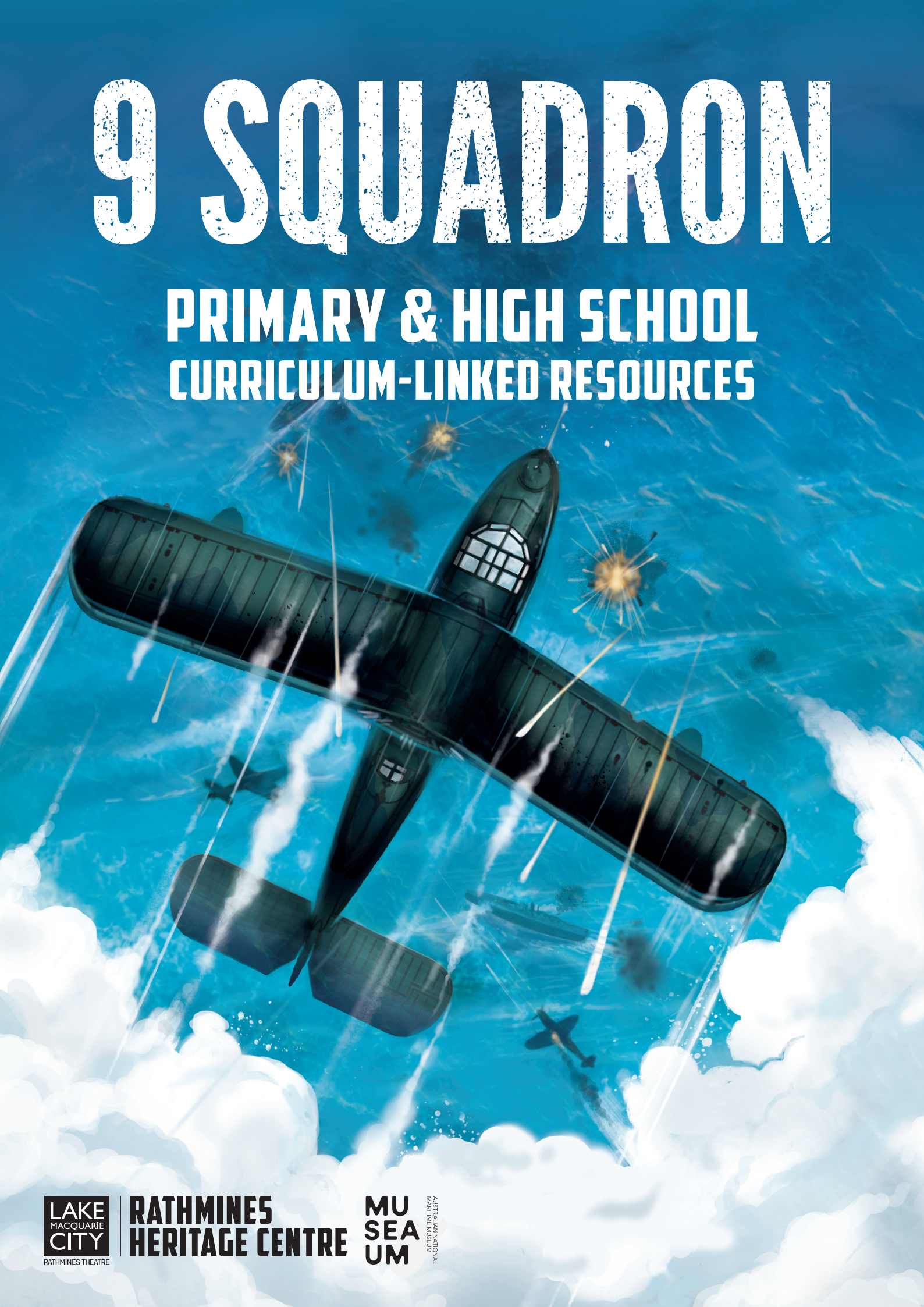


9 SQUADRON

PRIMARY & HIGH SCHOOL
CURRICULUM-LINKED RESOURCES



LAKE
MACQUARIE
CITY
RATHMINES THEATRE

RATHMINES
HERITAGE CENTRE

MU
SEA
UM
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MARITIME MUSEUM

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Lake Macquarie City Council's Rathmines Heritage Centre, and our exhibition and schools program.

Our 2022 exhibition is 9 Squadron Rathmines. It runs from Saturday March 5 until Sunday 13 November. 9 Squadron trained and served at the RAAF Rathmines base, now Rathmines Park, between 1939 and 1943 and then returned in 1944 to disband. This exhibition commemorates the work of 9 Squadron members, in particular the dangerous work of catapulting and retrieving amphibious planes from cruisers without flight decks nationally and internationally, and the loss of 23 men during WWII. We hope you enjoy this important Lake Mac story.

This education pack is intended to support on site and remote engagement with the exhibition. It contains primary and secondary curriculum linked exercises for your students.

We'd like to learn about your students' educational needs and how we can support your efforts. Please contact us to book an excursion to Rathmines, to learn more about what we offer or to tailor an educational experience to your needs. We also offer excursions to our gallery MAC, the multimedia arts pavilion MAP and Council.

Rebecca Dallwitz
Exhibition curator

Phone: 0249210400

E-mail: actoutreach@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

9 Squadron Rathmines

www.lakemac.com.au/Events-directory/Council-events/9-Squadron-Rathmines

9 Squadron Rathmines online exhibition

history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1085&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=5302

INDEX

Exercises - Primary

- 02 **Catapulting**
- 08 **Commemoration**
- 14 **See the Seaplane**
- 18 **Historians are Detectives**
- 22 **Who is the Hero?**
- 27 **Ask a Curator**

Exercises - High school

- 30 **Making Meaning**
- 33 **Australian Seaplane
Bases in WWII**

Teachers Guide



EXERCISES - PRIMARY

- 02 Catapulting
- 08 Commemoration
- 14 See the Seaplane
- 18 Historians are Detectives
- 22 Who is the Hero?
- 27 Ask a Curator

CATAPULTING

Australian cruisers carried WWI era technologies into WWII: above deck launching and crane retrieval for biplanes.

RAN cruisers operating with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea during WWI participated in launching trials using land planes. A Sopwith Pup flew off HMAS *Australia* (I)'s quarter deck on 18 December 1917. Further trials in early 1918 saw Sopwith Pup, Camel and 1½ Strutter aircraft being launched from 30 foot ramps.

HMAS *Australia* (II), *Canberra*, *Hobart*, *Perth* and *Sydney* and the armed merchant ships *Manoora* and *Westralia* bore catapult launching and crane retrieval systems during WWII.

Each ship carried a 9 Squadron detachment usually made up of a pilot, engine fitter, airframe fitters, armourer and photographer with the aircraft. The observer (navigator) and telegraphist air gunner were naval personnel. Crews completed reconnaissance, anti-submarine and artillery spotting. They also participated



in bombing missions and combat in national and international theatres of war.

The catapult crew were RAN personnel. The WWII era launching system was powered by an explosive charge of cordite.

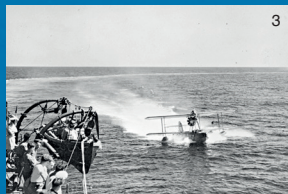
Catapult launches and crane retrievals were daily features of 9 Squadron's operations when on detachment to the RAN.

