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ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Dedicated to Advancing Aeronautical Art, Science and Engineering



MELBOURNE BRANCH ISSUE : SEPT.



VOLUME: 9



YEAR: 2011

Chairman Desk

Dear RAeS Members,

I write to you as acting Chairman Melbourne Branch, in the absence of both our current and past Chairman (Dom Lombardo and Cees Bill) who are overseas for most of this month. Last night, we had to convene a special committee meeting to urgently address some issues relating to our upcoming Hargrave lecture planned for Tue, 27Sep11. As many members will know, this is our major annual named lecture event which we have traditionally held for many years with a gala dinner.

The key outcome is that, due to low registrations at the point where we were forced by the hosting venue (Rydges, Melbourne City) to provide final numbers for dinner, we have had to defer this years Hargrave lecture event to Wed, 19 October 2011. In doing so, we were able to exercise a contract clause for a single date change with no financial penalty together with a limited change to planning numbers – thereby limiting financial exposure to our Branch. This deferral also means that we will not be hosting a monthly lecture event for September, and the Hargrave lecture now represents the monthly October event.

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Hargrave Lecture/Dinner

Ian Honnery

Mighty things from small beginnings grow

Date: Wednesday, 19 October 2011

Venue: Rydges Melbourne

Address: 186 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Time: 6 pm for 6:30 pm start

Registrations required—see page 2 for details.

About Ian Honnery

Ian Honnery is Chief Executive, and a member of the Boards, of Aerospace Maritime and Defence Foundation of Australia Limited and its affiliates, Aerospace Australia Limited, Aviation Development Australia Limited and Maritime Australia Limited.

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2011 HARGRAVE LECTURE/DINNER

IAN HONNERY

MIGHTY THINGS FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS GROW

— [WEDNESDAY 19 OCT. 2011] —



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**

2011 ANNUAL HARGRAVE LECTURE & GALA DINNER

MIGHTY THINGS FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS GROW

Presented by: Ian Honnery

Chief Executive of Aerospace Maritime and Defence Foundation of Australia Ltd., Aerospace Australia Ltd., Aviation Development Australia Ltd. and Maritime Australia Ltd.



WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2011

VENUE: RYDGES MELBOURNE

ADDRESS: 186 EXHIBITION STREET, MELBOURNE

TIME: 6:00 PM FOR A 6:30 PM START



Ian Honnery is Chief Executive, and a member of the Boards, of Aerospace Maritimes and Defence Foundation of Australia Limited and its affiliates, Aerospace Australia Limited, Aviation Development Australia Limited and Maritime Australia Limited. All four companies in the group are not-for-profit organisations established to promote the development of Australia's aviation, aerospace, maritime and defence resources.

A cornerstone activity of the group is the biennial Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition held at Avalon Airport near Melbourne in Victoria. Ian has been the Chief Executive of the ten shows held since the inaugural event in 1992.

Originally a lawyer by profession, Ian was in private legal practice for 28 years before taking up his current full-time position. He also served in the RAAF Specialist Reserve for 25 years and was an active member of the aero club movement, playing a prominent role in the development of the successful Schofields Flying Club in western Sydney. He is currently chair of the Australian Industry Forum and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

The Annual Hargrave Lecture and Gala Dinner is the highlight of the Royal Aeronautical Society's (Melbourne Branch) calendar. This event is an opportunity to network and get to know other members and industry experts over a delicious three course meal. We encourage payments before the **4th October** at the following prices, to enable us to finalise the number of attendees with the hotel.

Non-members \$80 | EA / RAeS Members \$60 | Students \$45

After this date, registrations will be accepted until **17th October** at the following prices:

Non-members \$85 | EA / RAeS Members \$65 | Students \$50

The event includes:

- Hargrave lecture from 6:30pm to 7:30pm
- Pre-dinner drinks
- 3 course sit down meal including drinks package in private function room from 8:00pm

Registration: Please register by **4th October 2011**

Website Registration: log on to <http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/divisions/victoria-division/events/>

Contact: Cynthia Chen on 0423 733 129 or cchen148@gmail.com

Dedicated to Advancing Aeronautical Art, Science and Engineering

Cont. from Chairman's Desk

This outcome (and the primary reason for this letter to you) raises the issue of a more fundamental challenge that your local Branch committee has faced over recent years when planning for combined lecture/dinner events. Many members will recall the period back in the '90s to around 2005 where we routinely held around three combined lecture/dinner events each year – these being the annual Hargrave and Wackett named lectures, along with an 'aviation trivia' dinner night following the AGM. These were the days that we had access to the Air Force Club in South Yarra. However, since its closure, we have struggled to host such combined lecture/dinner events mainly due to the costs involved. During my now rather extended period on committee and periodically as Chairman over the last 15 years, the pricing model that we have generally adopted to set dinner cost to members is to initially work on a 30-50% subsidy (using members funds provided to Branches), but in more recent years offset with sponsorship where available. Using this model since 2005, we have held well attended Hargrave lecture/dinner events at the Naval and Military Club (2006), Melbourne University (2007), Sofitel Hotel (2008) and the RACV Club (2009). The 2008 event was a special event with the ICAO President for which we were able to obtain significant sponsorship to offset what was a considerable financial exposure to the Branch at the time. Unfortunately, due to low numbers for last years event (made difficult by late-year scheduling in Nov, then late change of speaker due to short-notice unavailability of the original international speaker), we had to cancel the hotel dinner booking at considerable financial penalty to the Branch (full details were presented and discussed at last years AGM).

