



Summer 2022 Newsletter

Hello everyone,

Christmas has been and gone. I trust it was a pleasant occasion for all of you. Our restoration team returned to the aircraft on Jan 10th, and we all hope that 2022 is productive and enjoyable. Numerous items to cover and in no particular order.

Our AGM was completed in November and your new committee and some background about us are on the website...go to <https://www.rathmines-catalina.com/Meet-our-Committee> . I thank each one for another year of positive input.

We did have the volunteers from Fighter World pay us a visit in mid-December...morning tea and a walk around with a few of our team. Very worthwhile and a start towards building a relationship

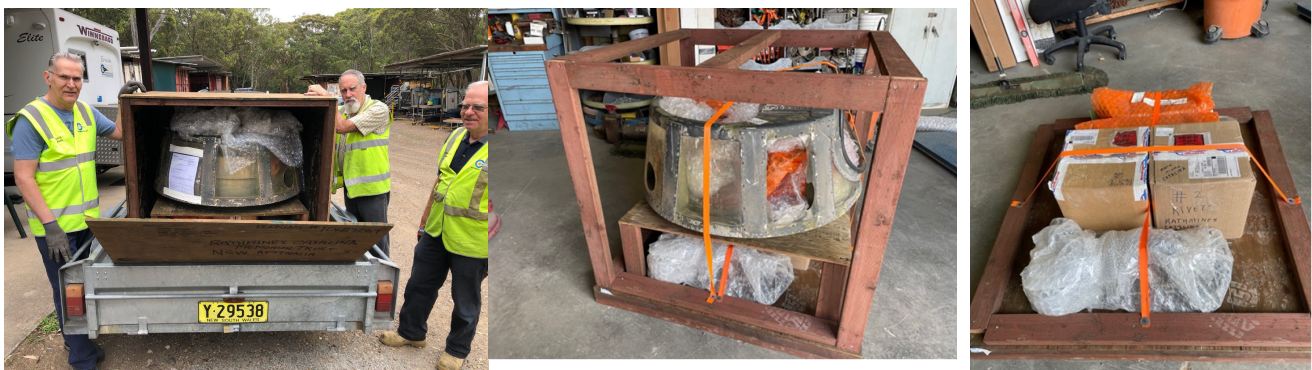
Our Memorial grant: The final paperwork for the irrigation grant has been secured from NSW Heritage and we are now awaiting the transfer of the funds. The contractors have been notified and I really hope that the work can commence in the next couple of months. A second grant application has been lodged to fund a replacement walkway fence that leads to the Memorial, results of this will be later in the year. On your behalf, a thank you to Rod for all his efforts on the Memorial grounds, they look terrific.

Restoration: Great work is being done inside the aircraft, on the hull and around the pylon. We will be hiring some scaffolding in the near future to facilitate access around the pylon and ensure the safety of the team working there. The hire quote consists of several components - delivery, set up and take down and a weekly fee. The boys have offered to come in on a few extra days to minimise the hire period...top stuff.



Discussions continue with various RAAF personnel and most recently a trip is now planned to RAAF Amberley to meet with some of their restoration volunteers, specifically their painting team. Four of us will make the journey (self-funded)a day's drive to the Base, one day on site and a day drive home. We expect it to be a great learning experience and more face-to-face contact.

Our turret finally arrived, and Terry Fahey collected it from the shipping agent just before Christmas. Terry was responsible for the arrangements and did a great job...some background to the purchase... we have a very good working relationship with the restoration folk in Werribi, Victoria. They are well into the restoration of their B24 Liberator and Graham Hore, one of their team contacted Terry with info about a Catalina eyeball (bow) turret for sale in the USA. This was in January 2021. Many emails and photos and the purchase was agreed. Packing and shipping from Georgia to Chino, California and then a shipping agent was employed for shipping via NZ to Port Botany. Customs and Quarantine were naturally involved.



The price of rivets in the US is far cheaper than here and as you know there are a lot of rivets in a Catalina! The turret shipping cost was charged by volume (cubic) and Terry arranged to purchase a considerable quantity and these were packed in the same crate...in effect freight free. The crate arrived, no damage and is here in storage. Well done Terry. Fitting is subject to planning later in the year.

WAHC (Williamstown Aviation Heritage centre): Our first meeting was held in early December and the next on Feb 3rd. A collegiate atmosphere and more to come. We now have solicitor, Mr Greg Tyler joining us, pro bono, to advise on matters legal as we move forward with discussions and agreements with WAHC and Air Force. Greg has his own practice in Newcastle and a considerable period of (legal) service in the Air Force reserve. His knowledge and contacts will be invaluable.

Ian Mclean: Late last year we acknowledged a substantial bequest from the estate of long-time member Ian McLean. Ian passed away in late 2020. Ian's generosity has put the RCA in a very strong financial position as we increase the rate of restoration and contemplate the relocation. A recent photo of Ian is attached and some of you may recall that Ian had considerable input with the early Catalina Festivals and more recently the P.A / music set up for our Anzac services. Much missed.



Anzac Day 2022: Please watch for updates on the website. We are confident that this years' service can proceed and look forward to your attendance.

Website: Graham, our secretary, has been putting in a lot of work, with updates and additions. More 'stories of our Volunteers' have been added and I hope you will take the time to read and enjoy. As always, I would appreciate any comment or input that you wish to make.

We do look forward to a few morning tea events with you, our members, but a certain virus has made for some constraints. That said, if you would like to visit the aircraft, please contact me. AND if you would like to consider contributing some of your time and skills, please call me.

Best wishes,

Bill

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