



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**

AERONEWS

**Newsletter of the Canberra Branch of RAeS, Australian Division Inc.
- January/February 2012 -**

Introduction

Happy New Year and welcome to another year of stimulating and varied presentations arranged by Canberra Branch of RAeS. The Society's aim is to promote the art and science of aeronautics, and so most lectures are open to all with an interest in aviation. Please distribute the Newsletter widely and urge colleagues to attend. All are welcome; there is no need to be a member of RAeS.

Likewise, the electronic version of this Newsletter is sent free to anyone who wants it. If you do not get your own copy, just ask. Paid up members are entitled to a hardcopy by mail but if you are one of the few still getting it that way please consider changing to the electronic version. Save time, trees and money.

The Branch's busy schedule for 2012 begins on Tuesday 14 February with a presentation by Mr. Tony Blackman, retired British test pilot and aviation author. He will talk about RAF's Nimrod aircraft and his new book "**NIMROD: Rise and Fall**". Details are below.

The following month our meeting will be a day later than usual, on Wednesday 14 March and it will be held at Engineering House, National Circuit, Barton; not at ADFA. It is the latest in a series of Eminent Speaker Lectures, jointly sponsored with Engineers Australia, and this year given by Mr. Don Arbuckle of FAA on "**Next Generation Air Traffic Control**". More details will be provided in next Newsletter.

Although you need not be a member of RAeS to attend lectures, we encourage everyone interested in aviation to join. There are appropriate grades for all levels of involvement and membership includes subscription to the excellent Aerospace International magazine. Information and forms are at <http://www.raes.org.au> or call me on 6255 2347 to discuss.

By now members of the main Society should have received their subscription notices for 2012, with just a small increase in fees. Subscriptions for Friends of the Branch will be notified in the next Newsletter.

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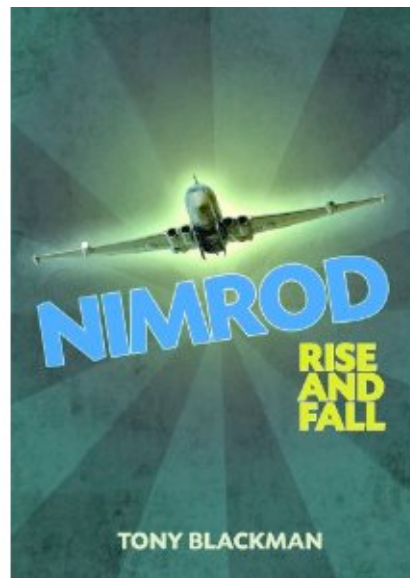
February Lecture

Tuesday 14 February

6.00 pm at Military Lecture Theatre, ADFA

Mr. Tony Blackman OBE, M.A., FRAeS on
"NIMROD: Rise and Fall".

Mr Blackman's recent book **Nimrod: Rise and Fall** is about an aircraft which was arguably the world's best reconnaissance aircraft. It was abandoned under great financial duress but, unfortunately, left the UK almost defenceless from a maritime reconnaissance viewpoint.



Mr Blackman's book and his presentation tell how Nimrod was conceived to prevent a French competitor being selected for UK maritime reconnaissance. Then as technology advanced new sensors enabled the aircraft to provide vital support to the UK ground forces, also in a reconnaissance role. Unfortunately in an effort to make the aircraft ever more effective in a multitude of roles, the manufacturer failed to manage properly wing design changes and new engine installation. This led to soaring costs, delays and eventual cancelation, just as the new version was about to enter service.

Few realise what a great job the Nimrod did because so much of what it did was classified. Mr Blackman's book explains the fascinating task of anti submarine warfare, uses public information to show how superb Nimrod was and relates stories of all the things it could do. Mr Blackman will have copies of his book for sale on the evening.

Tony Blackman graduated from Trinity College Cambridge with an honours degree in Physics, joined the RAF as a Maths and Physics Instructor, learnt to fly and then flew Vampires and Venoms in Germany. He trained as a test pilot and joined A.V.Roe and Co. Ltd. where he became Chief Test Pilot. During his time at Avros/Hawker Siddeley/British Aerospace, he helped develop the Vulcan, Nimrod, Victor Mk 2 tanker and the Avro 748/RAF Andover.

As an expert in aviation electronics Tony was invited by Smiths Industries to join their Aerospace Board, initially as Technical Operations Director. He helped develop the then new large electronic displays and Flight Management Systems. After leaving Smiths Industries, UK CAA invited him to join its Board as a Technical Member.

Tony is an Officer of the Order of the British Empire and is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, a Fellow of the American Society of Experimental Test Pilots, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation and a Liveryman of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators.

Before the meeting please join your colleagues for refreshments in the Officers Mess. Afterwards you can join the Committee and speaker for dinner.

Report on November Meeting

Canberra Branch held its 2011 Annual General Meeting on 8 November. The Chairman and Treasurer presented their reports and advised that audited Financial Statements for year ending 30 June 2011 are posted on Branch web site.

Eugene Holzapfel was elected as Chairman for 2012, as were other office holders and Committee members; see box at end of Newsletter

Following routine business a motion was passed to amend the Branch Constitution to reflect the fact that (a) the term "Branch member" has been replaced by the term "Branch Friend", and (b) the AGM will now be held in November of each year to meet the legal requirement to hold the AGM within 5 months of the end of the Financial Year, and (c) to update the name of the Regulatory Authority to "Office of the Regulatory Services in the ACT".

Formal Minutes of the AGM will be available in due course.

After the AGM video clips were shown of several historic aviation events.

Weird Wide Web

There is much in the media about tribulations of the LIGHTNING II Joint Strike Fighter; conversely vertical landing deck trials of the Marines' F35B version look impressive at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Ki86x1WKPmE

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 14 February *Branch Lecture*
Mr Tony Blackman on "*NIMROD: Rise and Fall*".

Wednesday 14 March *Eminent Speaker Lecture*
Mr Don Arbuckle of FAA on "*Next Generation Air Traffic Control*".

Tuesday 10 April *Branch Lecture*
Dr Andrew Neely on "*NASA Space Shuttle Program*".

Canberra Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Australian Division Inc.

GPO Box 1056, Canberra, ACT 2601

Committee 2012

Chairman: Eugene Holzapfel

Vice Chair: Jon Pike

Secretary: Neville Probert

Treasurer: Robin Stanier

Committee: Rick Agnew, Martin Aubury, Sue Burdekin, Robert Lee, Dilip Mathew, Ian McIntyre, Andrew Neely, Brian O'Keeffe and Heath Pratt.

Global Website: <http://www.aerosociety.com>

Aust. Division: <http://www.raes.org.au>