

The Melbourne Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society

Newsletter

May 2010



From the Editor

April saw the presentation of two very interesting events. Mr. Fred Abbink, the General Director at NLR in the Netherlands, provided a unique insight into the history of the NLR. The following week, Captain Richard Woodward presented a reflection on a stellar career as a flight-test pilot.

In May, we have the privilege of hearing from the international President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Dr. Michael Steeden. Dr. Steeden has a diverse career in aerospace and defence, and will be providing a very interesting perspective on current aerospace issues – for anyone who is interested in the ‘big picture’ perspective, this is not an event to be missed!

We are also rescheduling the Aerosonde event to June 15.

In other news, the Branch will be moving! Well, moving postal address. See page 3 for details.

Also this month, *The Transponder* interviews Mr. Stratos Patsikatheodorou, aerospace student, and Webmaster for the Branch.

Best Regards,
Luke Webb

**\$323,000,000,
000.00**

*The investment total
the U.S. now expects to
pay to develop and acquire
2,457 Joint Strike
Fighters*

(Government Accountability Office, 2010)

May Event

Research and other reflections : UK aerospace and defence research and other diversions of a Society President

Presented by: Dr Michael Steeden, BSc, MBA, PhD, CDipAF, FloD, CPhys, CEng, FInstP, FRAeS,
President,

Royal Aeronautical Society

Date: Monday 10th May 2010

Time: 6.00pm for 6.30pm Start

Where: Engineers Australia Auditorium, 21 Bedford St, North Melbourne

Cost: Free



See Page Two for a flyer to display and give to colleagues.

June Event

Aerosonde: Recent developments, operations and future plans

Presented by: Aerosonde

Date: Tuesday 15th June 2010

Time: Please arrive promptly before 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start

Where: Level 1, 850 Lorimer St, Port Melbourne (the offices of GKN Aerospace Engineering Services)

RSVP: Pre-Registrations not required, but please allow time for signing in at the door. This is a free event and all are welcomed.



The last few years of Aerosonde's evolution has seen the development of a new fuselage & larger wing, the introduction of net recovery, and improved catapult launch. A presentation by members of Aerosonde's engineering and operations group will provide an overview of these activities, the challenges, trials and tribulations of small UAS and a look at what's

Important Venue Information:

GKN Aerospace Engineering Services is kindly hosting the event at their offices located at Level 1, 850 Lorimer St, Port Melbourne. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the lecture start time (i.e., not later than 6.15pm) to allow time for sign-in. Pre-registration is not required for this event.

The Melbourne Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society presents

Research and other reflections : UK aerospace and defence research and other diversions of a Society President

Presented by

Dr Michael Steeden, BSc, MBA, PhD, CDipAF,

FloD, CPhys, CEng, FInstP, FRAeS

President,

Royal Aeronautical Society



Speaker Profile

Mike Steeden was born in London and brought up and educated in Kent. His passion for aerospace began with the Air Cadets and his early experiences as a Private Pilot. Qualifying subsequently as a research nuclear physicist his first 10 years in employment were spent in the Defence Nuclear community. His subsequent 12 years in the MoD were focused on national and international military aerospace with appointments including Director, Military Aircraft in the MoD Procurement Executive, Director, Air Systems Sector at DERA Farnborough and Director, Aircraft Test and Evaluation at DERA Boscombe Down. More recently he spent 6 years in the private sector first as President and Managing Director of Computing Devices Company Ltd and then as Director, Civil Air Transport at SBAC. During his time in SBAC Mike played a significant role in the development of the Aerospace Innovation & Growth Team National Aerospace Technology Strategy and led for the Association on Air Travel Greener by Design and the Sustainable Aviation initiative. Mike is currently Technical Director at the UK MoD's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and a Non-Executive Director of Ploughshare Innovations Ltd and Tetricus Ltd.

Mike has been active for more than a decade in the Society, serving since 1996 as a Member of the Council of the RAeS, between 1998 and 2005 as Chairman of the Professional Standards Board and since 1996 as a member of the Medals and Awards Committee, latterly as Vice-Chairman. Mike led the 1993 Medals and Awards Review. He chaired the Boscombe Down Branch of the Society between 1998 and 2000.

He is a Chartered Engineer, a Chartered Physicist, a Fellow of both the Institute of Physics and the Royal Aeronautical Society, a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers. Mike is married to Hilary and they have a daughter, Emma and a son, Simon.

Monday 10th May 2010

6.00pm for 6.30pm Start

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

All welcome to this free event



Aeronautical News Brief

Arrival of the Rhino

AMBERLEY: The first five of an eventual fleet of 24 F/A-18F Super Hornet's were delivered to the Royal Australian Air Force in late March. The next seven aircraft are expected to arrive in Australia in July.

Quickstep JSF Agreement

PERTH: Quickstep Holdings has signed an Manufacturing License Agreement (MLA) with Northrop Grumman for the manufacture of up to \$700million of components for the Joint Strike Fighter. The agreement is part of a process that aims for a commencement of component manufacture in 2012.

Australian Student off to NASA Academy

MELBOURNE: Elizabeth Blaber, from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New South Wales, will be the first Australian student to join the NASA Academy program and realise her dream of working on a current NASA project. "The VSSEC-NASA Australian Space Prize will permit me to collaborate and share ideas with other students from the field. It will enable me to work on a topic that is of international interest, as well as affording me the opportunity to learn how to utilize state of the art equipment to further enhance my research goals." said Elizabeth. Elizabeth was one of four category winners to be presented to NASA for consideration. She will spend 10 weeks working at NASA Ames in California.

