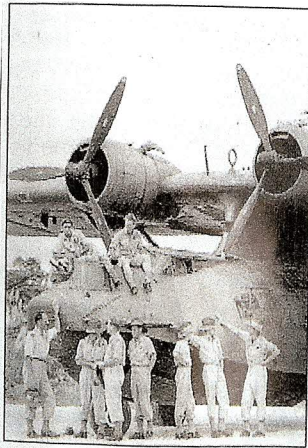


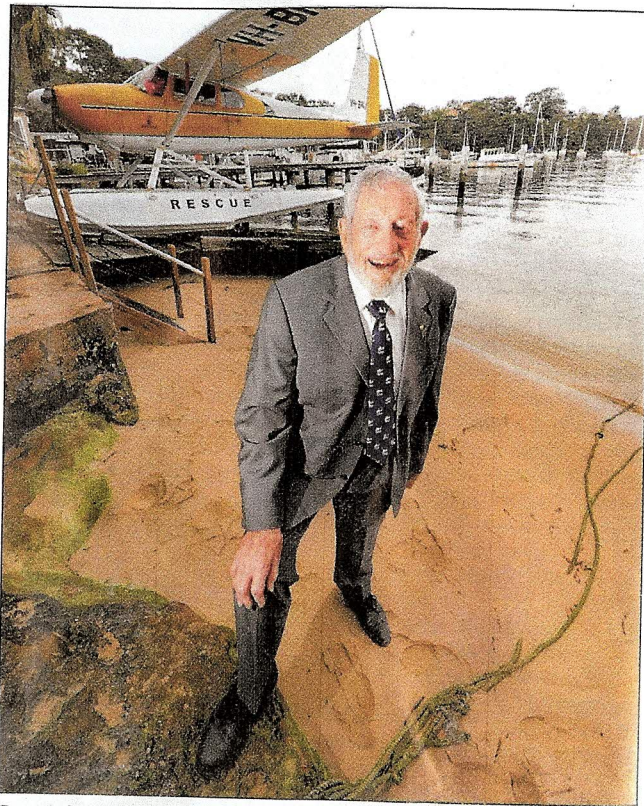
Catalinas deserve



A Catalina over Rose Bay.



The crew of one large aircraft.



Greenwich seaplane pilot Philip Dulhunty.

Picture: ELENOR TEDENBORG

a place in history

AVIATION INFATUATION

Danielle Nicastri

THE role of Spitfire planes in defending Britain from enemy forces has been well documented.

But not as recognised is the role Catalina seaplanes played in protecting Australia from the threat of Japanese invasion during the Pacific War from 1941 to 1945.

This is what Greenwich seaplane pilot Philip Dulhunty, 88, is trying to change.

The Seaplane Pilots Association of Australia president is part of a campaign to have a Catalina seaplane maintained and operated from a hangar or museum.

The museum would be located at the heritage-listed Rathmines Park,

LOCAL HERO

NAME: Philip Dulhunty. **ABOUT:** Awarded an OAM in 2004 for his services to aviation and international trade through the design of large, high voltage overhead electrical systems. His fascination with "float planes" has spanned 58 years and he has owned his own Cessna, named Banjo, for 56 years. **PROJECT:** Wants Australia to have a museum dedicated to the work of Catalina seaplanes. They are not recognised in the Australian War Memorial, despite their important role.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Mr Dulhunty is seeking a major sponsor to maintain and operate a Catalina seaplane from a hangar or museum complex
- To donate, call him on 9870 7277

which is on the site of the former World War II RAAF base, now owned by Lake Macquarie Council.

Mr Dulhunty said the work of Catalina planes is not recognised anywhere in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

"And yet, they played a much greater part than any other aeroplane," he said.

"(The Catalinas) were

thousands of miles from home behind enemy lines.

"We lost a lot of people and Catalinas."

His association has bought an original 1945 Catalina from Portugal, which has cost \$400,000 to date, and plans to offer adventure flights as well as serve the NSW Marine Rescue and Customs surveillance.