

What's News?

- VH-CAT on display at Bankstown
- Coming event - Catalina Flying Memorial exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum (Castle Hill)
- Money required – please help!

VH-CAT on display at Bankstown

The Bankstown Airport passenger terminal building played host to the Sydney Aviation Model Show over the weekend of the 9th & 10th May 2009. As part of this event, the Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd taxied VH-CAT from its present tie-down position a short distance away to a place on the tarmac immediately adjacent to the terminal building, allowing access to model show visitors.

For only \$10, visitors were invited to climb aboard and sit in the pilot's seat and climb about from bow to stern. The Catalina Flying memorial was also allocated a desk inside the terminal building among the various displays of model aircraft and other aviation paraphernalia.

This desk was ably "crewed" for most of the time by Gwen Cleworth, wife of Bob, author of those excellent books *"Cats at War"* and *"The Fabulous Catalina"*. Copies of these books, along with a range of other Catalina and Seaplane Pilots Association Australia merchandise (DVDs, polo and t-shirts, caps etc) were available for sale from our desk.

A huge model of a Black Cat hung ominously above our desk as if on reconnaissance, surveying the busyness below her. Also on display was a brand new DVD about VH-CAT's ferry flight to Australia, titled *"Operation Catalina Heritage"*. This is a 12.5 minute DVD following our Cat's journey from Portugal to Australia and features interviews with a number of well-known Catalina veterans. This DVD is available for sale for \$30, however, a free copy will be provided for any donation of \$100 or more.

Bob Cleworth bought along the Catalina Squadrons banner, used to front Catalina veterans who march on ANZAC Day in Sydney. This was tied in a prominent position to the fence sounding the Terminal building, this adding significantly to the ambience of the occasion.

We were also privileged to have received visits from the relatives of some of the Catalina veterans including Deborah, daughter of Squadron Leader Bruce Daymond, DSO DFC, ex-209, 240 & 628 Squadrons RAF.

A total of \$1,455 was raised over the weekend from the sale of merchandise and entry tickets to board VH-CAT. All proceeds received will help fund the work required to obtain an Australian Certificate of Airworthiness for VH-CAT.

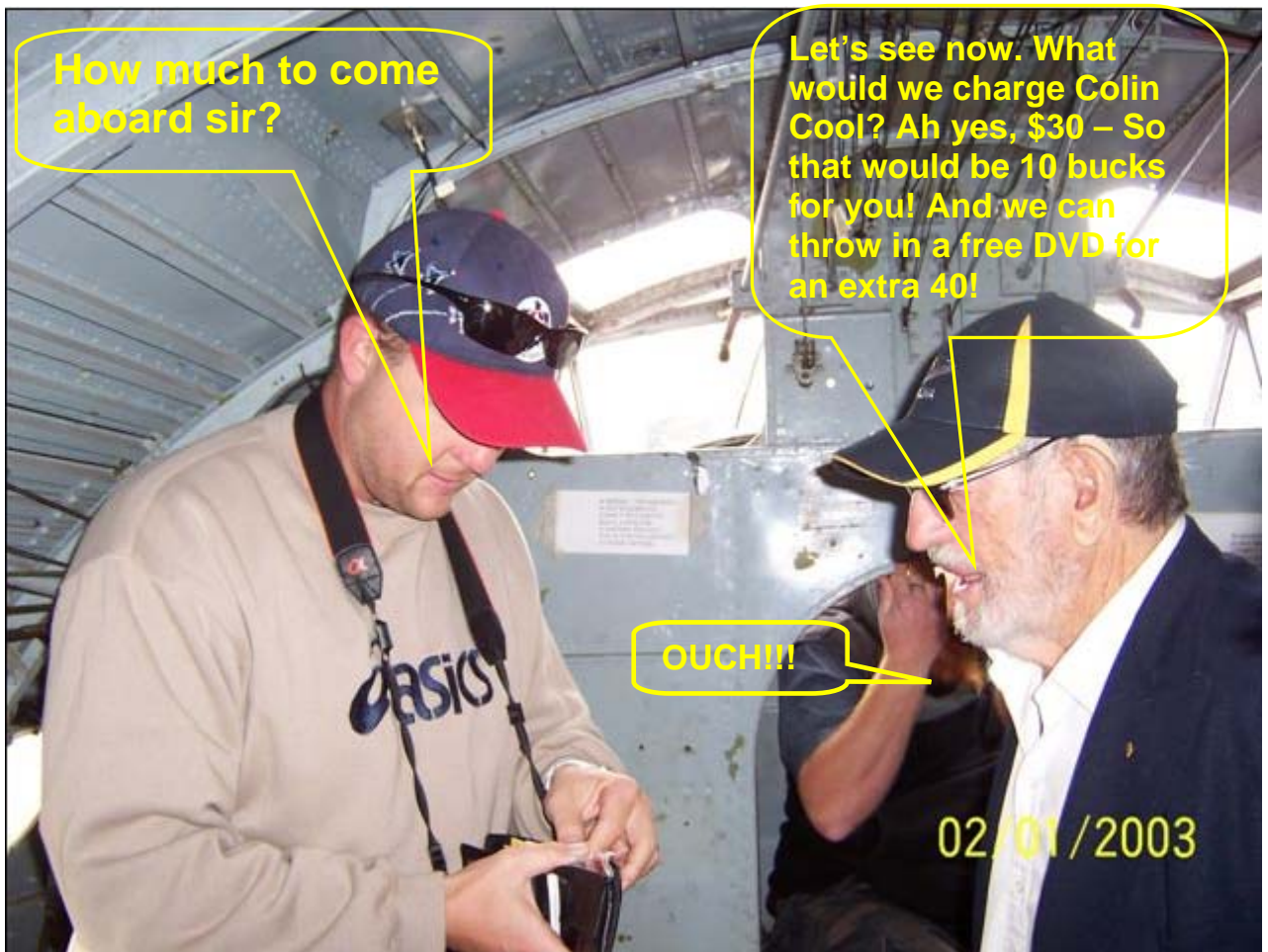
Before closing, mention should also be made of all the volunteers who helped out over what proved to be a very busy and rewarding weekend:

