

## NEW ZEALAND WARBIRDS ASSOCIATION (INC.)

75 De Havilland Lane, Ardmore Airport  
P.O. Box 272 1640  
Papakura, Auckland 2244



## UPDATE #16

12 November 2023

### Ready for Action..

It is just on six months since we last gave you an update on the Canberra restoration progress. Favourable weather hasn't really played its part but now that the wing jig is back on site, loaded ready to go, major progress will soon be evident on both wings.

Hopefully, the merry band of 'Canberra Strippers and Sanders' can rekindle their previous enthusiasm and bring their skills to the job ahead!

Meantime, progress has been made with the completion of the engine nacelles and jet pipe exhaust cones – they've all been water blasted, primed and painted, including camouflage patterns.

Our thanks go to Chief Engineer Andy Bishop and his team at RAAF 100 Sqdn, Temora for hunting down most of the inspection covers we were seeking.

The team at the Air Force Museum located the elevators as well as an inboard flap and these were delivered last month which means the tail plane is now ready for completion.

So, at that point the only major component missing was the main landing gear wheels. Lo and behold we were offered a pair of Canberra main landing gear wheels by the Canberra Heritage Trust based at West Raynham, Norfolk, England. Thanks to Ken Delve (author/ war historian, former RAF Canberra navigator and CHT trustee) for the generous offer which we had no hesitation in accepting with thanks. Add to that another offer (also accepted with thanks) to include the wheels in a shipment from the UK by Mike Jones – the new owner of the RNZAF Corsair scheduled to start the NZ air show circuit back at its former home Masterton later this month.

## **Visitor Centre**

The Canberra fuselage now has cabin interior and bomb bay LED lighting installed by Pete Sheehan. Already there are comments from visitors on just how claustrophobic conditions were for the Navigator! Equally, admiration for all that is exposed in the bomb bay – no ‘fly by wire’ just plenty of rods and wiring looms.

## **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/> There's always additions to the photo gallery!

## **Canberra Art LED... Great Christmas Gift**

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. With Christmas just around the corner these make an ideal gift for the aviation minded member of the family or friends. Shop early - a copy of the order form is attached.

## **Air Show Advance Notice Sunday 10 March 2024**

Come out to Ardmore - a great day for families and aviation enthusiasts to watch 'Warbirds on Parade'. You can also view the Canberra fuselage on display in the Visitor Centre along with other attractions on the day.

## **Thank you**

Last but certainly not least – to all donors including those recently who have made substantial contributions to the project; we've yet to scope beyond the current restoration work programme but the overall plan calls for an all-weather cover – unless some miracle occurs with a 'hey presto' and by magic a hangar appears we'll continue to seek further donations.

Not to overlook those who offer their voluntary services – thank you – it is appreciated.