



# NEWSLETTER

**Australian Division Inc  
November 2009**

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## **RAeS AD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE November 2009**

Greetings to all RAeS members. RAeS



Branches are the lifeblood of the Society. Our Branches in Melbourne and Sydney held their annual named dinner lectures last month. The Lawrence Hargrave Lecture and Dinner was held at the RACV in Melbourne, with strong attendance from local and interstate

guests. The guest speaker was Alan Joyce, the Qantas CEO, himself a Fellow of the RAeS. Alan spoke candidly of the changes underway at Qantas, and foreshadowed some additional developments in the pipeline. Alan also spent 20 minutes answering questions, and during the dinner, visited each table and spoke to members and guests.

Sydney Branch held its Sir Charles Kingsford Smith Lecture and Dinner at the Lakes Golf Club, which has a magnificent view over the fairways towards the City, with the sun setting in the west. John Roundhill from Boeing was the guest lecturer and provided a very interesting chronology of developments in aircraft used by airlines around the world. There was a very good attendance for both the dinner and lecture. RAeS events such as these are great draw cards for the Society and provide an excellent opportunity for members to hear top class speakers and to mingle with senior industry people. If you know people who are not members, please encourage them to join and participate in the activities of the Society.

The Federal Government is about to release its White Paper on the National Aviation Policy, setting out policy initiatives for the next 10 to 20 years. RAeS has provided submissions to each stage of the industry consultation process in the development of the Policy. Thank you to all who

provided comment and especially to Andrew Drysdale who coordinated the responses.

Next month marks the centenary of two of the five events which are claimed as being the first powered aircraft flight in Australia. RAeS intends participating in the centenary celebrations of powered flight in Australia during 2010, and hopes to arrange the placement of historical plaques at five locations. The disputes over which was the first powered flight has raged over almost the entire 100 years since they occurred, and the Society believes that all five of the events claimed as being first should be celebrated. John Scott of the Aviation Historical Society of Australia has done a lot of very fine research into the various claims, which is summarised on the Division website and formed the basis of an article published in Flightpath magazine by Ian Debenham of the Powerhouse Museum. The five events and their dates are:

- 5<sup>th</sup> December 1909 George Augustine Taylor at Narrabeen Beach in Sydney
- 9<sup>th</sup> December 1909 Colin Defries at Victoria Park Racecourse in Sydney
- 17<sup>th</sup> March 1910 Fred Custance at Bolivar Adelaide
- 18<sup>th</sup> March 1910 Harry Houdini at Diggers Rest Melbourne
- 16<sup>th</sup> July 1910 John Robertson Duigan at Mia Mia in Victoria

Each event has a particular aspect worthy of record, related to flight length, pilot birthplace, machine design, controllability etc.

Finally, as this is the last Newsletter for 2009, I wish you all and your families a pleasant Christmas and New Year period.  
David Forsyth FRAeS

### **Awards: RAeS Australian Division Lawrence Hargrave Award – 2009 and Society Gold Award**

Dr Alan Baker of DSTO was the winner of the 2009 Lawrence Hargrave Award for outstanding contributions to aeronautics by an Australian. Dr Baker is a Program Leader CRC-

ACS and Emeritus Research Leader Aerospace Composite Structures, in Air Vehicles Division, DSTO and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering. The award was for Dr Baker's pioneering research on the use of bonded fibre composite materials in the repair and life extension of aircraft structures. The techniques are now used in both military and commercial aircraft applications worldwide.

The medal and citation were presented to Dr Baker (pictured right) by the Div President David Forsyth (pictured left) at the AIAA 13 Congress Dinner held 10<sup>th</sup> March in the Members Dining Room at the



Melbourne Cricket Ground.

In 2007 it was decided that the winner of the Lawrence Hargrave Award should tour the Branches and give a lecture and this was followed again this year. This year's speaker programme was organised by the Division in conjunction with DSTO and the costs have been shared between our two organisations. Again this has been a successful initiative and will continue for future winners of the Lawrence Hargrave Award.

Dr Baker was also nominated by the Division for a global Society award and he was chosen as the winner of the Society Specialist Individual Gold Award. The award was presented at the Society headquarters on 19<sup>th</sup> November and was received on Dr Baker's behalf by the DSTO representative in London.

#### **RAeS Silver Turnbuckle Award**

The Division nominated Bob Alcorn of Qantas Airways Engineering for the Silver Turnbuckle Award, which is awarded for long and valued service in the field of aircraft maintenance and



Bob was chosen as the winner. The last winner of this award was in 2004 and was also nominated by the Division. Bob (pictured right), was able to attend the presentation

ceremony at 4 Hamilton Place on 19<sup>th</sup> November to receive the award from the Society's President, Dr Mike Steeden (pictured left).

