



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
SYDNEY BRANCH

SEPTEMBER 2020

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NEWSLETTER

Webinar



Title: **‘Aerial Firefighting –
A North American Approach’**

Speaker: **Daniel Snyder**
Sr. Vice President
Neptune Aviation Services



Title: **‘The Role of Aerial
Firefighting assets’**

Speaker: **Chief Superintendent**
Ben Millington, Acting Director
Response & Co-ordination
NSW RURAL FIRE
SERVICE



Date: **Wednesday, 2nd September, 2020** Time: **18:30 hours** (sharp)

Webinar registration is required in advance by clicking on the link: <https://raessept20.eventbrite.com.au> (Please note that Sydney Branch members will be given first access to register by Wednesday 26th August, before registration opens Australia wide.) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Additionally, 10 minutes before the commencement of the Webinar a reminder will be automatically sent to all who had registered. **Attendance will attract 1.5 CPD hour**

Profile: Dan Snyder has been involved in both flight and maintenance related aviation for more than 26 years. He is currently the Sr. Vice President for Neptune Aviation Services where he manages Neptune's day-to-day operations, including aerial firefighting operations. www.neptuneaviation.com Prior to joining Neptune, Dan worked as a FAR Part 142 ground and simulator instructor, a part 135 check airman, and a FAA examiner. Over the years he has also worked as a corporate pilot, flight instructor, mechanic, and Director of Maintenance for several repair stations, and as a pilot flying in the State of Alaska. Dan holds FAA certificates; Airline Transport Pilot (ATP), Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) with Instrument (CFII) & Multi engine (MEI), Airframe & Powerplant Mechanic (A&P) and an Authorized Inspector (IA).

Dan lives outside Missoula, Montana with his wife Sheryl and their three children. In his spare time, Dan enjoys spending time with his family, exploring the Montana backcountry and flying.

Synopsis: 2019-20 has seen an unprecedented bush fire season in Australia with several lives lost, massive amounts of property damage and huge areas of Australia burnt out by the fires. Part of the response to these bush fires has been the deployment of fleets of aerial firefighting aircraft, ranging from single-engine helicopters to converted wide-bodied airliners. One of these, a C-130, tragically crashed during a firefighting mission with the loss of three lives.

This Royal Aeronautical Society Sydney Branch webinar will hear an introduction from Chief Superintendent Ben Millington, Acting Director Response and Co-ordination, NSW Rural Fire Service, and our international guest speaker, Mr Dan Snyder, Senior Vice President of US aerial firefighting company Neptune Aviation Services, a Montana-based company that currently operates a large fleet of ten BAe146AFT large air tanker firefighting aircraft. Neptune has been a contractor to the US Forest Service and the California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection for a quarter of a century



and is keen on providing their solution to Australia. Neptune has also provided services to Chile.

They will talk about the methodology of aerial firefighting and also the current technical and regulatory background: recruiting and training aircrews; aircraft modification and certification; basing and deployment; command and control; liaison with ground firefighters; maintenance; flight safety and new technologies.

Profile: Chief Superintendent Ben Millington is currently the Acting Director Response and Co-ordination, NSW Rural Fire Service reporting directly to the Commissioner Rob Rogers AFMS, NSW Rural Fire Service. Since January 2019, he held the position of the Manager, State Operations & Aviation (Chief Superintendent), NSW Rural Fire Service. www.rfs.nsw.gov.au In this role, he is responsible for the day to day workings of the State Operations Centre, Operational Communications Centre and State Air Desk. Before that he was the Manager, Emergency Management Co-ordination (Chief Superintendent), NSW Rural Fire Service, from August 2017–January 2019, was responsible for the Emergency Management, Fire Investigation & Compliance, Operational Capability and Counter Terrorism teams. Ben previous employment included: Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Disaster Management Specialist, Pacific Region for 1 year;

NSW Rural Fire Service: as Project Manager, Large/Very Large Air Tanker trial (Superintendent) for 1 year 2 months, and Manager, Emergency Management Co-ordination (Superintendent) for 4 years and eleven months; and NSW Police Force for 12 years.

