

NHILL AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE INC.

Annual Report 2018-2019



AGM held at the
Nhill RSL Soldier's Lounge,
Clarence Street, Nhill
October 10, 2019

Enquiries: 0490 657 770

Photo: Jennifer Goldsworthy



NHILL AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE INC.

Vision:

To have a world class, community owned tourist attraction and learning centre that celebrates Nhill's aviation heritage.

Mission:

To highlight the significant role of aviation in the history and ongoing development of Nhill. To research and record the history of the RAAF Air School in Nhill from 1941 to 1946 within the broader context of Nhill's aviation and Aerodrome history. To Collect Air School artefacts for display in secure premises. To acquire and restore an Avro Anson aeroplane, leaving it as a legacy to this and future generations.

Values:

Community: To engage and support our local community and the worldwide community of

aviation enthusiasts.

Collaboration: To work together across communities, clubs and organisations.

Integrity: To always act with integrity and in accordance with our vision and values.

Hospitality: To ensure everyone, visitor or member, is made welcome and is invited to

share our Aviation history.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2018 - 19

President: Rob Lynch **Vice President:** Len Creek

Secretary: Jennifer Goldsworthy

Treasurer: Richard Lane

Mike Kingwill Neil Thomas

Graham Drage #
John Deckert #
Merv Schneider #
Trevor Borgelt #
Craig Henley #

Don Munro #

Denotes retiring Board Members who are eligible for re-election.

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and opening.
- 2. Apologies.
- 3. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting, 11th October, 2018
- 4. Presentation of Reports:
 - 4.1 Presidents report Rob Lynch
 - 4.2 Treasurers report Richard LaneIncluding Director's Declaration and Auditors report.

The following reports are included as a way of keeping you informed of progress:

- Avro Anson Report Mike Kingwill
- Link Trainer Report Neil Thomas
- Aeradio building restoration report Craig Henley
- Building Sub-Committee report Len Creek
- Volunteer Co-ordinator report Jenny Creek
- Centenary Celebrations Committee report Jenny Creek
- Membership Report Emily Donnell
- 5. Election of Board of Management members.
- 6. Appointment of Auditor.
- 7. Supper and time to talk.

MINUTES OF THE NHILL AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER, 2018 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM AT THE NHILL RSL SOLDIERS' LOUNGE:

1. PRESENT:

Cr. Rob Gersch, Cr. David Colbert, Aidan Leahy, Rob Lynch, Merv Schneider, Don Munro, Mike Kingwill, Craig Henley, Trevor Borgelt, Neil Thomas, Graham Drage, Len Creek, Richard Lane, John Deckert, Jenny Creek, Bev Deckert, Noella Smith, Emily Donnell, Joyce Lane, Max Carland, Clive Crouch, Bob Meek, Wes Dean, Neville Borgelt, Kay Scott, Allen Scott, Ross Gordon, Joan Bennett, Ellis Dart, Valerie Wile, Colin McKay, Errol Laverty, Dave Donnell, Peter McDonald, Dave Williams, Bill Howarth, Daryl Zanker, Clive Knight, John Hensley, Dick Smith, and Helen Woodhouse-Herrick.

2. APOLOGIES:

Emma Kealy, Andrew Broad MP, Cr. Ron Lowe, Jennifer & Kent Goldsworthy and George Bennett.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 26 October, 2017, were taken as read and confirmed on the **Motion** of Richard Lane, **Seconded** Bob Meek.

CARRIED:

4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

4.1. President's Report:

Rob Lynch, President presented the President's Report for the 2017/2018 financial year.

4.2. Treasurer's Report:

Richard Lane, Treasurer presented the financial report for the 2017/2018 financial year.

The following reports are included as a way of keeping you informed of progress:-

Avro Anson Report - Mick Kingwill

Link Trainer Report - Neil Thomas

Building Sub-Committee Report – Len Creek

Volunteer Co-ordinator Report – Jenny Creek

Aeradio Building Restoration Report - Roger Meyer

Wirraway Project Report – John Deckert

Len Creek **Moved** that the President and Treasurer's Report, together with the reports contained in the Annual Report be received, **Seconded** Neil Thomas.