#### **Newsletter Editor Change**

Neville Smith stood down from the position of Newsletter Editor and Director Information of the Australian Division following the issue of Newsletter Vol 16 No. 3 in November 2008. Neville produced his first Newsletter Vol 2 no.1 in April 1994, taking over from the first Newsletter editor David Rees. The Division wishes to record its appreciation of the outstanding content of the newsletters and the dedication shown by Neville in writing, producing and distributing the Newsletter for 15 years.

The Division has had difficulty in finding someone suitable to replace Neville, but is pleased to welcome Jeff Lock of the Sydney Branch to the position of Newsletter Editor. The Division apologises for missing several issues for this year and hopes that news of the Division activities will now reach you all. Captain Ian Watkins has agreed to fill the Division Director Information position on the Division Council.

#### **The Centenary of Powered Flight in Australia**

The 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 is the centenary of powered flight in Australia. More detailed information of these events are available in our website and there is an article in the December, 2009 Aerospace Professional and in Flightpath magazine in an article by Ian Debenham. All the information in these articles is based on detailed research conducted by Mr John Scott.

#### **Council 2009 Election results**

At the 2008 AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009, the result of the election of Councillors for 2009-2011 was announced. There were two automatic appointments to the positions of Associate and Associate Member as there was only one nominee of each of these grades of membership respectively, namely Andrew Dann and John. S. Napier. Those elected by ballot to fill the remaining three vacancies were: T. Andrew Drysdale, John P.E. Faulkner and Capt Ian C Watkins.

The Division is grateful to those who nominated for Council and for those who indicated their preference through voting and congratulates the winning candidates. Your Council is now as follows:

<b>President (2009-2011):</b>	David A. Forsyth FRAeS
<b>Past President:</b>	AVM Peter G. Nicholson AO FRAeS
<b>Hon Secretary:</b>	Ross D. Barkla FRAeS
<b>Hon Treasurer:</b>	Robert H. Stevens FRAeS

**Councillors: –**

Phillip N. Campbell FRAeS  
 Andrew Dann ARaES  
 T. Andrew Drysdale FRAeS  
 A/A/Prof John P.E. Faulkner AM FRAeS  
 John S. Napier AMRAeS  
 Air Cdre Noel G. Schmidt AM CSC FRAeS  
 Sharon C. Shields MRAeS  
 Capt Ian C. Watkins FRAeS  
 Dr Ronald J. Yates AM Hon FRAeS

Over the next few Newsletters we will be introducing each member of the Council to you by way of a short biography and an accompanying photograph. Below are the first of these biographies.

**Mr David Forsyth, President RAeS Australian**

**Division.** David is currently Chairman of Airservices Australia, Vice President of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (SE Division) and Chairman of Safeski's Conferences Australia. He is also a Senior Visiting Fellow at the University of NSW and Chairman of the

Industry Advisory Panel for the UNSW School of Aviation. David has over 40 years experience in the airline industry, during which he filled a number of key roles at Qantas Airways including Executive General Manager Operations, General Manager Regional Airlines, Engineering Director, Head of Melbourne Maintenance and General Manager Engine Maintenance.

**Mr Andrew Drysdale**

Andrew is Executive Director of Mentor Aviation services, and a Senior Visiting Fellow at UNSW.



He was previously IATA's Regional Vice President Asia/Pacific and Chairman of IATA India Private Ltd.

Since leaving IATA he has participated in a study for ASEAN on Liberalization, coordinated both the RAeS response to the Government White Paper on Aviation and the Society's policy paper on Aviation and the Environment. Mr. Drysdale was for 10 years Managing Director of Air Pacific and successfully held positions as Chief Executive of Blue Lagoon Cruises Ltd, Captain Cook Cruises and of Hazelton Airlines. He served for many years on the Board of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), as PATA Chairman in 1996/97 and is a life member of the Association. He has served on the Board of IATA, as Chairman of IATA's Committee on Human

Resources, Chairman of the Association of South Pacific Airlines and as a Director of the Regional Airlines Association of Australia. He is a Fellow of the RAeS, Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a former student of Harvard Business School where he completed the Advanced Management Program in 1986. He serves on the Society's Sydney branch Committee and on the Australian Division Council.

**Michael Brett**

Michael is a professional engineer with qualifications and experience in aerospace and systems engineering, information technology and management. He has previously been lead



Engineer of a high-technology start-up company and now specialises in systems engineering and project management for complex systems.

Michael's involvement in the Royal Aeronautical Society began in 2002 as Student representative with the Brisbane Branch and

continues today managing the website for the Australian Division.

**Amendment to Constitution & Rules**

At the 2008 AGM, the Council wished to clarify the Constitution and Rules if the Note in clause 14 was invoked, which is then in conflict with the requirement of Clause 15 for the creation of retiring members of Council to create vacancies for the biennial election. A motion was put to the meeting to add after the words "Rule 11" in Clause 15 the words "unless the President is in office for two consecutive terms approved by the Council per the Note to Clause 14". This change was unanimously approved at the meeting.