Synopsis: Ben will introduce the evening and provide the role of the NSW Rural Fire Service - its Vision and Mission, Values, a brief update on key fire events in Australia which changed the way NSW Rural Fire Service manages the fire risks, the measures taken to respond to them, and the role of aerial firefighting assets. **PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**



Agenda: **18:30 Welcome** by Mr David Cox FRAeS, Chair of the Sydney Branch
18:35 Introduction by Chief Superintendent Ben Millington, Acting Director Response and Co-ordination, NSW Rural Fire Service
18:55 Presentation by Mr Dan Snyder, Chief Operating Officer, Neptune Aviation Services
19:40 Q&A
19:55 Vote of Thanks **20:00 End**

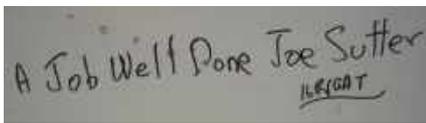
QANTAS FAREWELLS “QUEEN OF THE SKIES” THE LAST QANTAS BOEING 747 OUT OF SYDNEY – GONE



Qantas staff, stakeholders and media representatives gathered at Sydney Airport to bid farewell to the last Qantas Boeing 747-400ER (registration VH-OEJ). The farewell included speeches from Mr Alan Joyce AO FRAeS, CEO and Managing Director, Qantas Airways Group, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, and Leader of the National Party, and Dr Brendan Nelson AO, President Boeing Australia.



Mr Alan Joyce and Uncle Les jointly gave a ‘Country Farewell’ by simultaneously placing their right handprints on the fuselage of OEJ. All present were invited to write a ‘farewell’ message on OEJ as well as Mr Alan Joyce. To the left are some of the messages.



The final flight was operated by 6 Qantas pilots who were introduced to the attendees - Captain Sharelle Quinn, Captain Ewen Cameron,



Captain Greg Fitzgerald, Captain Owen Weaver FRAeS, F/O Quin Ledden, and S/O Owen Zupp. As Uncle Les and fellow indigenous performers sent VH-OEJ ‘Wunala’ on her way, OEJ was reversed from the hanger for the last time to the sound of the Qantas Choir’s ‘I still call Australia home’.



Captains Sharelle Quinn and Ewen Cameron receive a guard of honour as they board Qantas Airways flight QF7474

Prior to departure OEJ taxied around Mascot Airport past the “Shep’s Mound” viewing area (near the Control Tower) and received a water cannon salute.



OEJ departed Sydney at 15:28 hours 22nd July, 2020 as flight number QFA7474,

bringing to an end five decades of history-making moments for the national carrier and aviation in Australia. Qantas took delivery of its first 747 (a -200 series) in August 1971 - its arrival – and its economics – made international travel possible for millions of people for the first time. The fleet of 747 aircraft not only carried generations of Australians on their first overseas adventures, they also offered a safe voyage for hundreds of thousands of migrant families who flew to their new life in Australia on board a ‘roo tailed’ jumbo jet.



VH-OEJ passes “Shep’s Mound” as it prepares to take off from Sydney airport.
Peter Parks/AFP/Getty Images

Qantas 747s were at the forefront of a number of important milestones for the airline, including the first Business Class cabin of any airline in the world. Their size, range and incredible reliability meant they were used for numerous rescue missions: flying a record 674 passengers out of Darwin in the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy; evacuating Australians out of Cairo during political unrest in 2011 and flying medical supplies in and tourists home from the Maldives and Sri Lanka following the Boxing Day Tsunami in December 2004. The last rescue missions the 747 flew were to bring hundreds of stranded Australians home from the COVID-19 epicentre of Wuhan in February this year.