LAUNCHING



1. A2-1 Supermarine Seagull V wearing a pre-war paint scheme awaiting launch on the catapult, HMAS *Canberra*, Jervis Bay
Unknown photographer
About 1939
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Argus Newspaper Collection of Photographs, State Library of Victoria H98.105/2643

RETRIEVAL



3. 9 Squadron plane taxiing towards HMAS *Australia*. A member of the aircrew is climbing onto the mainplane to attach the crane cable when the plane is stationary. *Australia's* life boat is about to be lowered to retrieve the aircrew.
Unknown photographer
About 1942
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Collection of the Australian War Memorial P05536.001

LIFTING



4. A9-5 Supermarine Seagull III being hoisted aboard HMAS *Canberra*, Sydney Harbour
Julius Lockington Patching
About 1935
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Collection of Bruce Patching

SECURING



5. A2-7 Supermarine Seagull V being craned aboard what is most likely to be HMAS *Hobart*. The catapult will be extended, the plane repositioned on it and secured.
Unknown maker
About 1939
Reproduction from a black and white photographic negative
Collection of the Australian War Memorial 044445

2. A2-9 Supermarine Seagull V launched from HMAS *Canberra* during exercises, Jervis Bay
Unknown photographer
About 1937-8
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Argus Newspaper Collection of Photographs, State Library of Victoria H98.105/2644

Stage	Exhibition Point	Curriculum Link
Primary – Stage 1 K-2	Catapulted flight theme panel and Catapult training film – permanent exhibition screen (28:29 minutes)	Primary – Year 2 - ACHHK046 The impact of changing technology on people's lives (at home and in the ways they worked, travelled, communicated, and played in the past)
Delivery		
Remote and on-site		

? Rapid fire questions

1. What is a catapult?

2. How does it work?

3. Which country invented the catapult?

Discussion or research points

Interesting catapult uses:

Catapults in the Vietnam war

Launching grenades



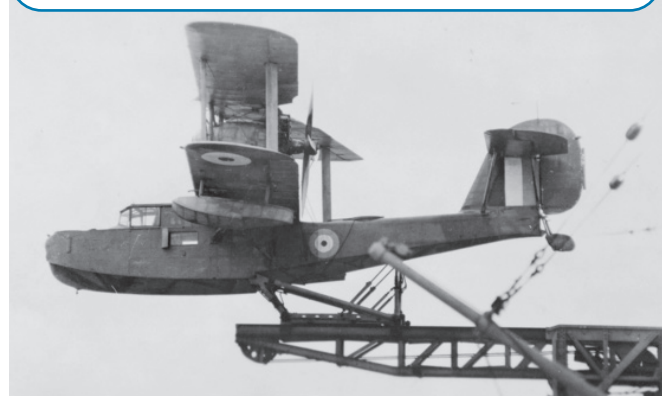
Catapult grenade launcher made by the Australian Task Force serving in Vietnam. Australians improved on M79 (the standard grenade launcher), creating this one called M89.

Gerald Wallace Westbury
1967

Reproduction from a black and white negative
Collection of the Australian War Memorial VN/67/0020/09

Catapults in WWII

Catapults for Supermarine Seagull and Walrus amphibious aircraft



Launching from the catapult aboard HMAS Canberra while at sea
Joseph Leonard Bresnahan
About 1942

Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Collection of the Australian War Memorial P04992.010

4. What other interesting historical uses of catapults can you find?



Catapults – Past & Future

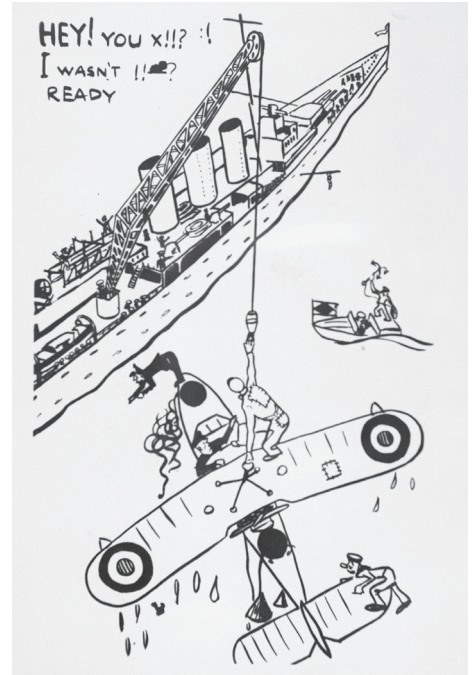
Past: Aircraft Catapult



In the North Sea on 4 April 1918, and again on 11 May 1918, 5644 Sopwith 1 1/2 Strutter successfully took off from HMAS Australia with two crew and wireless equipment. This had not been previously done with a two seater aircraft.

Unknown photographer
1918

Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Collection of the Australian War Memorial P05837.003



Cartoon based on the operations of 9 Squadron, Rathmines

William Herbert Robinson
About 1941

Reproduction of a black and white photographic negative
Collection of the Australian War Memorial P03016.004

Future: ???

5. Draw your own cartoon about the future of catapulting

Use this WWII cartoon about 9 Squadron's daily operations as inspiration!

6. Look at this original record. How many times did 9 Squadron catapult in October 1942?

SECRET

R.A.A.F. Form A.5
(Feb., '33)

No. of Sheet 10

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.A.F. Detachment
of (Unit or Formation) H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA

Month ending 30.10.42

References to
Appendices

Place	Date	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
At Sea	2.10.42	Catapulted at sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol for Task Force.	
"	4.10.42	Catapulted at sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol for Task Force, and instruction to F/O DAVIS.	
"	5.10.42	Catapulted at sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol for Task Force, F/O DAVIS first pilot.	
TOWNSVILLE	11.10.42	Airborne 1120 hours to proceed to ship with new aircraft (W2705) landed CHALLENGER BAY.	
CHALLENGER BAY	12.10.42	Hoisted outboard to proceed to TOWNSVILLE with mail and messages for M.O.I.C.	
TOWNSVILLE	12.10.42	Airborne at TOWNSVILLE and returned to ship.	
At Sea	14.10.42	Catapulted at sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol for Task Force.	
"	16.10.42	Catapulted at Sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol and height finding exercises for ship.	
"	18.10.42	Catapulted at sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol and height finding exercises for ship.	
"	20.10.42	Catapulted at sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol and height finding exercises for ship.	
"	22.10.42	Catapulted at sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol and high level bombing attacks on Task Force 44	
"	24.10.42	Catapulted at sea to proceed to BRISBANE with mail and messages for D.N.O., returning to ship in MORETON BAY.	
"	26.10.42	Catapulted at sea to carry out anti-submarine patrol, proceeding to RATHMINES to refuel on return to ship carried out anti-submarine patrol for ship entering PORT JACKSON.	
ROSE BAY	27.10.42	Proceeded to RATHMINES departing 1115 hours and landing 1155 hours.	

[Signature]
Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding No. 9 Squadron,
RATHMINES N.S.W.



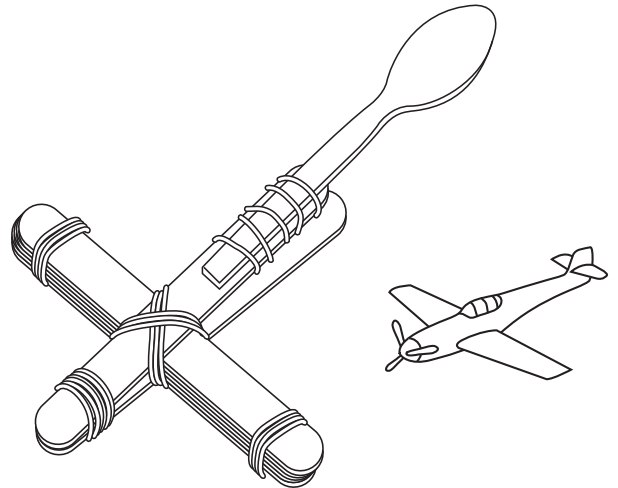
Experiment & Learn - DIY Catapult

A catapult is a simple machine that transfers energy from one object to another.

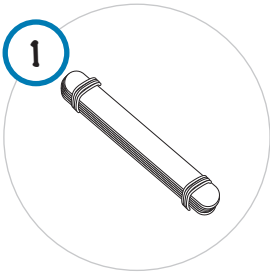
You can make your own catapult.

What you'll need:

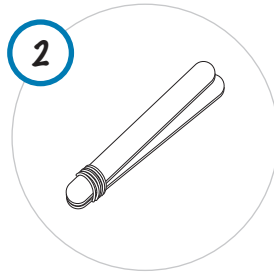
- 9 ice cream sticks
- 6 rubber bands
- 1 plastic or wooden disposable spoon
- a pom-pom, ball of paper, cotton ball or a tiny cardboard plane



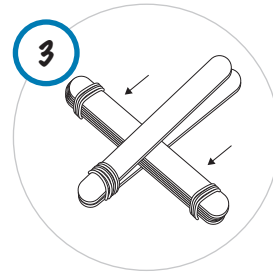
What you'll do:



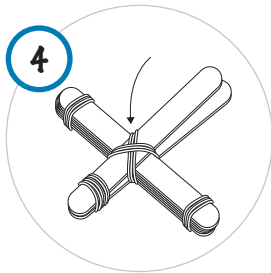
Take 7 sticks and put a rubber band tightly around each end, making a stack



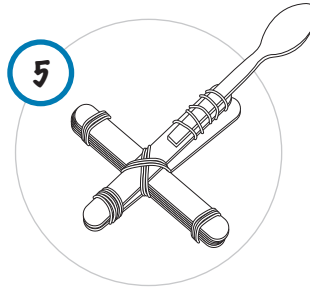
Take 2 sticks and put a rubber band tightly around one end



Put the 7 sticks between the 2 sticks



Join them together using another rubber band



Attach the spoon to the top stick using your last rubber bands

Investigate and report back to the class:

- ❓ How high does your pom pom or other item go?
- ❓ How far does it go?
- ❓ What happens when you change the position of the 7 sticks in relation to the 2 sticks?
- ❓ What other things can you do to change how high or far the pom-pom or other item goes?
- ❓ If you throw the pom-pom or other item, does it go as high or far?

