Edition 60, November 2026

The UIVER Flyer

News from the Uiver Memorial DC-2 Restoration Project.

The roar of the Cyclone returns

With a roar and a cloud of smoke, the vintage engine bellowed back into life at the Uiver hangar Annual Open Day on Saturday, October 24. A large crowd witnessed the climax of three years of restoration by our engine specialist volunteer Tom Henderson when the hangar resounded to the note of the nine-cylinder Wright Cyclone radial engine, identical to the motors that drove the Uiver from London to Albury and on to Melbourne in 1934.

You didn't just hear it, you also felt it, the sound vibrating its way through the floor – a lift for the hangar volunteers and a spine-tingling moment for the aviation aficionados scattered through the crowd. As one gentleman put it: "I have heard some engines in my time but this is really something." And that was only at 1200 to 1300 revolutions per minute. Powering the Douglas DC-2, the engines would have reached 2200 to 2400 rpm during take-off and about 1800 rpm in cruise.



The roar of the Wright Cyclone 1820 engine was a big crowd pleaser.

Mounted on a frame, at the edge of the open front of the hangar, the engine performed to perfection on the day. Generating heat, exhaust flame and smoke, and burning copious amounts of fuel and oil, it could be only a brief run for the motor on Saturday but it was an impressive public debut and undoubtedly the star attraction at this year's open day.

Thank you JC Butko Engineering, Fastener Specialists, Enzed, and Central Laser Works for their support, and the individuals who contributed funds and parts to bring the engine back to life.



Some of our entrance crew.



A perfect day for a BBQ.



Coffee by Mug Life.



Working landing lights!



Guided tours told the history of the air race and the work of the restoration project.

Its two outings were a fitting end to the hangar tours where visitors learnt the Uiver story and saw the progress made on the restoration of the memorial Douglas DC-2 which shone even brighter this year with the nose cone in place and the landing lights illuminated.

The volunteers have been concentrating on rebuilding the wing centre section, a major part of the aircraft that will eventually house the engines and the landing gear. The visitors had a close look at the various components and the meticulous effort being applied by the volunteers to return the aircraft to a pristine condition.



Twin Cities Model Aero Club display.



The beautifully restored cars of the Albury-Wodonga Vintage Car Club.

There were also displays by the Albury and District Historical Society, the Twin Cities Model Aero Club, the Albury-Wodonga Vintage Car Club and the Bricks on the Border Lego group. Entertainment was provided by the Albury-Wodonga Ukulele Group.



The Albury-Wodonga Ukulele Group performing.



The Uiver at Albury Racecourse and race winner Grosvenor House depicted as Lego.



Albury & District Historical Society were on hand to answer questions about local history.

About 350 adults and children took the opportunity to visit the visit hangar, raising almost $5,000 for the project which depends on community support, not only to finance the rebuilding of the memorial aircraft but also to fund the continuing mission to keep alive the story of the Uiver and Albury's miraculous rescue of the plane and the seven people on board.

Grant a boost for women in aviation

A $5000 grant is on offer for local women planning a career in aviation.

The Uiver Memorial Community Trust has joined the Rotary Club of Albury North to award the grant to encourage and support a woman embarking on or consolidating a career in the aviation or aerospace industries.

The initiative is part of the Uiver group's International Women's Day celebration and the grant will be presented at the Women in Aviation event in March next year.

Eligible candidates must be at least 16 years old, living within 100 kilometres of Albury and with a genuine desire to work in any field of aviation or aerospace, such as civil or military flying, air traffic control, airport management, parts distribution, aircraft design, space exploration and development.

Chairman of the Uiver Memorial Community Trust, Pieter Mol, said the aim was to provide a platform to support and inspire a woman to develop her skills and knowledge. He said applicants would have to meet certain criteria and those who make the short list will be

interviewed by a selection panel of aviation professionals and representatives of the Rotary club and the Uiver trust.

Information and the application form for the Aerospace Futures for Women Grant are now on our website.

Applications close on January 31, the successful candidate will be advised by February 21 and the presentation will be made at the Women in Aviation event in the Uiver hangar on Sunday, March 7.

Restoration update

In the next week or two we are going to attempt to mate one of the engine nacelles to the wing centre section. The rear section of the centre section is steadily being worked on but there is a lot of corrosion to be dealt with.

The nose lower half is now fitted to the fuselage awaiting being riveted in place. The two landing light housings, one of the most distinguishing features of a DC-2, have been restored, and fitted to the nose, which now has working lights for the first time in 80 years. The nose top half is currently being repaired as it has a great deal of corrosion along its top edge but it will be ready for installation soon.

The first startup test of one of our Wright Cyclone 1820 engines was conducted on Wednesday 21 October, three days before our Open Day. Tom Henderson, our engine specialist, assisted by Neil Jacobs, has been working on this engine for nearly three years. Having completed the ignition wiring, instruments and controls, the installation of a fuel tank (a repurposed WW2 bomber oxygen tank), fuel pumps, and filling it with oil and fuel, the engine did eventually start with a roar. There were a few loud bangs and some flames initially but it ran well. A video of this test is on our Instagram and Facebook and is highly recommended viewing.

We ran it again twice more before the Open Day on Saturday, October 24. We will now make adjustments and improvements to the engine before announcing the next public engine run event. Follow our socials to keep up-to-date.



An exciting first test startup of the Wright Cyclone engine.

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 Australian 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. A small effort could have a big impact.

© Copyright Uiver Memorial Community Trust 2026.