

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2012-2013**

I am pleased to present my report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013

### **INTRODUCTION:**

This report reveals another great year of progress with outstanding community support by volunteers, generous donors, the Hindmarsh Shire Council and local organizations.

**NAHC membership base** has grown from ninety-five to one hundred and twenty-five in this reporting year, with membership fees remaining at \$30. Technology, via the skill of Anthony Carland (son of Board member Max) and Treasurer Trevor Borgelt now enables members to pay online via PayPal, a great step forward. We have members in most Australian States and Territories.



*Rob Lynch President*

**Board meetings** have been held each month, twelve in all.

**Meeting Place:** The Board meets in rooms at the Commercial Hotel and in the RSL Soldiers' Lounge in Clarence Street. The proprietors of the Commercial Hotel Mr Gary Driscoll and Mr Andrew McIlree generously provide the rooms free of charge. This gives us a shop front window to advertise and inform the public about our activities. I thank Gary and Andrew for their interest and encouragement.

I also thank the Nhill sub branch of the RSL for giving us the use of the Soldiers' Lounge. We value the support of the RSL members, two of whom are valued and respected NAHC Board members – Max Carland and Merv Schneider – both ex WW2 RAAF.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

- **Nhill Anson Newsletter and the web page** [www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au](http://www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au) engage members and interested readers world-wide. The Board entrusts John Deckert with the production of the Nhill Anson Newsletters, and the management of the web page. I also acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Anthony Carland in Western Australia who has worked through many hours and technical issues to update the web page capabilities with John. Thanks to Jean Roberts for her supervision and input.
- **Culture Victoria web site:** Through the good will of Paula Clark, CEO of the Wimmera Regional Library and Mary Dufty Nhill Librarian, NAHC now has a permanent place on the Culture Victoria web site. Grant money obtained by Paula enabled video maker Malcolm McKinnon to film Mervyn Schneider, Max Carland, Rob Lynch and Roger Meyer OAM telling the story of the Nhill Aeradio Station.
- **NAHC Inc Board Bulletin Issue no 1** was produced entirely by Jean Roberts of Melbourne and posted to recipients in autumn. Jean is assisted locally by Joan Bennett. The Bulletin is produced quarterly.
- **Our local newspaper Nhill Free Press** has given us excellent coverage. The paper is now owned by Gladdis Enterprises and I wish them continuing success in this venture. In addition, the Wimmera Mail Times and the Weekly Advertiser have both given the NAHC positive publicity. I thank them all. My thanks include Henry Berry who compiles the press clippings for our records.
- **The NAHC stand at the Nhill A&P Annual Show** provides face-to-face contact with the general public and I'm pleased to report another successful day at the 2012 Nhill show.

## AVRO ANSON RESTORATION:



**Project Manager Mick Kingwill** continues to amaze us with his rebuilding and restoration of our Avro Anson W2364. Mick's knowledge and craftsmanship is outstanding, as is his commitment to finishing the project. Mick's fellow restorers **Len Creek and Whimpey Reichelt** are not far behind, with Len completing the tail plane and Whimpey completing one engine and starting the second one, all to a very high standard. As time permits, Kent Goldsworthy assists Mick working on W2364, and John Deckert helps keep things spick and span. Board

members do as much as they can, but lack the expertise to do the hands-on work.

Recent visitor Richard Taylor, who had a distinguished career in the RAAF, remarked after seeing the restoration, that the rarity of the skills displayed by Mick, Whimpey and Len has virtually been lost in this fast moving technical age. Richard went on to say how very fortunate we are in Nhill to have these three people working together to restore Avro Anson W2364.

## NHILL AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE/HANGAR BUILDING PROJECT:

**After a four year campaign by NAHC with the unflagging assistance of Mr Bob Ahrens of Sheoak Log SA and supported by Federal MP for Mallee John Forrest, the Victorian Member for Lowan Hugh Delahunty, and the Victorian Minister for Local Government Jeanette Powell, the Hindmarsh Shire Council at the November 2012 meeting accepted Ahrens quotation for the proposed Heritage Centre at the Aerodrome.**



*Mick and Rob discuss the building site*

This brought on a flurry of activity finalizing building plans, negotiating with Country Fire Authority about their requirements for fire services, and never ending talks with Douglas Gowans HSC Director of Infrastructure Services and his staff.