**Watch & Learn**

Watch this training video from 1940 from 12:00 to 16:20 and 26:52 to 27:22 to see how the plane is catapulted from the ship.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dmNyts7f1w>

7. Based on the video, is the safety of the launch and the plane solely the responsibility of the pilot?

8. What do you think about WWII catapulting technology? Would you be happy to be the pilot?

COMMEMORATION

REMEMBERING TOMMY



Sergeant Thomas Frederick Pickering of 9 Squadron
Unknown photographer
About 1942
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Collection of the Australian War Memorial P04581.002

Sergeant Thomas Frederick Pickering was a talented young pilot. He served at Bradfield Park, Point Cook, Temora and Rathmines. He was involved in training other RAAF personnel at 10 Elementary Flying Training School at Temora.

Tommy was the first 9 Squadron member to lose their life at Rathmines. He was piloting A2-11 Supermarine Seagull V when the aircraft turned over just offshore from Rathmines Theatre on Lake Macquarie. He did not survive the accident. His body was not immediately recovered. Tommy was 22 years old.

Tommy is remembered at the Australian War Memorial and Catalina Base Memorial here at Rathmines. He is buried in Botany General Cemetery.

Corporal Stanley James Cook Cummings received a British Empire Medal for his courageous underwater salvage efforts following the accident.

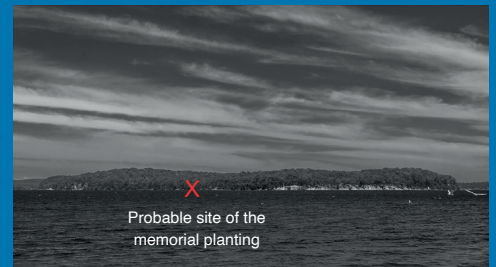
PULBAH ISLAND MEMORIAL

Thirty-seven days after the loss of HMAS *Sydney* a memorial tree was planted on Pulbah Island. Pulbah Island is the largest island in Lake Macquarie, located at the centre of the lake. The ceremony was attended by Nature Reserve Trustees, members of the public and the Minister for Labour and Industry.

The ceremony and planting commemorated the loss of all hands. 9 Squadron members on detachment to HMAS *Sydney* were among the missing. 9 Squadron was stationed at RAAF Rathmines, about 10km from the island, for much of WWII.

Minister Baddeley planted the deciduous native white cedar *Melia azedarach*.

The memorial planting is no longer visible on Pulbah Island.



Pulbah Island taken from Dobell Park, Wangi Wangi
John Sharples
2022
Digital image

Stage	Exhibition Point	Curriculum Link
Primary – K-6	Memorial Wall	<p>Primary – K-6 - ACHHK002 How they, their family and friends commemorate past events that are important to them.</p> <p>Primary – K-6 - ACHHK002 Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Harmony Week, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbol.</p>
Delivery		
Remote and on-site		

▶ Understand the meaning of the poppy

1. Watch this 2:40 minute video created by the Australian War Memorial about the poppy tradition.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UHRC1H06Cc>

💬 Discussion

Tell your friends about the poppy story and what poppies symbolise. Did you learn and remember the same things from the video?

Did you learn anything new from each other?



Make your own Poppy

What you'll need:

- red and black cupcake casings
- yellow pom poms
- green pipe cleaners
- children's scissors
- glue



What you'll do:

- 1 Look carefully at this picture of a Flanders poppy. Think about how you can make these materials look like a real poppy.
- 2 Do you need to cut the red cupcake casings to look like petals?
- 3 Do you need to cut the black cupcake casings to look like the centre of the poppy?
- 4 Where does the yellow pom pom belong?
- 5 Does the pipe cleaner look like a stem?
- 6 Use the glue or bend the pipecleaner to hold everything together.
- 7 Consider combining your poppies to make a commemorative floral wreath as a class. Place your wreath at the Memorial Wall at Rathmines Heritage Centre to commemorate members of 9 Squadron.

Please send us a picture of your poppies or wreath. We'd love to see them. We can also arrange to have your wreath placed at the Memorial wall at Rathmines Heritage Centre. Please contact us on **0249210400** or via **actoutreach@lakemac.nsw.gov.au** to arrange collection and placement of your wreath.

Placing an individual poppy in the exhibition memorial

Students visiting Rathmines Heritage Centre can alternatively make this pre-cut poppy and place it into the Memorial Wall in the exhibition to honour a member of 9 Squadron during their visit.

<https://www.cleverpatch.com.au/products/by-product/paper-and-card/tissue-paper/remembrance-day-poppies-pack-of-50>



Class Project

1. Watch the Australian War Memorial's Places of Pride Video (2.36 minutes)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNI3-uOq_2o

2. Research memorials using Places of Pride.

Have you noticed a war memorial in the area where you live?

Has it been added to Places of Pride?

If not, collect and add this information to the register.



Class Project

3. In groups, create your own war memorials.

? *Where would it be located?*

? *What is it called?*

? *What does it commemorate and why?*

? *What does it look like?*

? *How will the memorial and any gardens around it be sustainable?*

? *How will you keep it in great condition (financial, environmental and social)?*

3. Present your design and decisions to the class.

SEE THE SEAPLANE



Educational model of A2-4 Supermarine Seagull V
 Alec Howard
 About 2010
 Wood, paint, plastic
 Collection of the Friends of Rathmines

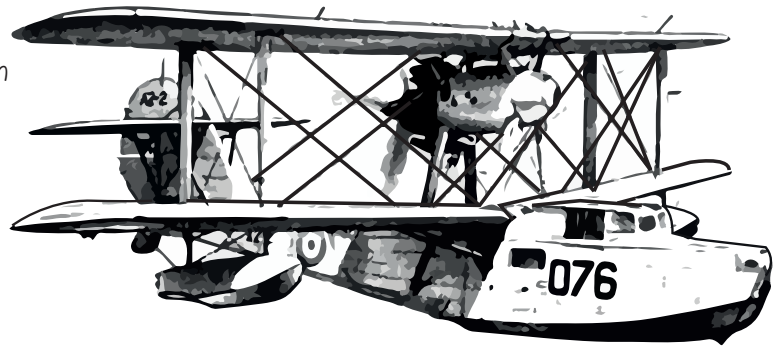
Stage	Exhibition Point	Curriculum Link
Primary – Stage 1 K-2	Model Showcase and Catapult training film – permanent exhibition screen (28:29 minutes)	Primary – K2 Stage 1 - ACHHS016 Distinguish between the past, present and future
Delivery		
Remote and on-site		

**Draw****1. Draw a 9 Squadron seaplane.**

You can take a picture of a plane you can see in the exhibition or use this drawing for inspiration.

2. Watch the catapulting training film

3. Label the image with wings, nose, tail, tailplane, propeller, engine, floats, fuselage, cockpit, serial number and any other parts you can name.