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce said the 747 changed the face of Australian aviation and ushered in a new era of lower fares and non-stop flights. “It’s hard to overstate the impact that the 747 had on aviation and a country as far away as Australia. It replaced the 707, which was a huge leap

forward in itself but didn't have the sheer size and scale to lower airfares the way the 747 did. That put international travel within reach of the average Australian and people jumped at the opportunity," Mr Joyce said. "This aircraft was well ahead of its time and extremely capable. Engineers and cabin crew loved working on them and pilots loved flying them. So did passengers. They have carved out a very special place in aviation history and I know they'll be greatly missed by a lot of people, including me. Time has overtaken the 747 and we now have a much more fuel efficient aircraft with even better range in our fleet, such as the 787 Dreamliner that we use on Perth-London and hopefully before too long, the Airbus A350 for our Project Sunrise flights non-stop to New York and London," added Mr Joyce.

Qantas has flown six different types of the 747, with Boeing increasing the aircraft's size, range and capability over the years with the advent of new technology and engine types.

Qantas's first female Captain, Sharelle Quinn*, was in command of the final flight and said the aircraft has a very special place in the hearts of not just Qantas staff, but aviation enthusiasts and travellers alike. I have flown this aircraft for 36 years and it has been an absolute privilege", Captain Quinn said. "From the Pope to pop stars, our 747's have carried over 250 million people safely to their destinations. Over the decades, it's also swooped in on a number of occasions to save Aussies stranded far from home." Captain Quinn added, "It has been a wonderful part of our history, a truly ground breaking aircraft and while we are sad to see our last one go, it's time to hand over to the next generation of aircraft that are a lot more efficient."



Qantas B747 Photo by [Tim Bowrey](#)

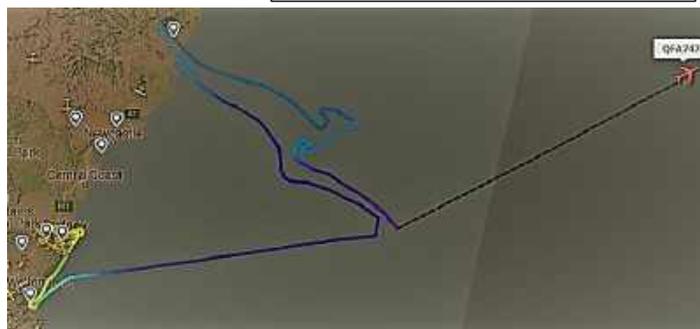
Captain Quinn and crew flew the 747 to Los Angeles with a full cargo hold of freight before its final sector to the Mojave. VH-OEJ, on departure from Mascot Airport, did two flybys of Sydney Harbour, flew over the CBD, northern and eastern suburbs beaches, as well as a low level overfly of HARS Museum (Albion Park) where it dipped its wings in a final farewell to Qantas' first 747-



VH-OEJ Over Wollongong
Photo by [Alex Partridge](#)

400, VH-OJA, which is preserved there. OEJ then headed out over the Pacific Ocean as the sun set on a 50-year love affair with Australians, and their beloved 'Queen of The Skies' tracked the iconic Qantas logo into its flight to Los Angeles Int'l (LAX).

**Sharelle Quinn has been flying 747s since she joined Qantas as one of the company's only two female pilots in 1984. Back then, she said it was nicknamed 'the gentleman's aeroplane' because it flew so smoothly. Ms Quinn said being chosen as a pilot for the final Qantas 747 flight was an exciting opportunity where she could show the plane to as many people as possible.*



THE LAST QANTAS B747 AT MOJAVE: Flight QF7474 arrived in Los Angeles Int'l (LAX) at 13:23 on July 22nd 2020 where the cargo was unloaded whilst the crew took a well-earned rest. OEJ made her final journey from Los Angeles to Mojave on July 24th 2020 touching down at Mojave around 11:50, after a 30 minute flight flying at 13,000 ft which was operated by Captains Ewen Cameron and Greg Fitzgerald, who both retired after this flight. To watch OEJ land



at Mojave click on: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1286834384717221894> - end of the era 1971-2020.

