

Edition 54, May 2025



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**Our DC-2 brings visitors from The Netherlands**



**Richard and Hella Vermij.**

Visitors from The Netherlands, Richard and Hella Vermij (pronounced Ver-may), made a stopover in Albury on Monday, February 10, just to see where the Uiver had made its emergency landing in 1934. Richard, who trains cabin crew for KLM, incorporates the Uiver when giving his students an insight into the history of air travel.

In a brief visit to Albury, the couple were shown the Albury racecourse where the Uiver landed, the display of Uiver Collection artefacts at the Albury Library Museum and were given a tour of the hangar where the DC-2 is being restored. Richard, who has seen restoration work at the national air museum at Aviodrome in the Netherlands,

home to one of the world's only two fully restored DC-2s, was in awe of the Albury project. "This is big," he said.

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### **A flying visit**

On Saturday, April 12 we had a special visit from a family from Amsterdam who had recently arrived in Australia for a two month holiday. Maarten Beucker Andreae, his wife Quirine, and their son, flew directly from Melbourne to our hangar to see the DC-2 restoration. It was a pleasure to show them around.



**Some of the UMCT restoration team with our visitors.**

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### **Hangar visit a revelation for students**

A visit to the Uiver restoration hangar has given a group of Catholic College Wodonga students a peek into a practical application of their studies.

About 20 young men and women, studying either engineering or design, spent Wednesday morning, May 7, learning about the restoration of the Uiver Memorial Douglas DC-2 aircraft, including the repair and replacement of corroded components, the stripping and polishing of the aluminium panels that make up the skin of the fuselage, wings and empennage, and the rebuilding of one of the Wright Cyclone radial engines that once powered the airliner.





Not only did the students get an insight into the restoration, they also learnt of the history of the Uiver, a story many of them knew nothing about.

While touring the hangar, the group saw some volunteers at work and heard about the air race that brought the Uiver to Albury and the three careers of the memorial DC-2 – an airliner for Eastern Airlines in the US, a transport for the Royal Australian Air Force during the Second World War and as a memorial to the Uiver and Albury’s rescue of the plane and the seven on board during an horrendous storm on October 23-24, 1934.

Catholic College Wodonga encourages its staff to organise several visits a year to various industrial and commercial sites and the students also work on projects within the school – the current crop are building a kitchen island unit.

Catholic College Wodonga, a co-educational school, has about 1250 students in Years 7 to 12. It opened in Bowman Court, Wodonga, in 1979 with the expansion of St Augustine’s Girls Secondary College. The principal is Lorraine Willis.



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### **Restoration progress**

Work continues steadily on the wing centre section. Rebuilding this is a huge job but it is beginning to take shape thanks to our amazing volunteer crew. Due to extensive corrosion found in the interior of the assembly we have had to fabricate many new components such as ribs that were literally falling apart. Work on the leading edge assembly of the centre section is also progressing well.

The rear half of the centre section, which includes the flaps, is being partly dismantled to assess corrosion before any restoration work can be planned.



**The leading edge assembly of the wing centre section nears completion.**

We have also begun work on rebuilding the two engine nacelles. These have a considerable amount of corrosion in their lower halves but we are making good progress in making new components to replace the damaged areas. Once restored the nacelles can be joined back to the wing centre section.

If you would like to get involved with the restoration work, drop by the hangar on

Wednesdays or Saturdays, 9–3pm. Men and women over the age of 18 are most welcome.



You can join us in creating a memorial to not only a significant event in Albury's history but an episode in the growth of aviation that helped to launch the world travel network we know today.

While winning the 1934 London to Melbourne air race was a major achievement for the Comet, a purpose-built British racer crewed by a pair of exhausted pilots, the world was really astonished by the performance of an airliner, the Uiver, a DC-2 entered by KLM to demonstrate, for the first time, how passengers could be carried in comfort across the globe and arrive as fresh as if they had just walked out of their front door.

So the international spotlight was thrown on Albury when the Uiver, amid one of the worst storms on record, landed on the local racecourse, was pulled from the mud by the townspeople the next morning and took off to be second across the finish line and claim the first prize on handicap. Albury was centre stage in one of the great aviation rescues.

The Uiver's triumph brought Australia closer to the rest of the world and led the way for

international flights while the all-metal Douglas DC-2 heralded the end of the era of flimsy wood and fabric airliners and charted a new future for air travel.

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### **We need your help**

The Uiver Memorial DC-2 Restoration Project relies on donations to continue our work.

Please consider helping the project by donating to our “Give A Rivet Program” [at our website](#), or using the QR code below, or directly by visiting our hangar at 7 Bristol Court, Albury Airport on Wednesdays or Saturdays. We are a registered charity and donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

***A big thank you to our readers, both in Australia and overseas, for your continuing financial support.***



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### **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. A small effort could have a big impact.





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