



## **The Uiver is 90 with a busy year ahead**

The Uiver hangar reopens on Wednesday, January 17, launching a big year for the Uiver Memorial Community Trust and the DC-2 restoration volunteers. The year will also mark a major anniversary for the Uiver story – 90 years since the KLM DC-2 made its emergency landing in Albury, leading to one of aviation’s greatest rescues and throwing the town into the world spotlight.

Planning began last year for the 90th anniversary celebrations which will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26, with details to be announced during the coming months.

This year, the volunteers, who have poured thousands of hours into bringing the DC-2 back to life, will complete the restoration of the fuselage, which is no longer a rusting relic but shining as brightly as it did when it emerged from the Douglas factory at Santa Monica, California, all those years ago.

Working two days a week, the volunteers have painstakingly removed, repaired or rebuilt every component, then polished the outer skin of the fuselage to a lustre the aluminium panels have not seen in more than 90 years.

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Handing over the cheque: Rotary West president Bill Smits, club member and Uiver project foundation member Alan Harrison, Rotary fundraising organiser Terry Hudson and chairman of the Uiver Memorial Community Trust Pieter Mol. Picture: IAN COSSOR.

## Rotary hands over a big cheque

Rotary has once again stepped forward with a major boost for the DC-2 restoration project. The Rotary Club of Albury West has presented a cheque for \$11,500, part of the proceeds from Rotary golf day.

The presentation of the giant cheque by Albury West Rotary president Bill Smits was made during the hangar's end-of-year lunch for the volunteers, which this year also featured entertainment from the Albury Wodonga Ukelele Club.

The Rotary Club of Albury West has been a strong supporter of the Uiver project ever since 1979 when it brought a derelict DC-2 from Bankstown to Albury and transformed it into an "Uiver" that was part of a memorial at the airport from 1980 until dismantled in 2002 to make way for a carpark.

Left to deteriorate beside the airport's southern apron, the plane was saved again in 2014 when the present restoration was begun as were plans for a

permanent museum to the Uiver story. The project relies on community support and the Rotary club has been a constant companion on the journey and a major contributor..

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Russ Jacob gives Justin Clancy an insight into the restoration. Pictures: IAN COSSOR.

## **Our history is important, says MP**

State member for Albury Justin Clancy was impressed with the restoration of the DC-2 when he visited the hangar in December. Admitting he was a bit of a plane buff, especially of the Second World War, he was interested in the history of the DC-2 which was used by the Royal Australian Air Force for training radio operators and transporting engines during the war.

He said history was important and was keen to see the Uiver story preserved in a museum, the centrepiece of which will be the DC-2. After a tour of the hangar with project manager Russ Jacob, the MP spoke to the volunteers and

ended his visit with a chat over afternoon tea.

As he looked over the shining fuselage, which is nearing completion, Mr Clancy marvelled at what the volunteers had accomplished. "I was at the Men's Shed at Tumbarumba, where they are restoring a train carriage and there comes a point where you can really see progress," he said.



After his tour, Justin Clancy took time for a chat with the volunteers.

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## Treasure trove for Uiver research

One of the popular resources for researchers has widened its local coverage of the period covering the Uiver landing in Albury in 1934. Thanks to the Albury City Council which financed the work, Trove has digitalised both local newspapers of the era, *The Border Morning Mail* and the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*.

Now available are editions of the Banner from August 31, 1934, to November 15, 1935, and issues of the *Border Mail* from July 2, 1934, to September 25, 1935. The *Border Mail* from September 26 to December 31, 1935, is yet to be completed.

The air race and the Uiver's achievement was widely reported and Trove also carries editions of scores of newspapers throughout Australia, both metropolitan and regional, available in a free service through an internet

search at [trove.nla.gov.au](https://trove.nla.gov.au).

Although its home is the National Library of Australia, Trove works with state libraries in NSW, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia as well as hundreds of organisations throughout Australia, including councils, colleges, libraries and museums.

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## We need rivets and you can help

The holiday is over and it is back to work in the Uiver restoration hangar but we cannot progress without the community's help. Give A Rivet is a simple way to help us meet the cost of restoring the DC-2 and creating the museum to tell the story of the rescue of the Uiver in 1934.

Each rivet is worth \$2, every donation is important. You can use the QR code below or the Give A Rivet button on our website.

You can now follow the progress of the DC-2 restoration on our new Instagram account. You will find us at <https://www.instagram.com/uivermemorialdc2/> as well as on Facebook.



## **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.