

**RAeS HAMILTON Branch**  
**Newsletter February 2020**



Hi Folks,

I hope that everyone had a good start to 2020.

Welcome to the first newsletter for the year. This is mostly about the upcoming AGM, but before I get to that, I'll just mention one other item.

**BURT RUTAN**

We all know who this man is, arguably the most prolific aircraft designer of the last 40 years, and that is based on what information is available to the general public, considering that he also worked on a number of black projects. I was lucky enough to attend a lecture of his last month in Melbourne, organized by the local branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society. Needless to say, it was a full house, with more than 200 people packing the RMIT lecture theater. We were not disappointed by the man and his story, not that anyone expected to be. He gave us some excellent insight into his career and project and also provided some gems for us to ponder on. I've only chosen to share one of them, the best one of the lot, I feel. One of his slides showed a photo of the Valkyrie and Blackbird. He said that these aircraft were parked outside his design office when he was a young aircraft designer in the 60s, and at the same time man was heading for the moon. He said that being around the planes was not only inspirational but also transformational for the young mind. He pondered on the incredible achievements of man in the first 50 years of aviation. He had gone from wooden biplanes to Mach 3+ machines. Now at 75 years of age, and looking back to the last 50 years, he was not as kind to the achievements of the industry, he felt a level of disappointment. What do you folks think? Have we made the most of our advances in smart tools and technologies, considering that the XB-70 and SR-71 were designed and built with aids of paper drawings and the slide rule. The lecture was being recorded and I hope to get access to it so we can view together one evening.





### **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

In the last newsletter I stressed the need for help and support in 2020.

We have known for a while that Warwick has been wanting to take a step back. for some time and enjoy some timeout by traveling around the fantastic country that NZ is. He was the backbone of the branch when I first met him in 1987 and, realistically, has been that since then. Although Warwick will stay on as a branch committee member, we won't have access to his stewardship at the same level as before.

In my case, work is demanding more of my time outside of NZ and this year is going to be particularly challenging to the point that I'm concerned about my ability to effectively exercise my duties as Chairman. We can discuss more of this at the AGM.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This will take place at the usual venue, on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb at The Glenview Club, at 7:30PM. Please attend and come with an open mind and willingness to get involved.

**Sal Carta, Chmn, Ph: (07) 824-0853, Mob: 0212686960**

**W.F.Jones, Vice-Chmn, mob: 027-307-5308**

**Brian Sunderland, Hon/Sec-Treasurer, Ph: (07) 843-8308 Mob: 0211303379**

E-mail: [raeshamiltonbranch@gmail.com](mailto:raeshamiltonbranch@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.raes.org.nz/>