OEJ joined 5 of her other B747-400/ER sister-ships in storage. Four of them are pictured on the previous page.

Fast Facts

Flight number: QF7474
Aircraft registration: VH-OEJ
Aircraft name: Wunala
Year delivered: 2003 (30th July)

- The first Qantas 747-238 was VH-EBA, named City of Canberra and the first ever Qantas 747 flight was on 17 September 1971 from Sydney to Singapore (via Melbourne), carrying 55 first class and 239 economy passengers.
- In almost 50 years of service, the Qantas Boeing 747 fleet of aircraft has flown over 3.6 billion kilometres, the equivalent of 4,700 return trips to the moon or 90,000 times around the world.
- Qantas operated a total number of 65 747 aircraft including the 747-100, 747-200, 747-SP, 747-300, 747-400 and the 747-400ER and each had specific capabilities such as increased thrust engines and increased take-off weight to allow longer range operations.
- The 747-SP was the first 747 model that allowed non-stop operations across the Pacific in 1984 which meant travellers no longer had to “hop” their way across the Pacific and could fly from Australia to the west coast of the US non-stop. The 747-400 which Qantas operated from 1989 opened up the US west coast cities non-stop, and one-stop to European capitals.
- In 1979, Qantas became the first airline to operate an all Boeing 747 fleet.
- The 747 also broke records, including in 1989 when Qantas crew flew a world first non-stop commercial flight from London to Sydney in 20 hours and nine minutes. That thirty-year record was only broken in 2019 when Qantas operated a 787 Dreamliner London-Sydney direct in 19 hours and 19 minutes.
- The Qantas 747-200, -300 & -400 models had a fifth engine pod capability that could carry an additional engine on commercial flights, a capability that was used extensively in early days of the 747-200 when engine reliability required engines to be shipped to all parts of the world. Improved engine reliability of the 747-400 and 747-400ER made this capability redundant.

[Image library and Qantas 747 historic fact sheet.](#)



100 years - the Spirit of Australia: "The story of Qantas is the story of modern Australia – past, present and future. It's a remarkable and unlikely tale of how a humble air mail operation in outback Queensland became a national carrier flying over 50 million passengers a year. It's a story of service – through peace, war, natural disaster and national celebration. It's a story of innovation – from a 31-stop, 12 day flight to London, to operating the world's first non-stop flights between Australia and Europe. But most of all, it's a story shared by all



Australians. Thanks for joining us in Qantas' Centenary year as we celebrate that story and look towards creating new stories for future generations to tell." Alan Joyce, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Qantas Airways Limited. Refer for further details: qantas.com/au/en/100-years-of-the-spirit-of-australia

Society Merchandise for Sale: Sydney Branch has a selection of Society Merchandise for sale at its regular monthly meetings. Items include Society Ties, Tee Shirts, Caps, Pins, Lapel Badges, Silver Kestrel Brooches, and Mugs.



Our Sales Director, Mr David Adkins, accepts cash, cheques, and credit cards through PayPal.

Closed Member Only Group on Facebook: Sydney branch is live video streaming our monthly branch lectures. Watch lectures live or later, at the “RAeS - Sydney Branch - Members Only” group within Facebook. Please note that this service is only available to financial members of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Past Newsletters are now stored on our website: Members are advised that all Sydney Branch Newsletters since February 2012 are now stored on our website. To access this information enter our web address (www.raes.org.au) into your browser, click ‘Branches’, then ‘Sydney Branch’, and scroll this page to the heading ‘Sydney Branch Newsletters’. Newsletters are arranged by month within each year heading.

