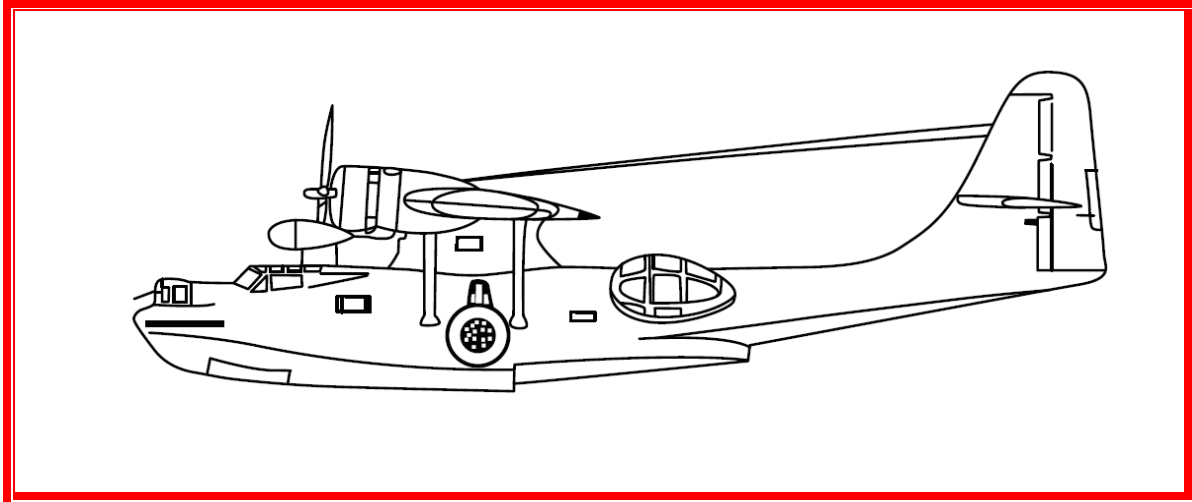


NEWSLETTER



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2011 Catalina Festival

The Fifth Annual Catalina Festival was held at Rathmines on Saturday 5 November 2011 and boy, was it huge! This year's event was genuinely bigger than ever.

CFML volunteers (and Lake Macquarie locals) Dave Swanson and Terry Woolard delivered a superlative effort in organising, setting up and manning the CFML stand, raising \$4,857 (compared to \$3025 last year and \$2,300 the year before) through the sale of merchandise and membership fees. So I think that our stand's takings this year were a measure of just how much bigger and successful the 2011 Festival was.

Terry and Dave were assisted throughout the day by CFML Volunteers Tanya Lister, Chris Liddell, John Goldsbrough, Bob Cleworth, Stewart Kedar, Lisa Swanson, Malcolm Burns, Gordon Finn and Keith (whose surname I don't know – sorry Keith!) They even had a little bit of help from me! So a big "thank you" to all of the team for a great effort!



L-R: Terry Woolard, Tanya Lister and Dave Swanson pose for a photo during their hectic time working the CFML Stand

The CFML especially thanks to Terry and Dave for their efforts not only on the day, but in the time leading up to the big event. I know they worked hard to ensure our stand was the best possible. The only way you could have bettered this effort would have been to have had VH-CAT there as well.

We had the pleasure of sharing our stand with radio enthusiast and Rathmines local Graham Sommer who had on display a restored AR8-AT5 Aircraft Radio (the AT5 is a transmitter, the AR8 is a receiver, all Australian-made by AWA!). These radios were fitted to aircraft such as Beaufighters, Mosquitoes, Ansons and Catalinas operated by the RAAF in the Pacific theatre during WW2.

We were also fortunate to have had glorious weather throughout the day, the first time since the first Festival in 2007!

Another source of revenue came through a raffle, with first prize being a scenic flight for two with Sydney Seaplanes, and second prize a spit roast for 30 donated by Rathmines Butchers.