The amended Constitution & Rules (C&R) was rejected by the Registrar General (RG) and the Public Officer was advised that several other changes were required before the C&R would be accepted. After some discussion with the RG's office it was advised that if the changes were identical to those in the "model rules" then there was no need to get members' approval. The revisions were submitted and accepted by the RG's office. The C&R provide the Deed of Association with the Society and so the revised C&R was submitted to the External Affairs Board for acceptance. The Society Honorary Solicitor proposed some changes, which it was agreed could be included the next time the C&R was revised and required member approval.

**Eminent Speaker Programmes**

The Joint Board of Aerospace Engineering (JBAeroEng) Eminent Speaker Programme was organised again this year and the chosen speaker

was Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Szodrich a Member of the Executive Board DLR - German Aerospace Center, Cologne, Germany. Joe, as he prefers to be called, visited all the Branches, accompanied by his wife and the lectures were well attended and received at all locations. This will now be an ongoing programme in conjunction with EA. The next speaker chosen by the JBAeroEng is Prof. Fred Abbink, who is the Past President of ICAS. The visit will take place late March to end of April.

### Assessment of University Courses

The Division has been providing assessors to cover aeronautical expertise required by assessment teams organised by Engineers Australia (EA) in the accreditation of engineering degrees at Australian institutions. Colin Torkington of the Canberra Branch has been one of the active assessors in this programme and also in the management of the Division's support. Colin has decided that, for personal reasons, he must relinquish the management of this programme for the Division and at the November Council Meeting it was approved that Eugene Holzapfel be invited to take over this task. The Council is very grateful to Colin for the excellent job he has done in this important and demanding programme.

### Australian Youth Aerospace Forum (AYAF)

The subject organisation has been operating in Queensland for the past eleven years, but is expanding to become Australia wide. The organisation was formed to encourage secondary school students and undergraduates to take up careers in aerospace. The forum event is organised with the assistance of undergraduates at universities in Queensland. The Division was approached through the Brisbane Branch to become a sponsor of this organisation and it was agreed that the Division would become a Platinum sponsor at a discounted rate for one year and then review the situation.

### Royal Australian Navy Engineers

The Division was asked by the RAN to consider cooperating with the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST) in getting approval from the Engineering Council (EC<sup>uk</sup>) that Charge Engineers in the RAN be automatically acceptable as Chartered Engineers. The IMarEST sent a team down to Australia to review the documentation and processes for promotion to charge engineer and this team has now reported to the EC<sup>uk</sup> and received agreement under their delegation from the EC<sup>uk</sup> to classify RAN Charge Engineers as Chartered Engineers; this Special Approval Procedure (SAP) for marine and weapons engineers cannot be read across directly to aeronautical engineers by the RAeS. The Division is currently working with the RAN to progress a similar SAP for the aeronautical engineers in the RAN.

### Website

The new Division website has been in operation for over a year and as with all new websites there are still items, which need some modification. There have been a lot of complimentary remarks about the new website and the Division is grateful to Neville Smith who managed the project and Michael Brett, who managed the detail specification and implementation. Michael has been overseeing the project from Europe for a year and this has not inhibited the changes that have been necessary being implemented. If there are still changes or corrections that members would like to see then Michael can be contacted as [webmaster@raes.org.au](mailto:webmaster@raes.org.au).

### 2010 Membership Subscriptions

You will see from the table below that for the first time in recent memory there is a SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION in annual subscriptions; the reduction is between \$20 and \$73 depending on membership level. There are two reasons for this, the obvious one being that the Australian dollar exchange rate with the UK Pound has moved in our favour. Nonetheless, the fees in UK Pounds have increased. The Australian Division Council recently considered the option of merely holding fees at the current 2009 rate, on the basis that the subvention\* from our Australian fees, which is sent annually to London, has increased in UK Pounds, and there is the potential for the exchange rate to deteriorate again in the coming year. In the past, as the rate has deteriorated, Council has phased in the increase so that the imposition on Australian members is softened. There was a case for a similar approach with the recent rate improvement. However the Council unanimously decided to pass on the saving to members, and to take the risk of a rate deterioration. These are tough times for our industry and Council felt that we should do all we possibly could to encourage members to renew their subscription, and also to attract new members.

\*The Australian Division is required to send a significant percentage of subscriptions to the RAeS UK to pay for magazines and Society overheads.

RAeS Grade	Employed Members	Retired Members Under 65 <sup>1</sup>	65 & Over
Fellow or Companion Member	\$406	\$127	\$74
Member (under 40)	\$274	\$111	\$67
Associate Member	\$224		
Associate Member (under 31)	\$169	\$ 91	\$60
Associate	\$102		
Associate (under 31)	\$120	\$60	\$60
Affiliate	\$102	\$60	\$60
Affiliate Student <sup>2</sup>	\$ 25		

**Notes:**

- This is a concessionary rate for those under 65 wholly or partially retired.
- This rate applies only to students under the age of 26 and undergoing full-time education. Students will only receive electronic versions (via the Society's website) of *Aerospace International* and *Aerospace Professional*.