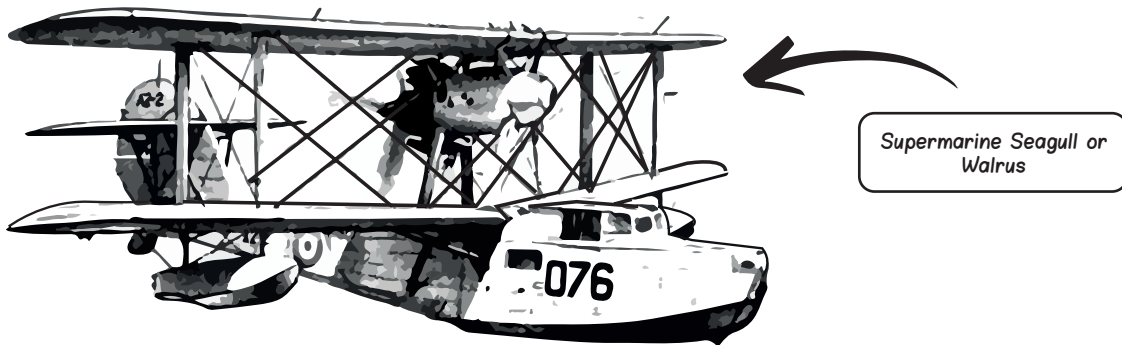
Can you draw this?

Write about what features the plane has and what it can do.



Learn and discuss

- ? Did you know that seaplanes are still in use today?
- ? Have you been in a seaplane?
- ? Have you seen a red plane called Joy at Lake Mac?



- ? There are two main differences between Joy and a Supermarine Seagull or Walrus. Can you name them?



Design your own seaplane

You are an aeronautical engineer and it is 2050. Your task is to design your own seaplane.

- ? What can it do?
- ? Where can it go?
- ? What superpowers does it have?
- ? How big is it?
- ? What colour is it?
- ? Where does the pilot sit?

Design your seaplane here!
Make sure you label it.

Tell us about your invention.

Show your friend, the first person to spot 3 differences between the past seaplanes, present seaplanes and your seaplane of the future wins!

HISTORIANS ARE DETECTIVES



Wooden RAAF memorial and reproduction Roll of Honour book
 Albert Ernest Jones with later modifications by Alec Howard
 Between about 1950 and 2007
 Wood, paint, paper, plastic
 Collection of the Friends of Rathmines

THE FIRST MEMORIAL

This memorial and roll of honour are understood to be the first Rathmines memorial to WWII RAAF personnel. The Catalina Memorial in Rathmines Park was built in 1972. The Memorial Wall inside the former Officer's Mess, now the Rathmines Memorial Bowling Club, was installed in 1984.

The Latin motto on the memorial reads 'per ardua ad astra' which is sometimes translated as 'through trials shall we reach the stars'. This motto was shared by the British Royal Air Force and airforces in Commonwealth countries during WWII. It remains the motto of the British and Australian airforces today.

The Roll of Honour book records the names of those lost from RAAF units during WWII, including those who served with 9 Squadron.

Stage	Exhibition Point	Curriculum Link
Primary – Year 5-6 Stage 3	Memorial wall; Wooden Memorial	Primary – Year 5-6 - ACHHS119 Identify questions to inform an historical inquiry
Delivery		Primary – Year 5-6 - ACHHS120 Identify and locate a range of relevant sources
Remote and on-site		Primary – Year 5-6 - ACHHS121 Locate information related to inquiry questions in a range of sources Primary – Year 5-6 - ACHHS122 Compare information from a range of sources



Research & Present

Historians use clues in original, primary material including in objects to learn about the past. Spot the clues in Rathmines' First Memorial to find out about the secret society involved in its making and answer these questions. Share your research with the class.

- 1 Spot the similarities. Draw a line between the parts of the two pictures that are similar.



? Do you recognise the room in the picture?

? Have you ever seen anything like it?

? Do you recognise any of the symbols?

? What clues does this give you about who made the memorial?

2 What can you find out about the secret society involved in making the memorial?

3 What do they believe in?

4 How have they helped communities in Australia?

5 Were they often in the military?

WHO IS THE HERO?



Sergeant Thomas Frederick Pickering of 9 Squadron
 Unknown photographer
 About 1942
 Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
 Collection of the Australian War Memorial P04581.002

REMEMBERING TOMMY

Sergeant Thomas Frederick Pickering was a talented young pilot. He served at Bradfield Park, Point Cook, Temora and Rathmines. He was involved in training other RAAF personnel at 10 Elementary Flying Training School at Temora.

Tommy was the first 9 Squadron member to lose their life at Rathmines. He was piloting A2-11 Supermarine Seagull V when the aircraft turned over just offshore from Rathmines Theatre on Lake Macquarie. He did not survive the accident. His body was not immediately recovered. Tommy was 22 years old.

Tommy is remembered at the Australian War Memorial and Catalina Base Memorial here at Rathmines. He is buried in Botany General Cemetery.

Corporal Stanley James Cook Cummings received a British Empire Medal for his courageous underwater salvage efforts following the accident.

Stage	Exhibition Point	Curriculum Link
Primary – Year 5-6 Stage 3	Memorial Wall; Remembering Tommy	Primary – Year 5-6 Stage 3 - ACHHS119 Identify questions to inform an historical inquiry
Delivery		Primary – Year 5-6 Stage 3 - ACHHS120 Identify and locate a range of relevant sources
Remote and on-site		Primary – Year 5-6 Stage 3 - ACHHS121 Locate information related to inquiry questions in a range of sources Primary – Year 5-6 Stage 3 - ACHHS122 Compare information from a range of sources



Research & Write

Read through the primary and secondary materials provided to answer the following questions.

HONOURS AND AWARDS.BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL.

No. 36545 L.A.C. (A/CPL.) CUMMINGS, STANLEY JAMES COOK.

CITATION:

Coporal CUMMINGS was enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in the mustering of motor boat crew on the 8th May, 1941. He was reclassified to Leading Aircraftman on the 16th October, 1941, and was granted the acting rank of corporal on the 8th May, 1942.

Whilst posted to R.A.A.F. Station, Rathmines, Coporal CUMMINGS, in January, 1942 rendered valuable service in connection with the salvage of an aircraft tender motor boat. In the course of the salvage operations, Coporal CUMMINGS repeatedly dived to depths of up to thirty-six feet and it was entirely due to his skill and courage that slings were able to be attached to the wrecked tender in a depth of thirty-four feet of water.

On the 5th March, 1942, Coporal CUMMINGS again displayed courage and devotion to duty when an aircraft crashed and sank in about thirty-three feet of water. Immediately following the crash coporal CUMMINGS dived again and again in repeated attempts to release the pilot who was trapped in the hull, and at a later stage in arranging the attachment of slings. As a result of his reports and his efforts, salvage work was able to be proceeded with within a few minutes of the occurrence of the accident and during the whole course of the salvage operations and at some considerable personal risk to himself, Coporal CUMMINGS continued diving in his efforts to locate and free the pilot.

In both instances, Coporal CUMMINGS displayed skill, resource and courage in difficult under-water work.

Private Address:- "Ailsa-Craig", Killabean Bay, Toronto,
New South Wales.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
 PRELIMINARY REPORT (EXPERIMENTAL) ON FLYING ACCIDENTS OR FORCED LANDING.

The Secretary,
 Department of Air.

Serial No.: 780
 Period : 1941/42.

Herewith are preliminary details of a flying accident.

(a) AIRCRAFT:	Type: Number:	Seagull A2-11.
(b) UNIT:		No.9 Sqdn., RATHMINES.
(c) LOCALITY:	Place: Date: Time:	Lake Macquarie. 5.3.42 1153 hrs. E.A.S.T.
(d) PILOT:	Rank: Name: Condition	411376 Sergeant PICKERING, T. F. Killed - body not recovered from aircraft.
(e) CREW:	Rank: Name: Condition:	21845 ACI. McCONNELL, W. F. Seriously injured - severe shock.
(f) NATURE OF ACCIDENT:		When approaching to land aircraft nosed in and fell over on back.
(g) PROBABLE CAUSE:		Pilot's error of judgment.
(h) EXTENT OF DAMAGE:	Airframe } Engine: }	Not known.
(i) Has Minister for Air been informed by unit?		Not by D.T.

Date: 5.3.42

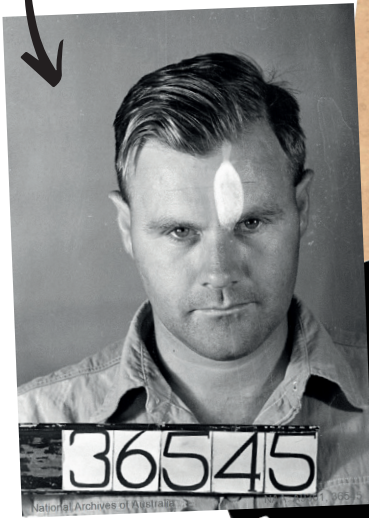
Copies for information to -
 Minister for Air, C.A.S.,
 A.M.O.E., A.M.P., Secretary, Air Board,
 D.M.S. (Air), D.E.S., I.A.A., D.Production, O.i/c. Casualty Section
 File (D.T.), D.E., D.S.D.
 Air Commodore,
 DIRECTOR OF TRAINING.

