

HCAPA Chairman's Newsletter – September 2018

UK airshows

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a number of airshows whilst visiting family in the UK. The English summer this year was a record-breaker, and that meant a good season for the various airshows that are a feature of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots' program in the UK.

First up I attended the Aero Expo at Wycombe Air Park, just north-west of London, in June. Apart from meeting Liveryman Sebastian Pooley and buying some accessories for my Auster from his company, I also attended a forum session by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for General Aviation www.generalaviationappg.uk which works closely with the UK HCAP Technical Committee to provide advice to the government in regard to GA policy and legislation. A current topic of interest is preserving airfield sites and protecting them from building development – loss of farm and small-town airfields is a major concern in the UK. Also I met the Head of GA for the UK CAA, Tony Rapson, who appears to have a good handle on things and the confidence of HCAP.

Next was an evening airshow at the Shuttleworth Trust www.shuttleworth.org at Old Warden airfield in Bedfordshire. Though too windy for the pre-WW1 aeroplanes to fly, there was plenty to see including the de Havilland DH88 Comet which won the London-Melbourne air race in 1934.

With the Royal Air Force celebrating its centenary this year, they had a major presence at many events. I admit to having watched the 103-aircraft flypast of Buckingham Palace on the TV! Several members of our Executive Council were at the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford in July, a prestige event on a scale about double that of our Avalon shows, including a 3 km walk the length of the runway to access all the static displays. It was also very expensive, and marred by a thundery shower just after lunch on the day we were there which caused some cancellations of the flying display including the RAF's new F-35B STOVL multi-role "flying electronics shop". On the ground, I found road traffic management and the cost of parking in Swindon to take a bus to the airfield a major problem – having left the bus in a traffic jam and walked for an hour and a quarter to the airfield and missing the first 45 minutes of the flying display. The flying program was excellent but directed to the power and noise of military jets, of which the most impressive was the Russian Sukhoi 29 and the Italian "Frecce Tricolori" formation team with 10 Alpha-Jet trainers trailing red, white and green smoke.

The highlight of my airshow experience was the Flying Legends show at Duxford, near Cambridge, that same weekend: two days of magnificent flying of WW2-era aeroplanes, with some unique items such as the Bristol Blenheim and finishing with a "Balbo" flypast of around 30 vintage warbirds in formation, coordinated by AIRMSHL Cliff Spink, a recent Past Master of our Honourable Company, featuring no less than 14 Spitfires, 4 Hurricanes, 4 Spanish-built Buchon representing Messerschmidt 109s, and several US-designed aircraft. Well worth the cost (2 days for about 2/3 of the single day at RIAT) including free parking within 5 minutes walking distance of the airfield, a friendly flight line with plenty of entertainment before the flying, and commentary by the very knowledgeable Peter Anderson from the Temora Aviation Museum. On the Saturday evening I was even able to go over to Old Warden again and see some of the pre-WW1 aeroplanes flying.

Finally, I spent my penultimate weekend in the UK at a private farm strip in Devon, at the International Auster Club fly-in, where I got to see many old and new friends, talk Gipsy Major engines, and even partake of a local flight with a fellow Auster owner over a scenic part of England.

The only disappointment of the trip was being unable to join the Air Pilots Flying Club, a significant subgroup of the Honourable Company, at any of their events – due to timing conflicting with other

things that were planned for me, and the fact I was staying some 300 km from the London area where most events took place. If you ever spend time in the UK, try to get to one of these or the Company Visits which are advertised on the www.airpilots.org web site.

Technical Director – short-term filling

Unfortunately our Technical Director, Captain Simon Ewart, has advised me that he will be unable to meet the duties of his position for the next 4-6 months, whilst he undertakes an aircraft endorsement course overseas. That creates a vacancy which ought to be filled, so we are seeking a volunteer to fill the role temporarily. Preferably the stand-in Director will have experience on the Technical Committee, but more important is a willingness to coordinate our responses to CASA and Airservices consultations, manage our representation on the various RAPACs (Airspace Users groups) and keep the Council updated on this aspect.

We manage our Technical Committee via a Skills Register that members indicate their skills and interests on, so that we only contact you with information that you are likely to have an interest in. All members of the Honourable Company, from retired airline captains to beginning-career Associate members, are welcome and invited to join the Technical Committee – a Skills Register form is included with this Newsletter. Please contact me by Email if you are interested.

The Master's Visit 2018

Each year the Master of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots visits Australia for about 3 weeks, to meet with us and keep our members in touch with the Company world-wide. We have Overseas Regions in New Zealand, Hong Kong and North America, but Australia is the oldest and largest of these, and we celebrate our 50th birthday this year.

Captain Colin Cox is this year's Master and has a particular interest in the Regions as he spent 30 years flying for Cathay Pacific out of Hong Kong and is a past Chairman of the HK Region.

Accompanied by his wife Denise, Colin will arrive in Sydney in early November and visit Sydney, Temora, Canberra, Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane. Main dates and functions are:

Thu 08 Nov – presentation lunch at HARS, Albion Park (Wollongong)
Fri 09 Nov – formal dinner at the Australian Club in Sydney, 50th birthday of the Australian Region
Sun 11 Nov – attend Remembrance Day Aircraft Showcase at Temora Aviation Museum and present a Certificate to the Museum as our second Affiliated Organisation.
Mon 12 Nov – meetings with heads of government agencies in Canberra
Tue 13 Nov – further meetings with government agencies in Canberra
Wed 14 Nov – evening informal dinner function in Canberra to meet members
Thu 15 Nov – meet young members at an aviation careers expo in Adelaide
Fri 16 Nov – formal dinner in Adelaide
Sat 17 Nov – Spot Landing competition and BBQ at Aldinga Aero Club
Tue 20 Nov – lunch in Melbourne (Royal Vic Aero Club) to meet members
Thu 22 Nov – present awards to aviation students in Brisbane
Fri 23 Nov – visit to Boeing Australia and RFDS, Brisbane
Sat 24 Nov – formal dinner in Brisbane

All members and their guests are able to attend any of the “meet the members” events and presentations, not just those living near the location. If you are visiting one of these places and wish to attend, please contact the local Working Group contact for details, or send an Email to admin@airpilots.org.au asking for more information. In particular, members who would like to attend the flying day at Temora are very welcome (standard admission of \$25 adults/\$20 seniors

applies unless we can get a group discount for 20 people) – contact me on chairman@airpilots.org if you plan to attend this day – I expect we will receive VIP treatment on the day.

