



New displays at hangar open day

An exhibition celebrating the relations between Australia and The Netherlands will be a feature of this year's Uiver hangar open day on October 22. Entitled Australia's Dutch Connections, the exhibition is a travelling version of a larger display, financed by the NSW Government and hosted by the Albury LibraryMuseum.

Also featuring at the open day will be the Twin Cities Model Aero Club, the Albury and District Historical Society and the Antique Car Club of Albury-Wodonga.

There will be entertainment by Lazy Harry and two talks on the Uiver at 11am and 1pm. There will be tours of the hangar, Uiver displays, and souvenirs with food and drinks available. The hangar is in Bristol Court on the southern boundary of Albury airport, off the Riverina Highway.

Australia's Dutch links actually go back more than 400 years to 1606 and explorer Willem Janszoon, who was the first European to sight the land that would become Australia but it was the Uiver's landing on the Albury racecourse, after becoming lost in a storm in October 1934, that led to closer ties with The Netherlands and is credited in part with the

establishment of agreements covering trade and migration.

A large cohort from The Netherlands migrated to Australia, especially after the Second World War, and some initially found themselves at the Bonegilla migrant centre.

In the 2021 census, more than 381,000 people, 1.5 per cent of the Australian population, nominated Dutch ancestry. In 2021, the Dutch Connections exhibit travelled around the Border and Riverina areas, visiting Mulwala, Corowa, Henty, Jindera, Tumbarumba, Coolamon, Cootamundra and Tumut and Albury Council has offered it to the Uiver Restoration Group for the annual hangar open day in what may be the exhibit's last public airing.

The hangar is home to the DC-2 which is being restored as a memorial to the Uiver and Albury's role in saving the plane, passengers and crew who went on to Melbourne and claim first prize in the handicap section of the air race.

The open day, 10am to 2pm, is an opportunity to see the progress of the restoration and the painstaking efforts required to bring the aircraft back to life.

Admission is by gold coin donation.



The exterior panels are being stripped from the wings, one rivet at a time.

Wings reveal a mammoth task ahead

The extent of the damage to the wings of the Uiver memorial DC-2 has now been exposed with the removal of most of the outer panels. Over the past four months, volunteers have been carefully drilling out thousands of rivets so the panels can be removed.

The corrosion found inside the wings is a measure of the years the DC-2 spent out in the weather. While some components, especially the wing ribs, may be able to be salvaged, most of the fine stringers between the ribs and on which the outer panels are attached, will have to be replaced.

Project manager Russ Jacob said the measurements showed 915 metres or 3000 feet of aviation grade aluminium extrusions will be needed, none of which can be acquired “off the shelf” and it will all have to be manufactured in the US.

And it doesn't come cheap. It will be 34 per cent more expensive than the Uiver Restoration Group's previous shipment which is now going into the fuselage. Nor will the new shipment get here in a hurry – Russ expects it will take more than eight months to arrive in the hangar.

Meanwhile, work on the fuselage is also progressing, with the cabin floor cross members in position and more stringers being returned to the framework ready to receive another batch of restored exterior panels.



A wing laid bare showing the stringers, most of which will be replaced.

Book, play a new look at the Uiver

The Uiver landing at Albury will be given a unique retelling in two very different approaches – a children’s book and a play, both the creation of the Border’s own Carm Hogan.

Carm wrote the children’s book *Through the Clouds* in 2015, after gathering the history of the landing with the help of Patricia Strachan, who was at the racecourse with her father on that October day in 1934 and to whom the book is dedicated, and Uiver historian Noel Jackling. The book views the landing through the eyes of young Wilhemina (sounds like the Dutch queen of the time but spelt differently) and has been illustrated by the multi-talented local artist Pinky Wittingslow.

The book will be launched at Albury Library Museum on October 22 between 11am and 12.30pm, coinciding with the Uiver Restoration Group’s hangar open day, which Carm and Pinky will join at 2.30pm for a book signing.

The second unusual retelling of the Uiver story will be aired in November when the HotHouse Theatre stages another Carm Hogan creation, *All The Shining Lights*, a play inspired by a 2015 ABC radio documentary on Albury’s rescue of the Uiver.

Written by Brendan Hogan (no relation), the play uses the rescue to show what can be achieved through resilience, courage, wisdom and hope, something 10-year-old Charli (Ruby Davis) learns all about when, for a school assignment, she visits the Sunset Oaks retirement home and comes up against grumpy resident John (John Walker). Rachel McNamara is the

Storyteller.

Charli perseveres, works her way into John's heart and together they unravel the Uiver rescue, producing answers that can be applied even today. Director Karla Conway says the unique approach of the play demonstrates that despite today's seemingly overwhelming problems solutions can be found, just as the people of Albury, with very little communication and limited resources, rescued the Uiver.

Brendan Hogan says the script was written for a multi-generational audience, entertaining the young, as well as the older cohort who might already know the Uiver story, an approach true to the original idea by Carm Hogan.

All the Shining Lights will open on Thursday November 10 at The Butter Factory Theatre on the Lincoln Causeway. It will run on November 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19. It runs for 65 minutes without an intermission.

Tickets at \$40, \$25 for children and \$120 a family (two adults, two children) are available from the HotHouse Theatre (open 10am to 3pm weekdays) and on the HotHouse website.

...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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