(2D96/41)
 Seen by:
 MINISTER FOR AIR

7:3:42

Corporal Cummings

Sergeant Pickering



Sergeant Thomas Frederick Pickering
 Unknown photographer
 1941
 Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
 Collection of the National Archives of Australia NAA A9301, 411376

Corporal Stanley James Cook Cummings
 Unknown maker
 1941
 Reproduction of a black and white photograph
 Collection of the National Archives of Australia NAA A9301, 36545

? Flying Accident details

1. Who died in the accident?

2. Who was injured but survived?

3. What happened to the plane?

4. Who is remembered and commemorated?

5. Who risked his life in the salvage attempt?

ASK A CURATOR



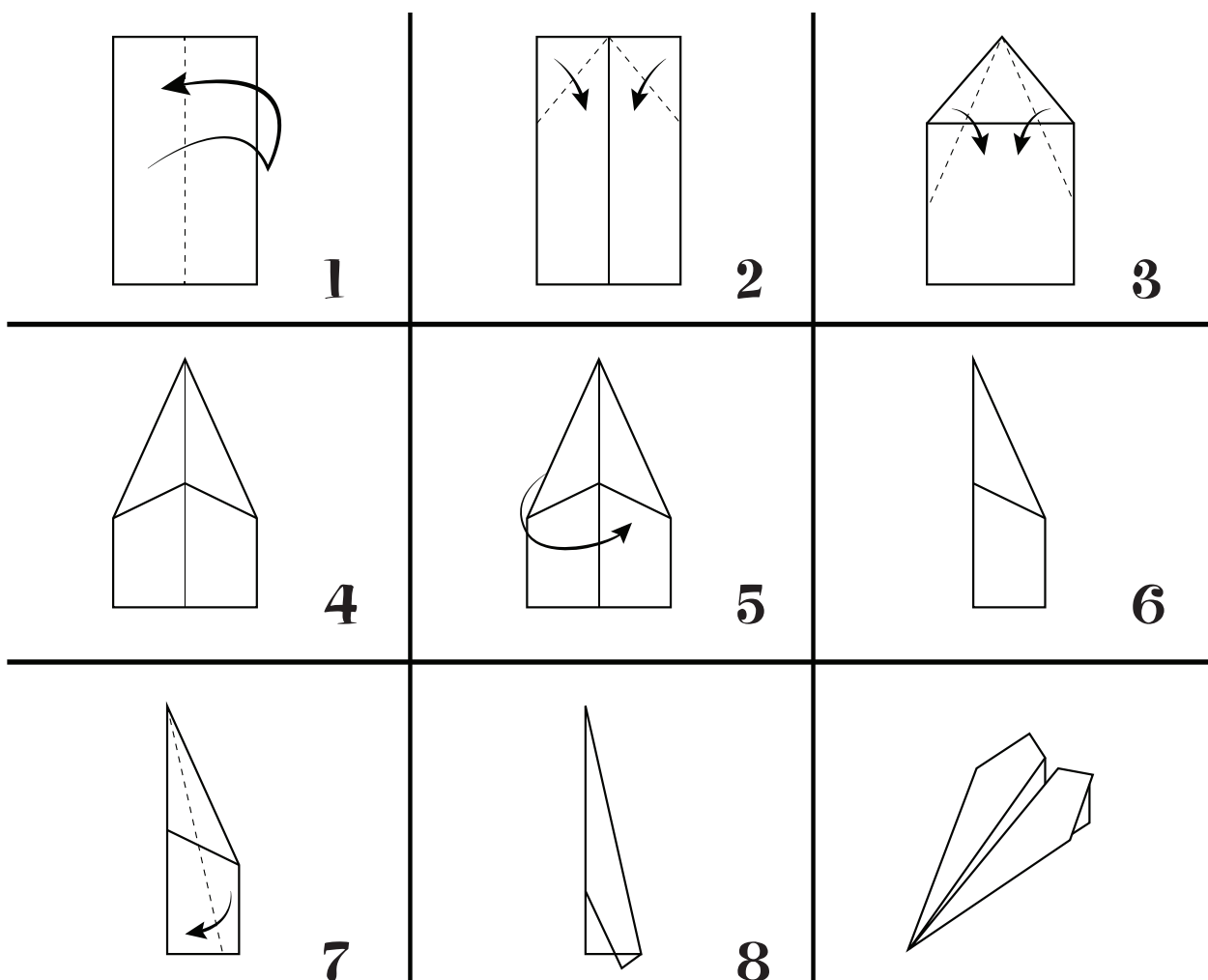
Stage	Exhibition Point	Curriculum Link
Primary – K-6	Whole Exhibition	Primary – Year K-6 - ACHHS017 Pose questions about the past using sources provided.
Delivery		
Remote and on-site		



Plane Post

Did the exhibition or the education kit leave you with burning questions you'd like answered?

1. Make a paper plane



2. Write your burning question inside the plane

3. Fly your plane to Rathmines and we will do our best to answer it.

Fly your plane to this address

Community History

Box 1906, Hunter Regional Mail Centre, NSW, 2310

Questions can also be emailed to history@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

EXERCISES - HIGH SCHOOL

30 Making Meaning

33 Australian Seaplane Bases in WWII

MAKING MEANING

MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS

9 (Fleet Cooperation) Squadron was one of the existing Australian units committed to the war effort when Australia declared war in 1939. The Royal Australian Air Force was the youngest and smallest of the armed services. At the start of WWII it had just 3489 personnel and no modern combat aircraft.

During WWII only the airforce was permitted to fly military aircraft. The Royal Australian Air Force operated Supermarine Seagull and Walrus biplanes for the Royal Australian Navy. 9 Squadron personnel were deployed to RAN cruisers and armed merchant ships for national and international operations.

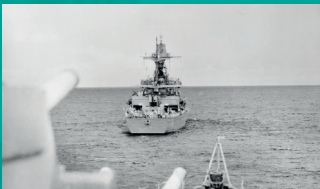
As the RAAF's only fleet cooperation unit, 9 Squadron was tasked with flying amphibious aircraft for the RAN. 9 Squadron operated aircraft aboard HMAS *Australia*,

Sydney, *Perth* and *Canberra* during much of WWII, and the armed merchant cruisers HMAS *Westralia* and *Manoora* until 1942.

Sixteen 9 Squadron personnel were lost in combat while deployed to the RAN.

Catapult launches and crane retrievals were daily features of 9 Squadron's operations when on detachment to the RAN.

HMAS *Australia*



1. HMAS *Australia* escorts the Vichy French Cruiser *Gloire* towards Casablanca, off West Africa, in preparation for Operation Menace. A Loire 130 aircraft is mounted to her catapult and another is visible in the hangar.
Unknown photographer
20 September 1940
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Collection of the Australian War Memorial
305255

HMAS *Sydney*



2. HMAS *Sydney* with a Supermarine Seagull on the catapult
Allan C Green
About 1936
Reproduction of a glass plate negative
Collection of State Library Victoria

HMAS *Perth*



3. HMAS *Perth* with L2319 Walrus I days before both were lost, Indian Ocean
Unknown photographer
February 1942
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Utcon Collection/Alamy

HMAS *Canberra*



4. The catapult and a 9 Squadron Supermarine aircraft are visible on HMAS *Canberra*'s starboard side, Australia
Unknown maker
About 1939
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print
Collection of the Australian War Memorial
P04992.006

Stage	Exhibition Point	Curriculum Link
High School – Year 10	Major engagements and Memorial wall	<p>High School – Year 10 - ACHHK046 The experiences of Australians during World War II (such as Prisoners of War (POWs), the Battle of Britain, Kokoda, the Fall of Singapore)</p> <p>High School – Year 10 - ACDSEH024 An overview of the causes and course of World War II</p> <p>High School – Year 10 - ACDSEH110 The significance of World War II to Australia's international relationships in the twentieth century, with particular reference to the United Nations, Britain, the USA and Asia</p>
Delivery		
Remote and on-site		

 **Glory or sacrifice: discussion, debate or writing exercise**

2. Which of the following two perspectives in your opinion best reflects the 9 Squadron WWII experiences?

“They died with honour and glory by giving their lives fighting for their country.”