CARRIED:

5. ELECTION OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS:

Six vacancies were declared owing to the effluxion of time. Nominations were received from six retiring Board members Rob Lynch, Len Creek, Jennifer Goldsworthy, Richard Lane, Mike Kingwill, and Neil Thomas, who were all re-elected unopposed.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

Richard Lane **Moved** that Jon Mock of Nankivell Associates be appointed Auditor for 2018-2019, **Seconded** John Deckert.

CARRIED:

7. **DISTINGUISHED LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:**

Rob Lynch presented Distinguished Life Memberships to Max Carland and Merv Schneider. Both gentlemen have served on the Board and also in World War II as a pilot and navigator respectively.

8. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Neil Thomas introduced the guest speaker, Aidan Leahy, who provided an interesting presentation about his travels around the world on a bike and his kidnapping experience.

Rob Lynch thanked everyone for their attendance and invited those present to partake in supper.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been another year of high activity from board members and volunteers. It is always encouraging to look back over the year to see what has been achieved by the initiative of a few determined people. This year, the Centre celebrated its 10-year anniversary and I would like to tell the back story of how it came to be.

In the mid-1980s a reunion was held for trainees, staff and support members stationed at Nhill during the war years. The overwhelming comment by attendees was to express disappointment that there was nothing left, nothing to recognize that they had been at Nhill for what was a significant time in history. Not only their personal history and Nhill's history, but also world history as Nhill became part of the world-wide Empire Air Training Scheme, supplying many thousands of qualified aircrew for the war effort.



That situation, I am proud to say, has now changed. From a rundown flight office and one remaining bellman hangar we now have a fitting tribute to the history and the many people who have been part of the Nhill aviation story. It remains a work in progress, but we now have an Aviation Heritage Centre that everyone can be proud of.

The 10th anniversary was celebrated with an open day and free barbeque. A feature was starting of the Wirraway by Brian and Len Creek. Approximately 500 people attended the day. Regular programs and projects continue at a steady pace. These include:



The Anson restoration. Mick Kingwill remains project manager and works non-stop on the Anson. Mick's attention to detail of the minor parts of the aircraft are to be commended. This has been a 10-year commitment, that has brought Mick to the interest and attention of the international aviation community.

Link Trainers.

Neil Thomas also pays attention to the minute detail of the Link Trainers. There are now two complete and operational Link Trainers that are a credit to the knowledge, skill and time that Neil has put into the project.

Toilet upgrade. The new toilet renovations in the Flight Office are complete and functional. There are now three women's toilets, a new disabled toilet that meets current standards and an upgrade to the existing men's toilet. The toilets are open at all times.



Memorial Entrance. Funding was granted for a memorial entrance to the aerodrome which also encompasses the Heritage Walk signs. Wording for the signs is complete and is being sent to the signwriter. There has been a large amount of work done on the research and wording for the signs to make them tell a complete story of the Air Base. There will be 40 signed information stations when the project is complete. Stonework on the memorial entrance is approximately 95% complete and is a credit to the work of the stonemason. Comments from the public have been positive and encouraging.

Aeradio building. The aeradio building is looking in better condition than it has in many, many years. Merv Schneider and Craig Henley have been driving this project with help from a team of skilled volunteers. Len Creek has restored the small brick powerhouse to the north of the aeradio building.



New projects.

Desoutter aircraft. During the year a generous offer was made by Moorabbin Air Museum to lease NAHC a Desoutter aircraft on a five-year 'peppercorn' lease. Currently the plane is at the Nhill aerodrome where it will be assembled and displayed in the Ahrens Hangar. This particular plane was the second civilian aeroplane based at Nhill, registered June 1945 and owned by local Garage owner Jack Williams. Kevin O'Reilly first realized the significance of this aircraft when, as part of his research into Nhill's aviation history, he became aware of the plane at Moorabbin. Kevin was responsible for many calls, enquiries and discussions prior to the offer being made to NAHC.

