



Mr Cusack hopes to return this WWII bomber to its former glory. Picture: PETER BENNETT

Ralph's high hopes for bomber

By SARAH PLUMMER

After seven years of perseverance a Queensland man has been given the all clear to restore a World War II bomber based in Gove.

The D.A.P. Beaufort, twin-engine bomber was shipped from Gove airstrip to Darwin on Monday.

Ralph Cusack, of Bris-

bane, said the aircraft belonged to the Arnhem Historical Society. It would be returned to the society and be displayed after its cockpit was restored.

Mr Cusack said he first found out about the aircraft in 1992 and has been trying since then to get the go-ahead for restoration.

He said the society only recently gave him per-

mission to remove the aircraft. Mr Cusack said he also planned to use some of the aircraft's parts to rebuild another Beaufort plane he has in Queensland to flying status.

He said: "This aircraft is a blueprint for the one I am doing up back home. What I need from it is a 23ft-long (7m) aluminium piece - the backbone of the aircraft."

Mr Cusack said he expected the Gove project to take about three years.

He said the Beauforts were Australian designed, built and manufactured.

He said: "Most of those types of aircraft were based up this way in the NT and Papua New Guinea."

Mr Cusack said the Gove plane went out of action after a ground accident.

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