Upcoming Events

Next Branch Meeting

Date: Wednesday 26th March, 2003
Time: 7.30 pm
Speaker: David Craddock
Topic: ‘Aeronautics in Australia before 1904’ In Honour of Lawrence Hargrave
Venue: Hudson Fysh Room, The Holiday Inn, Sydney Airport (cnr O’Riordan St & Bourke Rd, Mascot).

Catering: All members and visitors are invited to attend a buffet dinner ($35 pp including soft drinks and wine) with the speaker, Committee and other members at 6:00 pm. Alternatively the Hotel Bar will be open before and after the meeting.

RSVP If you are planning to attend the dinner please remember to advise Jeff Lock at jeff.lock@bigpond.com

Parking: Limited car parking is available at the Hotel, or in the Qantas Visitors Car Park across the road from the Holiday Inn entrance. Please observe any parking restrictions.

Synopsis:

Australia’s early aviation history nearly always seems to begin and end with Lawrence Hargrave. Certainly he was an important and prominent figure in the development of aeronautical science, but he was not alone. Sometimes a brief mention is made of Francis Forbes, William Bland, Henry Sutton and even Wilfred Kernot. Discussion of the real possibility of aerial navigation began in the Antipodes during May, 1843. The instigation was the arrival of English news reports of W.S. Henson’s proposed Aerial Steam Carriage.

This talk will present some new characters in the unfolding story of Australia’s original proponents of the conquest of the air. The research sources are primary, based mainly on newspaper articles and letters of the correspondents from around the Australian colonies. Those first correspondents suggested variations to Henson’s machine as their own. These were basically simple, un-cambered wings with various arrangements of propellers that were either flat bladed fans, or marine screws. When news arrived of Monck Mason’s balloon concept, local Australian interest again flourished. One of those who accepted the challenge was the astronomer, James Dunlop.

The 1850s heralded the first successful balloon flights in Australia. It was not until the 1870s that some original and practical ideas emerged through Sutton, Hargrave and others, who began scientific investigations. The next two decades show-cased flying models, kites and full sized ‘aircraft’, which generally resulted in embarrassment.

This talk will explore some of the aeronautical activities in Australia from the earliest times, when ideas were only generated by news reports from England, to that era during the 1890s when Hargrave published the results of his experiments, and others listened.

Mr Craddock is one of Australia’s leading experts in the history of Australian aviation. He is the author of 4 volumes in his series ‘A chronology of Australian designed gliders, sailplanes & human-powered aircraft’, with 3 others in production.

He began his career with Hawker De Havilland, in 1968, studying Aeronautical Engineering at the University of New South Wales. His engineering career has included work on the Douglas DC-9 and DC-10, Boeing 727 & 757, Lockheed L1011, British Aerospace Airbus A310 and the Wamira (Basic Pilot Training Aircraft), intended for the RAAF.

Mr Craddock will be happy to have further discussions about the history of aviation with members and visitors after the meeting.
2003 Kingsford Smith Lecture

As most of you are aware by now, this date marks the centenary of powered flight.

As reported in the last newsletter, the Sydney Branch will hold a celebration dinner to mark this historic event on the actual day – December 17. If you haven’t put it in your diary already do so now! The event will be held in a new and exciting venue, we are planning a great programme which will include the presentation of the Kingsford Smith Medal.

More information will be released over the coming months. Watch this space!

Aviation Treasures Night

The State Library of NSW and the Australian Division of the RAeS are co-hosting an ‘Aviation Treasures Night on the 18th March – the anniversary of the first flight in Australia by Harry Houdini.

Thirty-five articles will be on display including in-flight notes from Kingsford Smith to Ulm, Hargrave documentation and much more. Researchers from the Library and the RAeS will assist at the tables.

Date: Tuesday 18th March, 2003
Time: 5.30 for 6.00 pm until 8.00pm (approx)
Venue: State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney.
Catering: Light refreshments will be served.
Cost: A special price of $20 per head and preferential booking arrangements have been made for RAeS members.

To Book: Call the Library booking line (02) 9273 1770. There is a limit of 150 tickets offered on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. Please mention when calling that you are a member of the RAeS.

The Australian Division will be making a donation towards the continued preservation of the collection.

Movie Treasures: Flight into Glory

Bring your lunch and enjoy a FREE movie during your lunch-break!

To commemorate the centenary of flight, the State Library of NSW presents:

‘Smithy: the immortal story of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith’ (1946, 117 minutes).