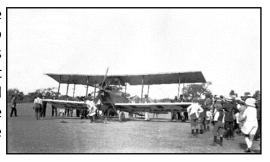


Grounds and surrounds. Lawn has been sown, sprinkler system installed and is at the stage of being mown regularly. 250 trees have been planted in areas from the entrance to the hangar. Extra taps have been installed to assist with watering of the treed area.

Book Fair. The idea was first raised from the crew at Westprint Maps as a way to dispose of books that did not relate to their core business. A book stall was held at the Wheels for the Wirraway event in March 2018. Kay Scott and her crew of volunteers have taken on the project and it has found a home in the old nursery

building. The project has raised almost \$10,000 selling donated books for \$1 each. It is interesting to note that we now have more books for sale than when we started.

Centenary of Aviation. This year marks the centenary of the landing of the first aircraft at Nhill. It has always been our aim to celebrate this event in a substantial fashion. The preparations for the Air Show to be held on November 2nd are almost complete and show signs of being one of the most successful events ever held at the Nhill aerodrome. My thanks to all the organizing committee who have helped undertake this huge task.



Thanks to Jenny Creek for organizing the team of volunteers who do a wonderful job to have the Ahrens hangar open to the public at weekends, 10-4 and by appointment at other times.

Thanks to Jennifer Goldsworthy for her dedication and assistance. As always, the secretary does the work that people don't see but is vital to the smooth operation of any group.

My job as president is to make sure that people are recognized and thanked for the many roles and tasks they willingly undertake. I thank everyone for their efforts, including those not mentioned specifically in this report. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated. Without a strong team of volunteers and helpers none of the above could happen. The dedication, initiative, persistence and capacity for hard work are a credit to the ongoing success of the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre.

Once again a huge thank you to everyone concerned.

Rob Lynch

President.

FINANCIAL REPORT

NHILL AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE Inc.,

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2018/2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to present the Financial Report on the activities of The Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Inc., for the year ended 30th June 2019.

Whilst the year ended with a deficit of some \$4,580.15 the full story reveals a much happier situation. Several works have been self-funded and I briefly list these as follows: Amenities Renovations were commenced shortly after the Wirraway arrived on 28th April 2018, a total of some \$12,313.78 since commencement, Grassing of the Recreational Vehicle Parking Area \$3,313.10, ongoing works to the Aeradio Building (\$4,287.65), Avro Anson (\$2,431.76) and Link Trainer (\$518.40) total some \$7,237.81, Hangar Electrical Upgrading \$1,831.40 and the Memorial Walk \$1,197.56. In all these figures total around some \$24,000.

We are conscious of the need to be diligent in the way in which we spend the money we receive, consequently we submit applications for grants for projects where possible and try to prioritise all projects in an effort to fund the works list we currently have.

At "our" birthday party last year Joan Bennett said in her address to those present "that we had woken the sleeping tiger" never have truer words been spoken as we gradually reveal more and more projects that need to be undertaken in order to preserve the aviation history contained within our local area.

I will not speak of our upcoming Air Show except to say that this sub-committee is doing a wonderful job and are on track to give the Hindmarsh Shire a wonderful way in which to celebrate the "Centenary of Aviation in Nhill".

Need I say, to all our volunteers, thank you for your wonderful efforts on our behalf you are greatly appreciated.

Ladies and Gentlemen, again I say our future looks bright and I have great pleasure in commending the 2018/2019 Treasurer's Report of the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Inc., to you.

Richard Lane Honorary Treasurer.

