



News from the Uiver Memorial DC-2 Restoration Project.



The exterior of the fuselage of the memorial aircraft is almost complete.

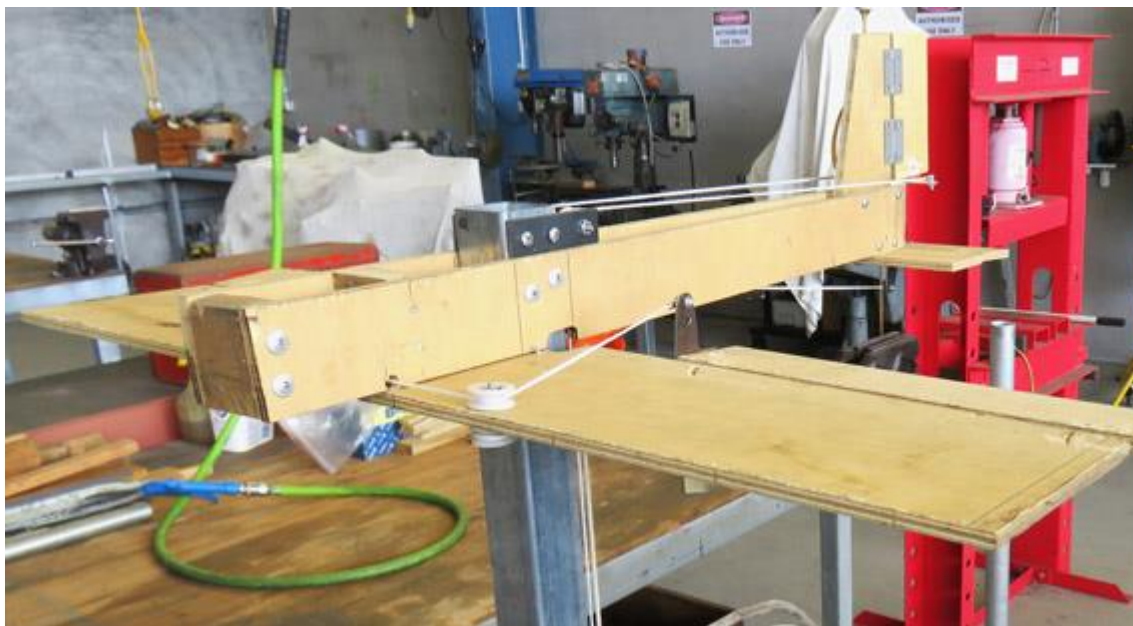
## **Book a bargain at the open day**

One of the most varied and extensive libraries of aviation literature Albury has seen goes on the market at the Uiver Restoration Group's open day on Saturday October 28. About 2,500 books from the collection of the late Keith Meggs will be on sale, generally for as little as \$5 but also including some more valuable rare titles to interest the aviation enthusiast.

The volunteers have almost finished restoring the exterior of the fuselage of

the memorial DC-2, standing in the middle of the hangar in its shining new skin but the open day is about much more than the aircraft. The Murray Railway Modellers will have a model train layout and remote-controlled planes will be displayed by the Twin City Aero Modellers.

For the youngsters, there will be a quiz, with the answers to the 10 questions to be found in the hangar and whoever completes the quiz will be made an Uiver crew member – with a badge to prove it. For the younger children, there will be a colouring contest and for Lego fans, the Bricks on the Border Lego group will be back, with Geoff Reid planning a surprise creation after his scene of the Uiver landing at the racecourse was such a big hit last year.



**A simple model shows how the pilot controls an aircraft.**

And if you have wondered how a plane's control work, the volunteers have created a simple simulator of strings and pulleys that work the ailerons, elevators and rudder of miniature aircraft.

A new audio-visual display featuring the 1934 air race, the Uiver's landing at the racecourse and the restoration of the memorial DC-2 will also be given its first airing and also on display will be some of the more than 200 Uiver artefacts, now being catalogued at the hangar and which will feature in the museum being developed alongside the DC-2. There will also be an exhibit from the Albury Library/Museum.

As well as hot food, tea, coffee and drinks, also on sale will be a range of Uiver merchandise, such as coffee mugs, drink holders, caps, beanies and postcards which, with the Give A Rivet campaign, is a key fundraiser for the restoration project which is dependent on community support. Cash is preferred.

The open day will run from 9.30am to 3.30pm, with admission by gold coin donation. The hangar is in Bristol Court at the south-western edge of the Albury airport.

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**Dick Smith with Neville Lowe, left, in the paddock where Parer came down.**

## **Dick's Culcairn crash marker plan**

Dick Smith invited the Uiver Restoration Group to Culcairn in September to launch his campaign to honour Australia pioneer aviator Ray Parer, whose forced landing at Culcairn in 1920 ended his flight in the first England to Australia air race. Uiver project manager Russ Jacob and museum curator David Crotty joined Mr Smith in a wheat paddock beside the highway as the former entrepreneur and now philanthropist outlined his vision for a roadside plaque and visitor area to mark the spot where Parer's de Havilland DH9 came down.