“So many Australians were butchered, their lives sacrificed, such a great loss, for what purpose?”

3. Can you explain why?

 **Research**

For more information about the Australian experience of WWII refer to the Australian War Memorial Encyclopaedia and website <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia>

HMAS Canberra https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/ww2_navy/savo

HMAS Sydney <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/hmas-sydney>

HMAS Perth <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/perth/loss>

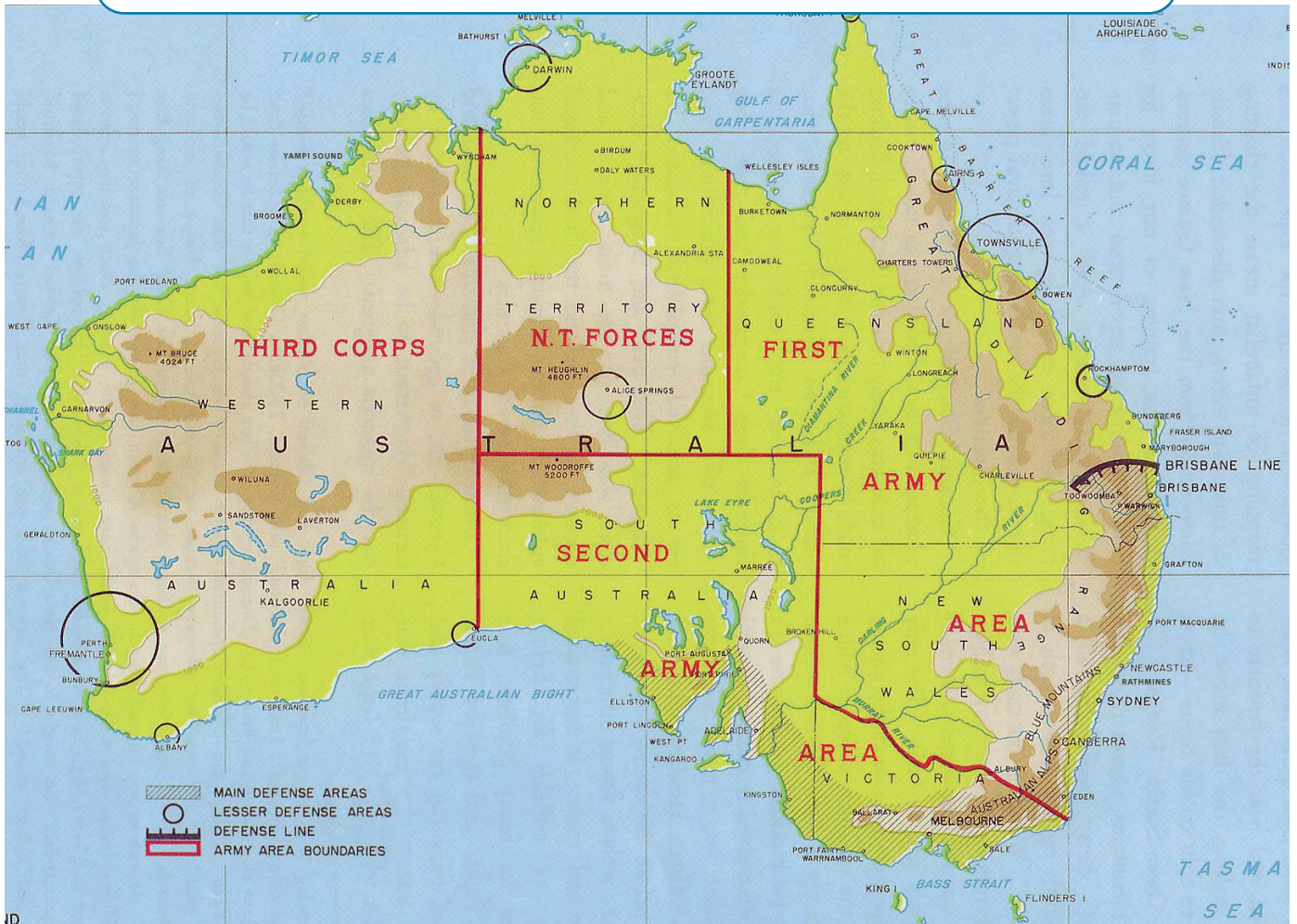
AUSTRALIAN SEAPLANE BASES IN WWII



Educational model of A2-4 Supermarine Seagull V
 Alec Howard
 About 2010
 Wood, paint, plastic
 Collection of the Friends of Rathmines

Stage	Exhibition Point	Curriculum Link
High School – Years 7/10 Stage 4-5	Model showcase; Souvenir model of A2-4 Supermarine Seagull V	High School – Year 7/10 Stage 4-5 - GE4-1 Locates and describes the diverse features and characteristics of a range of places and environments
Delivery		
Remote and on-site		

Australian military geographical divisions during WWII



A2-4 Supermarine Seagull V

On representation of Australia



Souvenir model of A2-4 Supermarine Seagull V on a representation of Australia. The red dots show the locations of some WWII RAAF seaplane bases.

