



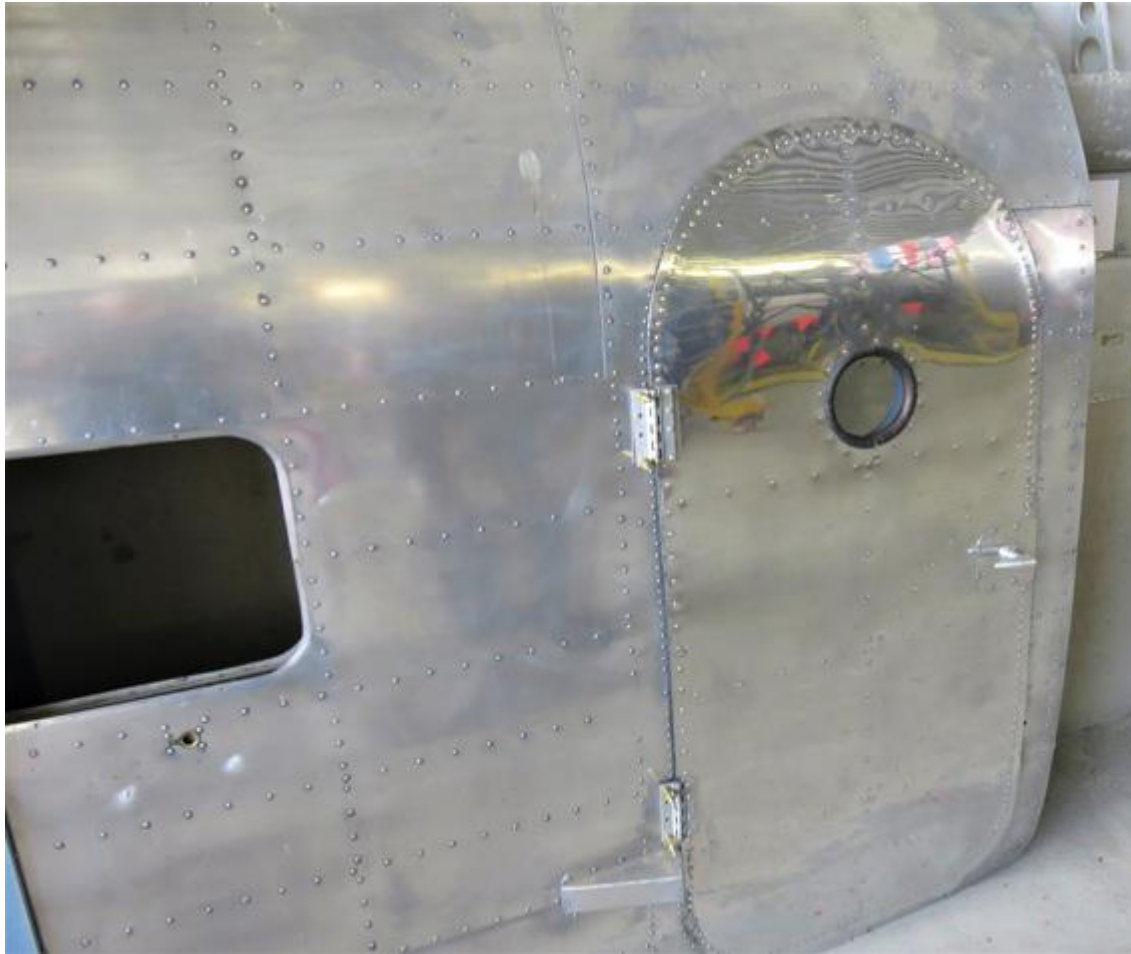
Opera in Hangar just the ticket...

Tickets for the first Opera in the Hangar are now on sale. Featuring 18 singers, a seven-piece chamber orchestra under the direction of celebrated conductor Guy Noble and with the Scots School Pipes and Drums, the event will take over the Uiver restoration hangar on Saturday, March 18, next year.

In an aviation-themed night, guests will be treated to wine and canapes in the “business lounge” before taking their seats for a unique operatic “flight”, created by Opera Scholars Australia which had produced the annual Opera in the Alps until it was grounded by the COVID pandemic.

Replacing the Beechworth event in 2023 will be the boutique concert in the Uiver hangar at the Albury airport with the partly restored Uiver DC-2 memorial aircraft as a stage backdrop. Tickets, at \$179, are available online at [Eventbrite](#).

