



Motorists so flighty!

MELBOURNE: The warning sign on the front of the truck declared: "Long Wide Load Following". That was almost an understatement, as frustrated motorists on Melbourne's Tullamarine Freeway banked up for kilometres behind the truck. "The load" was a vintage DC-2 aircraft which was being taken to Melbourne airport for an aircraft display. Even with its wings "clipped", the DC-2 just fitted into the two lanes of the freeway. The rare plane was discovered about two years ago by enthusiasts near Camden, New South Wales. It has since been restored to its former glory. The display is expected to be the largest collection of civil, military and antique aircraft ever seen in Victoria. It is part of the State's 150th birthday celebrations.

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On a wing and a crane

THIS historic DC2 plane (below), which arrived in Melbourne two weeks ago, is starting to regain its shape.

The plane, which was found under a group of trees in Camden, 50 km west of Sydney, arrived at Essendon Airport on the back of two trucks.

It is the only DC2 in Australia capable of being restored, and yesterday it was lifted by a mobile crane on to two wing sections holding the engine mounts.

The restoration, which will cost about \$60,000, is being done by James Wright, an aircraft maintenance engineer at Essendon, Jack McDonald, the chief

pilot of IPEC, with the help of pilot and policeman Sen.-Const. Paul Backas.

The DC2 is planned to fly to England and back in 1984 to mark the 50th anniversary of the historic 1934 MacRobertson Centenary Air Race.

The DC2, which was first built in 1934, came a close second in the race, and commercial success quickly followed.



1.11.82 : SUN.

Life in the slow lane for veteran

A VINTAGE DC-2 plane slowed traffic for an hour along the Tullamarine Freeway (right) when it took to the road yesterday.

The historic plane's wings were dismantled for the 7 km journey to Melbourne Airport where it will star in the open weekend on February 23 and 24.

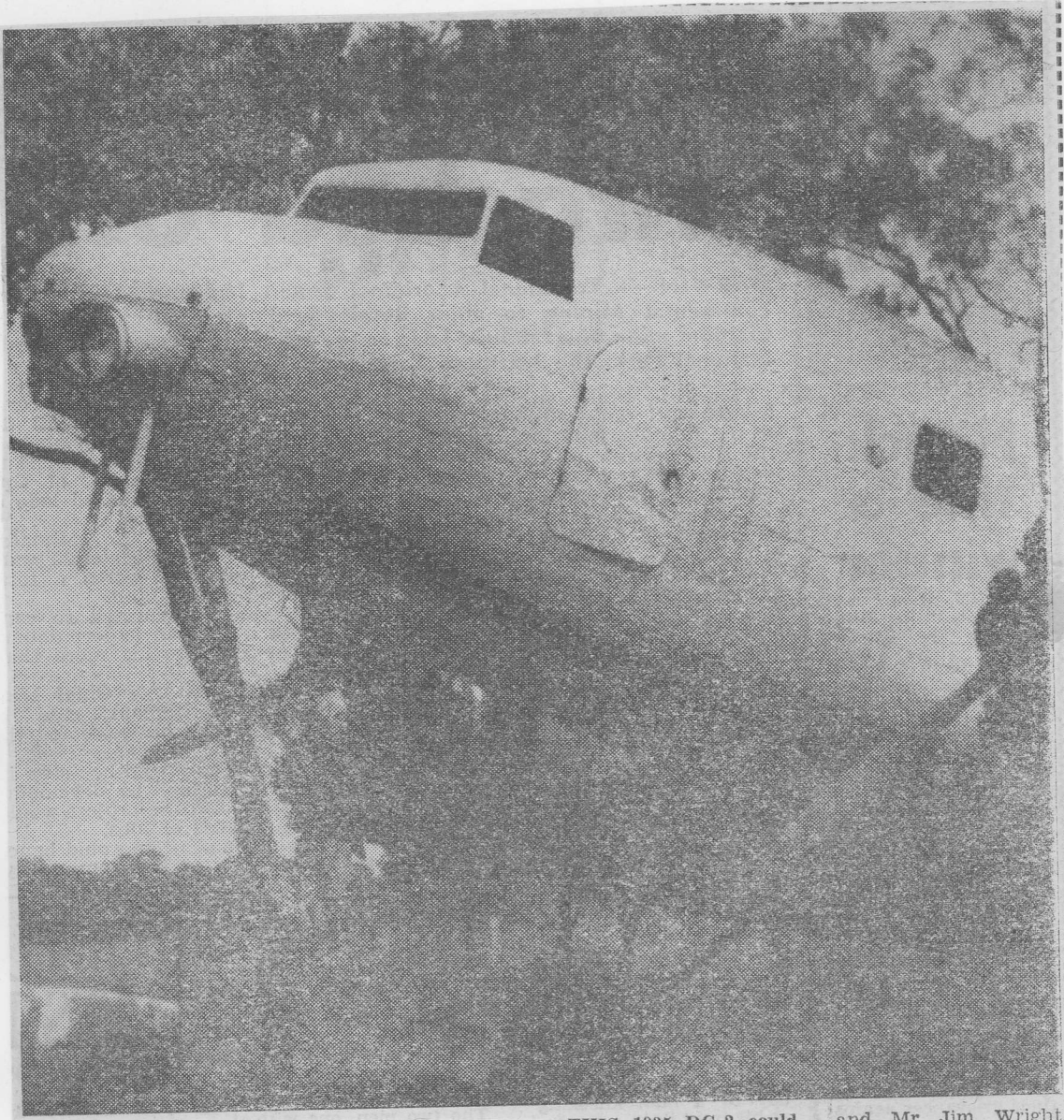
A group of enthusiasts discovered the plane outside Camden, NSW, two years ago, bought it and restored it.

One of the largest collections of antique, military and civil aircraft will be on display at the airport as part of Victoria's 150th birthday celebrations.

Among the planes on show will be the De Havilland DH88 Comet Racer which won the 1934 London to Melbourne air race.

Organisers expect up to 150,000 people to attend the two-day expo.





2.3.82: SUN.

THIS 1935 DC-2 could be flying by Christmas after years of sitting under a shady tree in Sydney.

And the two Melbourne men who have bought the old plane say it will be the only flying DC-2 in the world.

They want to enter the DC-2 in the 50th anniversary of the London to Australia air race in 1984.

The new owners, Capt. Jack McDonald

and Mr Jim Wright, both of Essendon, are dismantling the plane to bring it to Melbourne where it will be refurbished.

Mr Paul Backas, who is helping to move and renovate the plane, said it would cost more than \$100,000 to get it back in the air.

The restorers hope to have the plane ready to take part in the 150th anniversary celebrations for the founding of Victoria.

