



## **NHILL ANSON NEWSLETTER**

**Issue No. 4. 18-09-2009**

### **Highlights in this newsletter:**

- Fly-In to WWII base in October.
- Membership of our supporters.

*Fly-In at the Nhill Aerodrome*

**Saturday the 17th of October**

The Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Committee looks forward to hosting the largest number and the widest variety of planes ever seen at one time in Nhill. The organising committee believes its preparations are well on track and the final result will only be influenced by the weather.

During the first year of WWII it became evident that thousands of additional airmen would need to be trained for duty in Europe. The Empire Air Training Scheme was developed and a number of places in Australia, New Zealand and Canada chosen for training bases. Nhill was chosen for its proximity to the Melbourne to Adelaide railway link, its flat terrain and for special radio and navigation facilities already in place. The first intake into the new complex at the Nhill aerodrome took place on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1941.

During its five-year history approximately 10,000 people trained at Nhill in various skills. Some trained as navigators while others developed their flying skills in dog-fighting, and gunnery. Thousands of bombs were dropped on the Bombing Range south of Nhill. Air armament and gas handling was also taught at the Nhill base toward the end of the war. While much of the base was dismantled and removed after the war, some buildings still exist and roadways, concrete bases and one of the five hangers are still in place.

Guided walks through the base are planned for the afternoon of the Fly-In. There will also be static displays of aviation related memorabilia including a restored Avro Anson engine and a Rolls Royce Merlin engine. A fee of \$10 for adults and \$20 for families will be charged at the gate. The regulations under which this event is run requires it to be an alcohol-free event and no alcohol will be allowed on the site.

## **A message to our supporters**

This newsletter is free. However, support for this important historical project is greatly appreciated. Please contact [admin@nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au](mailto:admin@nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au)

Support comes in many forms including phone numbers and email addresses, contact details of former WWII trainees, parts for the Avro Anson and general memorabilia, photos etc. as well as donations of cash and labour. Although it is our intention to recognise and acknowledge this assistance through the newsletter, specific details will not be published.

New email addresses are constantly being added to our list. If you do not wish to be part of our group then please contact [admin@nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au](mailto:admin@nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au) and make your request known.

Persons who wish to make comment about the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre or any other related issue should also contact [admin@nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au](mailto:admin@nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au). Such comments may be published in future newsletters if considered appropriate.