The principal lesson learned from the experience of hosting a combined lecture/dinner event over the last 4 years has been that attendance numbers have fallen considerably short of what we had initially planned for, and on which our cost model for attendance fees was based. Combined with ever increasing costs being charged, and increasingly inflexible contract T&Cs being demanded such as requiring large up-front nil-refund deposits in the event of cancellation, and final numbers being required 14-21 days before the event, your local Branch committee is becoming increasingly concerned about the financial exposure, risk and sustainability of such combined lecture/dinner events. As an example, average dinner/drinks package is around \$100ph, to which must be added lecture hall plus A/V package generally at well over \$1,000+ – a charge which must be amortised over only those attending the dinner (using an attendance model of around 80-90 for lecture, 60 for dinner) to bring average cost per head to generally around \$120ph. In re-negotiating T&Cs for this years event, your committee has also examined alternate options to reduce costs by integrating the past considerable separate lecture/banquet room fees into a single room arrangement (this approach has been used by Sydney Branch for its annual Kingsford Smith Lecture for a number of years). Nevertheless, I am very mindful of the fundamental principle that all RAeS lectures are open free of charge to all RAeS members to attend, hence we need some flexibility with such an arrangement.

The bottom line is that your local Branch committee sees a need to fundamentally re-think the annual Hargrave, or any planned combined lecture/dinner event. This is unfortunate, but we are particularly keen to consult with our members and solicit views on options. Interestingly, following last year's late-notice cancellation of the annual Hargrave lecture/dinner event planned for the Crown Hotel, we still proceeded with a lecture-only event held at our regular venue (Engineers Australia in Nth Melbourne). This lecture-only event was well attended, with substantial more numbers than registered for the hotel event –for which our fee structure was \$95/\$70/\$80/\$130 members/student members/student non-members/non-members). This appears to tell a message – but we wish to ensure we interpret it correctly. We as a committee had already started planning for a combined AGM/aviation trivia/dinner event in December, but scaled down to a private area in a restaurant to limit costs. However, we are now unsure about proceeding as to whether there would be sufficient support for such an event.

In summary, I wish to solicit members' views. We had a short discussion at last years AGM and would very much like to get wider members views, options and level of future support for combined lecture/dinners at this year's AGM in December. In the meantime, pls feel free to provide comments to the Melbourne Branch email box at melbourne-branch@raes.org.au which will be passed onto committee members for consideration.

In the meantime, I encourage all members who are available and who wish to attend this years Hargrave lecture (details elsewhere in this Newsletter) to register and pay early by the nominated date (i.e. 4 October 2011, 14 days prior) to allow us to better refine dinner numbers with the hotel (note payment can only be done through the Engineers Australia website per details on the flyer). Nevertheless, we will accept registrations and payments right up to the Monday before, although we are unsure what last minute changes in dinner bookings the hotel will accept. For those members who wish to only attend the lecture (free of charge), could you pls register with the RAeS website – after member login, just hit the 'Event Register' button so that we can ensure appropriate hosting provisions.

Kind regards,
Noel Schmidt.
Tue, 13Sep11

Branch Committee

Chairman: Domenico Lombardo

Past Chairman: A/Prof. Cees Bill

Hon. Secretary:

Andrew Harrington

Hon. Treasurer: Anthony Patti

Events Manager: Crystal Forrester

Asst. Events Manager: Cynthia Chen

Webmaster: Stratos Patsikatheodorou

Newsletter Editor: Amit Menghani

Membership Secretary:

Sherman Ting

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Global Website:

<http://www.aerosociety.com>

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of RAeS, the Melbourne Branch.

Promotion of external events does not imply endorsement by RAeS. Contributions and feedback are welcomed.

Improved Standards for Aviation

Australia's aviation maintenance industry has a new set of safety standards. A suite of new maintenance regulations came into effect on Monday 27 June 2011.

CASA says that the regulations will deliver a clearer focus on safety outcomes, while allowing maintenance organisations flexibility in the way they conduct their operations.

CASA also says that maintenance organisations will also now work to a set of rules more closely aligned with other leading aviation nations, which can reduce the complexities of doing business in the international aviation market, improving Australia's competitive edge in the world air transport industry.

The new maintenance suite is a group of rules included in the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations.

They cover Part 42, Part 145, Part 66 and Part 147. More than 7000 licensed aircraft maintenance engineers (LAMEs) have been issued with new licences under Part 66 of the regulations.

Eligible LAMEs have retained their existing rights to work on aircraft and CASA has undertaken a rigorous transition process to make sure the new licences accurately show their privileges.

For more information: www.casa.gov.au

If undeliverable return to:

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