



NAHC NEWSLETTER

Issue No 62. 8.12.25

Follow Progress on our NEW Website

<http://nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au/>

'START UP' DAY OCT 25TH 2025

There was plenty of activity at the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre, during the Nhill Heritage Weekend. The Avro Anson and Wirraway aircraft were brought out of the Ahrens Hangar for the first time in four years. Both aircraft, along with a Tiger Moth, flown in from Boort, and Len Creek's Gypsy Major engine, were started up, drawing crowds of 70 to 100 spectators at both morning and afternoon sessions.



Throughout the demonstrations, Graham Drage, the initial owner of the Avro Anson, provided an informative running commentary about the aircraft.

Author Peter Hodge signed copies of 'Flyboy', while a new display by John Williams, showing his father's historic flight from England to Australia in a Percival Proctor in 1955, was installed the day before. This new exhibit has already generated a lot of interest among visitors.

The Nhill Aeradio building was also open to the public during the weekend.



RV CAMPING

Many campers from across Australia are discovering the free RV Camping available at the aerodrome. Comments such as: 'Thank you for this camping area, the dump and the beautifully clean toilets.' and 'Such a wonderful achievement by terrific people. Have visited many times and will return.' are some of the positive notes we receive. Many are disappointed that the Heritage Centre is not open during the week, but at the moment we are already stretching our volunteers to have it open just at weekends. If you are interested in volunteering one day a month please contact us!

AIRCRAFT UPDATES

Len and Brian Creek are busy with the refurbishment of the **Tiger Moth**. What started as a minor restoration, has evolved into a major overhaul! It is expected to return to the skies early next year. In the interim, visitors have the opportunity to observe the meticulous restoration process of a fabric-covered aircraft.



Plans are currently being developed and materials gathered as the last phase of restoring the **Avro Anson** begins.

LOCAL WARTIME HEROES

When **Ian Roediger** returned to his family farm from the Middle East his dog leapt into his arms with delight. He was not the only one relieved to see Ian after hearing the news that he had been shot down twice in the skies over Sicily and Italy.

Ian was born in 1919 and lived with his parents on the family farm at Lorquon just north of Nhill. In 1942 he joined the RAAF and was allocated to No3 Squadron, an all Australian team with the RAF.



After only 10 hours solo flying time he was given a Kitty Hawk to fly and did two tours between 1943-44 in the Middle East, Sicily and Italy. Twice he had to bail out and, on both occasions, made sure he thanked the men who packed his parachute. He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross.

Ian had not trained in Nhill, but his final posting was as an Officer-In-Charge at the Nhill RAAF Base until the war ended.

Returning to farming, Ian became a well-respected member of the community and helped establish the Wimmera Aero Club.

More of his story can be found in Kevin O'Reilly's book 'In Just Five Years', available at the NAHC for the cost of \$45 (plus postage)

Jenny Creek for the NAHC team

PS Next newsletter will include some of the latest projects we are working on.

Become a Member now for only \$35.00.

Click on this link to find more on our membership page:

<https://www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au/membership-contact-form>

or Pay by Cheque to NAHC, PO Box 42, Nhill, Vic, 3418.

You will be investing in an exciting project that has grown from the seed of an idea, recording Nhill's rich aviation history, to become a major tourist attraction.