NHILL AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE Inc, Profit and Loss Statement for the Year Ended 30th June 2019

	Profit and Loss Statement for th	e Year Ended 3	oth J	une 2019		
2017 / 201	3					
	INCOME					
\$ 116,501.	5 Donations and Collection Boxes		\$	6,765.55		
\$ 20,945.	5 Event Income		\$	1,887.80		
\$ 7,943.	O Grant(s) Received		\$	11,910.00		i i
	O Heritage Centre Income		\$	25,163.65		
\$ 5,535.	9 Interest Received		\$	1,696.73		
\$ 169,593.	9 TOTAL INCOME					
					\$	47,423.73
	EXPENDITURE					
\$ 5,454.	6 Event Expenses		\$	1,303.45		
	4 Grants, Projects & Works		\$			
	7 Heritage Centre Expenses		\$	13,304.97		
	7 TOTAL EXPENDITURE					
	8 PROFIT (LOSS) FOR YEAR				\$	51,979.11
					<u>-</u> \$	4,555.38
					<u>*</u>	1,555.56
	N	ON LIEDITA CE A		NF 1		
		ON HERITAGE (
		EET AS AT 30th	JUNE	2019		
	EQUITY					
	5 Balance as at 1st July 2018			132,682.57		
	8 Less Loss for Year		- <u>\$</u>	4,555.38		
\$ 132,482.	Balance as at 30th June 2019				\$	132,682.57
	ASSETS					
	Cash and Bank Accounts					
	1 NAB Trading Account	\$ 8,074.4	4			
\$ 57.	4 PayPal	\$ -				
\$ 57. \$ 500. \$ 24,326.	00 Petty Cash	\$ -	_			
\$ 24,326	5 TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts		\$	8,074.44		
	OTHER ASSET					
\$ 10,000	00 Advance Nhill Masonic Lodge No 107		\$	-		
<u>+</u>			•			
	INVESTMENTS					
\$ 48,356	22 NAB Term Deposit 5156	\$ 49,015.4	5			
\$ 40,550	NAB Term Deposit 5357	\$ 10,061.8				
¢ 50,000	Deposit oos					
5 50.000	00 NAB Term Deposit 6946	5 60.975.4	9			
\$ 50,000	_	\$ 60,975.4		120 052 75		
\$ 98,356	_	\$ 60,975.4		120,052.75	¢	128,127.19

Directors' Declaration

In the directors' opinion:

- (a) The financial statements and notes set out set out on page 8 are in accordance with the Australian Charities and *Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - (i) Complying with Australian Standards, the ACNC regulations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
 - (ii) Giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30th June 2019 and of it's performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay it's debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Robert Lynch
DIRECTOR

Nhill

19 September 2019

Richard Lane
DIRECTOR



JMMDFM

15th August 2019

Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre PO Box 42 NHILL VIC 3418

Dear Richard,

RE: AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

We have completed the audit for the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre for the 2019 financial year and enclose a copy of our audit report.

We would like to commend you on the records you keep. The files are in good order and appropriate internal controls were implemented.

Should you have any queries regarding your audit, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully MURRAY NANKIVELL & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

Jon Mock CPA

DIRECTORS

John Burgess CA
Jon Mock CPA
Matt Rowett CPA
Tony Bedworth FCPA
Mark Edwards CA
Joel Thomas CPA

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00 000 1 0000

Penola

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Robe

08 8768 2750

Tintinara 08 8757 2399

ANNUAL ANSON REPORT

Finally the starboard wing has been completed albeit in undercoat and different coats of primer and silver dope. This was to be painted in its final colours being the standard camouflage colours of the RAAF whilst the plane was at 67 squadron, and to be done before the Nhill Anniversary Air Show but the weather had different ideas, this will happen later in the year. The engine fairings have recently been finished canvassed painted inside with the RAF green and all the good work covered up.

In my last report I mentioned that the wing was almost completed, twelve months on and the wing is almost completed. Recently I changed tack and went back inside the cabin to finish off some left over projects namely the radio gear mounting and connections also the glass aerial connector and several gauges and switches found in the last year.

Changed tack again and decided to resurrect the engine cowls which looked in reasonable condition but the sand blaster found this not to be the case several panels were reproduced using most parts that are in reasonable condition to keep the originality and integrity of the plane including ripples and dents to a certain standard. The cowlings can be painted when the plane is being done.

