



RAeS HAMILTON Branch Meeting for September 2019.

DATE: WED 25th September 2019

START TIME: 19:30 hrs/7.30pm sharp

VENUE: Glenview Club, Peacockes Road. Glenview, Hamilton.

AGENDA: Guest Speaker; Mr. Kevin McMahon, Advisor to the MOD on procurement matters and the challenges of Defence Projects.

Kevin McMahon who has recently retired from the Ministry of Defence but still provides a part time service to the organisation as a consultant. Kevin has spent more than 40 years involved in Defence procurement – including everything from ANZAC Ships (Frigates) to F-16s and NH90s. This will be an audio visual presentation lasting approx one and a half hrs, and with a question time probably at the end. For more details of this presentation please refer to the separate attachment.

Thanks to all those (32) who came to last month's meeting, when Wally Gee gave us an interesting talk on the history of the Aerospace FU-24 Fletcher aircraft. Some aviation historical footage was shown on the topdressing trials with the RNZAF using an Avenger and the old Bristol Freighter as well as some DH82 Tiger Moths and other aircraft of the day.

Next month, on Wed/30th/Oct, we will have Hugh McCarroll present part 3 of his "Journey into Space" series, plus updates which he recently gave to the BOP Branch which was very well received. With the 50th Anniversary of the moon landing back in July, this brings back many fond memories of being glued to the tv watching it all unfold.

For November, we will be having Murray McGregor talking about the diesel engined Fletcher currently being tested in the SI.

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 September Jottings.

Those of you who have been watching the Red Arrows series on Prime TV on Sunday nights often see and hear the Squadron Leader who is the leader of the team. Not shown or heard from very often is the Red Arrows Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Andrew ("Boomer") Keith. If you have visited Classic Flyers Museum at Tauranga Airport you will have seen our A-4K Skyhawk, NZ6201, but have you noted the name stenciled below the cockpit . . . Flt Lt A.R. Keith, "Boomer" ? From an RNZAF, Skyhawk pilot, then on to eventually become Commanding Officer of the RAF Red Arrows says a lot about him and the RNZAF training.

While on the subject of aerobatic teams, in this case the 75 Squadron aerobatic team, Kiwi Red. It would have been in the early 1980s when I recall seeing a practice session over Ohakea which ended in the just introduced roll-under break. The standard break at the end of an aerobatic display during the final flight over the base was for each aircraft in turn to break upwards and over the formation to follow the previous aircraft down-wind for landing; the roll-under break had each aircraft rolling outwards, down and under the formation. On seeing this for the first time, and while looking spectacular, I thought to myself, "that looks rather dangerous", due to the fact the pilot loses sight of the formation and the previous aircraft as they roll outwards, down and under before regaining view of the formation and previous aircraft. On 24 October 1989 my concern was confirmed when two Skyhawks collided, one pilot dead when his aircraft crashed and the other Skyhawk, badly damaged, managing to land safely.

Another spectacular manoeuvre by Kiwi Red was the plugged barrel-roll where one Skyhawk plugs its refuelling probe into the basket on the end of the reeled-out hose of the air-to-air refuelling (buddy) store carried by another Skyhawk, then they carry out a barrel-roll in formation. Unfortunately this manoeuvre ended tragically for 2 Squadron during a practice at Nowra in New South Wales. The pilot of the buddy-store aircraft realised that the formation was too low, warned the plugged pilot who managed to pull out in time, but, very tragically, the buddy-store aircraft didn't quite make it and crashed killing the pilot.

With lots of practice, formation aerobatics are spectacular and popular with the viewing crowds (including myself) and show the skill of the pilots. They are carried out safely the vast majority of the time but, like everything in life, unfortunate accidents do happen, sometimes with a sad outcome.

Be safe out there.