

NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

Hamilton Branch



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

MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING October 2018

DATE: WED 24 October 2018

TIME: 19:30 hrs/7.30pm

VENUE: Glenview Club, Peacockes Road, Glenview, Hamilton

Speaker: Mr. Hugh McCarroll MRAeS. Chairman Ham/Branch.

1942 was the year of Australia's greatest peril. The nation awaited invasion from Japan. Darwin was devastated by bombing, Australian ships were torpedoed within sight of the coast, midget submarines attacked shipping in Sydney harbour, and Japanese forces on their inexorable march south invaded Papua New Guinea and islands to Australia's near north.

On the beautiful inland sea of Japan – the heartland of the Imperial Japanese Navy - and in frenetic wartime Tokyo, radical and passionate staff officers and their illogical admirals debated the invasion of an almost defenceless nation. The Imperial Army, meanwhile, opposed the attack, foreseeing a looming military quagmire. Behind the scenes, Australian, British and American defence chiefs all but dismissed the chances of holding Darwin and the North. Australia's fate hung in the balance.

1942 is a story of desperate bravery and criminal stupidity. It is the story of Australians left high and dry in those first few months of 1942, under the looming shadow of invasion, and the steps that an inexperienced leader, John Curtin, took to help save his country in its darkest days.

Thanks to all those (16) who came to last month's meeting, when Sal Carta gave a very interesting talk on ADS-B the new satellite supported system designed to replace radar as NZ's main a/c tracking technology. The current system will be de-

commissioned in 2021. This new system ADS-B will be more accurate and hopefully safer than the present one.

Also at Classic Flyers Tauranga, 5 Westland Wessex helicopters have arrived from Taranaki, one will be kept as a static display at Museum and the rest sold/loaned or used as swaps to other Museums in NZ.

EVENTS:

- Upcoming events; SAA Black Sands Raglan 3rd & 4th November.
- Warbirds Armistice Day Ardmore Sunday 18th/Nov, 10-4pm. \$25/adult.

Branch member Peter Gardiner passed away on 12/10/18 aged 62. Peter might have been a quiet person but his knowledge of aviation and aircraft was extensive.

SUBS:

SUBS: A reminder that payment of subs (still only \$25/yr, \$30 1st year for new members) are now due. Jan to Dec finance period

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

Bank Account number 06-0317-0224109-00.

Cheques are payable to the RAeS Ham/Branch, with many choosing to do this online banking.

HUGH McCARROLL Branch Chairman

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Alan's OCTOBER Jottings

Following on from the belly-landing of the RNZAF Historic Flight Harvard on approach to Ohakea not long ago, Ohakea aircraft are again in the news; not once but twice. It seems that some components of the US manufactured Martin-Baker Mk16 ejection seats fitted to the T-6 Texan II have become unserviceable before their expected life-expiry date, thus grounding many of 14 Squadron's training aircraft. Whether this problem relates to the seat ejection explosives, the safety equipment (parachute, etc) or to the post-ejection stabilization system is not known.

Very soon after the ejection seat revelation, a T-6 Texan II suffered an undercarriage malfunction in flight, forcing the pilot to make a successful belly-landing at Ohakea, making one more T-6 unavailable for pilot training. This shortage of T-6s for pilot training also effects the Black Falcons aerobatic team which is now unable to practice. I wonder if all of the above would have happened if the maintenance crew were all RNZAF personnel and not mostly civilian?

With computers now ruling almost everything worldwide it is no wonder unscrupulous countries are resorting to cyber warfare against others. Countries are or already have established special departments to counter this trend by blocking or replying in kind. Imagine what would happen if all our computer networks were shut down, whole countries life-line systems would come to a standstill. For people like us it doesn't bear thinking about, but I'm sure there are some folks who are working hard to prevent such a thing happening.