



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**

THE BLENHEIM BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

Chairman: Des Ashton Mobile: 021 664 920 Email: des.ashton@outlook.com
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Speaker – Des Ashton FRAeS

THE COLLAPSE OF ANSETT AUSTRALIA – A PERSPECTIVE

Wednesday 24 APRIL 2019 at 7.00pm

Marlborough Aero Club – Clubrooms – 100 Aerodrome Road Omaka

Members, non-members, interested persons and guests welcome- please forward this notice

Tea and Coffee available, Dress - Casual

A voluntary gold coin donation is welcomed from non-members to defray supper costs.

Des Ashton was born in Australia and moved to NZ in 1955. Apart from 45 years living in NZ, at various times he has lived in Aitutaki, Cook Islands, Fiji and Samoa, where his father ran airfields and seaplane bases, as well as UK, Singapore and USA during his RNZAF career. One way or another he has been involved with aircraft all that time.

He holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Canterbury University and is a Chartered Engineer, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a Member of the Institute of Directors.

Des joined the RNZAF as a university cadet in 1969. He graduated as an engineering officer at RAF Cranwell, UK in 1973 and as a pilot at Ohakea in 1976.

Des retired from the RNZAF in 1993 after 24 years including postings in NZ, UK, Singapore Air Force (RSAF) and USA and numerous overseas deployments mostly with No 75 Skyhawk Squadron.

Since 1993 his employment has included:

- General Manager of Safe Air Limited,
- General Manager Heavy Maintenance) in Ansett Australia and Air NZ (until the collapse of Ansett Australia with the loss of 12,000 jobs) -
- Owner / operator of small Marlborough based consultancy, Ashton Technologies, specialising in aviation, technology and defence in NZ and overseas
- Board directorships including Port Marlborough, Marlborough Electricity Lines, Cuddon Engineering, Potatopak, Flightcell International and others.
- Chief Executive Officer of Port Marlborough.
- Deputy Secretary (Acquisition) in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) from 2008 to 2016. where he and his small team were responsible for providing sea land and air capital capabilities for the NZ Defence Force.
- From 2016, a return to a re-activated Ashton Technologies and membership of the Council of NMIT.

Des' honorary appointments have included Chairman of the Defence Industry Committee of NZ, Vice Chairman of the Aircraft Industry Association Engineering Division, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society NZ Division and a Directorship of NZ Aeronautical Trusts.

Des' presentation will cover lead up and aftermath of the collapse of Ansett Australia on 14 September 2001.