



ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY

NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

Bay of Plenty Branch

The Chairman and committee of the

Bay of Plenty Branch, RAeS

are pleased to announce

Branch Members and partners,

to attend the

Jean Batten Lecture 2017

to be held at 6.00pm, on Friday 1 September 2017 at Classic Flyers, 9 Jean Batten Drive, Mt Maunganui

From 5.00pm, join the weekly happy hour at the ***Avgas Café*** for drinks and snacks at your own cost

Before 6.00pm, you will be invited to be seated in the ***Boeing Room*** (on the first floor) for the lecture at no cost

Dress – smart casual – no ties necessary

Tea and biscuits will be served after the lecture - a donation is requested

Confirmations are essential to help with planning

- **RSVP by 25 August 2017** – Des Underwood,

desunderwood@gmail.com, 0274524767

Jean Batten Lecture

Since the inception of the Bay of Plenty Branch, RAEs in August 2015, it has operated monthly meetings with a forward-looking perspective on aviation, along with Airfield Days and other events. This has helped grow a membership base to collectively 'explore the marvels of aviation' for aviation professionals and enthusiasts in the Bay of Plenty.

Like other branches of the Royal Aeronautical Society worldwide, the Bay of Plenty Branch has chosen to establish an Annual Named Lecture to provide a special aviation event for members and guests. The Jean Batten Lecture was chosen in honour of the celebrated NZ woman pilot, **Jean Gardner Batten**, CBE OSC (1909 - 1982), who was born in Rotorua on 15 September 1909. Marking the month of her birth, the annual Jean Batten Lecture will be held in September each year, delivered by a guest speaker and focus on an aviation historical theme.

In support of the New Zealand's First World War Centenary - 2014–2019

the Jean Batten Lecture 2017 is titled:

The NZ Contribution to the Air War – WW1

At the start of WW1, flying and aircraft design was at its infancy; it was little more than a fad and perhaps akin to motor racing. Inextricably, aviation was to change the nature of war and war was to transform aviation.

As well as those New Zealand residents who took themselves off to England to join the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, the NZ contribution to what became the Air War of WW1 was developed by commercial and private flying schools. Despite these patriotic days of the British Empire, budding pilots had to pay for the privilege of learning to fly. This lecture will trace the history of the flying schools in NZ and include the service histories of some of those who saw service flying in different parts of the world, including **Lieutenant William WA Burn**, MiD.

The lecture will be delivered by **Brian Lockstone**, aviation and military historian, published author and the President of the Aviation Historical Society of NZ Inc.

The Branch is particularly grateful for Brian's assistance, as it follows-on from his previous delivery of the inaugural Jean Batten Lecture last year. Brian will be travelling from Amberley in Canterbury and will be accompanied by his wife, Rosemary Banks, a retired member of the NZ Diplomatic Corps.

During Brian's research, he has discovered materiel and some original photographs he thinks had not been seen publicly before and some will be used to support the lecture.

We look forward to having you join us for this commemorative event.



Lieutenant William WA Burn, MiD(2)

Abridged - Biography

Taken from DNZB by Paul Harrison, published 1996 and revised 2015

William Wallace Burn (later known as **William Wallace Allison Burn**) was the first New Zealand Army officer to qualify as a military aviator. He trained in the UK and obtained the necessary certificates to qualify as a pilot. Lieutenant Burn returned to New Zealand in September 1914.

A short time later, the Indian government called on the other dominions to provide trained pilots for service in Mesopotamia, now Iraq. Burn was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps and attached to the Indian Expeditionary Force.

During this secondment, Lieutenant Burn was twice Mentioned in Despatches.

The lecture will complete his story ...

Released by Des Underwood, MRAeS, Chairman, Bay of Plenty Branch, RAeS