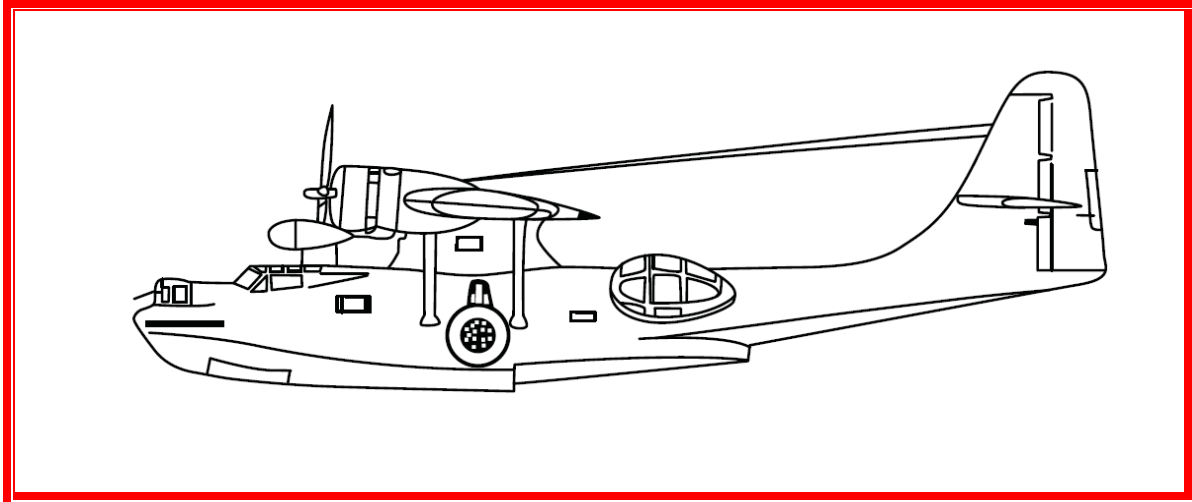


# NEWSLETTER



## What's News?

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## Catalina Flying Memorial Gathers Momentum

It's hard to believe, but over three years have passed since VH-CAT touched down at Bankstown on 7 December 2008. As regular newsreaders would know, the project to get her back into the air has progressed slowly. Matters were not helped in any way by the Global Financial Crisis that struck a few months prior to her arrival. The CFML has channelled much effort into determining an optimal strategy to enable a mammoth project like this to succeed.

The CFML is also mindful of the fact that five Catalina Festivals are now behind us and VH-CAT has been a "no show" every time. Luckily for us, the good people of Lake Macquarie have remained patient and supportive throughout. However, the CFML understands that such support and patience is limited without the imminence of a real-life roaring, belching, coughing and smoking Catalina gracing the shores of Rathmines.

Consequently, the CFML's Board of Directors convened to address this situation and to put in place a strategy that will aim to get VH-CAT flying in time for the 2012 Catalina Festival to be held in November.

In January, the CFML Board of Directors appointed one of its own, Col Evans to the position of CEO of the CFML. Col's priority is to address the sense of urgency required to meet the November deadline of getting VH-CAT airborne.

As well as being focused on fast-tracking the work required to get VH-CAT certified to fly, Col is currently in negotiations with a couple of potential sponsors. Col and fellow CFML director Spencer Ferrier are also looking at developing a strategic plan that will address the sustainability of the CFML to ensure VH-CAT remains in the air for many years to come.

In case you're wondering where Philip Dulhunty fits in, he remains the spearhead of the organisation. Phil is the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Board comprises Philip Dulhunty (Chairman), Colin Evans (CEO), Spencer Ferrier, Graham White (Flight Operations Manager), Neville Kennard (who is also a CFML Patron) and Dick Sims.

There has been much pleasing progress at Bankstown over the last few months. Much of what has been achieved recently with the work on VH-CAT can rightly be described as "visual progress", with the floats now repaired and re-attached to the float pylons. This means that for the first time in almost three years, the floats are now in position and retracted into their position as wingtips!

Much of the work in recent times has been attributable to a small band of volunteers with David Sieber, Roger Matthysen and Len Linfoot at the core.

David is a licensed aircraft engineer with many years experience which includes a couple of years with Ansett Flying Boat Services working on their two S.25s during their last years at Rose Bay. Roger is a Licenced Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (LAME) who, like David, brings much valued qualifications and experience to the project. Len has been an absolute stalwart for the project – he has been there right from the start when things got underway at Bankstown back in July 2009 when he took on the role of site supervisor. His commitment to the project, with all the ups and downs has never wavered.

That's not to ignore the contribution of other volunteers who have put in many hours at Bankstown over the years. We would not be where we are now without their assistance. However, we have now reached the stage where most of the work required to get us from where we are now to flying must be carried out by qualified people like David and Roger. These guys like the rest of us, are keen to maintain this increased momentum and part of Col Evans's focus in meeting the November deadline is seeing that they get all the support they need.

The following shots where taken when the right float was re-attached to the aircraft on 10 March 2012.



