



Search is on for rare documentary

Rare interviews with residents who were at the Albury racecourse when the Uiver landed in 1934 have been found in a Dutch documentary, a copy of which has been unearthed in New Zealand.

Kiwi Rob Broecke, a visitor to the Uiver restoration group hangar, came across the documentary which was mainly about the Dutch aviation pioneer, designer and aircraft manufacturer Anton (Anthony) Fokker.

However, it also included a segment on the 1934 air race and the Uiver's emergency landing at the racecourse and included a re-enactment of residents hauling the DC-2 out of the mud the next morning when it was able to continue to Melbourne and win the handicap section of the race. The filmmakers also interviewed the Uiver co-pilot Jan Moll.

While the interviews with the Albury residents are in English, the rest of the documentary is in Dutch and there are Dutch subtitles. The copy Rob Broecke sent across the Tasman does not have credits, so the title of the film, its age and who produced it are unknown but it has aroused the interest of not only the Uiver Restoration Group but also former Albury Historical Society president Greg Ryan and Emma Williams from the Albury

Library-Museum.

The footage was originally on videotape which has deteriorated so the search is on for a better and more complete copy of the documentary which could be buried in someone's collection or housed deep in an archive somewhere in The Netherlands. Anyone who can shed any light on the documentary, can contact our project manager Russ Jacob at russ.jacob@uivermemorial.org.au



The Men's Shed members came from across the region to visit the hangar.

Men's Shed day in the hangar

The Uiver restoration hangar has hosted the men and women from Men's Sheds throughout the district. Forty-five accepted the invitation to spend the day in the hangar, learning about the Uiver story and the DC-2 being painstakingly restored.

The outing attracted Men's Shed members from Albury, Wodonga, Corryong, Gerogery, Tarcutta, Henty and Culcairn. They were welcomed with morning tea, followed by a presentation by project manager Russ Jacob, who covered the story of the 1934 air race that brought the Uiver to its emergency landing at the Albury racecourse.

Russ then traced the history of our DC-2 and gave a rundown of the restoration, after which the men and women were able to wander around the hangar, talking to the restoration volunteers and seeing how the aircraft was gradually being brought back to its factory condition.

The techniques the volunteers have learnt to restore the aeroplane to aviation standard were of considerable interest to a group accustomed to working with their hands. As the visitors toured the hangar, Marion Jacob, Karen Newton and David Crotty began preparing a barbecue lunch.



Russ Jacob gives a rundown of the Uiver restoration project.



Volunteer David Hinton explains some of the metalworking.



The riveting of the fuselage proved to be a particular interest.



Volunteers showed how they replaced rivets in the cabin floor.



Jan Moll, right, with Albury mayor Cleaver Bunton at a civic reception.

Uiver pilot guest at Albury festival

In 1959, the Albury racecourse, the scene of the Uiver's emergency landing in 1934, staged a special race meeting to mark the 25th anniversary of the great rescue. It came during a week of celebrations which Albury called an Uiver Festival.

October 1959 was also the 40th anniversary of the founding of KLM and the Uiver's co-pilot, Jan Moll, who was then a special adviser to KLM in The Netherlands, came to Australia to take part in Albury's festival.

On Tuesday, October 20, the Albury Race Club held a “Special Dutch Race Meeting” which featured the Holland Maiden Handicap, the Captain (Koene) Parmentier Flying Handicap, the Commodore Moll Improvers Handicap, the KLM Progressive Handicap and the Uiver Improvers Handicap.

The main race on the program was the Wihlemina Handicap. Wihlemina was queen of The Netherlands when the Uiver made its epic flight, having ascended to the throne in 1890 at the age of 10 until she abdicated because of ill health in 1948 and died in 1962, so the main race at Albury in October 1959 was in her honour.

As prizes for the main race, KLM provided a Delft Blue vase and two Delft Blue plates which were presented by the general manager of KLM in Australia, Colonel A Berts. Delft Blue is world-famous porcelain, produced in the Dutch city of Delft since the 17th century.

On Friday, October 23, students from Albury schools staged a dramatic performance of the Uiver landing and Jan Moll was the special guest at morning tea at the Albury Botanical Gardens. You can learn more about the 25th anniversary celebrations on our website <https://www.uivermemorial.org.au/>



Russ Jacob and Jenny Tanner explain the Uiver project.

Flying our flag at the Rotary market

The Uiver restoration will get a regular, monthly airing at the Rotary market in Albury. Our group will mount a stall at the market on the last Sunday of each month. The markets are held on the ground floor of the Kiewa Street car park between 8.30am and noon.

Our first outing was in July, on a cold winter's morning, which helped to keep the crowds down but we still managed to sell some merchandise and show the flag. Bigger crowds are expected at the market as the weather warms.

As well as the Uiver-branded merchandise, we also had on sale the metal planters and Japanese rings that our hangar volunteers are producing to

boost the coffers.

The stall is operated by three people – two is the minimum, the third volunteer allows for coffee breaks and those other breaks that nature demands. Jenny Tanner, Russ Jacob and Andrew Hipwell launched the first stall but we are hoping other volunteers lend a hand to share the load.



Another customer checks out the Uiver merchandise.

...and we still need those rivets

The smallest part of the memorial DC-2 has the biggest job – the humble rivet holds all the components together and more than 800,000 rivets will be needed to complete the restoration of the aircraft.

Community support is providing each and every rivet which is why the Give A Rivet fundraiser is so important to the project. Each rivet is valued at \$2, so every donation, large or small, is a step closer to achieving our vision of a memorial to the Uiver and Albury's role in saving the aircraft on that harrowing night in 1934.

Donations can be made through the Uiver Memorial Community Trust website <https://www.uivermemorial.org.au/> or on the QR code below.



Help us spread the word

We want the whole community to know about our project and you can help by forwarding this newsletter to others in your address book, either through email or social media. You could encourage them to also forward on the newsletter so we can expand our circulation, and invite them to subscribe and join our emailing list.

A small effort could have a big impact.



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