

NEW ZEALAND WARBIRDS ASSOCIATION (INC.)

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UPDATE #13

24 August 2022

Wings and Other Things!

Monday 15 August saw the wings finally make their way through the gates at Ardmore. They had been loaded at the Air Force Museum, Wigram the previous Thursday and were delivered to Ardmore at 0530 to beat the usual early traffic mayhem on the Southern Motorway.

They were carefully handled on the 1200km journey by Edwards Transport and unloaded by 0900. Garry Edwards along with his onsite engineer came up with the idea of a series of supports that allowed the wings to overlap on the transporter. All worked well as the wide load made its way north guided by 2 pilot vehicles. There were no major dramas as they removed and replaced the odd school crossing signage enroute!

Now the task of cleaning and restoring the wings is ahead of us- 25 years of living outside has not been kind but already they have been water blasted to remove decades of lichen and general grime. The plan is to work on one wing at a time and to do this inside, on a steel frame that will allow the wing to be rotated around the main spar. There's a few components missing but we've launched a search through contacts at 100 Squadron Temora, NSW who operate a Canberra TT18.

When we're set to go, we'll need the volunteer help of 'strippers and sanders' along with professional help from Ardmore-based restorers. We know the target date - February 2024- to have all components complete is ambitious but nevertheless achievable if we maintain momentum.

Add to this, the tailplane was delivered on Monday after an epic journey through the flood stricken north of the South Island.

Thanks go to those volunteers that helped with the "Wings and Other Things" phase.

Hangar Talk

The attached poster provides details of a "Hangar Talk" to inform members and any other interested parties of progress and background to the project. If you can make it, you would be most welcome this coming Sunday 28 August at Ardmore.

Display Signage

Specific Canberra signage will be in place in the NZ Warbirds Visitor Centre later this week. This display will detail origins of the Canberra, WT346, RNZAF Service, the Restoration Project and as a special feature – a list of all Canberra aircrew who served in 14 and 75 Squadrons 1958-1970. This will serve as a valuable educational source for all visitors and members.

Facebook Updates

If you can't visit Ardmore in person to view the Canberra display, here is a further reminder that the NZ Warbirds website does carry a Canberra section and access to a specific Canberra Facebook page; please use this link for further information:
<https://nzwarbirds.org.nz/association/canberra-restoration/>

Canberra Art LED

A reminder of the opportunity to contribute further to the CSG funds and at the same time have your very own Limited Edition decorative LED light for home, office or display. An ideal gift for the aviation minded member of family or friends. Full details and an order form accompanied Update #11

Thanks to those who have already made a purchase and for your positive feedback!

Gavin Trethewey/Tony Miller
Canberra Support Group

Donor Update #13