Congratulations - T&A Winners

Each year we call for nominations in May of people inside or outside the Honourable Company to be awarded one of the Honourable Company's major awards, including three specific Australian awards. The winners are announced in September and may receive their trophies either at the Trophies & Awards Banquet in London in late October, or during the Master's Visit to Australia. Also, recipients of the Company's Master Air Pilot, Master Air Navigator or Master Rear-Crew Member certificates may have these presented during the Master's Visit or at the T&A banquet or Livery Dinner (late May) in London. This year we have the three Australian awards to be presented in Australia by the Master.

The **Grand Master's Australian Award** is awarded to an individual, a group or organisation involved in any branch of aviation in the Australian Region or to Australian nationals abroad, who or which has made a meritorious contribution to any aviation activity, either by displaying technical excellence or by the development of a procedure or operational technique of an outstanding nature, and this year is awarded to **Jim Thurstan** of the Historical Aircraft Restorations Society for his technical excellence in the restoration of the L1049 Constellation and Southern Cross Replica.

The **Australian Bi-Centennial Award** is awarded as an ongoing commemoration of the Australian Bi-centenary to recognise an outstanding individual contribution to Australian aviation. This year's recipient is HCAP member **Ian Mallett DFC**, for the work he has done with CAA-CASA and ICAO to develop and introduce procedures for satellite-based navigation in civil aviation, both in Australia and internationally.

The **Master's Trophy for the Australian Region** is a recently-introduced annual trophy for honourable service to the Australian Region of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. The winner for 2018 is **Rob Moore OAM**, who has been an inspirational leader of the South Australian Working Group and has encouraged a thriving group of young members to join our organisation.

These trophies will be presented by the Master at Albion Park, Sydney and Adelaide during his tour. My heartiest congratulations to all three recipients.

Sandy Howard

Many of you will know Captain Sandy Howard, as he has been a stalwart of the old Guild of Air Pilots & Air Navigators and more recently the Honourable Company of Air Pilots over the past 46 years. Sandy joined the Guild in December 1972 and had a full career with Qantas, retiring as a Senior Check Captain on the B747 nearly ten years ago, and has also flown the DH Drover and the Constellation for HARS. He has been our Representative at Court in the days when electronic communications were unknown except for scratchy and costly phone calls, has led the NSW Working Group, and been Secretary and Chairman of the Australian Region. Sandy has recently advised that he will be stepping down from the Executive Council after the Master's Visit this year. I congratulate him on his long and valuable service to the Company – though he will remain a member he will concentrate on other voluntary pursuits in the future – and wish him all the best for the future.

Steven Cesco

Steven, one of our younger Upper Freeman from the South Australian Working Group (though no longer an under-35 “Young Member”), has just recently joined the ranks of Qantas as a Second Officer on the B787 Dreamliner fleet, flying from Australian capitals to London and the USA. He joins a number of other members, including Will Harwood and Ben Durnford, in this position. Steven is also a glider pilot and has flown the King Air and Pilatus PC12 for a South Australian operator for some years. Congratulations on the career advancement.

ATSB Human Factors course

The Honourable Company of Air Pilots is grateful to the Chief Commissioner of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Greg Hood, for making a place available to a person nominated by HCAPA for this highly-regarded course, which ATSB runs twice a year for its own staff, other government bodies, and the aviation industry.

Following my call for expressions of interest in the course in my last Newsletter, we received a total of 7 expressions of interest and have selected **Udhana Abeysekera** from Adelaide to attend the course in October. Udhana is one of our Young Members, and recently began a career with Cobham Air Services working in the Human Factors and Flight Safety areas, so will be able to put his knowledge gained from this course to good use in the short term.

Congratulations Udhana – and for those whose applications were not successful, we hope to be able to offer further opportunities in the future.

Welfare

The welfare of all our members, but particularly those in their senior years and those suffering from illness or injury, or other hardship, is one of our less-prominent but significant activities included in our Constitution. Alongside professionalism and fellowship, the philanthropic aims of the Honourable Company and all the London Livery Companies are an important part of our being,

Beside the more obvious granting of scholarships, looking after our members who fall on hard times is a task for which a member of the Executive Council takes responsibility. Our Welfare Officer (and Honorary Chaplain) is the Rt. Rev. Dr. Tony Hall-Matthews, retired Anglican Bishop of Carpentaria, who lives in Malanda near Cairns in North Queensland.

Though Tony has been through some health issues himself recently, he is now up and about again and happy to assist any members who are presently encountering any kind of hardship, whether by providing advice and comfort or other resources that the Honourable Company may be able to offer. If you, or another member you know, would like to contact Tony, please Email him at welfare@airpilots.org.au or contact your Working Group chair or admin@airpilots.org.au for our hard-working Secretary Pete Norford to get in touch with Tony.

And that's all for this Newsletter – Fly safe if you are still an active pilot, and be safe in any case!

Mike Cleaver

Chairman