

# RECIPIENTS OF RAeS AWARDS 2012

## Meritorious Service Award -2012

The Meritorious Service Award is made by the Council of the Society to recognise long term contributions and practical achievements in all sections of aerospace in New Zealand. The award takes the form of a certificate, a citation and a medal.

This Meritorious Service award is made to **Gene Demarco** for his personal contribution to the restoration of vintage aircraft in New Zealand.

Gene is production manager for The Vintage Aviator Ltd (TVAL), leading a small team responsible for the production of the aircraft at its factory in Kilbirnie, Wellington. Gene is also a test pilot and a display pilot for the company, and a licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. Gene also organises the commemorative and informative WW1 air shows for public enjoyment and education regularly at Hood Aerodrome, Masterton and elsewhere.

As well, Gene writes and publishes articles about the making and flying of each new type, both on TVAL's well illustrated websites and in magazines including "Aeroplane" the UK monthly magazine.

Gene also manages the export of some aircraft, engines and components to fly in other countries, and to exchange surplus components for other desirable original items from around the world.

His personal contribution to the achievements of TVAL fully meets the criteria for this award and the Society is delighted to present a Meritorious Services Award to Gene Demarco.

Presented this day in Wellington

June 14, 2013

Recommended for this award by Wellington Branch, RAeS

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## Meritorious Service Award–2012

The Meritorious Service Award is made by the Council of the Society to recognise long term contributions and practical achievements in all sections of aerospace in New Zealand. The award takes the form of a certificate, a citation and a medal.

This Meritorious Service award is made to **Avspecs Ltd.**

Avspecs Limited was formed in 1997 by Warren Denholm and his father Colin in Rotorua. The company was established to provide a fully dedicated restoration facility for Warbird and Vintage aircraft. The company moved to Ardmore Airfield, South Auckland in 2000 and is now run by Warren and his wife Shona.

In 2003, Avspecs moved into their own new premises at Ardmore. This facility allows for future expansion and guarantees the company's position at Ardmore, New Zealand's busiest airfield and the home of the New Zealand Warbirds Association.

Avspecs has an impressive list of past and current restoration projects including; De Havilland Tiger Moth, Venom and Mosquito, Hawker Sea Fury, North American T6 Harvard, Lockheed L10A Electra, Boeing Stearman, Cessna Bird Dog, Curtiss P-40 Kitty hawk and Supermarine Spitfire.

The company has won numerous awards at Oshkosh for their restorations of these classic machines, a testimonial in itself for the professionalism and craftsmanship.

The recent completion of the De Havilland Mosquito KA114 and its delivery to the USA is another testament to their professionalism and capability. This beautiful aircraft thrilled the many thousands who saw it flying at displays in New Zealand in 2012 and 2013. The aircraft is now flying in the USA, where a similar reception is assured. Avspecs have another Mosquito, two Spitfires and a Grumman Widgeon in work.

Their achievements fully meet the criteria for this award and the Society is delighted to present this Meritorious Services Award to Avspecs Ltd.

Presented this day in Wellington  
June 14, 2013

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## Meritorious Service Award -2012

The Meritorious Service Award is made by the Council of the Society to recognise long term contributions and practical achievements in all sections of aerospace in New Zealand. The award takes the form of a certificate, a citation and a medal.

This Meritorious Service award is made to **Glyn Powell**.

Glyn had created a manufacturing capability that is unique, replicating the industrial scale wartime manufacture of wooden airframe components for De Havilland Mosquito bombers. Glyn Powell acquired his own ex RNZAF T43 Mosquito from another collector, who obtained it from a farm at Riwaka, along with a big collection of Mosquito stuff. His intention was to rebuild the aircraft and then fly it, thinking the project might take five years. He soon realized it was a bigger job than that, and that rebuild remains a work in progress. However, in the meantime he has completed other Mosquito airframes.

The Mosquito was built of plywood as a wartime expedient, and requires high precision moulds on which to shape the various components. Glyn built the first fuselage for a Canadian Mk XX Mosquito as he made the moulds and this went to the Mosquito Bomber Group at Windsor, Ontario for a static restoration.

Next, he built a complete wooden airframe; fuselage, wing, tailplane, fin, flaps and wingtips for Jerry Yagen's T43 Mosquito KA114. This aircraft is now flying in the USA, having thrilled many thousands of people in New Zealand since its first flight in September last year.

Glyn has since built another complete wooden airframe for his own T 43 NZ2308 and is currently doing the complete restoration on this aircraft. The aim is to fly it in about 3 years. Negotiations are underway with a UK Trust on a proposal where he will get to fly the aircraft here in NZ for 12 months before it passes to the UK.

