

The Melbourne Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society

Newsletter

March 2010



From the Editor

Last month's visit to the Flight Simulator Centre at Ansett Aviation Training was a terrific evening, with the event being fully booked out. We appreciate the passion, enthusiasm and expert knowledge shared by the staff at Ansett Aviation Training.

This month we're looking at developments in the area of unmanned technologies developed here in Australia by Aerosonde. And in April, we have two events taking place – the Engineers Australia Eminent Speakers Series, presented by Mr Fred Abbink who is the General Director at NLR in the Netherlands, and Richard Woodward, a QANTAS A380 captain. Stay tuned for further details.

In this edition, we're starting a new segment called "The Transponder". Each month we'll interview a member of the Victorian Aeronautical Community, starting this month with our very own Branch Chairman, Domenico Lombardo.

As always, we'd be interested in your feedback, and also remember to feel free to invite friends and colleagues to upcoming events.

Best Regards,
Luke Webb

18 March 1910

At dawn, famous American escapologist Harry Houdini successfully flew an aircraft at Plumpton Dam, Diggers Rest—claimed to be the first powered, controlled, and sustained flight of an aircraft in Australia.



March Event

Aerosonde: Recent developments, operations and future plans

Presented by: Paul Herrmann, Chief Pilot/Controller, Aerosonde

Date: Tuesday 9th March 2010

Time: Please arrive promptly before 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start

Where: Level 1, 850 Lorimer St, Port Melbourne (the offices of GKN Aerospace Engineering Services)

RSVP: Pre-Registrations not required, but please allow time for signing in at the door. This is a free event and all are welcomed.



Please print and display the flyer on page two in your workplace!

April Event #1

Survival of the Fittest: 90 Years of Dutch Aeronautics - RDT&E in a Globalising Environment

Presented by: Mr Fred Abbink, General Director, The Netherlands National Aerospace Laboratory

Date: Thursday 8th April 2010

Time: 6.00pm for 6.30pm Start

Where: Engineers Australia Auditorium, 21 Bedford St, North Melbourne

Cost: FREE for RAeS & EA Members, \$10 inc GST for Non-Members

RSVP & More Information:

Ph 02 6270 6548 or register at www.engineersaustralia.org.au



April Event #2

Empire Test Pilot School to A380 Pilot: From 50 knots backwards to a 1000 knots forward!

Presented by: Mr Richard Woodward
A380 Captain, QANTAS Airways

Date: Monday 12th April 2010

Time: 6.00pm for 6.30pm Start

Where: Engineers Australia Auditorium, 21 Bedford St, North Melbourne

Cost: FREE! All welcome.

More information to follow in next newsletter



The Melbourne Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society presents

Aerosonde: Recent developments, operations and future plans

Presented by

Paul Herrmann,
Chief Pilot/Controller,
Aerosonde



Overview

The last few years of Aerosonde's evolution has seen the development of a new fuselage & larger wing, the introduction of net recovery, and improved catapult launch. In addition, Aerosonde has been involved in scientific flights in various parts of the world, including both the Arctic & Antarctic, having made atmospheric & surface measurements as part of such missions, and have also conducted aerial surveys. A presentation by members of Aerosonde's engineering and operations group will provide an overview of these activities, the challenges, trials and tribulations of small UAS and a look at what's next.



Important Venue Information

GKN Aerospace Engineering Services is kindly hosting the event at their offices located at Level 1, 850 Lorimer St, Port Melbourne. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the lecture start time (i.e., not later than 6.15pm) to allow time for sign-in. Pre-registration is not required for this event.

Tuesday 9th March 2010

Please arrive promptly at the below offices by
6.15pm for a 6.30pm start

Venue: **Level 1, 850 Lorimer St, Port Melbourne**
(GKN Aerospace Engineering Services)



Aeronautical News Brief

Boeing 747-8 First Flight

USA: The Boeing 747-8 Freighter successfully made its first flight on February 8 from Paine Field and underwent a three hour and 39 minute test flight. The first delivery of the aircraft is expected in the fourth quarter of 2010 to launch customer Cargolux.

Eurocopter Approval for Local Product

MELBOURNE: Trakka Corp, an Australian manufacturer of an advanced helicopter searchlight, has been awarded a significant contract to supply their searchlight directly to Eurocopter France, ultimately seeing the Trakka searchlight offered as a Eurocopter Factory option. Trakka's success at getting their searchlight approved as Eurocopter factory optional equipment paves the way for significant future exports of the innovative product, and demonstrates that it's possible for a small Australian manufacturer to compete successfully at the highest levels in the worldwide aerospace market.

RMIT Graduate for Rolls Royce Leadership Program

MELBOURNE: Rolls-Royce has announced that RMIT University graduate Jason Seris has been chosen to join its Graduate Leadership Development Program, making him the first Australian to be accepted in the North American leadership program. Seris is set to begin his placement in the program from April, and will again be based at Indianapolis as a raw materials buyer.