With seating limited to 400, tickets are expected to sell out quickly. Some of the costs of the event are being covered by sponsorships which have already raised \$40,000.



The passenger door completes the cargo door assembly.

Step forward through a door

A door in a door is another small step in the restoration of the Uiver memorial DC-2 aircraft. The passenger door has been finished, complete with porthole, and inserted in the cargo door which will be returned to the aircraft when the fuselage is restored.

Although not part of the original Uiver DC-2, the cargo door is a legacy of the memorial aircraft's service with the Royal Australian Air Force during

the Second World War and is being retained in the restoration to acknowledge the plane's own history. The RAAF added the cargo door when the aircraft was used to transport aeroplane engines.

Meanwhile, restoration of the fuselage continues with the installation of new underfloor supports and new frames in the cabin to support refurbished interior and exterior panels.

The volunteers are aiming to complete the fuselage in the second quarter of next year. The next major component to be restored will be the centre wing section, which houses the undercarriage, completion of which will allow the aircraft to stand on its wheels.



The restoration of the passenger cabin is also creeping forward.



Keith Meggs – from fighter pilot to aviation historian.

Aviator's collection a rare find

One of Australia's largest collections of aviation literature is to be made available through the Uiver restoration hangar. More than 3000 books, manuals and manuscripts, estimated to weigh between three and five tonnes, was the life's work of the late Keith Meggs, former fighter pilot, charter pilot, historian and author, who died in March this year at 94.

With one of his sons, Greg, a volunteer at the Uiver restoration hangar, project manager Russ Jacob offered to help in the orderly disposal of the huge collection which almost filled Keith Meggs' Moorabbin home.

Keith was a teenager in 1943 when he joined the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation which was then producing Boomerangs and Wirraways for the

air force. After the Second World War ended, he learnt to fly, initially in gliders, and in 1948 joined the RAAF, going on to fly Mustangs and Meteor jets in the Korean War, earning the Distinguished Flying Medal and the US Army Achievement Medal. He later flew Vampire jets in Australia and Malta.

In 1957 Keith returned to the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, working on Sabre jets and the Ceres crop dusters for several years before moving to the Department of Civil Aviation as an air traffic controller and then freelancing as a charter pilot for the next 25 years. He logged 19,500 hours in 109 aircraft types.

In 1959 he was a foundation member of the Aviation Historical Society of Australia, of which he was president from 1988 to 2013, and later patron. Over 50 years, he compiled, in four volumes, 100 years of aircraft building in Australia.

Lions, Probus pay us a visit

The hangar has had a busy month hosting a stream of visitors. Hard on the heels of a successful public open day, the hangar was the venue for a Business After Hours event with business people from Albury and Wodonga and then a combined visit by Lavington and Thurgoona Lions, followed closely by visits from the Probus clubs from Howlong and Beechworth.

A Wednesday night saw 40 members of the Lavington and Thurgoona Lions Clubs in the hangar for a meal and a tour of the aircraft restoration.

The following Monday, 16 members from Howlong Probus Club were able to wander through the hangar, learning the story of the Uiver and the restoration project. Three days later, 27 members of Beechworth Probus enjoyed morning tea and a tour of the hangar.

Visits by resident groups, clubs and community organisations show what is being achieved in the hangar and keep the public informed on plans for the Uiver museum being created as the DC-2 memorial aircraft is rebuilt.

Keep those rivets pouring in

Nothing in the restoration hangar could have been achieved without the support from the community and with the project so dependent on donations and the rebuild of the DC-2 memorial aircraft moving steadily forward, our Give A Rivet fundraiser is becoming increasingly important.

With about 900,000 rivets needed and each one valued at \$2, simple mathematics give some idea of the scale of the task in resurrecting the DC-2 as the centrepiece of the proposed Uiver museum.

The QR code below or the [Give A Rivet button on our website](#) makes donating simple and every dollar raised helps to advance the project.



...and finally, from all the gang



**A Merry Christmas and best wishes
for 2023**

The board of the Uiver Memorial Community Trust and the volunteers working both inside and beyond the restoration hangar wish you the compliments of the season, thank you for your support and look forward to making even greater progress next year in the restoration of the DC-2 memorial aircraft and the creation of the Uiver museum.

The hangar will close for the Christmas-New Year break on Wednesday, December 21, and reopen on Saturday, January 14. The Uiver Flyer is also taking a break and will resume with the February edition.

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.



© Copyright Uiver Memorial Community Trust 2022

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).