



ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

ADELAIDE BRANCH – INCORPORATED IN SA IN 1984

C/o Engineers Australia, Level 11, 108 King William Street, ADELAIDE, SA, 5000

Email adelaidebranch@raes.org.au Web www.RAeS.org.au

PEGASUS

Adelaide Branch Newsletter

March 2010

100th Anniversary of the First Flight in Australia

Tuesday 23 March, 1830 hours at 108 King William St Adelaide

The Branch will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first flight in Australia with a presentation that examines the first 200 days of powered flight in Australia. There is a lot of controversy as to who was first. Defries, in NSW; Houdini and Duigan in Victoria; or Custance in South Australia. The history is unclear as to who was really first. We in South Australia like to think it was Fred Custance. But maybe it was Bill Wittber. Whomever, let us celebrate that 2010 is the 100th anniversary. None of those intrepid airman of that period would ever have imagined that 100 years on we have Space Shuttles and A380's. Stuart MacDonald our speaker for this grand occasion will examine the lead up to that first flight with emphasis on what happened in South Australia.

The venue for the audio/visual presentation is Level 11, 108 King William Street, Adelaide commencing at **1830 on Tuesday 23 March 2010. NOTE THE NEW VENUE.** This Building is the new HQ of the SA Division of Engineers Australia.

Last Month

Following the AGM on February 23rd members enjoyed a very interesting lecture by Associate Professor Richard Kelso on the new University of Adelaide Wind Tunnel. Interesting, because when all the plans were made for one site they had to be changed to another site and a new design was needed to fit it in.

Program for 2010

The program of events for 2010 as currently arranged, includes a number of events related to the 100th anniversary of the first powered flight in Australia and joint meetings with Engineers Australia. At present the following events noted and are open to RAeS members. They will be of interest to many.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Tuesday March 9	Site Visit to SA Aviation Museum Pt Adelaide Engineers Australia	SAAM Pt Adelaide 5:30 pm
Sunday March 14	Open Day celebrating 100 years of the First Flight in South Australia	SAAM Pt Adelaide 10am
Thursday March 18	Festival of Flight Commemoration Ceremony	Diggers Rest VIC 11am
Saturday March 20	Houdini-Centenary Air Show	Melton Airfield VIC 9am

Tuesday March 23	Branch Presentation, The First 200 Days of Powered Flight in Australia, Stuart MacDonald [notice attached]	King William St Adelaide 6 for 6:30pm
Tuesday April 27	Dr Fred Abbink 90 years of Dutch Aeronautics Joint EA/RAeS Eminent Speaker Program	King William St Adelaide 5:30 for 6pm
Tuesday 25 May	Presentation on Fatigue and Human Factors in Aviation Mark Corbett DSTO	King William St Adelaide 6pm

Medals and Awards

Again, let me remind you that nominations are needed NOW for Society medals and awards. Each year the Society presents a number of awards and medals in recognition of meritorious service or for achievement in the aeronautical field. Nominations for Society awards are sought for 2010. A nomination form is available on the Branch website, adelaidebranch@raes.org.au and the Society website at www.raes.org.au. Closing date for 2010 awards is 31 March 2010 and nominations are sought as soon as possible. Surely there is someone in South Australia that is deserving of one of these awards.

Adelaide Branch Committee

At the AGM earlier this month, and the subsequent Committee meeting the following were elected to the Adelaide Branch Committee for 2010.

Chairman: Harold Walton FRAeS woodhang@bigpond.net.au
Deputy and Secretary: Andrew Clark MRAeS Andrew.clark@vipac.com.au
Treasurer: Robert Moore OAM robcoll@adam.com.au
Engineers Australia Liaison: Phil Campbell FRAeS pcampbell56@yahoo.com.au
Website: Adrian Smith MRAeS adrian.smith14@defence.gov.au
Membership: Mark Corbett mark.corbett@defence.gov.au
Program: Garth Morgan FRAeS cloudshill@bigpond.com
Annual Dinner: Tom Spinks 8337 0005
Committee: Ron Howard Hon FRAeS howardre@senet.com.au

With some new blood on the Committee we are looking forward to an exciting year.