These achievements fully meet the criteria for this award and the Society is delighted to present a Meritorious Services Award to Glyn Powell.

Presented this day in Wellington  
June 14, 2013

Recommended for this award by Hamilton Branch, RAeS

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## Ian J Diamond award -2012

The Ian J Diamond award is awarded to a young aviation professional wishing to embark on a course of higher academic study leading to a tertiary qualification in an aviation related subject and with the firm intention of participating in New Zealand aviation. The award consists of a monetary grant, a citation and a medal.

This is the second year this award has been presented, and again there are two recipients. This award goes to **Gary Williams**.

Gary has had a lifelong passion for aviation and his career to date demonstrates this. After finishing college in 2003 he undertook a Bachelor of Aviation in Aircraft Maintenance at Massey University and went on to work as a helicopter engineer at North Shore Aviation. In 2008 he moved to Oceania Aviation Ltd, starting as a maintenance technician before being reassigned as a Mods Engineer in the fledgling manufacturing division. In this role he was responsible for support of design, development, manufacture, certification and installation of a range of equipment on helicopters.

Gary was also heavily involved with Oceania's NZCAR Part 145 Aircraft Manufacturing Organization certification by the NZCAA.

Gary has now resigned from employment to become a full-time student at the University of Auckland, studying mechanical engineering. It is his intention to return to aviation engineering design on completion of his degree, with the goal of achieving NZCAR Part 146 design delegation.

Gary's demonstrated passion and enthusiasm fully meets the criteria for the issue of this award, and makes him a well-deserved recipient of the Ian James Diamond Memorial Award for 2012.

Presented this day in Wellington  
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The Ian J Diamond award is awarded to a young aviation professional wishing to embark on a course of higher academic study leading to a tertiary qualification in an aviation related subject and with the firm intention of participating in New Zealand aviation. The award consists of a monetary grant, a citation and a medal.

This is the second year this award has been presented, and again there are two recipients. This award goes to **SGT Glenn Russell**, for his consistent display of academic achievement, high professional standards throughout his development within the RNZAF Avionics trade grouping, and in acknowledgment of his aspiration to continually advance himself in skills and knowledge.

SGT Russell joined the RNZAF in Jan 2000, completing Recruit, Basic Engineering, Avionics Mechanics and Technicians Course and was selected to undertake the RNZAF's Diploma Trainee Scheme. He completed a Diploma in Electrotechnology (Electronics Engineering) in 2004, gaining the award for the best performance in Diploma Electronics.

In 2010 he completed a Bachelor of Engineering Technology at AUT, majoring in Networks and Communication. He was posted to 6 SQN and promoted to SGT in 2011 studying throughout this period. In 2012 he completed a Post Grad Diploma in Engineering at AUT. It is noteworthy that this was achieved, not in full time study, but in a combination of study and work balanced to ensure that his contributions to the RNZAF were not lost during his educational development. Last year SGT Russell was given Defence Education Board approval to study towards his PhD in Engineering at AUT.

Throughout his career SGT Russell has been a top performer and an asset to every unit he has served in. SGT Russell is professional and displays strong integrity, requiring a high standard of workmanship from himself and those he supervises. SGT Russell is commended for excellent educational results and his dedication to continue pursuing higher qualifications while maintaining the attributes of the RNZAF, and is a well-deserved recipient of the Ian James Diamond Memorial Award for 2012.

Presented this day in Wellington  
14 Jun 2013

Recommended for this award by Group Captain I J Mower, RNZAF Chief Engineer, Technical Airworthiness Authority, RNZAF

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## Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award -2012

The Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award was established as a memorial to Mike Neville, Company Solicitor at Air New Zealand Ltd, with a donation from The Boeing Airplane Company with whom Mr Neville had many dealings. The award is made to a young person employed in aviation in New Zealand who demonstrates excellence in work ethics, values, application and results, and has the intention of further study. The award takes the form of a specially minted medal, a certificate and a monetary amount.

This year the award goes to **Leading Aircraftsman Callum McPherson**, for his exemplary work ethics, passion and highly professional manner. In addition, his extramural studies enhance both his Armament Trade knowledge and his development as a young leader within the RNZAF.

Over the last 12 months LAC McPherson has been asked to take on additional technical and leadership. He has consistently exceeded expectation and provided dependable technical competence and accurate and effective forward thinking in the Ohakea Explosives Storage Area. He has shown remarkable dedication to his duties often working long hours, producing dependable results and has taken on the training and development of personnel posted into the Explosives Storage Section. He has refined, developed and delivered training packages with excellent instruction and supervision of his students.