This is a classic movie directed by Ken Hall and starring Ron Randell as Sir Charles Kingsford Smith. The screening includes newsreel coverage of the gala opening at the State Theatre.

Date: Friday 14th March, 2003
Time: 12.10pm
Venue: Metcalfe Auditorium, Macquarie Street Wing, State Library of NSW.
Cost: Free, no bookings required.

Movie Treasures is an occasional series presenting Australia’s rich heritage. For more information, or to be placed on the Movie Treasures mailing list, call (02) 9273 1770.

Last Month’s Meeting

Lecture Synopsis

The Sydney branch was fortunate that Lee Balthazor, President of the RAeS, was able to give this lecture, entitled ‘Improving Results by the Systematic Management of Risk in Aerospace’ during his recent visit to Australia.

We all know as a fact that risks exist in aviation. In order to ensure the ongoing success of aviation those risks need to be managed.

It is important to identify as many risks as possible before the commencement of a project. Given that not all risks can be identified prior to commencement, constant monitoring must also be part of the project to ensure any new risks are discovered as soon as possible.

The management of risks is a balance between risk and reward. High risk can present an opportunity, as the benefits of taking the risk may outweigh the negative consequences associated with it. The odds of the risk actually occurring may be such that the risk is worth taking.

Part of this process of risk management is the involvement of other members of a team, and efficient communication between all parties concerned. This in itself is a risk that needs to be managed.

There are various levels of risk which can be basically categorised as follows:

- What we know.
- What we don’t know.
- What we don’t know we don’t know.

Continued over…
**Last Month’s Lecture (continued…)**

Once risk is identified, it can be reduced by, or avoided completely, by correct planning. It may be possible to transfer the risk to another area, or accept the risk as worth taking.

In most cases, the risk will be managed in the most cost effective way. But if the risk is accepted, it is a good idea to have a contingency plan in place in the event that the risk is realised.

It is important to ensure that risk is managed throughout a project’s life.

If we don’t know what we don’t know, we know we will find out at some stage, so we should be ready for it.

Mr Balthazor used the Nimrod upgrade as an example of a series of poorly managed risks. The project was managed in such a way that the risks were not properly accounted for before the project started, nor were they acted upon as they were discovered. The resulting ignorance of the risks involved has led to all of them coming to the fore at once, delaying the project significantly.

Had the risks been identified prior to the project’s commencement and dealt with then or even as they arose, the project would not have got as out of hand as it has.

Ultimately risk management is the responsibility of everybody involved in a project. By using personal risk ownership and naming responsible individuals, risk management is made a little easier.

However nothing can replace the application of common sense.

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**Compilation Video**

**100 Years of Australian Aviation**

After the conclusion of last month’s lecture, Jeff Watson was inducted as a Fellow of the Society by RAeS President, Lee Balthazor.

Jeff then presented the video tape he has compiled of 100 years of Australian Aviation, which runs for 10 minutes.

The video will be made available for sale to members later in the year, and the Society is hoping to use it to publicise the centenary of flight to a wider audience.

More information about the tape will be available in the coming months.

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**2003 Biennial Careers Day**

**Date Confirmed!**

This year, the Royal Aeronautical Society, Sydney Branch will be holding its Biennial Careers Day.

**Date:** Wednesday, 14th May, 2003

**Venue:** The Power House Museum, Harris Street, Ultimo.

**Time:** from 9:00am to 4:00pm

A number of Aviation employment and training organisations will be represented in an expo-style exhibition, targeted at students in years 10, 11 and 12 in New South Wales.

In addition, there will be a series of informative 30 minute seminars from representatives drawn from throughout the aviation community.

To further encourage students to take up a career in aviation and to assist them in achieving this goal, Mike Cuming will conduct a seminar three times during the day on CV compilation, personal presentation and interview technique. The seminar will run for approximately 30 minutes.

Mike is a former recruiter for aviation recruiting company Mike Cuming & Associates Pty. Ltd., and has run this highly recommended seminar at previous RAeS careers days.

More detailed information will follow in the coming weeks, so please be sure to visit the Sydney Branch website for further updates.

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**Reports**

**Audited Branch Financial Report & Chairman’s Report 2002**

The Branch Financial Report and the Chairman’s Report on the Branch and Committee activities for 2002 are currently with the auditor, and therefore will not be available in time for inclusion with this Newsletter.

Both reports will be available for the April Newsletter.

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**Member News**

**Subscription Notices**

Subscription notices for 2003 have been sent out.

Members will notice that they can now use BPAY.

If you have not received your subscription notice, please contact the Secretary at the Sydney branch email address.