

# RECIPIENTS OF RAeS AWARDS 2014

## Ian Diamond Award 2014

The Ian Diamond award was established as a memorial to Ian James Diamond, General Manager of Engineering at Air New Zealand. The award is made 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 award goes to Corporal **Hadley Ryan Tweedie** RNZAF.

Corporal Tweedie has had a consistent and continued education since joining the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He completed his New Zealand Diploma in Electrical Engineering with an A+ average in 2011, and is now studying for a Bachelor in Information Sciences with a major in Information Technology and a minor in Management. He is half way through this study and has achieved an A grade average so far. Corporal Tweedie is committed to becoming an Engineering Officer in the specialisation of Aviation Software.

Corporal Tweedie is also undertaking his studies whilst on an operational squadron; his results and goals are most impressive and his command is confident that his exceptionally high standards will be maintained in all areas. His choice of subjects will place him in a critical and valuable position upon commissioning, as he has chosen a new and exciting field of study that few others currently serving have a grasp of. His dedication to aviation is outstanding and he is currently seen by his peers as a role model that many wish to emulate. As well as being a highly motivated and professional technician and student, Corporal Tweedie has also been recognised for his contribution to the administration of NZDF sport.

Corporal Tweedie is a worthy recipient of the Ian Diamond Award for 2014.

Presented this day in Wellington  
May 22, 2015

Recommended for this award by Group Captain P B Griffin,  
Chief Engineer (Technical Airworthiness Authority)

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This award goes to **André Joseph Budel**.

André joined the RNZAF in 2008 as an avionics mechanic. After completing junior training courses, he was posted to 5 Squadron at Whenuapai working on P3KOrions. While he enjoyed the challenge of working with avionics he wanted to become an aeronautical engineer.

After completing a number of voluntary courses in his own time, he enquired about becoming an engineering officer. Being an Aircraftmen (the lowest rank in the RNZAF), his chances of

commissioning were slim; however, his commanding officer put through an application as he had excelled in trade training, academics and teamwork. André was selected to become an Engineering Officer; but did not meet the entry qualifications for an engineering tertiary qualification. He was put through officer training, commissioned in September 2011 and given time off to complete a Bachelor of Engineering at Massey University.

In addition to his academic studies at Massey University, André has been involved in voluntary work; helping run a mentoring scheme in the RNZAF, is the voluntary flight commander of 12 RNZAF technicians who were also undergoing tertiary study, and actively participating in a number of social and cultural clubs on the Massey campus. He was elected as President of the Albany Students' Association in 2013 and still holds this position.

André is in his final year of undergraduate study for a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours and has been able to maintain an A-grade point average. He has specialised in computer systems and software, which are relatively new and emerging fields in aeronautical engineering. André's ambition is to do postgraduate studies, and make a strong contribution to the RNZAF and airworthiness in New Zealand as an engineer competent in these areas.

André's application is supported by the Dr Edmund Lai, one of his professors, Colin Edie, his RNZAF mentoring coordinator, and Jacqueline Adams of the Albany Students Association. He is a worthy recipient of the Ian Diamond Award for 2014.

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## Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award 2014

The Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane 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.

The Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2014 goes to **Rocky Rua**.

Rocky has been employed by CTC Aviation since 23 May 2011, initially as a Flight instructor, and more recently as a Flight Safety Officer. Prior to joining CTC, Rocky was a Learning and Development Facilitator -Aircrew for Qantas Airways, and a Flight Instructor in the New Zealand Aero Club environment. He started with CTC Aviation as a C Category Flight Instructor, and has completed on-going professional development and upgrade training, with a higher than average first-time pass rate in all flight tests and has attained a senior B Category Flight Instructor rating. He has delivered instruction through all phases of the syllabus for Commercial Pilot Licence, Instrument Rating training, and Multi-crew Pilot Licence for the New Zealand and a number of other airworthiness authorities.

Rocky has demonstrated his commitment to broadening his knowledge and contribution to aviation through his experience prior to CTC Aviation, and most recently through being appointed the Flight Safety Officer within our Safety and Compliance team. In this role he has made a significant difference through the introduction of new initiatives and programs such as a new

company safety 'brand' and a safety magazine. Rocky exhibits very high values and a strong work ethic and takes pride in his work.

While working full-time during 2014, Rocky completed a Master of Business Administration Degree (MBA) at the University of Waikato.

Rocky's professional performance, commitment to the flight training sector and in particular flight safety, his enthusiasm for on-going professional development, and his strong interest in furthering the participation of young Maori in aviation makes him a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award for 2014.

Presented this day in Wellington  
22 May 2015

Recommended for this award by Sarah Hooker, Human Resource Manager, CTC Aviation

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## George Watt Award -2014

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 2014 goes to Corporal **Aaron McLeod**.

Corporal McLeod has made a significant contribution to the RNZAF through his technical mastery of electronic equipment and his consistent willingness to lead his team with enthusiasm and skill. His technical merit was recognised in 2014 within the technical community when he was selected as the winner of the Litton Trophy ahead of all other avionics technicians at RNZAF Ohakea. He has implemented coaching schemes for junior technicians, recovered a backlog of faulty ARC1 59 modules and created a new teaching course on the VHF 20B radio to cover the gap in Avionic training. Furthermore, he has applied himself to many projects, including creation of a test programme for the new Augusta A109 helmets, assisting the Non-destructive testing team to develop their electrical and test equipment requirements, designing an additional communications station for the Iroquois Simulator and designing and building a new radio communications network for the Raumai Air Weapons Range.

