Recently students from the Year Nine English class visited the Benalla Aviation Museum to hear a lecture on the Crash of the Stinson Airplane VH-UHH (called the Brisbane) in 1937 which occurred in the McPherson Ranges in Queensland. This crash heralded major changes in Aviation regarding instrumentation in aircraft, meteorology reporting and radio communication.

English Teacher, Mrs Glynn said “The students are studying a novel on this topic in their Literacy Circles and were keen to understand how different aviation was in those days. They then had the chance to look at the classic aircraft on exhibition at the museum and to sit inside the cockpits and imagine what it would be like to be the pilot in wartime or in early civil aviation. The Museum also created a booklet for the students, featuring many photos and detailed diagrams and maps to assist he children in their research.”

Students were very impressed with the experience and knowledge of presenter Doug Williams and museum staff Neil McQualter, Chris Imms and Ken Serridge.

Mr. Williams who was of Head of the Department in Aircraft Technology at RMIT’s TAFE College, a Grade 1 Flying Instructor (for 44 years) and an RAAF Reservist for 37 years has just published his book “War Clouds Over Benalla”, which provides an in detail account of the RAAF operations based in Benalla in the 1940’s, training pilots and ground crew for WW2 operations. Number 11 Elementary Flying Training School R.A.A.F. Station Benalla 1941-45 produced 2953 pilots. Mrs Glynn said “Having read the book, I can recommend this to people interested in aviation, this era, and the history of Benalla.”

Principal Barbara O’Brien said “students have gained valuable historical information on many topics and have appreciated the wide experience and knowledge offered by valued members of our community”.

![Image of a plane with a man kneeling under it.](image-url)