



## From the Editor

The 2011 Airshow at Avalon coincided with the 90th anniversary of Royal Australian Air Force. It also brought Aviation and Aerospace in Australia to a new stage with sharp and active focus on a new strategic plan and its implementation.

The presence of Royal Aeronautical Society at the Airshow was a great success and I wish to say special thank you to all our volunteers and participants who supported our endeavours so well.

You may have noticed a new design of the newsletter. Our intention is to improve the content, with a particular focus on the latest aeronautical news and events, especially those affecting Victoria.

This month we have Air Commodore Mark Lax (Retd), Royal Australian Air Force presenting on the topic, 'The F-111 in RAAF Service: A Retrospective'. In planning for an industrial site visit, we've launched a quick online poll to gauge member interest in three proposed sites. We encourage you to take up this opportunity.

The Melbourne Branch wishes you a safe and happy Easter time.

Warm regards  
Amit Menghani

## April Lecture: Air Commodore Mark Lax (Retd)

The F-111 was unique among the aircraft that the Royal Australian Air Force has operated throughout its history. Never before has one type had such a profound impact not only on the RAAF, but upon Australia's strategic policy outlook. From the moment it was ordered, however, the F-111 would be shrouded in controversy.

Air Commodore Mark Lax (Retd), Royal Australian Air Force will be sharing his experience with F-111.

Air Commodore Mark Lax joined the Royal Australian Air Force Academy in January 1974 and graduated dux of his class. During his career, he was Base Commander of RAAF Base, East Sale in Victoria and later in 1997, RAAF Base Richmond in NSW.

In the following years, Mark held appointments at Glenbrook as Director. He went on to hold a number of posts including Director General Policy and Plans, Director General Military Strategy, and in 2006 – Director General Strategic Policy in Strategy Division. It was in this post that he developed Force 2020, the blueprint for the ADF's future.

He retired from the RAAF in January 2007. In 2008, he was appointed to the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal, as RAAF specialist advisor for reviews into veteran medal claims.

In 2011, he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for his work on military history and support for various veterans' organisations. He is also Vice-President of Canberra Legacy.

**Date:** Monday 11th April 2011

**Time:** 6pm for 6:30 start

**Venue:** Engineers Australia Auditorium, 21 Bedford St, North Melbourne

**RSVP:** Not required.



## News in Brief

- The tenth Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II to enter flight testing lifted into the sky on 30 December.
- The Boeing 787 Dreamliner has resumed flight testing following an investigation into the avionics fire which led to the grounding of all test aircrafts.
- NASA has restarted its programme of high-altitude scientific balloon flights which had been suspended following an accident in Australia in April 2010.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it is to launch three satellites in the first quarter of 2011.
- Qantas is to build a biofuel plant to produce aviation fuel in Sydney in partnership with US alternative fuel company Solena. The \$312m plant could be operational by the end of this year.
- A pilot of United Airlines' Boeing 777 on a flight from Chicago to Frankfurt on 3 January accidentally triggered a hijacking alert after spilling coffee on the aircraft's controls.
- Lockheed Martin says it has solved the bulkhead crack issue that was discovered on the F-35B JSF during ground static tests.

## Chairman's Desk UK Council Ballot

Those of you who are eligible to vote in the UK Council election should have received your ballot papers for the UK Council elections with the March issues of your Aerospace International and Aerospace Professional magazines. The ballot paper and an Information brochure were sent providing general information and candidate details.

The Australian Division Council has separately sent you a newsletter encouraging those eligible to vote in the UK Council election and they especially asked members to support Captain John Faulkner, a Past President of the Australian Division.

The Australian Division Council's argument is given in their newsletter, so I won't repeat it here. I will just say that I endorse their position and encourage you to support Captain Faulkner. I know I'll be voting for him. Finally, when deciding for whom else I wanted to vote onto the UK Council, I did note that there are others standing who have similar views to Captain Faulkner.

Domenico Lombardo, Chairman, Melbourne Branch.

## Straight from Avalon

Avalon 2011 was set to be the biggest as the event celebrated 90th anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force.



With its new concepts and interactive approach, the Australian International Air show delivered more entertainment programs and activities for all ages.

For the first time at Avalon 2011, a 'Kid Zone' was established. This allowed everyone, not just kids, to make their own paper aircraft, and then test their flying skills to see what it was like to be in control of their own aircraft. From painting to wooden aircraft kits, it was all happening at the Avalon Air show.

The 'Avalon Arena' also provided a different experience for visitors to the Airshow as they saw the Royal Australian Air Force and Australian Army perform mock attacks along with putting some of their 4 X 4 vehicles through their paces.

A visit to the 'Extreme Sports Arena' added to the thrill, as daring stunts and aerial antics were performed by a freestyle motocross team.

Good weather capped off a great Airshow that had it all: military, commercial, civil, historic and general aviation aircraft. Avalon 2011 was a great success.

The biennial Australian International Airshow will be staged again at Avalon Airport in March 2013.

## GA10 on Schedule

GippsAero, one of the few aircraft manufacturers in Australia, are set to launch their long-mooted GA10 turbine utility aircraft with the first prototype expected to fly later this year.



The 10-seat GA10 will retain many of the features of the eight-seat GA8 Airvan, but will be powered by a Rolls-Royce 250 B17F2 turboprop engine.

"Our goal is to retain the successful GA8 design and to use current production parts to provide a strong support solution across the globe" said GippsAero's engineering manager Gerhard Jordaan.