His proposal recently gained the support of the mayor of Greater Hume Shire, Tony Quinn, who was quoted by *The Border Mail* as saying there

was no need for a council debate or resolution, 'it's history that needs to be observed". "We'll respond to him very positively and basically get on with it."

Mr Smith, who earlier this year donated \$5000 towards the restoration of the Uiver memorial DC-2, has offered \$10,000 towards the cost of the Parer marker and development of the site which may mean buying a piece of the paddock so visitors can drive off the main road. Among a small crowd at the site on September 1, was Neville Lowe, whose father saw Parer's plane come down and overturn and brought horses and ropes to put the aircraft back on its wheels.

The plane was so badly damaged, including a broken propeller, it could not be flown and was later put on a train to Melbourne but it been preserved and is part of the collection at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The director of the memorial, Matt Anderson, who accompanied Mr Smith, said the plane was at present in storage but was being prepared for display.



**War Memorial director Matt Anderson accompanied Mr Smith to Culcairn.**

Dick Smith, who flew his helicopter to the property, invited the Uiver group to the gathering because Parer had also competed in the 1934 air which brought the Uiver to Albury, but like so many of Parer's aviation adventures, he was dogged by bad luck and faulty equipment and in 1934, got only as far as France when engine failure brought him down, ending his race after just an hour in the air.

In 1919, Parer and his partner McIntosh, started the flight even though by then the race already had been won by Ross and Keith Smith, the only competitors to complete the route. Despite a plethora of problems – by Dick Smith's account they were forced down at least 15 times – Parer and McIntosh pressed on in a show of perseverance that would mark Parer's flying career, which included 15 years in New Guinea, where he was the to

fly over the Owen Stanley Ranges.

In reaching Australia, Parer was the first to fly from England to Australia in a single-engined aircraft and because he delivered to Prime Minister Billy Hughes a bottle of whisky from the flight's sponsor, Peter Dawson, he is credited with – symbolically at least – completing the first freight flight to Australia. He detailed his adventures in a 1921 book, *The Flight Adventures of Parer and McIntosh*, a rare copy of which Mr Smith has and which he is planning to reprint. Just over an hour after his arrival, Dick Smith was back in his Augusta 109 helicopter and heading home but he took with him an Uiver cap and coffee mug and an invitation to return to Albury to see how the restoration of the DC-2 is progressing.



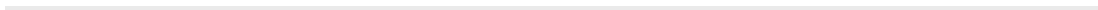
Travelling in style: Dick Smith lifts off from the Culcairn farm.

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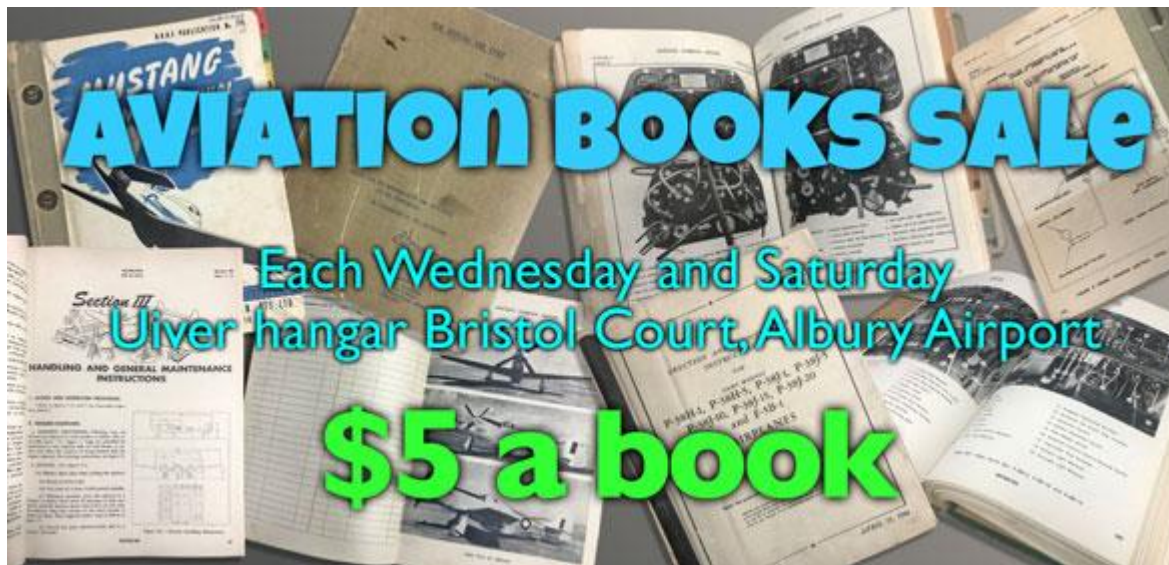
**How just \$2 can make a difference**

Putting the Uiver memorial DC-2 back together is taking hundreds of thousands of rivets and we will need every rivet we can get. Already, thousands of rivets have been donated but more are needed.

This is why the Give A Rivet fundraiser never loses its importance. It is a simple way to support the project, each rivet is worth \$2 and every dollar will find its way into the DC-2 that will become the centrepiece of the Uiver museum. You can use the QR code below or the [Give A Rivet button on our website](#).







## 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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