In the background there has been much rejoicing because the actual commencement of the construction of our building gets closer day by day. This project will absorb our time and energy in the next financial year. This time next year I hope to report completion of the building and a memorable opening.

**HERITAGE WALK PROJECT:** Work continues on this project. We expect completion and opening to coincide with the opening of the Centre/Hangar in 2014

## NAHC FLY-IN

Len Creek (Board Vice President) and his wife Jenny led a special committee which planned the Fly-In held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2012. This herculean undertaking took two years to complete, but the outcomes proved worthy of the effort.

The Fly-In is reported elsewhere in this Annual Report, but I must acknowledge the huge effort put in by the NAHC Board, members and volunteers - a working party second to none.

We again thank our very generous sponsors as well as members of the Emergency Services – the Propodollah Rural Fire Brigade, the Nhill SES and the Nhill Ambulance Service without whom we could not have staged the event. Nhill Rotary Club and Lions Club contributions were much appreciated as was the sterling performance of Brian Farmers as MC for the day. It is empowering to be part of a “whole of Nhill and District Workforce” with everyone working together thereby demonstrating the strength of our community and our determination to succeed.

The Fly-In was our second in five years, and I’m proud to say was a huge success!

- **Book Launch:** Kevin O’Reilly’s second book – Flyers of Time – the story of the first fifty years of aviation in country Victoria and the Riverina – was launched during the Fly-In by Mr Tony Clark, aviation historian. Kevin donates \$10 to NAHC from the sale of every book. Nhill features heavily in Kevin’s book, and follows his first book “In Just Five Year” which is the story of the RAAF Air Base in Nhill from 1941-46.
- **A “Dream of Flight” art competition** was conducted concurrently with the Fly-In by the Nhill Central Gallery group. Forty eight entries were submitted from across Victoria. The prize, presented by President Mrs Naomi Zanker at the Fly In, went to Peter Hill of Murtoa and had been decided by popular vote. Thanks to Naomi Zanker and Joan Bennett representing NAHC for initiating and carrying out this project.



*Naomi Zanker and Rob Lynch at The Gallery*



*Naomi Zanker and Joan Bennett*

- **Fly-In photos:** It was a perfect day for photographers, and I sincerely thank all people who took photographs and donated copies to the NAHC for historical purposes.

**BOARD PERFORMANCE:** I’m proud of the extraordinary output and achievements of my Board members. They bring diverse talents and skills to the Board table for decision making; they respect each other’s ability to contribute; and they are willing givers of time, equipment and whatever else is needed.

Given that each Board member has lots of other things to do; our combined NAHC achievements bear witness to an excellent Board performance.

#### **NAHC SUB COMMITTEES:**

- **Finance Subcommittee:** Trevor Borgelt Treasurer Convenor and members Mick Kingwill, Joan Bennett and Rob Lynch
- **Planning Subcommittee:** Jean Roberts Convenor and members Trevor Borgelt, Nathan Wheeler, Rob Lynch, and Joan Bennett
- **Link Trainer Subcommittee:** Neil Thomas Convenor and members Bill Day, Alan Conquer, and John Deckert

- **Nhill Aeradio Station Subcommittee:** Roger Meyer OAM convenor and members Len Creek, Trevor Borgelt, John Deckert, David Williams, and Rob Lynch

NAHC is represented on the **Nhill Aerodrome Master Plan Advisory Committee** which I have chaired. Other NAHC representatives are John Deckert, Trevor Borgelt, Allen Scott and Joan Bennett (Secretary).

### **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:**

In May 2013 another successful community open evening was held to highlight the Nhill Aeradio Station. Roger Meyer OAM President of the Civil Aviation Historical Society/Airways Museum at Essendon Aerodrome was the guest speaker. The Aeradio Station is by far the best preserved example of the seventeen original stations built in Australia. The Aeradio Subcommittee was subsequently formed by NAHC

### **THANKYOU:**

In conclusion I thank everyone who has helped NAHC during the year. This includes people who attended community meetings; those who gave assistance of all kinds at the Fly-In; donors of gifts of Avro Anson parts big and small; owners who provide shedding for our collections, even those who just share our excitement when milestones are reached. I look forward to another year of achievement working with the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre and the Nhill and District community.

