

## NEW ZEALAND WARBIRDS ASSOCIATION (INC.)

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### UPDATE #5

13 April 2021

#### **'Welcome to the Canberra' Evening**

Just on 60 donors and NZ Warbirds members gave WT346 a warm welcome to Ardmore at the evening function on Saturday 13 March. This provided a chance to mix and mingle over a drink and nibbles while former Canberra crew swapped yarns of long ago! The cockpit was accessible and even for older bones the crawl up to finally sit in the pilot's seat was worth the effort – even if it took a lot longer than it did 51 years ago!

A special thanks to those that helped organise the evening and to those that have subsequently come on board as donors – your contribution is appreciated. It is gratifying to hear the wholehearted supportive comments for the overall project and this certainly gives all of us encouragement for the task that lies ahead.

#### **Next Steps**

Apart from minor repairs there is very little actual restoration work required on the fuselage so the plan is to complete the removal of the external protective coating. Then it's a thorough prep before repainting in RNZAF camouflage livery. Currently, the options are being assessed as to where best to carry out this phase. Meanwhile, we've been researching practical painting solutions including professional advice on the best paint for the job! With the aid of the Air Force Museum and a 'decal expert' we now have details of the camo specifications and upwards of 90 individual markings! So, we will be calling on volunteer help as soon as the best option has been decided. A decision on transport for the wings is expected shortly – these will have nestle on individual yet-to-be-built frames to allow road transport to Ardmore. It is expected that the first item for restoration will be the fin – interesting to note, apart from the leading and the 'trailing' edges, the construction is wooden - how many Canberra crew knew this at the time? Perhaps a hangover from Mosquito days?

Our thanks to you as a donor; please use this link for further information – [www.nzwarbirds.org.nz/canberra](http://www.nzwarbirds.org.nz/canberra)

Gavin Trethewey/Tony Miller  
Canberra Support Group

Donor Update #5