

Edition 52, December 2024



The UIVER Flyer
News from the Uiver Memorial DC-2 Restoration Project.



The book production team with the Netherlands ambassador: L>R aviation historian David Crotty (Proofreader), Henri Dekker (Translator), Her Excellency Ardi Stoios-Braken, Andrew Hipwell (Editor), and Ian Cossor (Designer).

A great 90th celebration

Our recent 90th Anniversary Open Day was a great success. The weather was perfect and more than 450 people visited the hangar. It was a pleasure to welcome the Netherlands Ambassador to Australia Mrs Ardi Stoios-Bracken to the hangar to meet our volunteers and launch *To Australia in Three Days*. Another treat was meeting Henri Dekker, the translator of Parmentier's book. Henri travelled all the way from the Netherlands for the book launch.

We greatly appreciate that Gaye Pattison and the team from ABC Goulburn Murray broadcast directly from the hangar throughout the morning. This included a replay of the excellent program '[The Uiver Emergency](#)' originally produced for the 85th anniversary of the Uiver landing at Albury.

One of our visitors was Phil Newnham, grandson of Arthur Newnham, the ABC radio announcer who called for the motorists of Albury and Wodonga to drive to the Albury Racecourse on that stormy night 90 years ago. Two weeks after the Open Day we had the pleasure of a visit from Tim Barron, the grandson of C.W.A. Scott, who, with Tom Campbell Black, won the MacRobertson Centenary Air Race in their DH.88 Comet. Tim is a skilled pilot himself and is visiting Australia from the UK where he operates an airshow business.

We are grateful to the exhibitors, including Lego by Bricks on the Border, model airplanes by Twin Cities Model Aero Club, antique cars (up to 1934) by the Antique Car Club of Albury Wodonga, Albury and District Historical Society, Albury Library Museum, and the Ukulele Muster, who provided music from the 1920s and 1930s. The Rotary Clubs of Albury West, Albury, and Albury North did a brilliant job with the BBQ, entry, and car parking. Great coffee was provided by Holly from the Navy Brew caravan.

Our 'Send us a Postcard' initiative, run in conjunction with the 90th anniversary open day, resulted in postcards with messages of support arriving from all over the world. In particular, it was great fun to read the messages sent by children from Aviodrome, the Netherlands aviation museum, who made special postcards for their younger visitors to colour in.

To Australia in Three days, the first English translation of Captain Koene Parmentier's 1935 account of the flight of the Uiver and its dramatic rescue at Albury in the London-Melbourne air race, is now available [directly from our website](#).

In addition to many orders from Australia we have been sending the book to the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United States.



The new book and the original 1935 Dutch edition.



The Netherlands ambassador addresses the crowd at the book launch.



Volunteer Karen with some of the many postcards we received.

Keen to learn



Engaging the younger generation.

A few days before the 90th anniversary open day we had a visit by Year 2 students from Holy Spirit Primary School. They learned about the 1934 air race, how rivets hold the aircraft together, how to fold a paper plane that flies well, and how to read Morse code. They had been learning Morse code at school so quickly decoded the quiz we had prepared for them and were soon writing their names out in dots and dashes.

ABC Goulburn Murray were on hand to interview the students and were impressed by the historical knowledge of such a young group. Educating the next generation about the important place the Uiver story holds in Albury Wodonga's history is a goal of the

project and we plan to gradually increase the number of primary school visits to the hangar.

Double honour for the Chocolate King



Sir Macpherson Robertson at the conclusion of the race with the pilots of the Uiver, First Officer Jan Moll (L) and Captain Koene Parmentier (R).

Sir Macpherson Robertson, who sponsored the 1934 air race that brought the Uiver to Albury, has been honoured in both Australia and Britain. The Royal Aeronautical Society has saluted Sir Macpherson's services to aviation in its heritage awards and his name has been added to the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame.

He becomes the first person outside Britain and only the 12th individual to be honoured by the Royal Aeronautical Society which has provided a plaque to be mounted in the Albury airport terminal, as part of the display commemorating the Uiver landing.

The award caps off a campaign by Sir Macpherson's grandson, former airline pilot and now safety consultant Philip Robertson, who moved to Albury in 1967, to have Macpherson's contribution to aviation recognised.

Macpherson was inducted into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 26 – coinciding with the 90th anniversary of the air race – at a sold-out event at the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society's base at Wollongong Airport, Shellharbour.

The citation reads, in part: "Robertson's entrepreneurial spirit and visionary philanthropy left an indelible mark in Australian history. He provided significant financial backing for the historic England to Australia air race in 1934, showcasing his passion for aviation and pioneering spirit. His generous support facilitated global participation in the race, elevating its international prominence and bridging the distance between Australia and the rest of the world."

"Throughout his life, Robertson received numerous honours and awards in recognition of his contributions to aviation and philanthropy. His enduring legacy serves as a testament to the power of vision, generosity, and innovation in shaping the world we live in today. Sir Macpherson Robertson remains a revered figure in Australian society, celebrated for his entrepreneurial achievements and commitment to making a difference."

Macpherson Robertson (1859-1945) founded the MacRobertson's chocolate and confectionery company in 1880, producing such sweet icons as Freddo Frogs, Old Gold, Snack and Cherry Ripe. It also brought chewing gum and fairy floss to Australia from the US. Some of its products are still on store shelves today.

In 1934, the same year he sponsored the air race, Macpherson joined Horrie Miller to form MacRobertson Miller Airlines in Western Australia.



Volunteer Greg working on the wing centre section.

Slow but steady progress

After a production delay by a supplier, the arrival of new aluminium extrusions means that work on the wing centre section is now progressing steadily. This complex structure is focus of our restoration work for 2025.

It holds the fuel tanks, undercarriage, and engines and putting it back together is akin to solving a giant jigsaw puzzle. Our team are replacing badly corroded components with newly made replacements and there are a huge number of rivets to be installed before the centre section can be fitted back under the fuselage.

Christmas break

Thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers for the incredible restoration work completed this year, and for all the preparations that made the 90th anniversary open day such a success!

Our last work day for 2024 is Saturday morning, 21st December, and will be followed by a BBQ Christmas lunch held in the hangar. We will be returning to work on Saturday the 11th of January. We wish our readers a very happy Christmas and a safe, peaceful, and prosperous new year.



Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

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.



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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