- Graham White and Richard Purdy for their efforts in taxiing the aircraft to and from its tie-down position, as well as being on hand to show people around the aircraft and answer questions from a curious public
- Ex-20 Squadron WAG 426123 WOFF Noel Lyon, who assisted in a range of odd jobs that needed doing on the Saturday
- Patrick O'Halloren for his assistance in setting up our display and getting things packed up at the end, not to mention a range of other things that needed doing along the way.
- The ubiquitous Bob Cleworth, who at various times could be seen at the desk, helping out at the aircraft and keeping a watchful eye over the gate that allowed access to the airside of the fence surrounding the Terminal building. However, special mention needs to be made of Bob's patience and perseverance in getting the DVD/TV set up so that we could display our range of DVDs for sale.
- Gwen Cleworth for keeping the desk going, not to mention her ideas for the enhancement of the presentation of the merchandise and other things that improved its operation – lessons learned for next time
- And last, but of course, not least, Phil Dulhunty, who was on site over the entire weekend doing all sorts of things (he's a great revenue collector, that's for sure!) as well as the Friday night beforehand assisting in setting up our display.

And I was there of course, making a general nuisance of myself!

We'll be doing it all again on 11 July at the new satellite facility of the Powerhouse Museum at Castle Hill, as our next article reports. Before that, however, let us treat you to some photos from the Bankstown event.

Colin Cool, Editor



Revenue Collector Dulhunty in full flight*
(Meanwhile, in the background, one of our customers is caught in the process of learning how to get around a Catalina the hard way)

* We had to be careful with this Dulhunty fellow. Any cash he collected was immediately placed in his pocket and "accidentally" forgotten about. We had to frisk him at the end of each day to ensure all pocketed proceeds found their way to the cash tin!



Gwen Cleworth doing an excellent job at our desk while being stalked by a Black Cat



Catalina gives birth to a Kittylina
(Keith Clark's new Searey VH-ZRA nestled under VH-CAT's protective wing)



**More volunteers
(L-R: Bob Cleworth, Phil Dulhunty, Graham White and Richard Purdy)**



Catalina Squadrons banner

Coming event - Catalina Flying Memorial Exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum (Castle Hill)

The Powerhouse Museum's Powerhouse Discovery Centre at Castle Hill will be conducting an Open Day on Saturday 11 July 2009 with Aviation being the theme. The Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd will have a stand at which we will be displaying our model Catalina (the one which was hanging above our display at Bankstown) as well as selling a range of merchandise (DVDs, books, t-shirts etc) with the hope of collecting a few donations.

Above all, the event will provide another the opportunity to expose for our Cat and to further the knowledge of the general public on the Catalina and the exploits of the men that flew her.

The Powerhouse Discovery Centre is located at 172 Showground Road, Castle Hill. The Powerhouse Discovery Centre is well worth a visit and in some respects better than the main site at Ultimo.

More details will be provided when they come to hand.

Don't miss it!

Colin Cool, Editor

Money required – please help

As you will all know by know, our Catalina is sitting at Bankstown awaiting work to commence to obtain an experimental Certificate of Airworthiness. Until this happens, the aircraft cannot fly in Australia. The reality is that while some of this work can involve volunteers (hence zero cost), much of this work has to be paid for, including the final inspection and signing out of the aircraft, the supervision of volunteers and so on. We estimate this work will cost us some \$40,000.

On top of this, the Catalina project has cost us to date some \$640,000 of which we have received \$580,000 from donations and sales of merchandise - this still leaves us owing creditors some \$60,000.

We have had a tremendous amount of interest from the general public in our project but due to the present economic conditions we are finding it difficult to raise the \$60,000 needed before we can proceed any further.

\$50,000 of this is the money we need to pay back to our customs agents who paid for a 40ft container (containing all the spare parts etc), the freight and charges on the new engines from USA, the GST, etc. Until these accounts are paid off we dare not incur any further expenses.

Unfortunately the global economic crisis has fallen upon us and we are finding it very difficult to get a big sponsor. Small donations are welcome but we need thousands of

them. Some donations could be made in the form of a loan repayable when we can create income from Adventure Flights, etc.

Any financial help or a referral to a potential major corporate sponsor would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office on (02) 9870-7277 or philip@dulhunty.com if you think you can help. Alternatively, details on how you can make a donation are available on our website (www.catalinaflying.org.au).

News or comments

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