Source: Avalon Airshow News

## Site Visit — Vote Now

RAeS Melbourne Branch is currently planning its next site visit, and we want your input! Tell us which of the following you'd prefer to visit:

1. GippsAero
2. Avalon Airport
3. Melbourne Airport

Send in your vote to:

1. raesnews melb@gmail.com
2. www.surveymonkey.com/s/36P6S7N

## Upcoming Event

Former RAeS President, David Forsyth, will be presenting on the 17 May 2011 at 5:30pm at 452 Flinders St, Auditorium (SKM Building).

This is a joint event between RAeS Melbourne and Center for Engineering Leadership and Management (CELM), Engineers Australia.

We look forward to seeing you there.

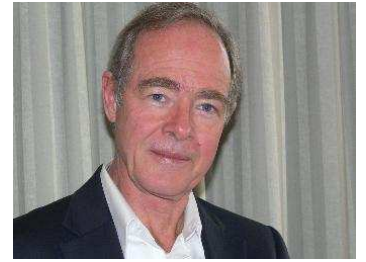
## Aviation Facts

- Each engine on a Boeing 747 weighs almost 9,500 pounds (4,300 kg), costs about \$8 million, and burns about 12 gallons of fuel per minute when cruising. Altogether the four engines account for about five per cent of the total weight of a full 747 upon takeoff.
- Even if you strapped on giant wings, you could never fly because the human heart can't pump blood quick enough to satisfy the enormous strain of flapping. When flying, a sparrow's heart pumps more than 450 times each minute!
- The windows in an airport control tower must be tilted out at exactly 15 degrees from the vertical to minimise reflections from both inside and outside the control tower.
- Cathay Pacific aircraft are equipped with toasters, cappuccino makers, rice cookers and skillets.
- A KLM 747-400 flight from Amsterdam to Australia carries an average of just over 1,000 kilogram's of food, and some 1,324 litres of beverages.
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by removing one olive from each salad served in first class.
- Virgin Atlantic says catering is its third biggest cost after fuel and engineering-maintenance.
- KLM is the world's oldest airline established in 1919.

Source: Dawn Magazine  
Compiled by The Surfer

## New President for Australian Division

The Australian Division is fortunate to have Andrew Drysdale as its new President for 2011-2012. Andrew has an impressive CV, having been CEO of both Hazelton and Air Pacific, and IATA VP Pacific, based in Singapore. His tact and diplomacy are excellent and his knowledge of Government and industry extensive. I wish him well and will support him as Past President. Andrew has been of help to me over the past year in his role as President Elect.



Source: extracted from article by David Forsyth, immediate Past-President, Australian Division Newsletter, March 2011

## Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Human Spaceflight

On the 12th April 1961, Yuri Gagarin blasted off the launch pad in Baikonur at 9:08 AM local time. Gagarin made his historic 108 minute flight (orbiting around the whole Earth once) and parachute landed near his Vostok 1 capsule in the plains of Russia. This flight made him the first human to orbit the Earth and an international hero.



Space Association of Australia in conjunction with VSSEC will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Yuri's Night and join the global release of Chris Riley's film First Orbit. First Orbit will also be streamed on YouTube on the 12th April.

To mark this significant event, a public talk on the topic Span in a Can—Human Spaceflight is being organised at Monash University.

For more information on the Yuri's Night, log on to <http://yurisnight.net/>

## Aerospace centres to be built in Australia

Melbourne aerospace researchers are working with leaders of the Russian space industry to build two space centres in Australia. Representatives of Russian Federation space agency are meeting with RMIT University researchers to discuss the development of two space tracking centres.

The proposed joint Russian-Australian venture would involve a space mission control centre and a near earth object space observation centre to track asteroids in the southern hemisphere.

RMIT University's Associate Professor in Aerospace Engineering, Lachlan Thompson, hopes the centres can be built in Victoria. "The Russians have all the equipment. They've got an equivalent facility already in Russia that works very well," he said.

"It's similar to what the Americans use in the United States and the European Space Agency uses in Spain. So the technology is there ready to go off the shelf."

Source: ABC News, February 28, 2011

## Branch Committee

**Chairman:** Domenico Lombardo

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Andrew Harrington

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**Asst. Events Manager:** Cynthia Chen

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**Membership Secretary:**

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**Committee Members:**

A/Prof. Cees Bil

Air Cdre Noel Schmidt

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<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).

## Lecture: Air Commodore Mark Lax (Retd)

The Melbourne Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society presents

The April 11, 2011 Lecture

### The F-111 in RAAF Service: A Retrospective: With AIR COMMODORE MARK LAX (Retd)

The F-111 was unique among the aircraft that the Royal Australian Air Force has operated throughout its history. Never before has one type had such a profound impact not only on the RAAF, but upon Australia's strategic policy outlook. From the moment it was ordered, however, the F-111 would be shrouded in controversy. Cost blow-outs, delivery delays, technical problems and an undeserved poor reputation meant that the aircraft's place in the frontline of Australia's defence would be continually challenged.



Despite the barbs, the aircraft survived to fly in Australia for nearly 40 years—a clear testimony to the skill and dedication of the men and women who flew, maintained and supplied it.

The presentation will cover this illustrious history, concentrating on the engineering and science aspects.

#### To Register

Bookings can be made by visiting our website

Or by contacting Anthony Patti:

*Email:* [raesnewsmelb@gmail.com](mailto:raesnewsmelb@gmail.com)

**Monday 11 April 2011**

**6pm for a 6.30pm start**

Engineers Australia, Victorian Division

21 Bedford Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051



If undeliverable return to:

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