



# CATALINA FLYING MEMORIAL LTD

ACN: 103492440

**Patrons:**  
Sir Richard Kingsland AO CBE DFC  
Nancy Bird Walton AO OBE Hon ME Syd  
**Chairman:**  
Neville Kennard



35-41 Waterloo Rd  
North Ryde NSW 2113  
P hone: 02 9870 7277  
Fax: 02 9870 7299  
Email [philip@dulhunty.com](mailto:philip@dulhunty.com)  
[www.catalinaflying.org.au](http://www.catalinaflying.org.au)

## PRESS RELEASE

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Our PBY Catalina flying boat is now about to be test flown in Portugal where we have been fitting two new engines.

Its ferry flight to Sydney should commence in another ten days when we have all the clearances required.

The Catalina will end up at the ex RAAF Rathmines base in Lake Macquarie and together with a wartime museum will operate from there.

The Catalina, arguably did for Australia what the Spitfire did for England. The RAAF operated some 170 Catalinas and lost 330 crewmen in highly dangerous and top secret missions behind enemy lines. The stories of these missions are now being told. The sight of this flying boat will bring back memories to the older generation whilst educating our younger people of the trials we faced back in the forties.

The ferry crew will be headed by one of our most experienced ferry pilots – Jim Hazelton accompanied by pilots Hal Griffiths, Richard Purdy and engineer Geoff Hazelton, Bernie van Surksum from the Dutch Catalina Association will be taking pictures for all of us to see.

The PBY Catalina venture has drawn hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers from the UK and Europe. Just a few of them are pictured here.

Because the price of Avgas has gone up and our dollar gone down, we are desperately short of funds. Any donations, which are tax deductible, would be greatly appreciated – and we could promise any corporate sponsor, very favourable and wide PR coverage. Apart from its heritage value, its landings and takeoffs from water are always spectacular and attractive to TV and press photographers.

Philip W Dulhunty  
Director