Sydney Business Lunch in September

The second of the Australian Division’s series of business lunches is to be held in Sydney on Thursday the 1st of September this year.

Virgin Australia CEO John Borghetti will feature in an interview with media personality Ticky Fullerton. The event, which will run from midday to 2pm, will be held at The Four Seasons hotel at 199 George Street, Sydney. RAeS members and Corporate Partners receive a discounted rate for this prestigious event.

A door prize will be drawn from attendees. Bookings at Eventbrite or contact the General Manager on 0417695002 or generalmanager@raes.org.au

A Message from the Division President

The Society is now well embarked upon its 150th year celebrations with many events underway in the UK. Here in the Division the Branches are dedicating their respective ‘Named Lecture’ to the sesquicentenary and the Governor General hosted a reception for the Division and distinguished guests at Admiralty House in Sydney on 8th July. The available room size constrained attendance to Councillors and some branch representatives.

Whilst our history and that of our parent Society is very significant, this organisation has always been future-focused. In this vein the Division has implemented an education and research Grants program which draws on the funding support from our Corporate Partners.

Over the last year our foundation Corporate Partners Qantas, Aerospace Australia, Boeing and the RAAF have been joined by Airbus Group Australia Pacific, Airservices, Qinetiq Australia and Virgin Australia, providing greater assurance of sponsorship sustainability.

The Council has just confirmed the first grant will go to a student group from RMIT who are finalists in the SpaceX sponsored ‘Hyperloop’ design/build/test competition scheduled for later this year in Los Angeles (search for ‘SpaceX Hyperloop’). Our thanks go to all our Corporate Partners for enabling this Grants program to be brought to fruition.

Another way of providing important support to innovation and growth in Australia’s aerospace sector is the Division’s ‘Gold’ sponsorship of the Australian Youth Aerospace Association Aerospace Futures conference, which has just been held in Sydney. The Division has sponsored this conference in past years and we have a Memorandum of Understanding with AYAA that provides for mutual recognition and support.

The Division had a significant presence with Councillor Andrew Drysdale making a presentation on the benefits of Society membership and on the future outlook for global civil aviation. The Sydney Branch manned a stall, from which we have already received over 50 student membership applications.

In a further first the Division hosted an enlightening Webinar in April on Sydney’s Second Airport. Whilst this was, by its nature, Sydney-centric future webinars will cover more general subject matter.

I visited London in June, attending the Council meeting where I made a short presentation on the Division’s current initiatives and recent activities and on plans for the next year or so. During the lunch break we had a small ceremony when I presented the Division’s 1966 Centenary painting to the Council President on permanent loan, in acknowledgement of the Society’s Sesquicentenary.

The Senior Business Leaders lunch program continues with John Borghetti FRAeS CEO of Virgin Australia being interviewed at the next lunch on 1 September in Sydney. Additional sessions with very high profile industry leaders will continue into 2017.

John Vincent CEng FRAeS President Australian Division

Vale John Mills FRAeS

In 2014 the Australian Division Constitution and Rules were amended to allow for the award of Life Member for long and outstanding service to the Division or its Branches and to the attainment of the objectives of the Society. Council determined that John Mills FRAeS should receive what would be the inaugural award, because John was the longest surviving member of the RAeS in Australia, achieving 79 years of membership. On the 8 March 2015 John celebrated his 100th birthday and received a congratulatory letter from the Society President. John Mills passed away on 1 April this year.
Division Website Developments

Further development and improvements have been carried out on the Australian Division’s new online systems, including a membership management and communication platform. Computer security has been implemented based on the SSL function to manage and update the web platform including allowing members to view and edit their own contact information. A Business Continuity Plan has been developed and tested as well as complete documentation which has been made available to all branches. The web solution also provides a statistical function. This has many analytical variables making it a useful tool to understand how members (and non-members) interact with our email content. Additionally, wide-spread electronic distribution of the Australian Division newsletter was first trialled for the January edition. This initiative will help to reduce the need for both printing and postage costs, reduce unnecessary waste, and provide a medium for which all Branches have access to a single, online communication tool.