**David Sieber (L) and Patrick O'Hara (R) proudly standing with the right-hand float pylon immediately prior to its attachment to the wing**



**David Sieber (L) and Roger Matthysen (R) immediately following the attachment of the right-hand float pylon to the wing**



**L-R: David Sieber, Roger Matthysen and Len Linfoot readying the right-hand float for attachment to the float pylon**



**Contact! The right-hand float is re-attached to the float pylon.  
L-R: David Sieber, Spencer Ferrier, Malcolm Burns, Len Linfoot (Roger is  
hiding behind the float)**



**We have retraction – nice and clean!**

Folks, you can greatly assist David, Len, Roger and the others with a tax-deductible donation. For your added convenience, we now have a facility where you can make donations directly to us via our website! Just hit the big yellow "DONATE" button on the Home page.

Colin Cool  
Editor

## Documentary Film about the Restoration of VH-CAT

The Australian independent documentary filmmaker, Robert Cockburn, has been commissioned by the Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd (CFML) to complete a one-hour documentary, and related news and promotional material, about the restoration of VH-CAT, CFML volunteers and their efforts, and the history of Catalina military and civilian crews who flew these aircraft during and after World War Two. The development will also be used to prepare the way for a feature film drama about the story.

The aim of the documentary is to inform, and entertain, the widest audience about the secret and largely untold history of the Royal Australian Air Force 'Black Cat' Catalina missions in WWII, and to show the CFML's voluntary efforts to restore its Catalina by November 2012, and the forgotten history of the crews who flew and maintained the aircraft. The film will try to improve Australia's understanding and appreciation of these operations.

Robert Cockburn has been given exclusive access to tell the CFML story. He is experienced in aviation filmmaking with BBC TV which includes producing stories on Australian aviation for prime time broadcasts.



**Lights, camera, action!**

**L-R: CFML "Stars" Phil Dulhunty, Bob Cleworth and Col Evans**



**The instant of float attachment – captured for posterity on film!  
(That’s Robert Cockburn directing in the bottom RH corner of the shot)**

Colin Cool, Editor

## **Outpouring of Generosity from RSL Clubs**

Late last year, CFML volunteer Bob Cleworth conceived the idea of approaching the RSL Sub Branches for donations. Another volunteer, Philip Dartnell ran with the idea and spent many hours, running into days, putting together an information package targeted specifically at RSL Sub Branches which included a covering letter, an information flyer on the CFML and an extract of Bob Cleworth’s Master of Philosophy thesis about Catalina mine laying operations during WW2.

Philip Dartnell reported that letters were sent to 333 RSL Sub Branches - a big effort that involved much assistance from Christina Mumford. 500 copies of the same letter was provided to the NSW RSL State Branch CEO, who then arranged for it to be sent internally to all Sub Branches (393 in total; 60 sub branches don’t publicise their details hence initial batch sent to 333), with an official approval stamp from the state branch giving the go-ahead to Sub Branches should they wish to donate.

The response so far is that the CFML has received a total of \$10,000 from 30 Sub Branches. A complete listing of the Sub Branches who have donated may be found in the “New Members/Donations” section of this newsletter below.

## New Members/Donations

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

### One year Members

- David Godfrey
- Frederick Roberts

### Donations

- Tony Fleming - \$500
- ASIC - \$329
- Richard Purdy - \$100
- Fred Myts - \$100
- Keith Stringer - \$50
- Peter Lemon \_ \$50
- Phillip Johnston \_ \$50
- Derek Wrigley - \$50
- Peter Stuart- Smith - \$39
- Robert Graham - \$30
- Pablo Modinger - \$20
- Walter Smith - \$23
- FJ Roberts - \$10
- Abermain RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Auburn RSL Sub Branch - \$1000
- Balgowlah-Seaforth-Clontarf RSL Sub Branch - \$2000
- Bathurst RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Bomaderry RSL Sub Branch - \$400
- Callala Beach RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Casino RSL Sub Branch - \$100
- Chatswood RSL Sub Branch - \$500
- Chester Hill RSL Sub Branch - \$500
- Combined Services Sub Branch - \$200
- Corrimal RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Deniliquin RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Doyalson-Wyee RSL Sub Branch - \$250
- Fairfield RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Forestville RSL Sub Branch - \$500
- Guyra RSL Sub Branch - \$100
- Hills District RSL Sub Branch - \$500
- Lithgow City RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Narrabeen RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Oberon RSL Sub Branch - \$100
- Penrith RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Pittwater RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Quirindi RSL Sub Branch - \$100
- Redfern RSL Sub Branch - \$500



- Rockdale RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Rose Bay RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Springwood RSL Sub Branch - \$100
- Swansea RSL Sub Branch - \$200
- Wentworth Falls RSL Sub Branch - \$500
- Wingham RSL Sub Branch - \$50

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

## **News or comments**

If you have any news or comments regarding the website, please forward to Colin Cool ([colin.cool@jemena.com.au](mailto:colin.cool@jemena.com.au)).