Graham Streeter, Committee members Penny Furner, Terry Fahey and Phil Aris.

Our past Treasurer asked to step down due to personal reasons...Philip Priest did a wonderful job in his role and on your behalf I extend my thanks and best wishes.

Beresfield update: We are still working through some annual planned maintenance in co-ordination with the managing agent. Committee approved the purchase of a Stihl Vacuum Cleaner and related water pressure equipment from our supporter Anest Iwata. This equipment will assist the internal cleaning preparation prior to painting. Another supporter 'Telmo' recently completed the manufacture of a 'tow hitch'...we were able to borrow one from the Bankstown Catalina folk and use that as a template. We value the ongoing support!



Late last year we had a visitor...a young (22) Filipino lad who has, now, just started his year 3 studies in Aerospace at the Uni of Newcastle. **CJ** as he is known, was keen to see if he could join us and gain some practical experience...CJ has proven to be a delightful, motivated young man and is working and learning with our team.

He and his family migrated to Australia some years ago and I do look forward to meeting his parents.

TAFE students are now back at their college and we expect to see their return to our project in the near future.

Our Air Force 'Point of Contact' (POC), Wing Commander Rick Dyson took a short break over Christmas followed by a rather nasty cold. Rick rejoined us on Jan 23rd and is now ready to engage with the long list of matters we have put to him. Welcome back Rick!

Base Tours: Earlier this month we had a planned visit from 20 members of the Classic Commercial Vintage Truck Club. We were not able to get any good photos of the range of vehicles..they kindly parked in the street...minor oil leaks! They enjoyed their morning tea and with an obvious interest in machinery, they appreciated their walk around our project.

During February we have several Base Tour bookings....the first on Saturday Feb 3rd is the Illawarra Outdoor Club. We were advised to expect a group of 53 for the morning tea, presentation and lunch. The following three bookings have a head count total of around 75, so it will be a busy couple of weeks. That said, it is very rewarding to speak with these groups, share and understand their interest in Rathmines and our restoration and a good opportunity to raise funds with our RCA merchandise.



ANZAC Planning: This continues with a lot of work behind the scenes. Information will be put onto our website as it becomes available...for now the significant points are....we ask guests to be seated by 1245, the march will step off at 1245 and the flyover is planned for 1300. Westlakes Band will play for us again and they provided a lead to a Piper, Dennis Browning who will join us at the ceremony with his bagpipes. I was able to meet Dennis recently at the Memorial, lovely fellow and clearly very experienced at his 'passion'.



On matters Anzac and the Memorial...we are expecting to hear very soon about our grant application for funding to enable the Memorial fence to be replaced.

We also received positive news from Lake Macquarie Council that our grant application to them was successful and an amount of \$1000 has been awarded. This will help defray some of the costs we incur to run the Service.

One more small item...Committee agreed to purchase a basic mobile phone and plan, to enable a new phone number to be used on our many forms and related items. Also, it will allow other committee members to share the phone and the incoming calls. I am contactable on my personal mobile, but you will see the new number begin to appear.

RCA Mobile 0402 467 060

As always, my best wishes and hope to see you at Beresfield.

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