



Community Heritage Grants 2012

Supporting material

Six Photographs

Elsewhere we have described the size of the collection. Here we have chosen, almost at random, six out of a possible hundreds of items, so as to illustrate some of the individual items in the collection.

- a) Scrapbook of Gwen Starkie. See <http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/IMP0289b.htm> for more information.



Gwen Starkie was the first NSW woman to become a WAAAF officer in World War II, and first served at the Bankstown WAAAF camp, the first camp established in Australia, in August 1941. The caricature is original. The other page is part of a letter written by Lady Tedder to Gwen Starkie when she worked, after the war,

providing recreational facilities for the pilots of the Berlin airlift.

- b) Flying helmet used by Nancy Bird-Walton, pre-war. The book, *Australian Women Pilots*, (1949) featured her work and was a very early recognition of the role of women in aviation.
- c) We have many books that are of significance – for example because they are rare, and / or first editions, and .or because of inscriptions, rare books – first editions, specially inscribed books, etc. The book lying down, for example, is a first edition of Charles Kingsford-Smith's book about his Pacific flight, from the library of Hudson Fysh, with bookplate and signature.



- d) The first ticket issued to an Australian for trans-Pacific flight (westward) in the service inaugurated by Pan-American Airways. September 13, 1943 is in the picture frame and the model depicts the aircraft used.



e) Autographed rudder covering of an aircraft used by Goya Henry, pre-world War II. Henry was a larrikin pilot who endeavoured to run an airline without official permission. In 1936 he set up such an airline, but flew domestic services in NSW via the ACT, and won a legal case allowing



him to continue his flights because the Australian constitution forbade any restriction on interstate trade.



f) We have a large collection of old navigating instruments. Here, a sextant and some 'computers' of the 1930s.

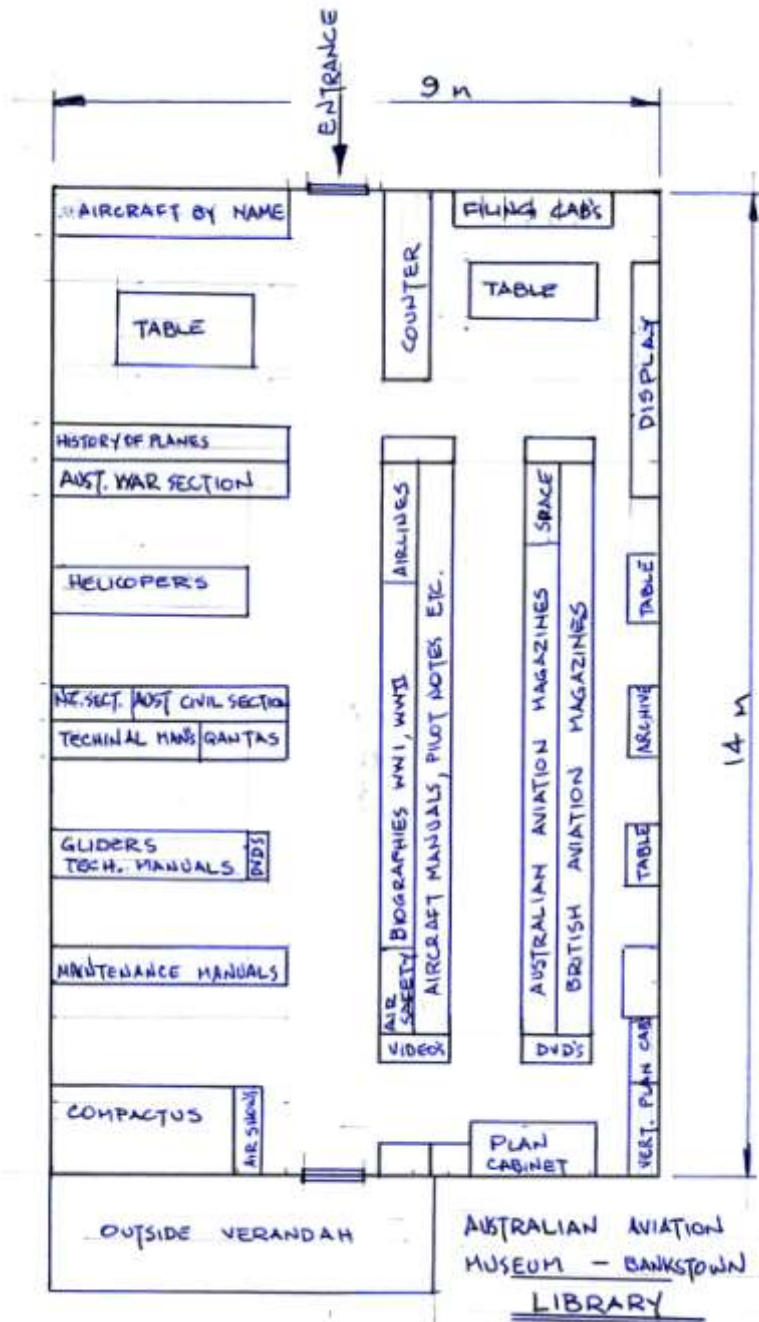
Our collection is comprehensive, but urgently needs better storage and full assessment.....