Aerospace Websites: www.57rescuecanada.com : Follow Capt. Karl Kjarsgaard’s adventures to recover Halifax bomber LW170 which is resting beneath 5000ft of water off the Irish coast; <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/conversations/beverley-bass/11060672> : Podcast - This is your captain speaking. On the morning of the attack on New York's Twin Towers, Captain Beverley Bass was flying from Paris to Fort Worth, Texas.

www.adastron.com/707/updates/updates.htm : Diary of Boeing 707-138B XBA formally Qantas EBA. <https://www.aerosociety.com/events/catch-up-on-events/video-audio-archive/> : Many podcasts and videos of previous presentations including Vulcan to the Skies (podcast and video), and The U-2 Reconnaissance Aircraft Incident of 1 May 1960 (podcast only).

<https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/assembly-bio-harness-armstrong-apollo-11>

www.airshow.com.au

www.atsb.gov.au

www.aviationmuseum.com.au - Temora Aviation Museum;

<http://boxkite2014.org/book/book.htm> - The Boxkite project.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Trent;

hars.org.au Historical Aircraft Restoration Society

<https://herox.com/SpacePoop> The Space Poop Challenge

<https://news.northropgrumman.com/news/features/apollo-13-failure-was-not-an-option> - Fifty years ago April 17, 1970, the Apollo 13 Command Module and crew safely returned home.

www.powerhousemuseum.com/whatson

<https://qfom.com.au/> Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach, Qld

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZ4WmKy8zkY&feature=youtu.be&dm_i=4OGU,VYG8,2ZCD,RJ,3XM4J,1 Video - Talking with Paul Stein, Chief Technology Officer at Rolls-Royce

<http://www.singaporeairshow.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGjmRRTThdk> How TIME created their new cover image with 958 drones



http://www.rbogash.com/B-52/B-52_Disassembly.html How to move a B-52 without flying it – The Final Disassembly and Transport Update for the move scheduled 3/6/2018 - with the wings split and the fuselage in final stages of prep before hitting the freeway.

<https://www.spitfireassociation.com> THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION “Keeping the memory alive” Patron; Air Vice-Marshal Mark Skidmore AM (Ret’d), and President RAeS Australian Division.

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ALL OF THESE DATES MAY CHANGE
TO KEEP INFORMED OF DATE CHANGES REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE WEBSITE**

Diary: 5-8 October: AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2020 – Find Your Edge – will now take place entirely as a virtual event over the planned dates of October 5 – 8! While it was our collective hope that the fall would bring about a safe opportunity for our community to engage in-person in Dallas, the current rise in COVID-19 cases has made clear the need for a safe alternative.



XPONENTIAL 2020 is the global stage for everything unmanned - from state-of-the-art propulsion technology, sensors, energy storage and UAS mitigation solutions to what's coming over the horizon in AI, 5G, edge computing and more. As the largest, most significant event for the unmanned systems industry, you'll find your edge as you hear from industry luminaries. Further details to be provided shortly - refer: www.xponential.org/xponential2020

14 October: ‘Loyal Wingman’ national webinar to be presented by Dr Shane Arnott, Program Manager Loyal Wingman, Boeing Research and Technology Australia. Webinar will open to all Society Members Australia wide – non-members can sign in for a nominal fee of \$10. Further details will be provided shortly.

Wednesday, November: The 62nd Sir Charles Kingsford Smith Lecture will be presented by Mr Alan Joyce AC FRAeS, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Qantas Airways Limited, via Webinar – date and details are being considered and will be advised shortly.

