

What's News?

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VH-CAT – Half Yearly Update

Members and visitors to our PBY Catalina (VH-CAT) at Bankstown are surprised to see that little has been done to the aircraft since it arrived in Australia. This is in spite of the fact we have had a group of devoted volunteers working on it regularly for over 12 months.

The truth is a great amount has been done which is not visibly obvious. Until we finally paint the aircraft as an original BLACK CAT, there will be nothing much to see.

The aircraft flew out to Australia with new engines under an American Registration and after much work was done by our volunteers in Portugal.

We are nearly in a position to receive a Limited C of A (as a "Warbird") in Australia or an Experimental C of A – but just so you won't think we have been loafing on the job, here is a list of jobs already completed at Bankstown.

- LH elevator cable replaced
- RH Elevator tab hinge replaced
- RH Elevator tab actuator bearing replaced
- Tail plane forward attach brackets shimmed and bolts secured
- LH /RH wheels balance weights rust removed painted and refitted
- Inboard rib LH elevator repaired
- LH engine oil cooler changed
- LH/RH engines tappets checked/adjusted
- Magnetic compass repaired and refitted
- Front entry door exterior handle and lower lock pin fitted
- Fuel and oil gauges repaired and refitted
- Missing rivets replaced in lower rear fuselage hull step
- Various rivets replaced on fuselage chine LH/RH sides
- Cockpit floor inspection window replaced
- Windscreen wiper blades replaced
- Bolts in fuselage hull rear/front and water tank area replaced
- Outer wing sections LH/RH lower bolts replaced
- LH cockpit window quarter section replaced
- LH cockpit seat handle support bracket repaired
- Rudder trim tab rod end rebushed and bonding cable repaired
- Front door lower step inside fuselage repaired and refitted

- RH float attach fittings fabricated
- Water tank lower fuselage water scoop and tank refill fittings removed
- Wheel change jack fittings machined
- Aircraft jacks support fittings and tail stand fabricated
- Several fuselage windows replaced
- LH/RH floats removed for inspection and repair

We have still to remove the firefighting water tank and install a number of seats which we have acquired from the Australian Aviation Museum, Bankstown. These may require an engineering order but we have just the man to “engineer” this.

However, while this all represents a lot of activity, there are many important items to be completed to get our C of A. Whilst some of the jobs completed so far contribute in a small way towards the work required for our C of A, many of these jobs have been programmed to suit the limitations of the skills base of our volunteers and our budget.

We reported back in March that we had reached a stage where we had a very good idea of what needs to be done to get our C of A, not to mention a corresponding ball-park figure to accomplish this – somewhere between \$68,500 and \$80,000. This assumes land operations only. An extra \$18,000 is required to re-skin the floats – this being essential if we are to do water landings. The table below provides the C of A “TO DO” list:

VH-CAT - Work Required			
Item	Required for C of A?	Approx. Cost	Upper limit cost (where applicable)
Issue of C of A	Y	\$2,500	\$2,500
Reweigh aircraft	Y	\$8,000	\$8,000
Prop inspection (LH)	Y	\$1,500	\$1,500
Removal of LH prop fro AD inspection	Y	\$500	\$500
Fuel pump (boost pump) repair (one only required)	Y	\$1,000	\$1,000
Re-skin floats	N	\$18,000	\$18,000
Replace float attachments (RH float only)	Y	\$9,400	\$11,400
Repair R/H float strut	Y	\$1,500	\$8,000
Repair fuselage corrosion	Y	\$20,000	\$20,000
Transponder check	Y	\$400	\$400
Electrical check	Y	\$1,000	\$1,000
Repair oil coiler	Y	\$600	\$600
Adjust tappets in RH engine (valve clearance check)	Y	\$4,000	\$4,000
Repair fabric on elevators and ailerons	Y	\$1,500	\$1,500
Fabricate seat fitting (Captain's seat)	Y	\$1,000	\$1,000
Check engine fire bottles	Y	\$2,000	\$2,000
Repair wing corrosion	Y	\$3,000	\$3,000
ELT (406 MHz Beacon)	N	\$4,000	\$4,000
Fair over water scoop and refill pipe (on LH side of fuselage)	Y	\$1,000	\$3,000

VH-CAT - Work Required			
Item	Required for C of A?	Approx. Cost	Upper limit cost (where applicable)
Subtotal (work items essential for C of A - no water landings). See note below		\$58,900	\$69,400
Money owing to Airag for work already done to date		\$9,500	\$9,500
Total (work items essential for C of A - no water landings). See note below		\$68,400	\$78,900

Note - these totals exclude those items that are not essential for the C of A. If all items listed here were to be carried out add 22,000. All cost listed are approximate only.