Stratos Patsikatheodorou, Webmaster

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Horace Leung is an Armament Systems Engineer for Airbus Group AP providing engineering advice, services and products to certify weapon systems on the Australian Army’s Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter Tiger.

His previous position at Airbus Group AP was to deliver new avionics capabilities to another Australian Army’s helicopter, the MRH90 Taipan, the first fly-by-wire controlled helicopter.

Prior to working at Airbus Group AP, Horace began his career as an Explosive Ordnance Engineer at QinetiQ after being accepted in the graduate program. He is a CPEng MIEAust and a Registered Professional engineer in QLD.

He has served on the Society’s Queensland Branch Committee for over eight years as a student representative for QUT, newsletter editor and treasurer before becoming the Chair in 2016. His major contribution to the Queensland Branch was managing the incorporation of the Branch. Horace has lived in Brisbane for over 23 years after his dad migrated to Australia from Hong Kong in 1989. Whilst his ambition was to work in a space program, after graduating from QUT with first class honours in Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace Avionics he chose to stay in Australia to contribute to the country he has grown to love.

New Australian Division Councillors

Major Keirin Joyce is an ADFA 2001 graduate and his first posting was to A Squadron of the 5th Aviation Regiment. In 2004 he was promoted to Captain and posted to the Aviation Support Group Workshop, maintaining the School of Army Aviation’s fleet of helicopters. In 2006, Major Joyce was posted to 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment as the Army’s first UAV Engineer. At the start of 2008, Major Joyce took up an appointment within the DMO on JP129 Phase 2 (Tactical UAV) as the Logistics Engineer. In 2010 Major Joyce was posted as the Staff Officer for Aviation Logistics within Army HQ. Major Joyce was instrumental in realising the Shadow 200 UAV capability and was seconded back to DMO as the Project Manager. He was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2012 Australia Day Honours List. In 2012 Major Joyce posted back to 20 STA Regt involving a very wide span of command, including time as Acting CO.

Major Joyce spent 2014 as the Chief of Army Scholar and in 2015 attended the Australian Command and Staff Course. He is now the Military Advisor to the Head of Modernisation and Strategic Planning - Army. Major Joyce is a Chartered Professional Engineer, holds a Masters in Aviation Management, a Masters of Aerospace Engineering, a Masters in Military and Defence Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education and he is currently researching part time as a Doctorate of Philosophy student through ADFA. He has been a committee member of Canberra and Queensland Branches and was elected Chairman of the Canberra Branch in November 2015.
Corporate Partners Renew Support

Established corporate partners Airbus Group Australia Pacific, Airservices Australia and Virgin Australia have renewed their partnership agreements for another 12 months. These agreements provide much valued support for the activities of the Australian Division which are related to the goals of the Royal Aeronautical Society in terms of fostering knowledge, expertise and professionalism in all aerospace disciplines in this country and of supporting and developing youth in their engagement with the aerospace industry in all its facets.

Lawrence Hargrave Award

The Australian Division’s prestigious Lawrence Hargrave Award is presented biennially at the Australian International Airshow and Aerospace and Defence Exposition, which will be held from February 28 to March 5 next year at Avalon. The announcement of the recipient will be made at the Opening Ceremony of the Airshow. The Award honours one of the true Australian pioneers of flight. Hargrave’s experiments with box kites at Stanwell Park near Sydney in the 1890s proved to be one of the most significant early developments in aviation. Nominations of individuals deserving of this significant award are invited and may be directed to the General Manager at generalmanager@raes.org.au for forwarding to the Awards Committee. Nominations will close 15 November 2016.

Vice Regal function celebrates 150 years

Australia’s Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove (pictured right) hosted a celebration of the sesquicentenary of the RAeS at Admiralty House in Sydney on the evening of Friday 8 July. The event, which was co-hosted by the Australian Division President John Vincent, was attended by various dignitaries, corporate partners, most members of the Division’s Council (below) and other Fellows and Members. Those present included the President of Boeing Australia, Maureen Dougherty, the Chairman of the CASA board, Jeff Boyd, the CASA Director of Safety, Mark Skidmore, the Chief Commissioner of the ATSB, Greg Hood and the Commander of the Fleet Air Arm, CDRE Chris Smallhorn.