We are certain, for example, that the C A Butler collection has unique and valuable material, but the only way we can store it is seen in these pictures – exterior and interior!

Our CASA collection is housed in a container and is in danger of being damaged by vermin





This diagram of our main building does not indicate the piles of boxes between the shelving areas!

But not all of our collections are disorganised.....



37 catalogue drawers of the Wills collection contain photographs and sighting details of thousands of aircraft, arranged meticulously by registration letters



And books are arranged on shelves with clearly distinguishable 'ad hoc' section labels.

These opinions are shared by others.....

From Ian Debenham OAM BA(Hons.), Dip. Mus. Stud.
 President, Aviation Historical Society of Australia (NSW) Inc.
 Secretary, Historical Aircraft Restoration Society Inc.
 Director, Historical Aircraft Projects Pty. Ltd.

The Australian Aviation Museum Bankstown (AAMB), is seeking a Community Heritage Grant to enable a Significance Assessment of its archival collection.

I have been associated with the museum first as a founding committee member and then as its inaugural honorary curator. As Transport curator at the Powerhouse Museum before my retirement I determined that my role in supporting the development of the Australian Aviation Museum Bankstown redressed the limited ability of the Powerhouse to cover the wider aspects of Australian aviation

history and research and facilitated access for researchers, students and members of the general public in this area of interest.

I am very familiar with the collection, and there is no doubt that it contains a very large quantity of significant material that should be preserved and displayed. The voluntary custodians of the collection would benefit greatly from professional assistance in developing the organisation, cataloguing and presenting the collection to the public. A well-founded significance assessment is a necessary first step. I strongly support their application.

From Juanita Franzi, aviation artist

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As a professional aviation and aero-historical illustrator I often have cause to do in-depth research. In fact, it is the historical accuracy and quality of my artworks that had established my credibility with publishers, authors and enthusiasts throughout the world.

I have used the collection held at the Aviation Museum, Bankstown, for research. Within the collection is a huge amount of very valuable material, and many unique items. Unfortunately it is difficult to search through and it can be hard to find particular items because the material has not been catalogued nor consistently organised.

This is not a criticism of the Aviation Museum, it is apparent that the voluntary workers have simply been overwhelmed by the mass of material they have acquired.

I understand that the museum is applying for funds to conduct a significance assessment under the National Library Community Heritage Grants scheme. I would strongly support such a process as a first stage in bringing this remarkable collection to a more organised and accessible state. It would be a great pity if the collection did not receive the attention it deserves.

From Bruce Dawbin, prominent architect specialising in heritage matters

1 May 2012

Commonwealth Heritage Grants Program

Re: Australian Aviation Museum, Bankstown: Community Heritage Grant

I understand that the Australian Aviation Museum, Bankstown, is seeking a Community Heritage Grant to enable a Significance Assessment to be made of its archival collection.

Recently this office prepared a Heritage Management Plan for the heritage significant built assets within the northern precinct of Bankstown Airport. The historical research for this study was carried out by volunteers of the museum using a wide range of valuable resource material archived at the museum. The collections included many important photographs and documents from the World War 11 era, and provided a comprehensive record of the development of Bankstown Airport up to the present day.

The voluntary custodians of the collection would benefit greatly from professional assistance in developing the organisation, cataloging and presentation of the collection.

I commend the research undertaken by the museum which will not only protect their unique collection for future generations, but also improve the accessibility of their archived documents.

I strongly support their application for financial support.

Yours faithfully,



Bruce Dawbin RAIA M.ICOMOS
NSW Registered Architect 3723