I would again like to thank John Boden from Adelaide for his invaluable information and source of finding bits and pieces for the Anson.

My highlight for the year was not falling out of the cabin backwards and landing on my head; was not falling off the wing and landing on my back for the third time; was not cutting my ear open on a trap door on the wing, but was arriving home in one piece.

Mike Kingwill.

Anson Project Manager.

















LINK TRAINER REPORT

Link Trainers are the first example of what today are called Flight Simulators. Designed by Edwin Link

of the USA in 1929, they were patented in 1930. Edwin was the son of an organ and piano manufacturer, and much of the Link Trainer's operation reflects pianola technology. They were used to train pilots to fly without visual reference to an external horizon by observation of the cockpit instruments. Many accidents occurred due to pilots losing control in cloud or on dark nights without this form of instrument flight training. They were much cheaper and safer to operate than similar training in real aircraft. Many were operated by most of the worlds airforces during WW2.



Restoration of two Link Traners, RAAF Serial Nos. A13-54 & A13-60 commenced in 2014. Both were



privately owned and in very poor condition. A five-year agreement was written in which the better of the two, A13-60, would be restored to operating condition and returned to the owners, and the other, A13-54, would become the property of the NAHC. It should be noted that A13-54 was in far worse condition and had a number of components missing. Some missing components were locally manufactured, and others obtained from a RAAF Cadet School, other museums and from overseas.

Fuselage articulation in all three axis and

instrument sensing was by means of pneumatically controlled bellows. All bellows required renewal of bellows fabric. Interconnecting hoses also had to be replaced. Some operating valves were 'frozen'.

Suction for these bellows is generated by a ¾ HP electric turbine motor which was taken apart and checked. Most of the fuselage electrical wiring was replaced.

The Airspeed Indicator, Altimeter and Rate of Climb instruments are powered by a dedicated 700 cycle 80 volt oscillator. Neither of these 'Telegon' oscillators functioned and required considerable effort to rectify, with many components replaced with modern equivalents as well as rewind four transformers. Similarly, many of the instruments would not operate due to internal faults, broken wires and corroded multi-pin connectors. A test apparatus was made to test these instruments and transmitters before refitment to the trainers.

As only one instructors table was supplied a second was obtained from the Nhill Aero Club, being surplus to their requirements. Both tables had distorted over time and were restored by the Nhill Mens Shed who also manufactured a new seat for A13-54 which was reupholstered in Kaniva.



The instructors table housed a set of flight instruments, a movable trace recorder and radio navigation and communication equipment. These enabled the Instructor to monitor the progress of the student pilot. Unfortunately, the navigation equipment units had suffered from corrosion and vermin attack on the wiring, capacitors and transformers, making them completely useless and not worth restoring for our purposes. All other components were removed from both trainers, treated for corrosion and made serviceable.





Both trainers were stripped of rotten and torn fabric coverings and replaced with new fabric. A13-54 originally had damaged zippered inspection panels and these were modified by the installation of sliding panels in accordance with an official LINK modification. Some structural repair and reinforcement was required on both trainers.

A perspex cover was made for the turning motor of A13-54 to display the interesting operation of the fuselage pneumatic turning motor.

A13-60 was restored and operating by mid-2018 but owing to a lack of storage space by the owners it will be stored and operated by the NAHC until further notice.

Final painting and reassembly of A13-54 has commenced and will be completed and operational by the time of the Nhill Centenary Airshow scheduled for 2nd November 2019. Both trainers have been demonstrated many times to visitors and this will continue to be done by informed volunteers.

Acknowledgement must be made of considerable assistance and expertise made available by Mike Kingwill, Len Creek, Bill Day, Brian Farmers, John Deckert, Alan Conquer and the Nhill Men's Shed.

Altogether the project has taken a total of 1344 man hours and \$4553.00 for materials.

Neil Thomas,

Project Manager.