In addition, LAC McPherson has pursued further education through extramural study, following his armament trade interests by completing the National Certificate in Extractive Industries (Land Blasting Using Explosives) with Tai Poutini Polytechnic. He is presently engaging with the Ohakea Adult Learning Centre to undertake further study in the field of Aviation Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

LAC McPherson has shown outstanding personal qualities through his dedication to the coaching of junior tradesmen. This includes the planning and organising of armaments and supernumerary tasks, along with maintaining service discipline and standards. LAC McPherson is highly respected

by both his peers and his superiors for his commitment and devotion to the people around him and his duties. He has a bright future in the RNZAF and is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award for 2012.

Presented this day in Wellington  
14 Jun 2013

Recommended for this award by Group Captain A J Woods, RNZAF Acting Chief of Air Force.

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## George Watt award -2012

This award was established by Group Captain George Watt to recognise outstanding technical merit which enhances the efficiency of the RNZAF. The award takes the form of a silver medal, a certificate and a monetary award.

The George Watt Award for 2012 goes to **Squadron Leader Michele Thomson** for her dedication and efforts in developing a more efficient process to ensure the RNZAF's conformance with Service Bulletins and Airworthiness Directives.

Whilst working in the Boeing Technical Support cell, the then Flight Lieutenant Michele Thomson became aware of the challenges in verifying the RNZAF's conformance with Service Bulletins and Airworthiness Directives released by Boeing and the Federal Aviation Authority. The extant process had created a significant backlog of work but, with the support of likeminded SNCOs and officers, and in consultation with Air New Zealand engineering staff, she initiated and led the development of a more efficient process.

The process utilised a dormant SAP function which, once developed, allowed the RNZAF to formally recognise the expertise held by a variety of reputable organisations. This allowed the development of the Service Document Compliance function which allowed RNZAF technical engineers to use their resources more efficiently, whilst maintaining a high standard of technical airworthiness.

Whilst the Service Document Compliance process was designed initially around requirements for the RNZAF's Boeing 757, it soon became apparent that the process could be equally applied to most of the RNZAF's aircraft fleet. As such, it is now utilised across the RNZAF creating significant efficiency gains, particularly with the replacement fleets.

Through dedication and diligence, SQNLDR Thomson has made an enduring impact within the RNZAF Engineering branch and is a very worthy recipient of the Group Captain Watt Award for 2012.

Presented this day in Wellington  
14 Jun 2013

Recommended for this award by Group Captain I J Mower, RNZAF Chief Engineer, Technical Airworthiness Authority, RNZAF

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## Henry Wigram Award-2012

The Henry Wigram Award was established in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by Sir Henry Wigram to the development of aviation in New Zealand. The purpose of the award is to encourage the preparation and delivery of technical and other papers, and is awarded for the best paper delivered to a branch of the RAeS in New Zealand. The award takes the form of a silver medal, a certificate and a citation.

The award for 2012 goes to **Des Underwood** AMRAeS (Squadron Leader, RNZAF Retired) in recognition of his lecture to the Wellington Branch in September 2012. The lecture, entitled 'De Havilland: the man and the DH types to the end of WW2' has also been presented to the Palmerston North Branch.

The lecture covered Geoffrey de Havilland's early years in engineering and design, the building of his own aircraft and his first flight in 1910 through to the various enterprises and aircraft that he and his company designed and built until the end of WW2.

The development of military aviation in NZ was covered from the NZ Permanent Air Force in 1923 through until the formation of the RNZAF in 1937. The D.H. types that had been in service over this time included the D.H.82 Tiger Moth, most of which had been made in the DHNZ factory at Rongotai Aerodrome in Wellington.

Des Underwood is Vice Chairman of the Wellington Branch, an Associate Member of the Society and has been a councillor on the NZ Division Council since 2011. He is also a member of the Aviation Historical Society.

Des enlisted in the RNZAF in 1968 as an aircraft electrician and served at Ohakea, Auckland and Wigram. He was commissioned as an engineering officer in 1977 and completed engineering training at the Royal Air Force College Cranwell in the UK. On promotion to Squadron Leader in 1987, he was appointed the OC of the Airframe Reconditioning Squadron where depot level maintenance was carried out on Skyhawk and Orion aircraft types.

He retired from the RNZAF in 1990, but returned to uniformed service as a Squadron Leader in 1995 where he was appointed an IT project manager. He retired in 2006 after 33 years' service when he took up his current role as an IT Manager with the NZDF in Wellington.

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June 14, 2013

Recommended for this award by Wellington Branch, RAeS