Alec Howard

About 2010

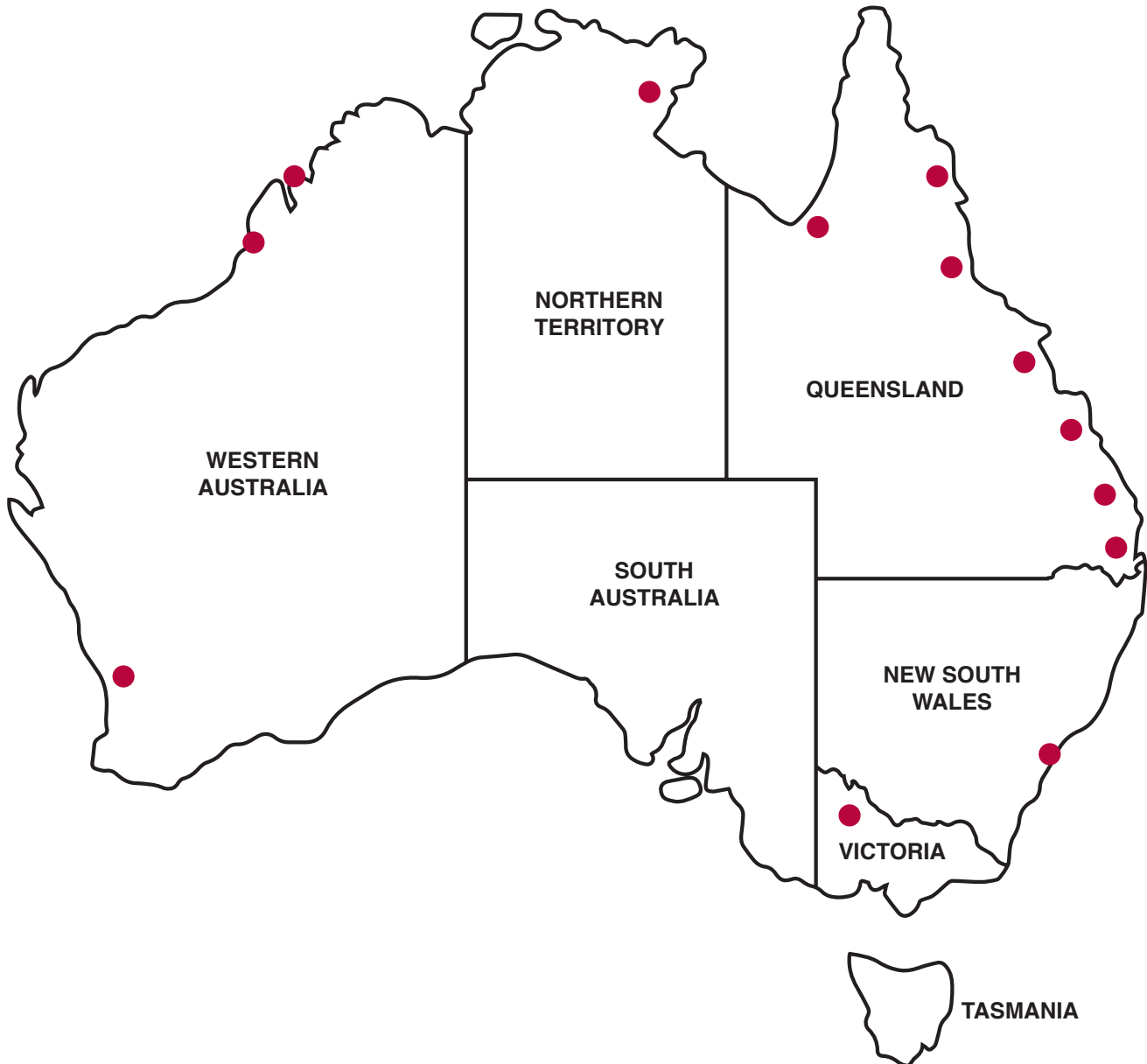
Wood, paint, plastic

Collection of the Friends of Rathmines



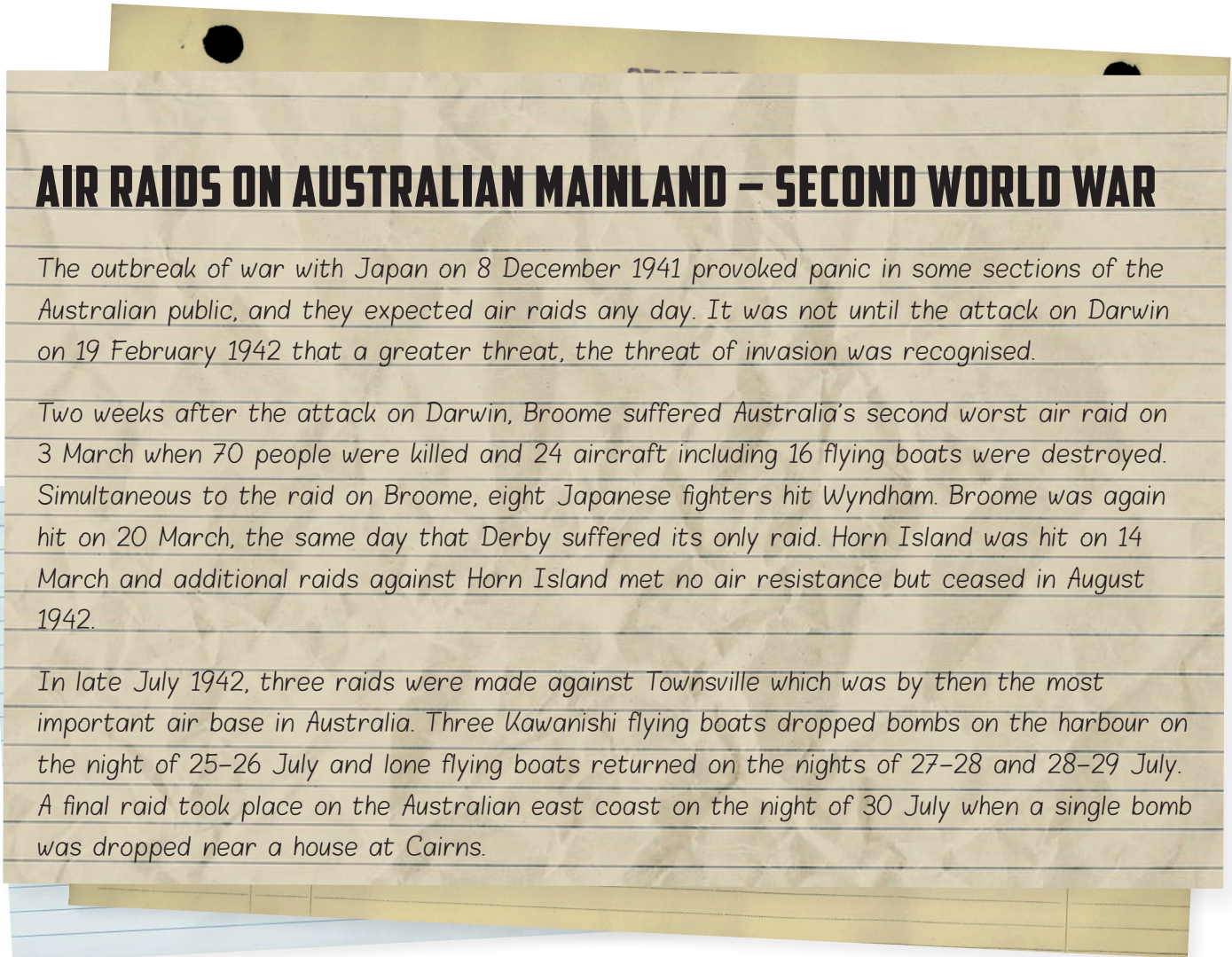
Write & Learn

Using the photo of the souvenir and the map provided, write the names of the WWII era RAAF seaplane bases onto the blank map.



? Read & Learn

Read this Australian War Memorial encyclopedia article:



AIR RAIDS ON AUSTRALIAN MAINLAND – SECOND WORLD WAR

The outbreak of war with Japan on 8 December 1941 provoked panic in some sections of the Australian public, and they expected air raids any day. It was not until the attack on Darwin on 19 February 1942 that a greater threat, the threat of invasion was recognised.

Two weeks after the attack on Darwin, Broome suffered Australia's second worst air raid on 3 March when 70 people were killed and 24 aircraft including 16 flying boats were destroyed. Simultaneous to the raid on Broome, eight Japanese fighters hit Wyndham. Broome was again hit on 20 March, the same day that Derby suffered its only raid. Horn Island was hit on 14 March and additional raids against Horn Island met no air resistance but ceased in August 1942.

In late July 1942, three raids were made against Townsville which was by then the most important air base in Australia. Three Kawanishi flying boats dropped bombs on the harbour on the night of 25–26 July and lone flying boats returned on the nights of 27–28 and 28–29 July. A final raid took place on the Australian east coast on the night of 30 July when a single bomb was dropped near a house at Cairns.

Australia Remembers Taskforce, Australia remembers 1945–1995: commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II: background information, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Canberra, 1994
https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/air_raids

Which airfields marked on the souvenir model and your map were affected by the raids?

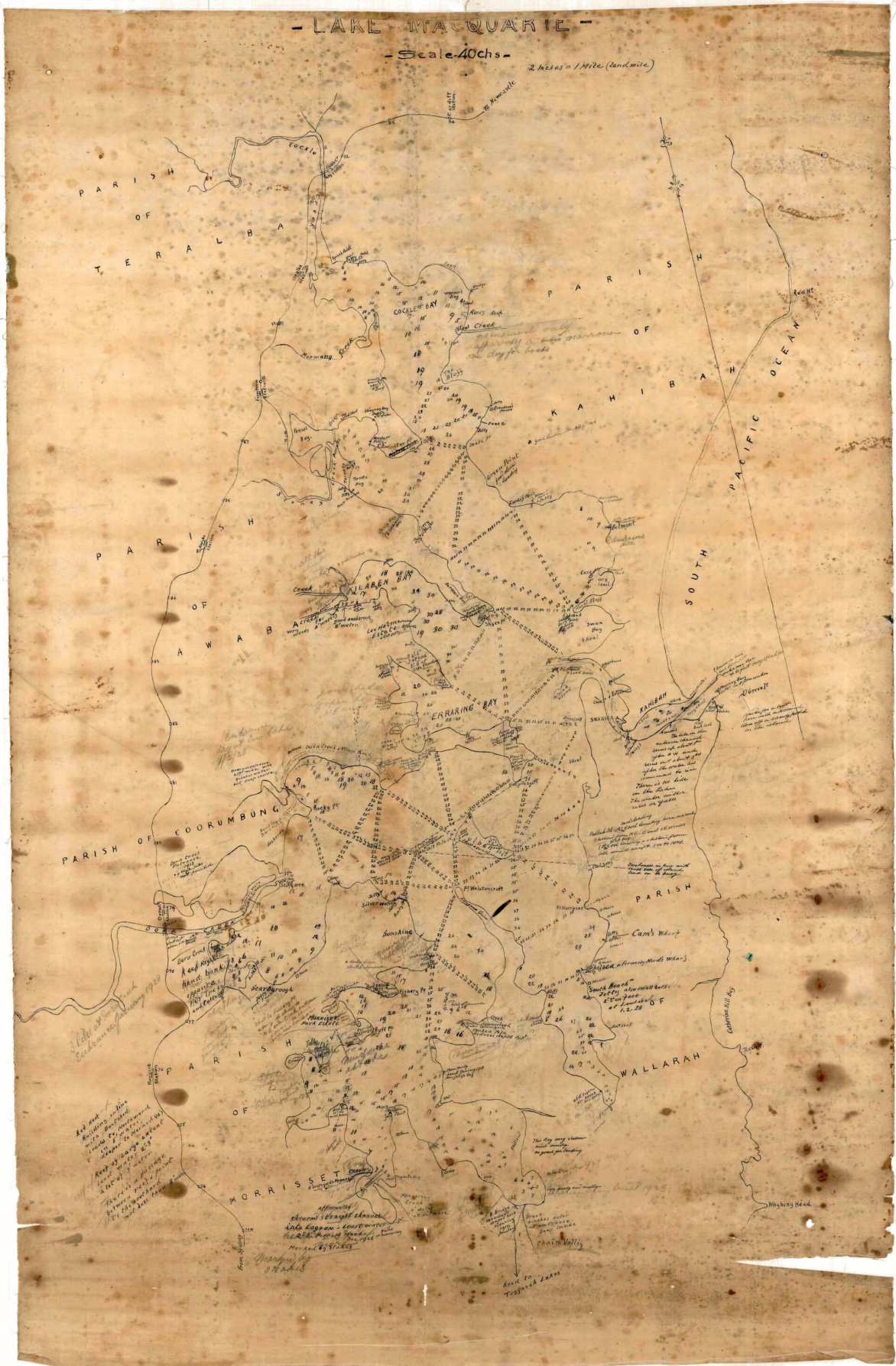
Highlight these bases on your map.