Adelaide Branch Membership List

At the present time about 60% of RAeS Members resident in SA, and a similar number of Friends of the Branch, receive their Branch notices and newsletters, including Pegasus via email. The remainder are sent this information by mail via Engineers Australia. The printing and postage cost for this is quite large each month and eats into the branch reserves.

In addition the Branch receives a number of returned posted notices and emails indicating the address list is in need of revision.

As a result the Branch Committee is seeking a response from all members of the Branch with details of their current address and in particular an email address so notices and newsletters can be sent electronically.

All members resident in SA, and others who receive this Newsletter, are asked to complete the attached tear-off and return it to The Adelaide Branch, RAeS, C/o Engineers Australia, Level 11, 108 King William Street, Adelaide, SA 5000 OR email the details sought in the tear-off to adelaidebranch@raes.org.au or one of the committee below.



Members Address Details

Name:.....Address.....

.....

Email..... Telephone.....

Mobile.....Membership Grade

Please complete and return or email details to

Andrew Clark, Secretary, RAeS Adelaide Branch,
C/o Engineers Australia, Level 11, 108 King William Street, Adelaide, SA, 5000.

Email: adelaidebranch@raes.org.au



Royal Aeronautical Society – Adelaide Branch

“FRIENDS OF THE ADELAIDE BRANCH”

✈ The Adelaide Branch has a category of ‘membership’ called “Friends of the Adelaide Branch”. “Friends” membership of the Branch is available to any person who is involved or interested in aviation and aeronautics but who cannot join one of the official categories of membership of the Society for qualification, age, economic or other reasons.

✈ “Friends” will receive notices of Branch meetings and events and join Society members in lectures and other functions put on by the Branch. A small annual fee [\$10 for 2009] will cover administrative costs of the Branch.

✈ Branch Society members are asked to encourage interested persons to become a “Friend of the Adelaide Branch”.

An application Form for ‘Friends’ membership is below and Society members and others receiving this magazine are asked to pass the form to their friends and colleagues who may be interested.

Application Form

Name:.....Address.....

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Email.....Telephone.....

I wish to become/remain a ‘Friend of the Adelaide Branch’ and receive Pegasus and Notices of meetings of the Branch.....Yes/No.....

Note: Not applicable to Society members including Affiliates.

Please complete and send with \$10 Membership Fee to:

Andrew Clark, Secretary, RAeS Adelaide Branch,
C/o Engineers Australia, Level 11, 108 King William Street, Adelaide, SA, 5000,

or Email to adelaidebranch@raes.org.au



Royal Aeronautical Society
Adelaide Branch

Lecture Presentation

Tuesday, 23rd March 2010

The First 200 Days of Powered Flight in Australia

by

Stuart MacDonald

Who was the first to fly a powered flying machine in Australia?

On the 20th March this year a Centenary Air Show is being held at the Melton Airfield, in Victoria, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first flight in Australia, which according to the organizers, was made on the 18th March 1910, at Diggers Rest, Victoria, by the American escapologist, Ehrich Weiss, better known by his stage name as Harry Houdini. Subsequent investigations however, have raised some very serious doubts.

Irrespective, all of the pilots involved in the early first flights, including those in South Australia, were singularly brave in attempting to be first. Their efforts and their problems will be summarized, so that nobody will have to ask -- **Who was Bill Wittber?**



Bill Wittber



Fred Custance



Harry Houdini

Stuart MacDonald is a graduate in both Chemical Engineering and Business Studies. He commenced work in the Laboratories of F.H.Faulding, and then with D&J Fowler, where he specialized in cereal chemistry and related research. He is a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Food Scientists and Technicians. When the company was acquired by Goodman Fielder, Stuart was transferred to head office Sydney as Technical Manager, and remained as such until he retired. In private life Stuart is a member of the Sporting Car Club of S.A., and has been awarded with Life Membership. His desire is to ensure that the achievements of past greats of South Australia are correctly researched and recorded.

Venue:

□ **Sir Robert Chapman Theatre
Engineers Australia (South Australian Division)
Level 11, 108 King William Street, Adelaide
6:00pm for 6:30pm**

For more information please call Andrew Clark (0421 051 328) or Harold Walton (0438 401 363)