



Summer 2023 Newsletter

Hello everyone and my best wishes for the year ahead.

I have no doubt that the biggest item on our agenda was and is the relocation...more shortly.

Anzac Day 2023: Preparations are well underway with paperwork submitted to request a fly past and I have been able to meet and have a chat with the West Lakes Band President and also SQNLDR Paul Moro, 316 SQN and the Air Cadets.

Kennards at Warners Bay have, again, offered their support with chairs for the day...*thank you.*

Our Website will be updated with details on the day as they fall into place: <https://www.rathmines-catalina.com/>

Base Tours / Morning tea: Bookings are in place for a Base Tour with the Fern Bay Probus Club in early March. The Belmont Mens Probus group have asked to visit the new site and we will offer a walk around and morning tea in early May.

Recent emails to the Secretaries of several chapters of the NSW RV community have brought back positive responses as they plan their activities for 2023.

Admin/ Constitution: NSW Fair Trading have ratified our amendments to the Constitution...another job completed!

Our Committee member and Public Officer Mark Peters has asked to step down from these roles. Mark flagged this with me several months ago. He is now fully employed with his legal work at Herbert Smith Freehills and is based in Sydney. I can understand his workload and on

your behalf extend sincere thanks for his unfailing input, guidance and support.

Our Secretary, Graham Streeter has offered to take over the Public Officer role and the associated paperwork is in hand...thanks Graham.

Cooks Hill Campus: The School year has begun, and we are delighted to welcome back Lachlan Gardner. You may recall Lachlan joined us this time last year and has asked to continue his Catalina school project in 2023....Yes! One of his school, mates, Kynan Tindall, has also asked to join us and we went through his Induction process yesterday. The boys spent yesterday helping to sort, identify and wrap parts. Well done to both of you.

The Relocation: As touched on in the Spring Newsletter, the month of December was a very busy time. The weather was co-operative and the move went very well indeed. Our Vice President, Terry Woolard, took on the role as 'move co-ordinator' and this was no small task, but with Terry and the volunteers it was a pretty seamless transition...well done everyone.

TransTrac (part of the Daracon group) and Wheeler Cranes were the operatives. Their charges were very reasonable, and the job was handled most professionally.

I thought 'Our Girl' looked pretty proud mounted on the low loader and the Toronto Fire Station turned out to salute her departure.

Logistics of the move might be of interest:

Tuesday Dec.13th saw the fuselage and centre wing moved from Ridge Rd, using a low loader, flat top truck and a Franna crane. The crane then positioned to Beresfield for the unload, and I am told there was plenty of rubber-necking as they travelled up the M1

Thursday Dec.15th saw the uplift of all the components that were stored at the Centennial coal site at Awaba...outer wings, control surfaces, tail plane, engines et al. This move entailed five semi-trailers, a flat top and the Franna, with the same trip up the M1 to unload.

Pictures speak a thousand words and I hope you enjoy the ones we have included.



Loading Our Girl at Ridge Road



We receive a water salute from Toronto Fire Station as Our Girl departs Lake Mac



We Honour the memory of Ian McLean at Beresfield



13 Craftsman Close



Our Girl 'in flight' again



Ready for the restoration to continue

The move to store our components at Centennial's Awaba site was over three years ago and throughout that time they have been secure and undercover. Expressions of thanks and appreciation have been sent and I look forward to meeting the mine manager later this month...their unswerving support over many years has been outstanding.

Craftsman Close, Beresfield: Many of the lads stepped up to the plate during December and put in many days / hours to facilitate the move and the installation of infrastructure that we will use going forward.

This was greatly appreciated, and we worked through to Dec 23rd, retiring to Ridge Rd to enjoy a cold beer...a job well done.

We recommenced work on Jan 9th and whilst some of the lads are back at the restoration tasks there is the job of unpacking, storing and in some cases...where did we put 'that'!

There are a couple of clean-up items to be completed at Ridge Rd and this will take a few more weeks.

On behalf of our members and the restoration team, I would like to express **a sincere thank you to Penny and Rob**. They have been gracious hosts and landlords for around eight years. No doubt far longer than they expected! Again, thank you for your support, understanding and good humour.

My best wishes to all and the 'come and see us' invitation is still in place.

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