



## ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

[www.raes.org.au](http://www.raes.org.au)

# AeroNEWS

Newsletter of the Canberra Branch of RAeS, Australian Division Inc.

- June 2010 -

### Introduction

Most are aware of massive new construction at Canberra Airport. On 8 June Mr Stephen Byron, who heads the Capital Airport Group, will explain the developments and how they make any temporary disruptions well worthwhile.

**In July there will be no Branch lecture.** That is because mid-winter lectures tend to be poorly attended. Many members are away and others seem reluctant to turn out on a cold night. So we will have a recess, as we have done in past years.

Plans for August are uncertain because so far there are no nominations for the Branch biennial Aviation Award. There is still time for a late nomination, but if none eventuates we will cancel the Award Dinner on August 10. Instead we will probably have a routine lecture at ADFA in August and try to arrange another aviation function and dinner at University House later in the year. See item below.

Usual reminders

- Branch meetings are normally open to all who are interested in aviation. So please distribute the Newsletter widely, publicize lectures and urge colleagues to attend.
- You need not join the Society to attend Branch lectures but please consider doing so. There are Grades to suit all levels of involvement with aviation, and the many benefits are explained at <http://raes.org.au/membership>, along with application forms. Or phone me and discuss.
- If you do not receive this Newsletter electronically and can, just ask. It will save time, trees and money

Martin Aubury,

Newsletter Editor

[ozaubury@home.com.au](mailto:ozaubury@home.com.au), tel. 6255 2347

### June Lecture

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

6.00 pm at Military Lecture Theatre, ADFA

Mr Stephen Byron will describe developments at **"Canberra's Future Airport"**.

Under Mr Byron's leadership Canberra Airport has already been transformed with the provision of new aeronautical infrastructure, introduction of Virgin Blue and Tiger Airways services, development of Brindabella Business Park, and construction of new VIP and Government terminal facilities, as well as major upgrades of roads accessing the airport.

Now the existing terminal is being replaced in stages by much bigger and better facilities. New car parks are already open and the impressive size of the Southern Concourse Terminal Extension is clearly evident. It is due to open in September. The second stage, Western Concourse is due for completion in 2012. Then Canberra will have a state-of-the-art airport, befitting the Capital and rivaling any terminal of its size around the world. Features include:

- Twice as many check-in counters and extra aerobridges
- New airline lounges, four times bigger than existing facilities
- International capability with facilities for customs, immigration and quarantine
- Environmental technology that reduces carbon emissions and captures rainwater for toilets and landscaping

Stephen Byron has led the Capital Airport Group since its acquisition of the airport in 1998. He has a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) as well as a Bachelor of Commerce from the Australian National University. Stephen is also a Director of the Australian Airports Association, the Property Council of Australia (ACT) and the Tourism and Transport Forum.

Meet colleagues for refreshments in the Officers Mess before the lecture. Regrettably Mr Byron is not able to join the Committee for dinner after his lecture. Ad hoc dinner arrangements can be made by any who are interested.

## Report on May Meetings

The May meeting was attended by the Society's President Dr Michael Steeden who spoke briefly about the Society's heritage and the several aviation centenaries being celebrated in 2010. He told how the Society had been successful in maintaining membership despite the global recession and also encouraged nominations for the Society's medals and awards.

The normal Branch lecture was then given by GPCAPT Graham Edwards on "**Australia's Super Hornet Fleet - Procuring and Sustaining a Bridging Air Combat Capability**". He related how RAAF's first five Boeing F/A-18F Super Hornets had arrived at Amberley on March 26, just three years from appropriation to delivery! He summarized the rapid acquisition task as "to de-risk the next decade's air combat transition by delivering combat ready, USN common, Super Hornet capability". He emphasized the importance of commonality with USN in achieving the goal and how confronting this was for those accustomed to tailoring aircraft to Australia's needs.

GPCAPT Edwards then outlined the extra capabilities of the Super Hornet compared to classic F/A 18. The new version is much bigger (40% greater span), has advanced avionics with an "exponential" increase in radar tracking capability, "network centric" information distribution systems, helmet mounted target cueing, extra hard points and night vision capability. The aircraft also have enhanced aerial refuelling capability in that every aircraft can act as a tanker or feeder.

He contrasted the acquisition process with that for the classic Hornet; modern communications almost eliminated the need to have Australian staff on-site in the US, production contracts were leveraged off those for USN and RAAF accepted USN airworthiness certification. Sustainment too will be facilitated by commonality with USN.

## Aviation Dinner Function

The Branch biennial Regional Aviation Award did not attract many nominations in 2008 and none so far this year. The Award and Dinner were introduced as an alternative to the long running series of Pioneers Lectures but must now be reconsidered.

We want ideas from Branch Members please. Should we reinstitute the Pioneers function? If so, we need suggestions for speakers. What other format could we have for an aviation dinner function? When in the year would it best be held?

Your ideas please, send them to me or any member of the Committee.

## Weird Wide Web

This item of the Newsletter is usually reserved for quirky aviation sites but this month simply highlights the availability of the Society's new website, <http://aerosocietychannel.com>. On it the public, not just members, can access recordings of prestigious lectures and talks at the Society's headquarters, extracts from Society publications and event listings.

Try it.

Lecture recordings are interesting but it is frustrating not to see the illustrations to which a speaker refers.

## Dates for the Diary

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June** *Branch Lecture*

Mr Stephen Byron on "**Canberra's Future Airport**".

**July** *NB No Branch Lecture*

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August** *TBA*

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

**GPO Box 1056, Canberra, ACT 2601**

**Committee 2010**

**Chairman:** Jon Pike

**Vice Chair:** Eugene Holzapfel

**Secretary:** Neville Probert

**Treasurer:** Robin Stanier

**Committee:** Rick Agnew, Martin Aubury, Stefan Brieschenk, Sue Burdekin, Keirin Joyce, Rob Lee, Ian McIntyre, Andrew Neely