

Martin Susans joined the RAAF as a trainee pilot in 1964, and on graduation was posted to fly Sabres in Butterworth. Further flying tours included Mirage, F4 Phantom and F111, with ground tours in Melbourne, Canberra and Tindal.

Martin's final posting was a mahogany bomber in Russell Offices, from where he decided to move to Murrumbateman and grow wine grapes. He now runs a commercial vineyard with a small winery and cellar door which is leased to a winemaker from Canberra.

Whilst serving at RAAF Amberley in 1972, Martin and his brother Geoff, who was a RAAF Engineer, took on an antique aircraft restoration project. Soon after starting the project, Geoff was posted to the UK and Martin to Melbourne. The project was stored awaiting a more stable environment to continue work.

When Martin was finally posted to Canberra, the Ryan project appeared on the Fairbairn tarmac in the back of a Herc. With Geoff firmly established in Melbourne, the project was moved to Murrumbateman for resumption of work.

More recently, Martin has purchased a house/hangar at Temora where the project has entered its final stages of reconstruction.

Whilst it is unwise to predict the completion of an aircraft restoration, a 2020 roll out is a distinct possibility.

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