? *Read & Learn*

Have you visited the WWII gun emplacements and command post at Lake Macquarie? Read the heritage interpretation.



Why were the guns installed at Wangi?



Map of Lake Macquarie 1907-1908 showing depths created by Captain Ernest Snowden Deed
Lake Macquarie City Council Local Studies Collection

 **Discuss**

Its 1935. Australian has taken delivery of some Supermarine Seagull V amphibian planes.

You've been asked to recommend a site for a seaplane base on Lake Macquarie on the basis of its natural features. You have access to an old map with depth soundings marked but can see more work needs to be done.

? *Looking at the information you have, where would you recommend the RAAF establish a seaplane base and why?*

? *What other investigation needs to be done on the site you recommend to support your choice?*

? *Consider onwater landing, takeoff, mooring, fuelling and on-land repair needs for seaplanes as well as defending the site from aerial attack in your answer.*

Share your findings with the class.

TEACHERS GUIDE

Catapulting

1. What is a catapult? / 2. How does it work?

A catapult is a ballistic device used to launch a projectile a great distance without the aid of gunpowder or other propellants. Catapults use the sudden release of stored potential energy to propel the object (stone, spear, plane etc.)

3. Which country invented the catapult?

Ancient Greece and Ancient India

4. What interesting historical uses of catapults can you find?

During the siege of Karlstein Castle in Bohemia by joint Hussite forces and the troops of Zygmunt Korybutowicz in 1422-1423 they catapulted barrels of human poo into the castle.

“They were throwing numerous and stinking carcasses into the castle. They were taking excrements from latrines in Prague, were transporting them there and were throwing them in vessels into the castle in order to stink out the defenders. However, the defenders had a lot of unslaked lime and many barrels of arsenic oxide. They poured these out on these stinking things; however, due to enormous stench, teeth of some defenders fell out or were moving”

Source: <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ffe0/c481dd783858e5fdf3f4d4f102662bae5a06.pdf> p.107

5. Drawing of an imagined future seaplane.

6. Look at this original record. How many times did 9 Squadron catapult in October 1942?

10 times

7. Based on the video, is the safety of the launch and the plane solely the responsibility of the pilot?

Safety is everybody's responsibility

In this situation, the pilot bears a lot of the responsibility for safety, but everyone involved has a part to play in making sure this dangerous operation is as safe as possible.

8. What do you think about WWII catapulting technology? Would you be happy to be the pilot?

This was pretty dangerous work and many people didn't receive much training. The procedure to catapult is arcane and complex. I don't think I would have liked to do this.

Eric Ford served in the New Zealand navy on HMNZS Achilles during WWII. He wrote about this process:

Procedure to catapult the aircraft off at sea could be another tricky time. The aircraft would be positioned to the rear end of the catapult, which is fully extended being in three sections. With the engine running at full revolutions awaiting the firing of 7lb of cordite, which would give it its initial thrust, hoping it would have sufficient speed to be airborne on leaving the ship.

We had a transfer of pilots, and the only conversion the new guy got to the Duck [nickname for a Supermarine Seagull or Walrus) was a push off the catapult with current pilot and me while the ship was tied up at Devonport wharf. I was there to hook up on return. All went off OK – a credit to a 20-year-old pilot (Johnny McGrane).

Source: <https://www.cambridgeairforce.org.nz/Eric%20Ford.htm>

Commemoration

2. Research memorials using Places of Pride

At the time of preparing this education kit, the Catalina Memorial at Rathmines, the memorial wall in the Rathmines Bowling Club and the Swansea RSL Memorial were missing from Places of Pride.

See the Seaplane

There are two main differences between Joy and a Supermarine Seagull or Walrus. Can you name them?

1. Engine and propeller are inside Joy's nose / between the wings of the Supermarine Seagull or Walrus.
2. Joy has one set of wings. The Supermarine Seagull or Walrus is a biplane with two sets of wings.

Historians are Detectives

Research and present

1. Spot the similarities. Draw a line between the parts of the two pictures that are similar.

Similarities are:

- + the five pointed Masonic blazing star
- + the classical columns
- + the altar
- + the candles on the altar
- + the holy book on the altar
- + the chequered pavement/ mosaic pavement (the black and white pavement under the altar and leading to the altar on the First Memorial)

Do you recognise any of the symbols?

Some students may recognise the square, compass and G symbol on the back wall of the room. This is the most common and easily recognised Masonic symbol.

2. What can you find out about the secret society involved in making the memorial?

- + Freemasons
- + Modern Freemasonry was established in England in 1717 with the formation of the Grand Lodge
- + 6 million Masons worldwide
- + Reportedly the largest international secret society in the world
- + Masons are men. Women can join associated groups like the Order of the Eastern Star.
- + Masonic Centres, Halls and Temples in most Australian towns, though many of these are no longer used by Freemasons

3. What do they believe in?

Brotherly Love: caring for each other and our communities

- + we are all members of one human family
- + act with respect and understanding towards all others
- + take responsibility for communities and offer support and protection

Relief: humbly assist those in distress

+ helping others to negotiate difficulties

+ financial and psychological support as needed

+ offering relief to others is an everyday behaviour which doesn't need applause

Truth: using knowledge and understanding to improve ourselves, our families and our communities

+ be a person of honour and integrity

+ justice is owed to everyone

+ live in a way that informs, influences and inspires others

Source: <https://www.freemason.com/what-are-the-values-of-freemasonry/>

4. How have they helped communities in Australia?

The Freemasons and other fraternal organisations provided some of the earliest forms of welfare, aged care, disability care and education in Australia. Their charitable work continues into the present.

See: <http://www.freemason.org.au/charities.html>

5. Were they often in the military?

There is a substantial tradition of Freemasons in the military, including in Australia.

Using what you have learned, write a short thesis suggesting how the memorial, RAAF Rathmines base and the secret society are linked.

At the time of writing, we don't know for sure exactly how the Freemasons, RAAF Rathmines and the First Memorial are linked. Students are encouraged to write a tenable thesis on the basis of the information available. It is likely that the memorial's maker Albert Ernest Jones was a Freemason.

Who is the hero?

1. Who died in the accident?

Sergeant Thomas Frederick Pickering

2. Who was injured but survived?

WF McConnell

3. What happened to the plane?

It nosed in and fell over on its back during the accident. Then sank in Lake Macquarie and was later written off.

4. Who is remembered and commemorated?

Tommy Pickering

5. Who risked his life in the salvage attempt?

Corporal Stanley James Cook Cummings

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lake Macquarie City Council would like to thank:

Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme

for their invaluable assistance with and support of this education program.

The Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme is funded by the Australian Government through the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.