Plans for New NASA Antennae at Tidbinbilla

ACT: An official from the US space agency NASA has confirmed plans to build two new dish antennae at Tidbinbilla, just outside Canberra. The new dishes would be used for NASA's New Horizons mission once it reaches Pluto in 2015, with two more built by 2025. NASA, currently celebrating 50 years of Australian and US space relations, stated that the relationship between the two countries was very reliable and was something to preserve and grow.

AusDiv AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Royal Aeronautical Society Australian Division Inc. will be held –

ON – Saturday, 20th March 2010

AT – 1600hrs

IN – Ground Floor Conference Room,
QANTAS Building QCE (TNT Building),
Bourke Road, Mascot, NSW.

Note: Any member wishing to attend must advise the Honorary Secretary no later than Wednesday 17th March to permit security arrangements to be organised.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st March 2009.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes.
4. Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2009.
5. Appointment of Auditor(s) for 2010.
6. Appointment of President-elect for 2010-2011.
7. Amendments to Constitution and Rules*.
8. Any other business accepted by the Chairman.

*The Constitution and Rules (C&R) were amended as approved at the 2008 AGM and submitted to the Registrar General's office. The Registrar General (RG) required additional changes to the C&R to comply with the Act. The changes required by the RG were incorporated using sections from the "Model Rules" and such changes do not require member approval. The C&R is considered to be the Deed of Association with the Society and therefore changes must be approved by the Society. The Society has accepted the changes, although it has recommended some clarification of wording be introduced at the next amendment.

R.D.Barkla—Honorary Secretary

Checklist

Millions Against Malaria

Commencing on 20 March 2010, Bendigo pilots Ken Evers & Tim Pryse will attempt an around-the-world flight in an Australian-built GA8-TC Airvan. This will be the first Australian commercially manufactured aircraft to ever circumnavigate the globe.

Throughout the endeavour, the pilots aim to raise \$1,000,000 for the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and Pacific (AFAP) and Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) – organisations both heavily involved in combating malaria in many parts of the world.

You can show your support by visiting www.millionsagainstmalaria.com

Tyabb Airshow

On Saturday 18th April, the Peninsula Aero Club will be running the 2010 Tyabb Airshow. The theme for this year's airshow is "A Century of Aviation in Australia". Tickets and information on visiting aircraft are available online at <http://www.tyabbairshow.com.au>

With Regret

It is with regret that the Melbourne Branch announces the passing of Ms Qona Crawshaw CEng MRAeS, aged 93, on 05/12/2009. She had been a member of the Society for 55 years. The Division was informed by letter from her youngest sister, Mrs Iris Weld.

Branch Committee

Chairman: Domenico Lombardo

Hon. Secretary:

Air Cdre Noel Schmidt

Hon. Treasurer: TBA

Events Manager: Anthony Patti

Asst. Events Manager: TBA

Webmaster: TBA

Newsletter Editor: Luke Webb

Membership Secretary:

Sherman Ting

Committee Members:

A/Prof. Cees Bil

Karen Trezise

Crystal Forrester

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Website (Aust. Division):

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

Global Website:

<http://www.aerosociety.com>

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of RAeS, the Melbourne Branch or the Editor. Promotion of external events does not imply endorsement by RAeS.

Contributions and feedback are welcomed (however we cannot guarantee publication). Contributions highlighting Australian developments, innovations and ideas in aeronautics are most encouraged.

The Transponder



Name

Domenico Lombardo

Job Title

Senior Research Engineer – Helicopter Structural Integrity

Company/Organisation

Defence Science and Technology Organisation, Department of Defence, Australia

How would you describe yourself?

Quietly persistent

Education & Background

Bachelors Degree in Aeronautical Engineering, RMIT Masters Degree in Applied Science (Information Technology), RMIT. I've been with DSTO since I graduated from RMIT, which is almost a quarter of a century ago now. I cut my teeth on F/A-18 Hornet and F-111 structural life-ing, but soon moved on to helicopter structural integrity and have been doing that for more than 20 years.

When did you first know you wanted to work in aeronautics?

When I was about five years old. I saw a RAAF recruitment advertisement on TV, which used a modified version of the

Russell Morris song "Wings of an Eagle". Those words struck a chord with me. From that time on, aircraft were my passion.

Describe one of the most rewarding projects you have worked on.

I was one of the two principal DSTO scientists involved with investigating the crash of a Royal Australian Navy Sea King in Indonesia, which killed nine Defence Force personnel. It was a long and tough investigation, both in Indonesia, and in the laboratory, with the resources and skills of many people being required. In the end, we were able to determine precisely the technical cause of the crash.

Favourite aeronautical feat or moment?

My first solo.

Enjoy doing with spare time...

Looking after my three nieces and one nephew

Volunteer Involvement?

Chairman of the Melbourne Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society

Favourite Aircraft?

Any helicopter

Favourite quote/nugget of wisdom?

No matter how bad things become, you almost always have it within you to make them better. So do it.

What are your hopes for the future of aeronautics in Australia?

That Australia keeps doing what it does best. We don't have a large aeronautical industry, but we do produce clever people who can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best that the rest of the world produces.

If undeliverable return to:

**ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY
MELBOURNE BRANCH**

P.O. Box 6229

St. Kilda Road Central. Vic 3004

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