Australia, US Launch Hypersonic Rocket

WOOMERA: Military scientists with Australia and the United States successfully launched a hypersonic rocket from Australia's Woomera Test Range March 22, the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) said in a press release. This was the second launch under the Hypersonic International Flight Research Experimentation program, a "joint effort of DSTO and the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory."

Address Change

The Melbourne Branch has moved ... its postal address.

Our St. Kilda Road post-office box has now been replaced with the following address:

**Royal Aeronautical Society
C/-Engineers Australia
Suite 201
21 Bedford St
North Melbourne VIC 3051**

Please address any correspondence to this new location.

Heli & UV Conference

Running since 2004, Heli & UV Pacific has proven to be a key event for the military and parapublic rotorcraft and the unmanned systems communities to network, discuss and demonstrate their products and experiences in the Australasian region. It includes a static display and always attracts high numbers of senior attendees.

Running alongside the exhibition on 26-27 May will be two 2-day conferences:

Helicopter conference - looking at the rotorcraft industry as a whole, examining military developments and also discussing issues affecting civil and para-public operations.

Unmanned Vehicles conference - covering unmanned systems in all three operating environments; air, land and sea. On 25 May 2010 there will be a series of helicopter and unmanned vehicles pre-conference workshops.

For more information, visit

[<http://www.shephard.co.uk/events/54/heli-amp-uv-pacific-2010/>]

Checklist

Year of Engineering Leadership

Engineers Australia has designated 2010 as the Year of Engineering Leadership. The purpose is to demonstrate how engineers are ambassadors in shaping the future, and to celebrate and recognise such achievements.

To help recognise Engineering Leaders the aim is for the members of the engineering profession to act as advocates for the Year of Engineering Leadership and identify ways to support the key messages for the year. This includes the Make It So campaign (see right).

The Centre for Engineering Leadership & Management (CELM) will also be holding monthly seminars around the theme. Visit engineersaustralia.org.au and search "CELM" for more details.

Make It So Campaign

The Make it so campaign aims to change the way Australians think and talk about engineering, by showcasing exactly what engineers are capable of. Part of the campaign is a competition aimed at getting Australians to submit their ideas on things they would like to see 'Made so'. Then, an engineering team will be selected to design and develop the winning idea. It could be anything. The competition runs for 12 weeks – from 16 February until 15 May.

The success of the campaign will depend upon the support of tens of thousands of engineering team members – people who can help us to spread the word and generate real excitement about the engineering profession.

Become an advocate by visiting makeitso.org.au

Branch Committee

Chairman: Domenico Lombardo

Hon. Secretary:

Air Cdre Noel Schmidt

Hon. Treasurer: Anthony Patti

Events Manager: Crystal Forrester

Asst. Events Manager: TBA

Webmaster: Stratos Patsikatheodorou

Newsletter Editor: Luke Webb

Membership Secretary:

Sherman Ting

Committee Members:

A/Prof. Cees Bil

Karen Trezise

Contact Details

Post:

Royal Aeronautical Society

C/-Engineers Australia

Suite 201

21 Bedford St

North Melbourne VIC 3051

**Our
address
has
changed!**

Email:

melbournebranch@raes.org.au

Websites:

<http://www.raes.org.au>

<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). Contributions highlighting Australian developments, innovations and ideas in aeronautics are most encouraged.

The Transponder



Name

Stratos Patsikatheodorou

Job Title

Student / President

Company/Organisation

Aerospace Students Association (AESA)
RMIT University

How would you describe yourself?

Professional, diligent and willing

Education & Background

Cert 3 Retail Operations; Assistant Manager Cartridge World St Albans for 2 years; currently 3rd Year Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace)

When did you first know you wanted to work in aeronautics?

I had always been interested in engineering from a young age, but found a passion for aircraft at about 12 years of age. I have been focused on working towards a potential career in aerospace ever since then.

Describe one of the most rewarding projects you have worked on.

From August 2009 – January 2010 I was part of a group of students selected to go on exchange to Nanjing University of

Aeronautics and Astronautics (Nanjing, China). There we had our first 'real' experience with designing, analysing, manufacturing and flight testing of a small, wooden, remote-controlled, electric powered aircraft. This was an excellent project which brought together all the skills that we had learnt up to date.

Favourite aeronautical feat or moment?
Going to the moon!

Enjoy doing with spare time...

Volunteering. I'm involved with a number of organisations, both aerospace and non-aerospace related. I love to play soccer when I can.

Volunteer Involvement?

The President of the Aerospace Students Association (AESA) at RMIT University; Webmaster with the Royal Aeronautical Society (Melbourne Branch); Involved on the Board of Directors and a Committee Member of UWC Australia (UWC Australia is an organisation which provides scholarships to Year 11 and 12 students to study overseas in one of 13 colleges around the world); Volunteer at the RAAF Museum down in Point Cook.

Favourite Aircraft?

Too hard to choose!

Favourite quote/nugget of wisdom?

Have passion for whatever you choose to do in life

What are your hopes for the future of aeronautics in Australia?

I would like to see the industry grow a lot bigger, become a leader in R&D and also have prominence in the space field working together with other space organisations.

If undeliverable return to:

**ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY
MELBOURNE BRANCH**

Suite 201, 21 Bedford St
North Melbourne VIC 3051

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