7-8 November: Wings over Illawarra – The Sydney Airshow - Immerse yourself in history as you wander through rare displays of vintage and classic aircraft including the fully-restored Super Constellation and record breaking Qantas 747 along with some beautifully restored WW2 fighters. In 2020 your entry ticket will once again include access to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society aircraft that are open for inspection. To thank the supporters of the Wings Over Illawarra event this year, WoI are offering tickets for the 2020 event at half price - but be quick, they're only available for a limited time. For further information please refer: <https://www.wingsoverillawarra.com.au/>



16- 22 November: Qantas Centenary Birthday Week (confirmed) – The Longreach Qantas Founders Museum will host a week of activities to celebrate the Qantas centenary. For more information: qfom.com.au/event/qantas-centenary-birthday-week/ For personal contact: *Nicole Kuttner, Communications Manager, Qantas Founders Museum & Qantas Foundation Memorial, P.O. Box 737, Longreach, Q. 4730 T: (07) 4658 3737 F: (07) 4658 0707 M:*



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24 November: The RAeS Australian Division will be running a Webinar featuring Boeing. Further details will be provided shortly.

28 Jan-4 Feb, 2021: 43rd Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and Associated Events - COSPAR 2021 will be held in Sydney. Host Organization: Australian Academy of Science; Scientific Program Chair: Prof. Iver Cairns, University of Sydney, School of Physics. Abstract Deadline – closed. Abstract acceptances and program notification letters were sent out 31st March, 2020. The theme of the COSPAR 2021 Assembly is *Connecting Space Research for Global Impact*. More information can be found at www.cospar2020.org



March 31, 2021: Marks the Royal Australian Air Force 100 years as an independent service. For further details refer: airforce.gov.au/our-mission/air-force-2021

15-17 June, 2021: ROTORTECH 2020 has been deferred to this date. It will be held at the same venue - Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane. Registration process is being updated and is currently not available. Refer further details: <https://www.rotortech.com.au/visit/registration.asp>



June 24, 2021: Aviation Safety Australia 2020 has been deferred 1 year to 24th June 2021 – due to COVID-19 pandemic. A new program will be issued at the start of the new year and Invitations will be reissued in

early 2021. Registrations remain open at 2020 prices, which will not be adjusted until January 2021. For further details and to register at 2020 prices refer: <https://www.raes.org.au/eventdetails/5392/aviation-safety-forum-2021>

Postponed – New dates to be confirm in 2021: Dr Behrooz Barzegar, recently retired from Airbus. He will discuss his Integration and Architectural roles in Airbus entitled ‘**Aerodynamic Design of Commercial Aircraft - Airbus A380 and the future**’ including the Beluga XL.

Postponed – New dates to be confirm in 2021: Celebration of the Qantas Centenary Fly



In - The weekend is designed for general aviators and enthusiasts alike to fly to Longreach, celebrate the centenary of Qantas and explore the many wonders of our outback town. For personal contact: *Nicole Kuttner, Communications Manager, Qantas Founders Museum & Qantas Foundation Memorial, P.O. Box 737, Longreach, Q. 4730 T: (07) 4658 3737 F: (07) 4658 0707 M: 0428583787*



Postponed – New dates to be confirm in 2021:– The Longreach Qantas Founders Museum will host a 1920s themed evening gala to open this Longreach Qantas Hangar, where guests will enjoy delicious canapes and a unique dinner under the stars. During the evening, guests will be entertained by a 1920’s swing band Serenity, local performances exceptional weekend to celebrate the centenary of Qantas Airways. The gala evening will be held in the 1922 National Heritage Listed and fireworks. The weekend is designed to celebrate the centenary of Qantas. For personal contact: *Nicole Kuttner, Communications Manager, Qantas Founders Museum & Qantas Foundation Memorial, P.O. Box 737, Longreach, Q. 4730 T: (07) 4658 3737 F: (07) 4658 0707 M: 0428583787*



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November 23-28, 2021: The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition



(AVALON 2021) - As the centrepiece of the Royal Australian Air Force’s Centenary celebrations, AVALON 2021 is Australia’s own signature international aviation, aerospace and defence event and will have great national and international significance. Organised by AMDA Foundation Limited, it is a premium international platform for engagement between industry, defence, government and academia. Deferring AVALON 2021 to November will ensure the event serves its purpose as a powerful promotional and industry engagement forum on the way to business recovery and as a spectacular celebration of 100 years of the Royal Australian Air Force.

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