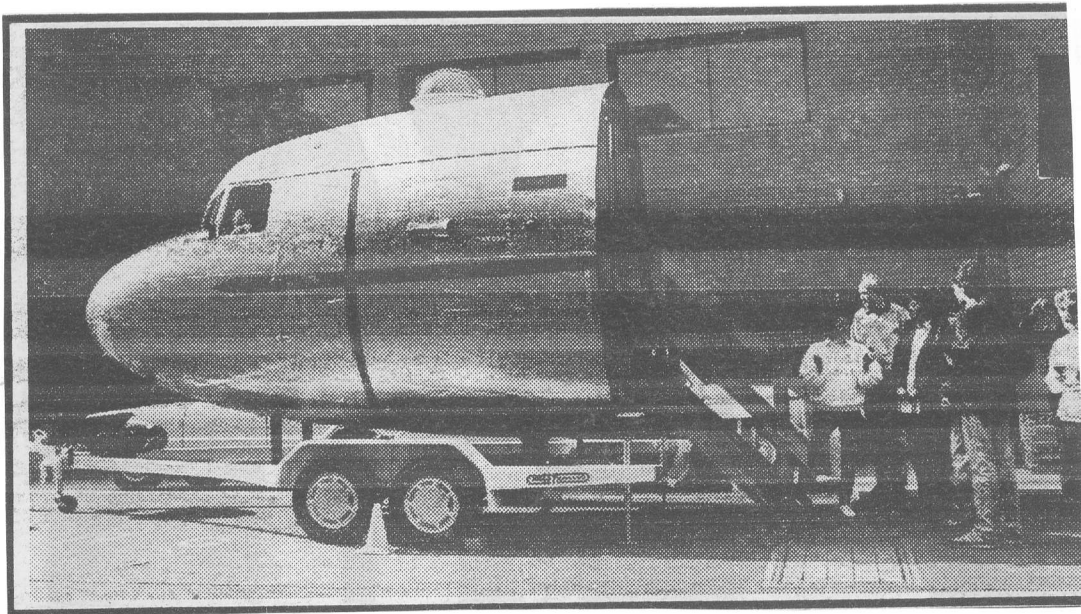






This fully restored cockpit of a DC-3 aircraft was one of the highlights of the RMIT open day yesterday. At the controls is Mr David Anderson, who took 13 years to bring it back to its former glory. Mr Anderson, a former aircraft sheetmetal worker, said the cockpit was junk when restoration began. He scoured Australia for parts that he could not make. "Nowadays, it's all videos and buttons," he said. "The DC-3 is a proper aircraft with all the levers, switches and instruments they used to have. I just live and breathe DC-3s. You could call them an all-consuming passion."

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● The cockpit of the DC3 at RMIT yesterday . . . restored to its former glory.

## Nose for a good relic

A MAN with a consuming passion was found at RMIT's open day yesterday.

Thirteen years ago, David Anderson discovered the remains of a cockpit from a DC3 Dakota aircraft at a wrecking yard.

He bought the 43-year-old shell for \$150 and has since spent his weekends restoring the now priceless relic for display.

David's wife, Florence, joked yesterday: "He has

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nose of the plane and another one for me.

"I really enjoy sharing the achievement with him . . . it has been a long but very happy 13 years of work."

The DC3 first flew to Australia from the US at the end of the war, transporting Australian prisoners of war from Asia.

David said: "In 1971, on a journey to Laverton, an engine caught fire and the Air Force

A former aircraft sheetmetal worker, David made spare parts, instruments and other components, as well as replacing sheets of aluminium that had been hacked by the wreckers who used an axe to split-up the plane.

And any parts David couldn't make, he bought from all over Australia.

"I just live and breathe DC3s," David said.

"You could call them an all-consuming passion."