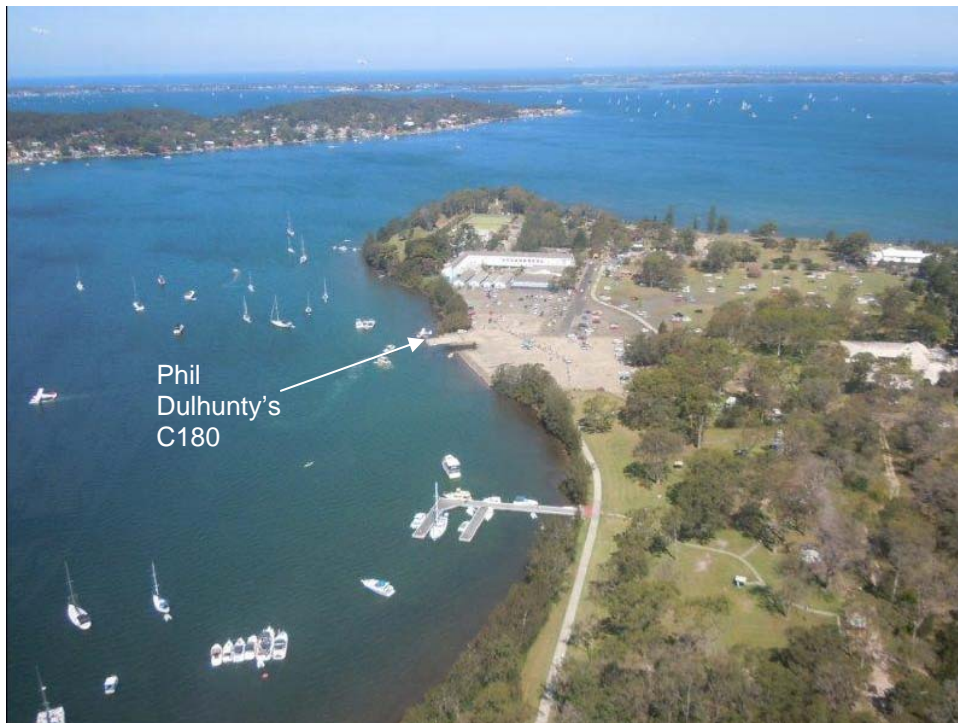
Adam Holt, Chief Pilot / Head of Training and Checking for Sydney Seaplanes spearheaded the organisation of a seaplane competition which was a huge drawcard for seaplane pilots and no-doubt contributed to the large turn-out of seaplanes on the day. Prizes were awarded for accuracy in the water bombing exercise as well as for the best presented aircraft. And speaking of Sydney Seaplanes, their support for the Festival and the CFML was displayed through the availability of their DHC-2 Beaver VH-AAM *Caledonia*. *Caledonia* was used to provide joy flights to festival visitors, the profits from which will go to the Catalina project.



The Sydney Seaplanes DHC-2 Beaver *Caledonia* ready for the joy flights



Seaplane competition in full-flight



Rathmines, just before the opening of the festival



Seaplane pilots line up to do battle!

Of course, the day would not have been complete without the appearance of the Luskintigers – with four of their DH-82A Tiger moths putting on a fine display of formation flying.



The Luskintigers going their thing

But the aerial treats didn't stop there! There was a superb display of aerobatics by a Pitts Special as well as a Wirraway – the distinctive sound of that P&W R-1340 600 hp engine was a real bonus!



Wirraway hurtling about in the blue skies over Rathmines

However, the highlight of the aerial activities, indeed of the entire festival, was the appearance of the Roulettes. Their display was truly magnificent. At times, the PC-9s were coming in from all directions and diving from the sky in a scene reminiscent of a wartime Japanese attack – a fate that fortunately eluded the Rathmines Country Club!

Following their display, the Roulettes flew to nearby RAAF Williamstown where they were taken by helicopter to Toronto and from there, by bus back to Rathmines to mingle with the crowds and sign autographs.



These guys need no introduction....

But if planes aint your thing, there was plenty else on offer, with stalls offering a wide range of goodies for sale, vintage cars and military vehicles as well as rides for the kiddies, not to mention a couple of big bands.



The crowds move through the busy stalls



Kiddies having the time of their lives!



Display of military vehicles



Vintage car display



In the mood.....

No doubt, the Rathmines Catalina Festival will continue to grow. It will be important in the on-going effort to raise funds to get VH-CAT to Rathmines and as a significant event in bringing the Rathmines community together. At the risk of omitting many who helped, the CFML would like to thank Mike and Lyn Usher from Rathmines Memorial Bowling Club, who carried much of the load in planning and running the day; Bill Hitchcock and Barney Reardon, who organised the aerial program, Adam Holt for organising the seaplane flying competition and the availability of the Sydney Seaplanes DHC-2 Beaver and of course the people from the Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park Trust.