Photographs in this article show the condition of both Link Trainers before and after restoration.

AERADIO BUILDING RESTORATION REPORT

It has been a very busy last twelve months at the Aeradio building where a large amount of progress has been made. This would not have been achieved without all the volunteers who diligently sourced materials required for the exterior renovations of this building. Apart from the painting mostly done by Merv Schneider and Syd Donnell, the biggest task was renovating the veranda balustrade to its original condition.



Aeradio Building as it appeared in 2009



One point of interest; when the volunteers sourced the recycled timber, one lot came from an old dilapidated shearing shed on Gavin Darts property which was a P1 Hut from the Nhill Air Base. From this timber approximately 400 slats were manufactured and painted to complete the veranda and the new access ramp. Well done to all involved.

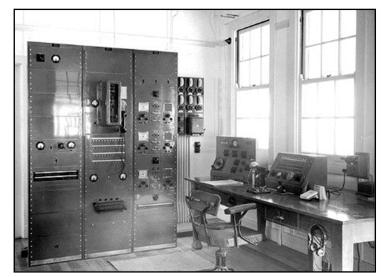
The brick building to the North of the Aeradio building has been renovated with a tremendous number of hours put in by Len Creek to bring it to its present condition. Renovation of the interior of the Aeradio building is progressing very well with plenty of patching and painting achieved so far.

A welcome visit from Roger Meyer recently has given good direction as to how to proceed with the interior setup of the building. He supplied many original photos showing how the building looked in its original condition. This will help us to make the restoration look as accurate as possible.

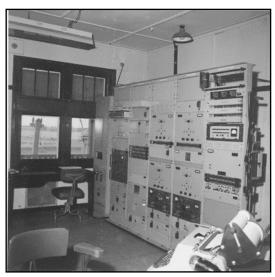


There is still a large amount of work to do, but with the continued help of dedicated volunteers this building will in future be an excellent addition to the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre. Thanks to all volunteers.

Craig Henley.



Left side of radio room



Right side of radio room

BUILDING SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

Plans for the new porch at the front of the Ahrens hangar are continuing but have been put 'on hold' until after the Airshow in November. The Flight Office window frames have recently been repainted, and a flag pole erected on the South East corner of the Ahrens Hangar

Extra external power points have been installed around the Ahrens hangar, and an upgraded power supply is being connected to both the Ahrens and Bellman hangars. This will be particularly useful for large events at the aerodrome.

Len Creek Building Sub- Committee Convenor

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Over 30 volunteers from Nhill, Dimboola, Warracknabeal and Horsham have been rostered on during the year to show visitors around the Ahrens hangar on weekends and public holidays. Numbers of visitors can vary but generally there will be between 6-12 people a day, and rarely a time when no one comes.

Group bookings have been slightly fewer this year with 13 groups and over 270 people visiting during the week. Car clubs, Probus and Rotary Clubs, Senior Citizens and Tourism groups have been the main visitors. Some have also requested morning teas and lunches to be provided, which enables us to have a longer time to share the NAHC story with them. Thank you to all those NAHC members who have assisted either as guides or in hosting the meals.

A Volunteers Information Afternoon was well attended in February where new members of the team were introduced and training given.

Thank you to all the volunteers who so willingly offer a day a month to show visitors around. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

Jenny Creek

NAHC Volunteers Coordinator



Membership report 2018/2019

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as at 30.06.2019	<u>264</u>		
Total memberships paid for 2018/19 year	208		
Total membership paid for 2018/19 and 2019/20	56		
(2 year option given)			
Gift memberships expiring at 30 June 2019	59		
Total current memberships for 2017/18 year	<u>323</u>		

Respectfully submitted Emily Donnell Membership Coordinator.





Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Inc.

Contact details:

Where are we:

Ahrens Hangar,

Nhill Aerodrome,

Aerodrome Rd, Nhill, Victoria

Postal Address:

PO Box 42, Nhill Vic 3418

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Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/Nhill-Aviation-Heritage-Centre-1487580514791874/

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