



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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HISTORIC COLLECTION GETS STATE HERITAGE STATUS

Albury's Uiver collection which marks the events that forged ties between NSW and the Netherlands has been given state heritage status, Member for Albury Greg Aplin announced today.

The collection of almost 290 items, kept at Albury Library Museum, including photographs, model replicas, medals and paraphernalia commemorates an international air race, an emergency landing in Albury and a story of how 300 people pulled together to save the day.

"The story of the Uiver collection is a great local historic tale from a time when air travel was just starting to break down international borders," Mr Aplin said.

"The Uiver collection commemorates a historic event which led to the establishment of Australia's first migration agreement with a foreign country in 1939."

In 1934 a KLM Royal Dutch Airline Douglas DC2 nicknamed Uiver (Dutch for stork) was participating in the last of the great pioneering air races from Europe to Australia when it lost radio contact and drifted off course.

Around midnight the plane was flying low over Albury and considered to be in grave danger. The people of Albury responded to a call over local radio for them to drive their cars to the racecourse and use their headlights to guide the safe landing of the plane.

At 1.15am the Uiver careered across the ground and slowed to a halt, becoming stuck in the mud. The next day 300 people pulled it free. The Uiver went on to finish the race and take out the handicap prize.

It was the first commercial international passenger flight to Australia – the only entry in the race carrying passengers.

Albury City Council nominated the collection for state heritage listing.

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