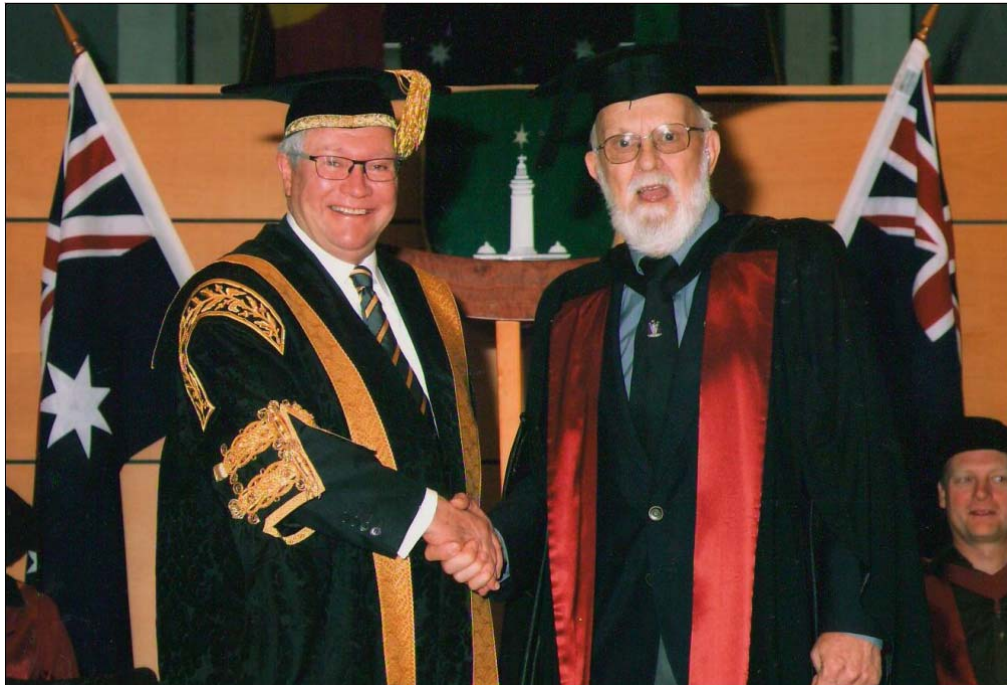
Colin Cool
Editor

Bob Cleworth – Master of Philosophy (M. Phil)

On 22 September, well known Catalina identity Bob Cleworth was awarded the degree of Master of Philosophy from Macquarie University for his thesis on Catalina mining operations in the Pacific War.

Bob is well known in the Catalina fraternity as the author of those two well-known publications, *Cats at War* (co-authored with Coral Gaunt) and *The Fabulous Catalina*. Bob was also the Secretary of the recently disbanded Catalina Association of NSW. Bob currently serves on the steering committee for the CFML and is also looking after our website – his versatility sure comes in handy!

Bob has achieved a great deal to the telling of the stories of the men and missions of the Catalina squadrons. Good on you Bob. Well done and congratulations!



Bob being presented with his M.Phil degree testamur by the Chancellor of Macquarie University.

Note: There were many attempts made to photograph Bob with his mouth shut. Those of you who know Bob would realise what an ambitious task this would have been, much like attempting to pull a flea's bum around a cricket ball. Anyway, after what seemed to be innumerable attempts to capture that elusive shot, during which several long-suffering fellow graduands were reported to have collapsed from exhaustion awaiting their turn to receive their well-earned testamurs, attempts were eventually abandoned. So we'll have to settle for this.....

Colin Cool, Editor

New Members/Donations

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

Life Members

- Adam Holt
- Carole Gibbens

One year Members

- Mike Barnden
- Bruce Searles
- Stuart Moody
- John Moody
- Ron Rubic
- Philip Dartnell

Donations

- Robert Henshall - \$1,000
- Kirribilli RSL - \$1,000
- Graham White - \$300 (for rent on the CFML Building)
- Carole Gibbens - \$250 (for rent on the CFML Building)
- Dr Ted Rayner - \$100
- Malcolm Burns - \$100
- Ron Rubic - \$100
- Mike Barden - \$50
- Wallsend RSL Sub-Branch - \$50
- Bruce Searles - \$25

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

Best Wishes for the Festive Season

Well folks, another year of our lives has just zipped by. The festive season is almost upon us yet again, which means for many time for a break, celebration, reflection and some contemplation on the year ahead.

For the members of the Aussie Cat Club, especially those who have soldiered on so hard to help maintain the momentum of the project there has certainly been much to reflect upon. Looking toward the New Year, we look forward to conquering the challenges that lay ahead. To all Aussie Cat Club members, sponsors and volunteers – we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and above all, a safe holiday season.

Colin Cool, Editor and general Dogsbody

News or comments

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