

NEW ZEALAND DIVISION



Hamilton Branch

Please read our [Description of the Society's activities in New Zealand](#)

MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING March 2019

DATE: WED 20 March 2019

TIME: 19:30 hrs/7.30pm

VENUE: Glenview Club, Peacockes Road, Glenview, Hamilton

Speaker: Mr Bruce Aitken, Pioneer Topdressing and Stunt Pilot

Please note this is the third Wednesday, not the fourth for this month, and the meeting will be in the large Riverview Lounge, not the Restaurant as the Lion's Club are using that for their normal monthly meeting.

AGENDA; Guest Speaker, Bruce Aitken, is a well-known Pioneer top dressing and stunt pilot who has written a book titled "The Memoir of Bruce Malcolm Aitken", outlining his colourful and exciting flying career of 18,000 hrs, 30yrs running an aerial top-dressing business, and miraculously surviving eight near fatal plane crashes.

Now at 92, Bruce will tell us how it all transpired. He will have on hand some copies of his book and a flyer outlining the contents.

We would like to say thank you to Claire Gardiner, (Peter's widow), for the donation of 30 boxes of aviation books, magazines and dvd's, most of which have gone to the Aviation Historical Society at Classic Flyers Museum Tauranga. We would also like to acknowledge the donations of books, magazines and dvd's from the late Keith Hill and Jon Wenham that were also part of this collection.

The overflow of double-ups of books and dvd's that I took to Classic Flyers we put out for our members to take, and what was left has gone upstairs. I also have some more magazines from Bruce Henderson's collection for members to take.

Hi folks, welcome to 2019 and our first meeting for the year after our 46th AGM last month, when 15 turned out for the occasion. Some were away at the Avalon Airshow in Australia, so we'll let them off the hook. Our new chairman is Sal Carta, replacing Hugh McCarroll who has done a stirring job for the last 15yrs. Our thanks to Hugh for his fine effort. Returned unopposed were Warwick Jones as Vice/Chmn, and Brian Sunderland as Hon/Sec and Treasurer. The committee is now Alan Reynolds (returned unopposed) and Kevin Johnson, as Bob Wadley has stood down. It was passed by a unanimous decision that we now dispense with the raffle and raise the subs to \$35pa, but keep the donation box on the door. This way all the members pay equally towards the cost of running the organisation, not just those who consistently turn up to the meetings. It was pointed out that some other branches have \$40 subs with a gold coin donation to help pay for supper and defray expenses.

Also passed was a change in the format of the meeting. Meetings will now commence at 7.30pm sharp to allow maximum time for speakers. Members can mingle to chat after the meeting until 10pm at which time the premises MUST be vacated.

Regarding getting more members to attend our meetings, a variety of things were discussed but it was left to the committee to decide what to implement.

The bank balance is still in the green, so the Treasurer is happy with that.

Please Note: The meeting for April will be on Wed 10th a bit earlier in the month as the speaker is on a tight timeframe. We are having Timothy Graham, ASTA, talking on "A Drone view from Across the Ditch". With more and more people into the drone scene, this will be a very interesting lecture, so please don't forget and ask a friend along as well.

Subscriptions are now due - \$35.00

Can you please make sure, especially if you are paying on-line, that you include your name with the payment (in the reference or particulars section) and what the payment is for.

Bank Account number 06- 0317- 0224109- 00.

Cheques are payable to the RAeS Ham/Branch.

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Alan's MARCH Jottings:

I have recently learned that our government has scrapped the proposed basing of the Republic of Singapore Air Force F-15SGs at Ohakea due to excessive infrastructure costs among other factors. Short-term deployments of RSAF fighters are still on the cards; we may even see F-35s here now that Singapore has chosen them as a suitable replacement for their F-16s.

Ohakea was one of the defence force bases mentioned in a government report into out-dated buildings which were in need of replacement. No chance then of persuading our government to get a squadron or two of the now-retired ex-RAF Tornado GR4s?

There would have been more than a few disappointed people at the Wings Over Wairarapa Airshow with the non-appearance of the USAF B-52 Stratofortress flyover. I understand it was due to a landing incident at Avalon when it struck a light standard with an out-rigger wheel.

When we all thought the F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter was now only to be seen in museums, several of these aircraft have been seen flying low over Death Valley in California and by all accounts are flying out of the Tonopah Test range for the testing of new stealth coatings and systems.

Reported just recently is the "not guilty" finding in a UK court for the pilot of the Hunter T7 which crashed during the Shoreham Air Show in August 2015 and killed eleven men driving on the motorway. He said he had no memory of the crash and believed he had a loss of consciousness during his looping manoeuvre.

Stay safe out there.

Al
