



## ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

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

# AeroNEWS

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

- September 2010 -

### Introduction

Last month's Regional Aviation Award Presentation and Dinner was not quite as well attended as the Branch might have wished but nevertheless was an interesting and very enjoyable evening.

Members may recall that the Award function was introduced in 2008 to replace the Pioneers Lecture and Dinner. The intention was to become more forward looking and to recognize local aviation achievements. Both Mr Dunstan in 2008 and Commander Ashworth this year were worthy recipients of the award and gave excellent presentations about their achievements, but unfortunately attendance has not been as good as at Pioneers. The Committee would welcome member input on why this is so and any suggestions for the theme or format of such functions in future years.

In the more immediate future, we are pleased to announce that our November meeting will be held jointly with the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. The Master of GAPAN, Dr Michael Fopp, will be in Canberra on Tuesday 9 November and has offered to present his (UK) Cobham Lecture again for us. It's a perspective view 70 years on, of the Battle of Britain. Dr Fopp is an historian by training and profession, and recently retired as Director of the RAF Museum. He is also the son of an Australian pilot who flew Spitfires in the Battle of Britain.

Meanwhile remember that our meetings are open to all with an interest in aviation. So please circulate the Newsletter widely and urge colleagues to attend.

Martin Aubury,

Newsletter Editor

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### September Lecture

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

6.00 pm at Military Lecture Theatre, ADFA.

Mr Bill Fraser will describe "***The History and Functions of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia***".

The RFDS has been providing general and specialist health care services to over 80% of Australia for more than 82 years. These services include Air Ambulance to Canberra and the adjacent areas of Nowra, Moruya and Merimbula.

Mr Fraser will speak briefly about the history and functions of the RFDS, and how to access its services when required. He'll then discuss the aircraft used, particularly the new Hawker 800XP Jet in Western Australia and the Cessna Grand Caravan C208 recently acquired in Queensland. He intends to support his presentation with a short video and will also provide some leaflets and newsletters about the RFDS.

Mr Fraser is an authorised volunteer worker for RFDS in Canberra and undertakes promotional work for the Service. He retired from public employment in 2007, having served for over 40 years in Commonwealth, NSW and ACT Governments. Bill worked in administration, accounting and auditing roles, and retired from the position of Internal Audit Manager in the ACT Chief Minister's Department. Bill has also taught in Accounting, Auditing and related subjects at the Department of Computerised Accounting and Law, Canberra Institute of Technology.

Before the lecture please join your colleagues for refreshments in the Officers Mess and afterwards you are welcome to join the Committee and speaker for dinner.

## Report on Regional Aviation Award Presentation and Dinner

In August RAeS Canberra Branch held its biennial "Award Presentation and Dinner" in the Great Hall of University House, at ANU. The 2010 Regional Aviation Award was presented to Commander Peter Ashworth RAN for his exceptional project management contribution to acquisition of Australian Defence Force's (ADF's) multi-role helicopter, the European MRH90.



In presenting the Award, Jon Pike Chairman of the Branch, said "All nominations received for the award were of high quality and the RAeS was encouraged by the standard of aerospace work being done in the ACT. The RAeS was however particularly impressed with Commander Ashworth's exceptionally demonstrated day-to-day project management skills in successfully coordinating and managing the First of Class Flight Trials for the MRH90 on HMAS Manoora." These trials comprised an exhaustive testing regime that gauged the helicopter's capabilities at sea through takeoffs, landings, deck handling processes, blade folding trials, transfers and load lifting.

Commander Ashworth also orchestrated the transfer of two of the MRH90 helicopters from France to Australia in RAAF C-17 aircraft. This accelerated the development of the strategic air lift load plans and procedures required to load and transport the MRH90 in the C-17, as well as resulting in a cost saving to the maritime component of the Multi Role Helicopter Program.

Commander Ashworth presented an interesting and well illustrated account of the whole project. He began by acknowledging the contribution to an integrated project team of internal and external ADF stakeholders, and contractors. He explained Australia's need for fewer helicopter types and for more troop-lift capacity, both land and maritime. He outlined the new capabilities provided by MRH90s, especially compared to RAN's 35-year-old Sea Kings and their 1960's technology. Speaking of the

shipment by C-17, he reflected on the challenges inherent in being a naval officer, accessing an RAAF asset, to transport an Army helicopter which technically speaking was still owned by its manufacturer!

He attributed his success and the Award to his team and to ...Tim Tams. He avers that they are an unrivalled aid to smooth negotiations.

## Weird Wide Web

Would you like to rent an airliner for your next holiday? Not to fly; just as accommodation. A retired Boeing 727 with sea views is available in Costa Verde - <http://www.costaverde.com/727.html>. Or more options can be seen at <http://www.greendiary.com/entry/craziest-recycled-airplane-masterpieces/>.

## Dates for the Diary

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September** **Branch Lecture**

Mr Bill Fraser on "*History and Functions of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia*".

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October** **Branch Lecture**

Major Keirin Joyce on UAVs in the ADF

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November** **Branch Lecture**

Joint meeting with GAPAN, at which Dr Michael Fopp will present his Cobham Lecture, previously given in UK – "*Battle of Britain, a perspective view after 70 years*".

**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