



The UIVER Flyer

News from the Uiver Memorial DC-2 Restoration Project.



Russ Jacob, Tim Arnott and Tracey Basham check out the opera venue.

Countdown to a night of opera

The Uiver volunteers are counting down towards the first major event of the year – Opera In The Hangar on Saturday, March 18. This aviation-themed night at the opera will feature Opera Scholars Australia, accompanied by a chamber orchestra led by conductor Guy Noble, with the Scots School Pipes and Drums. Tickets are now on sale through [Eventbrite](#).

WithThe hangar in which the Uiver memorial DC2 aircraft is being restored will be transformed into a concert venue, the fuselage to become the backdrop to the stage with a “business lounge” for the drinks and canapes that will precede the two-hour concert, with a 20-minute interval when refreshments will be available.

The final permits from city and federal authorities have now been received, including approval to utilise the access gate and an area of the tarmac at the front of the hangar which will double the size of the “business lounge” where canapes and drinks will be served.

Conductor Guy Noble had his first look at the venue recently and gave the acoustics a tick, although he acknowledged the hangar presented a challenge for the singers. Several days later event co-ordinator Tracey Basham, of Enhance Styling and Events, toured the hangar with Uiver project manager Russ Jacob and board member and hangar volunteer Tim Arnott who first raised the idea of opera in the hangar.

The event, which is a major fundraiser for the Uiver Memorial Community Trust, is not only a first for the Uiver hangar and this region, but also for Opera Scholars Australia, which for several years organised the Opera in the Alps and is now turning its attention to boutique performances, such as the one planned for Albury.



The hangar volunteers tuck into lunch before the Christmas break.

Holiday over, it's back to work

The sounds of restoration are reverberating around the Uiver hangar once again as the volunteers return after a three-week break for the festive season. The main focus is still the fuselage with the panels being replace along the passenger cabin closing in on the cockpit.

There has been much progress since the project moved into the Bristol Court hangar three years ago. In a review of the year, project manager Russ Jacob said 90 per cent of the structural components of the fuselage had been restored. It is hoped to complete the fuselage during the second quarter of this year.

Attention will then turn to restoring the wing centre section which has been stripped of its outer panels. The centre section bears the landing gear, which

has been completed, apart from tyres, as well as the engines. The bottom panels of the outer wings have also been removed, exposing considerable corrosion which will take a lot of hard work to repair. During the year, six volunteers joined the team, which continues to produce a high quality restoration despite having no previous aviation experience, an effort Russ Jacob described as “remarkable”.



David Crotty is seeking out rare volumes from the Keith Meggs library

This job is strictly by the book

The mammoth task of sorting and cataloguing the massive Keith Meggs book collection has begun. The Uiver Restoration Group has joined with the Meggs family to dispose of the library which totals 2500 volumes of aviation literature.

There are some rare tomes in the collection, including original World War 2 fighter aircraft manuals. A booklet on the Royal Flying Corps dated 1918, is among hundreds of editions on anything that has flown since 1799 (That's correct, the Wright Brothers weren't the first to venture aloft). When it is completed, a catalogue of the rare items will be available on our website.

Although most are non-fiction, there are also novels, all with a link to aviation. Keith Meggs, a former fighter pilot, charter pilot, historian and author, died in March last year at 94. 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.

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.



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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