



Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Inc.
 PO Box 42, Nhill Vic 3418 www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au

NAHC Inc Board Bulletin – Issue No. 1, Autumn 2013

The NAHC Inc Board is keen to communicate directly with the people, groups, organisations and authorities with an interest in this Association’s achievements and plans.

We are pleased to advise that Deductible Gift Recipient status has been granted by the ATO.

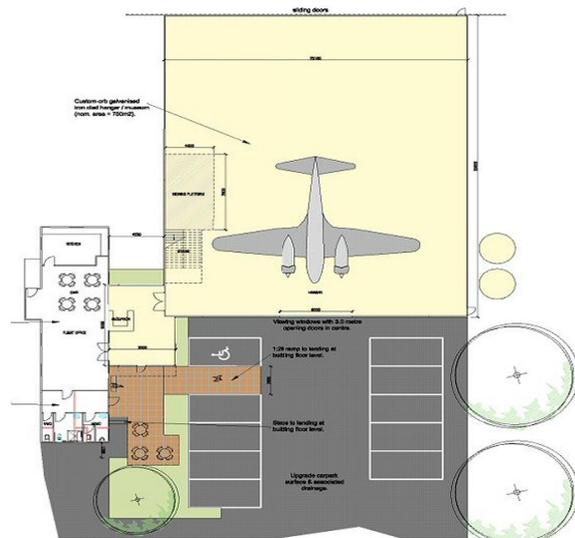
This is the first of our quarterly *Board Bulletins*. Our intention is to provide information about the issues, possibilities and opportunities being under consideration; achievements to date; plans for the current year; and to advise of scheduled events and activities. Should any information in this First Issue be of interest to you, please let us know – and any news from your ‘front’ will be warmly welcomed. Our contact is Mrs Joan Bennett, Secretary, PO Box 42, Nhill Vic 3418, or by email through our website.

Current and future projects:

- 1. Construction of the Nhill Aviation Heritage Museum at the Nhill Aerodrome**, funded by the Hindmarsh Shire Council, State Regional Growth Fund, and funds raised through Association activities and from donors and supporters.

Ahrens Group Pty Ltd of Kingsford, SA, will construct the Museum – with completion scheduled for July 2013.

The Museum will house the gifted and restored WW2 Avro Anson – currently being worked on in three separate Nhill sheds.



Proposed Nhill Aerodrome - Aviation Museum Floor Plan
Aerodrome Road, Nhill

- 2. WW2 Avro Anson Restoration:** Remarkable progress continues under the guiding hand of Project Manager Mick Kingwill. Mick’s work is meticulous, with colleagues Len Creek and Wimpey Reichelt working on the tail plane and engine respectively. These three are doing a magnificent job of restoration. Tony Clark, aviation historian who has spent twenty years raising funds for a Beaufort restoration in Queensland, said that we have achieved in three years more than they have in twenty – and that the workmanship is of world class standard.



3. **Display of collected and donated Second World War artefacts relevant to the RAAF Air Base at the Nhill Aerodrome:** Rooms and shop-front in Nelson Street, Nhill, have been generously provided free of charge by Mr Gary Driscoll and Mr Andrew McIlree, proprietors of the Commercial Hotel Nhill. As well as holding meetings there, collected and donated Second World War artefacts relevant to the RAAF Air Base at the Nhill Aerodrome are stored and displayed. These will eventually be securely housed and displayed in the Aviation Heritage Museum at the Nhill Aerodrome – under construction. This display maintains our public profile, and is a point of interest to locals and travellers alike.
4. **Generous donations of artefacts and archives:** Amongst many examples of generosity, we will highlight two. Rob Lynch (President) and Trevor Borgelt (Treasurer) travelled to the RAAF Air Base at Edinburgh (SA) to collect a donation of a WW2 cloud based searchlight. The second example happened in Nhill. Widow of Ivan Morrow, Mrs Bev Morrow, gave the Association a Military Power Plant similar to those used at the RAAF Air Base in WW2. Part of its history is its use as a backup generator at the Nhill Hospital. We are most grateful for all such donations.
5. **History of Flight into Nhill:** Beginning in 1919 when a 100 hp De Havilland aeroplane landed on the Nhill Racecourse, the history of flight in Nhill has involved the community as much as the aircraft and the people who flew them. From 1919 onwards, local visionary Mr. Fred McKenzie, owner of The Nhill Free Press, successfully advocated for Nhill to become a refuelling place half way between Melbourne and Adelaide. This put Nhill on the aviation map. Several Nhill residents clearly recall aviation events of the 1920s, while others, descendants of pioneers who were part of Nhill's Aviation history, are now stewards of their stories and memorabilia.
6. **The focus of all planning is to celebrate the *Centenary of flight into Nhill – 1919 to 2019*:** Two very successful 'Fly-ins' were held at the Nhill Aerodrome in 2009 and 2012 – with a third in the early stages of planning for 2015. An extensive photographic record is kept of these events.
7. **The Nhill Aerodrome attained national significance during WW2 with the establishment of a Royal Australian Air Force Base – Nhill was initially the home of No. 2 Air Observers (Navigators) School.** The War years forged numerous friendships between local people and Air Force personnel – most of whom were young men and women whose wartime service had taken them away from homes and families. Among The Nhill Historical Society's archives is a collection of The Nhill Free Press through these years, providing a valuable record life in Nhill through the War years. Many RAAF men and women did not survive the War, and many more have since passed away; and those who have since grown old, confess to a lasting fondness for Nhill and its people, and are eager to share their memories. Seven young Australian Airmen lost their lives while training at Nhill, and their remains lie in seven war graves in the Nhill Cemetery.

Our resources:

8. **Nhill Anson Newsletter:** is an effective way to communicate our achievements and news, and can be accessed on our website www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au
9. **Association membership applications forms:** these can be downloaded from our website, or obtained from Treasurer Trevor Borgelt – contact details below.
10. **Aviation Historian Kevin O'Reilly:** Kevin and his family lived in the Flight Path of the Nhill Aerodrome during WW2, and is an active Association member. The Nhill and RAAF Base years between 1941 and 1946 are recorded by Kevin in his 2009 book *In Just Five Years*. His 2012 book *Flyers of Time* records pioneer aviation in country Victoria and the Riverina from 1910 to 1960.

11. If any item in this Autumn 2013 Bulletin is of particular interest, we welcome your enquiry or contact.