



**Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Inc.**

PO Box 42, Nhill Vic 3418      [www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au](http://www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au)

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**NAHC Inc Board Bulletin – Issue No. 2, Winter 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**

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**1. Construction commences of the Aviation Heritage Museum at the Nhill Aerodrome**

After a 5-month delay to finalise details the required fire services, the 'first sod' has been turned by NAHC founders Rob Lynch and Mick Kingwill. Site works are under way for the footings, with actual construction to commence in the first week of July. The Museum will house the gifted WW2 Avro Anson currently being restored, WW2 memorabilia, administration and amenities.



**2. Restoration of the Nhill Aeradio Station (see photographs overpage)**

During his recent visit to Nhill, **Roger Meyer OAM** President of the Civil Aviation Historical Society/Airways Museum at the Essendon Aerodrome, Melbourne, was guest speaker at our Community Consultation to discuss plans for this restoration. These plans will include a public exhibition of an important Aviation Radio Communication and Guidance system in use between 1937 and the mid-1960s. Roger's illustrated presentation emphasised the important contribution to Australian aviation – including a key role at the RAAF Training Base at Nhill during World War 2.

The Nhill Aeradio Station was one of 17 Aeradio Stations around Australia – set up by Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) along the main air routes in Australia to pass on weather information and air traffic details. It is a major feature in the Shire of Hindmarsh-endorsed Nhill Aerodrome Master Plan.

**3. Re-structure of our website [www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au](http://www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au)**

Grateful thanks to Tony Carland for this work – and to John Deckert who has created PDFs of all past issues of the Nhill Anson Newsletter. Our Website Home Page features:

- Links to Nhill Anson Newsletters; Events; Photographic record of Nhill's Aviation History and Highlights; Avro Anson restoration library of photographs; and NAHC Inc Membership.



**Nhill's Aeradio Station - as now..... and prior to World War 2**

**4. Forward plans – to be achieved by our 2018/19 Centenary of Flight into Nhill celebrations**

1. Hindmarsh Shire Council in collaboration with NAHC and interested parties will have developed a **Nhill Aerodrome Master Plan** – endorsed by the Shire in March 2012.
2. **Nhill Aviation Heritage Museum** (housing the restored Avro Anson and Memorabilia) and **Heritage Walk** will be in place and boosting the viability of the council-owned asset – *Museum construction commenced June 2013*
3. A collection of '**eye witness**' **accounts of aviation highlights** will have been electronically recorded.
4. **Effective signage at Nhill and on the Western Highway** will indicate the Second World War RAAF air base at Nhill Aerodrome – *actioned June 2013*.
5. **The aerodrome will be flourishing as an important venue in a tourism trail** which includes other places of interest within the shire and region such as the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum at Jeparit, Yurunga Homestead at Rainbow and Ebenezer Mission at Dimboola. Motor homes, coaches and private tourists will regularly travel the tourism trail. There will be increased patronage for Nhill businesses which cater for tourists – *planning has commenced*.
6. **Tourists will arrive by aircraft.**
7. **Transport arrangements** will be in place between the aerodrome and the town; all seasons parking will be in place for vehicles and coaches.
8. A designated area will be in use for a **self-contained stop-over for motor homes**.
9. **Landscaping, quality signage and donation boxes** will be completed.
10. **Fuel storage facility** will be installed and in use.
11. **The existing Second World War hangar** will be well maintained.
12. An **original Flight Office** will be renovated to an acceptable standard for educational purposes, to exhibit Second World War memorabilia associated with Nhill and District families and the existing toilets and shower facility will receive an upgrade.

**5. Our resources**

1. **NAHC Inc Sponsorship Package:** details of sponsorship opportunities are being finalised – enquiries to Secretary Joan Bennett are welcome.
2. **Nhill Anson Newsletter:** current and previous issues can be accessed on our website [www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au](http://www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au) - follow the Nhill Anson link on the Homepage
3. **Association membership applications forms:** these can be downloaded from our website, or obtained from Treasurer Trevor Borgelt – contact details below.
4. **Aviation Historian Kevin O'Reilly:** Kevin and his family lived in the Flight Path of the Nhill Aerodrome during WW2; he 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. These two excellent books can be purchased by contacting Secretary Joan Bennett.