

FLY BY

**THE OCTOBER 2018
NEWSLETTER OF THE
PALMERSTON NORTH BRANCH
NEW ZEALAND DIVISION
ROYAL AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**



**RAAF GLOSTER METEOR F8
CHASING A MIG 15 IN THE
KOREAN WAR (ARTWORK FROM
THE AIRFIX WEBSITE)**

WOW! What a turnout of Members for our September meeting. It was the biggest I can remember... something in the order of 48 I think. Would be great if we got that attendance at all our Branch meetings.

We were treated to an excellent presentation by Squadron Leader Simon Shaw from 42 Squadron RNZAF on his experiences flying the RAF's Maritime Patrol aircraft, the Nimrod. We will try and get Simon back in our future programme to talk about some of his other interesting experiences in his service with the RAF and his attachment to the USAF.

It was our first meeting in the Massey University's School of Aviation new

premises. Very nice! Will be amazing when the 2nd stage is built adjoining the current new building. I understand that it is anticipated it will be all complete by the middle of next year. See our Future Programme for further details

Great to see the Government has purchased P8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to replace our aging Orions. The Squadron is to be re-located from Whenuapai to Ohakea. Lots of work to be done before they arrive and a welcome boost to the local population and economy.

Hercules next?

I have invited the Minister of Defence, the Hon. Ron Mark to address a meeting of the Branch on the subject of where he sees New Zealand's defence efforts in the future. I have yet to hear back from his office... Here's hoping. Perhaps February or March next year.

Treasurer Dave and I have been invited to the Massey School of Aviation Wings Ceremony at the end of September where we will present a new 'shield' and a small cheque to the outstanding first term trainee pilot on behalf of the Branch. This new award is in addition to the one the Branch presents annually to the outstanding Aviation Management Student.



**RAF GLOSTER METEOR FR9 OF
THE MIDDLE EAST AIR FORCE
(ARTWORK FROM THE AIRFIX
WEBSITE)**



**RNZAF's FIRST JET
AIRCRAFT GLOSTER
METEOR III WHICH FIRST
FLEW AT RNZAF
HOBSONVILLE ON 12
FEBRUARY 1946**

NEXT MEETING...

Our next meeting will be held at our usual venue at the Massey School of Aviation at the Airport on Tuesday 9th of October at 7.00 p.m.

Our presenter will be Member Brian Carruthers who will talk about a local WWI local hero and aviation pioneer. Brian is out of the country a lot – so, if he can't make it – Treasurer Dave will give the presentation. How's that for a mystery?

Our contribution to commemorating the end of WWI perhaps.

COMMENT Re Senator John McCain.... Had to apologise about my comment in last months Newsletter. John flew A4 Skyhawks not F4 Phantoms. Sorry

Frank. John McCain narrowly escaped death when he was in the cockpit of a Skyhawk on the flight deck of the USS Forrestal when a Zuni rocket was inadvertently fired from an F4 which caused a catastrophic fire resulting in many deaths and the destruction of quite a number of aircraft. John McCain saw another pilot on fire, and as he turned to help him, the first of several bombs detonated. McCain was knocked backwards 10 feet and struck by shrapnel. He transferred to the USS Oriskany and was shot down on his 23rd mission over North Vietnam.



**FLIGHT DECK FIRE
ABOARD THE USS
FORRESTAL (US NAVY
PHOTO)**

“There are only two emotions in a plane: boredom and terror.” – Orson Welles

STAY SAFE AND HAVE A GOOD ONE!

**Dennis O'Rourke
Branch Chairman
dennis.orourke1942@gmail.com
Phone (022) 358-5442**