Remember:

1. these costs are approximate only, but provide a good indication of the order of magnitude of the money required.
2. this is the money required just to get her flying. Additional money, and a lot of it, will be required for the future stages of the restoration project which will see the installation of passenger seats, blisters, nose turret and repainting. All up, we would need about \$150,000.

When all our work is done VH-CAT will emerge in "brand new" condition and should last another 60 years.

So we hope that the information provided here will place into perspective the letter Phil Dulhunty sent to you all a couple of weeks ago pleading for donations.

There's much to do and we are desperately short of money and qualified people. Against all of this, the expiry of our free tenure at Bankstown Airport is just about over (time flies, doesn't it?).

The drought we are experiencing with money and suitably qualified people persists. If you think you can help break the drought, please contact us ASAP!

We need you (and your money, if you have some to spare)!

A significant milestone was reached when the CFML Business Plan was finalised back in April. The plan, like all others, is based on a number of assumptions. Despite the conservative nature of the plan, it projects a very positive outlook for future cash flows, with the CFML becoming cash-flow positive from the moment VH-CAT starts flying. However, we first have to overcome the \$150,000-high mountain in our flight path. Once this is achieved, the sky's the limit and there's no looking back!

Phil Dulhunty and Colin Cool

2010 Catalina Ball

Just a reminder folks – the 2010 Catalina Festival Ball will be held on the evening of Saturday 10 July. See the flyer below for details.



The flyer features a central image of a Catalina seaplane in flight, set against a red oval background. Below the image, the title "Catalina Festival Ball" is written in a white, cursive font on a dark red banner, with "RATHMINES" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font underneath. The text "a fund raising celebration of the World War II Royal Australian Air Force Seaplane Base and the men and women who served there" is centered below the banner. A red horizontal bar contains the date "SATURDAY 10TH JULY 2010" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, "RATHMINES COMMUNITY CENTRE" is written in black, bold, sans-serif font. Two small photographs show a group of people in red shirts and a band in military uniforms. The text "Entertainment" is centered, followed by "Australian Army Band Newcastle" and "and Royal Australian Corps of Transport Pipes and Drums" in red, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, "THREE COURSE DINNER" is written in black, bold, sans-serif font, with "Including HorsD'oeuvres & Refreshments on arrival" in a smaller black font. The price "\$55" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, black font, with "Per Person" in a smaller black font below it. To the right, contact information "For Bookings ring 4975 2257 or Email: rathminesbc@bigpond.com" is provided in black, sans-serif font. A gold crest is positioned to the right of the contact information. Below the price and contact info, "RAFFLES" is written in black, bold, sans-serif font, followed by "DRESS: FORMAL * BYO DRINKS & GLASSES" in black, sans-serif font. A red horizontal bar at the bottom contains the text "PROCEEDS TO FUND THE CATALINA RESTORATION" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Catalina Festival Ball
RATHMINES

a fund raising celebration of the World War II Royal Australian Air Force
Seaplane Base and the men and women who served there

SATURDAY 10TH JULY 2010

RATHMINES COMMUNITY CENTRE

Entertainment
Australian Army Band Newcastle
and
Royal Australian Corps of Transport Pipes and Drums

THREE COURSE DINNER
Including HorsD'oeuvres & Refreshments on arrival

\$55 For Bookings ring 4975 2257 or
Per Person Email: rathminesbc@bigpond.com

RAFFLES

DRESS: FORMAL * BYO DRINKS & GLASSES

PROCEEDS TO FUND THE CATALINA RESTORATION

Rathmines - ANZAC Day 2010

Last month, we provided a report from Mike Usher on the success of the ANZAC Day proceedings at Rathmines. Unfortunately, photos of the event weren't available at the time of the May newsletter deadline. However, thanks to Max Pengilley, we can now bring you some snaps from the event.



Serving members of 11 Squadron RAAF marching to the Rathmines Memorial



Catalina Veterans

(If I'm not mistaken, I'd say the veteran appearing in the centre is CFML Membership Secretary Noel Lyon – correct me if I'm wrong Noel!!)



Ron Mitcherson, Hon Secretary Toronto RSL Sub-Branch introduces the First Tribute by Greg Combet, AM MP (Federal Member for Charlton)



Greg Piper MP, State Member for Lake Macquarie about to lay a tribute.

New Members/Donations

The Catalina Flying Memorial welcomes the following members to the Aussie Cat Club:

Life Members

A. D. Fleming

One year Members

Steven Smith

The CFML is extremely grateful for the following donations:

- Linda McGregor - \$500

A very big thank you to all of the above for their support!

Please turn over – there's more

Another day at Bankstown



Internationally renowned comedians Dulhunty, Purdy and White during final rehearsal for their next sell-out performance

News or comments

If you have any news or comments regarding the website, please forward to Colin Cool (colin.cool@jemena.com.au) or Jill Brandon (info@catalinaflying.org.au).