

## **Ian Bowman Fleming, OBE**

Ian Bowman Fleming a notable Australian aviation engineer was born at Walcha, NSW in 1913. After completing studies at Sydney and Cambridge Universities, he then worked as a stress engineer for a year with A. V. Roe and Co in Manchester and then for a similar period with Fairey Aviation Co at Hayes, Middlesex. Returning to Australia, he was appointed assistant designer at the old Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation from 1939 to 1943 where he worked on the development of the Boomerang fighter.

In the early 1950s, he worked at the Government Aircraft Factory where he was responsible for the design and development of the Jindivik target aircraft. Over 500 of this small aircraft were produced with production occurring for 40 years.

Subsequently, Ian Fleming moved to the Department of Defence Production, which was later amalgamated into the Department of Supply. As Controller of Aircraft and Guided Weapons he had oversight of the licenced manufacture of the Mirage, Macchi, and Bell LOH aircraft programs; the indigenous production of the Nomad aircraft and the Ikara and Turana missiles; and the continuous reviews of the shape and role of the Australian Defence Aircraft Industry.

Ian Fleming was made an OBE in 1958. He was active in the Canberra Branch and served as President of the RAeS Australian Division between 1971 and 1973. He retired in the late 1970s and died in 1993.