Corporal McLeod's attention to detail and energy has ensured that the RNZAF's equipment is tested and repaired to the highest standards and his research to ensure best practices are being followed has created relationships with equipment manufacturers and technical support teams across the RNZAF. He is a well-rounded and professional airman with proven outstanding technical abilities and a natural affinity and passion for the development of his fellow airmen.

Corporal Aaron McLeod is a worthy recipient of the RAeS George Watt Award for 2014.

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Recommended for this award by Group Captain P B Griffin, Chief Engineer (Technical Airworthiness Authority)

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## Meritorious Service Award -2014

The Meritorious Service Award is made by the Council of the Society, and recognises 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 **Warwick Frank Jones**.

Warwick followed his two older brothers Barry and Owen into the RNZAF when he left school in 1965. He completed his Engine Mechanics course and was posted to Ohakea where he initially worked in the Power Plant Bay. After completing his engine specialist training as an Engine Fitter, he was posted onto 75 Squadron at Ohakea, performing servicing and maintenance of De Havilland Vampires, and later Douglas A4Skyhawks. He remained on 75 Squadron until he completed his eight-year contract with the RNZAF. Along with his close association with aircraft, his three flights as a passenger in the Skyhawk piqued his lifelong passion for aviation.

After his RNZAF career, Warwick worked briefly at NZ Aerospace Industries Ltd in the Engine Shop Cylinder Bay. Unfortunately, health issues associated with dust and chemicals prevented him from continuing in the industry. This did not prevent him pursuing his lifelong interest in aviation. He became a member of the Hamilton Branch of the RAeS and in 1974 was elected to the Branch Committee. In the following four decades Warwick has continued as convenor of Branch meetings and events to ensure members of the Hamilton Branch enjoy the broad variety of presenters and topics they do. In addition, he organises away-events including air shows, regional museums, and restoration projects such as the Mosquito restoration at Ardmore. He also manages a magnificent and expanding library of books and videos for the Hamilton Branch.

In pursuit of his passion for aviation, Warwick has developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of aircraft types and specifications and has established a wide circle of friends and contacts in a diverse range of aviation disciplines. The advent of the internet has seen him expand his role by continuing to identify all manner of aviation developments and snippets and share these with Branch members for their enjoyment.

In recognition for his outstanding contribution to the Society's Hamilton Branch over four decades, Warwick Frank Jones is awarded the Meritorious Services Award for 2015.

Presented this day in Wellington  
22May 2015

Recommended for this award by Des Underwood and Hugh McCarroll

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This Meritorious Service award is made to **John King**.

John grew up in Christchurch, and was interested in aviation from a young age. He got a job with NAC at Harewood and learned to fly in 1966 in the NAC Flying Club's Auster. He moved to Wellington in 1968, working in NAC's fledgling computer section. By this time, he had developed

an interest in writing and photography, and started a long involvement with NZ Wings magazine as a contributor.

Following the merger of Air NZ and NAC he moved to Auckland, and after redundancy from Air New Zealand took up full time writing and photography. His speciality was aviation, and his first book, Vintage Aeroplanes in New Zealand was published in 1986. This was the first of eight books John has written on aviation in New Zealand. The biggest challenge, and the most satisfying when published, was his third book; New Zealand Tragedies -Aviation Accidents and Disasters, published in 1995 with a good deal of encouragement from Ross McPherson, Editor of NZ Wings.

John is currently the Editor of NZ aviation News and NZ Sport Flying magazines. He was awarded the Society's Campbell Award for Aviation Journalism in 1992, and is a Council Member of the Sport Aircraft Association.

John King's passion for aviation and his commitment to recording our aviation history make him a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Services Award for 2015.

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Recommended for this award by the Council of the NZ Division, RAeS

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This Meritorious Service award is made to **Raymond Deerness**.

Ray has always been interested in transport and aviation. He has a vivid memory of an airshow he attended as a young boy, a Grumman Avenger taking at off at the end of the show, doing a slow climbing turn until it levelled out around 3000 feet. He never forgot the sound, and was delighted to hear it again over 20 years later, recognising the aircraft long before it was sighted.

Ray's first sight of an agricultural aircraft was a Tiger Moth, topdressing on the hills east of Wanganui in 1951. A visit to Wanganui airport on Labour weekend, 1960 was the start of his lifelong hobby photographing aircraft and recording registration data and other details. He soon had his own copy of Whites Air Directory, helped compile a list of all the aircraft on the NZ register, and establishing his wide network of contacts with other enthusiasts and people in the industry.

He became very interested in New Zealand built aircraft and has amassed a collection of photographs and historical data beyond compare. He is a walking encyclopaedia on New Zealand and Australian agricultural aviation and is the go to man in the Aviation Historical Society. He contributed to NZ Wings for many years and is also co-author (with Janic Geelen) of 'the topdressers', the definitive history of New Zealand's agricultural industry.

Ray's passion for aviation and his commitment to recording our aviation history make him a worthy recipient of the Royal Aeronautical Society's Meritorious Services Award for 2015.

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This Meritorious Service award is made to **Des Lines**.

Des was brought up in Central Otago and learnt to fly as a school boy. In the early 1960s he moved to Christchurch to his first job, as a clerical assistant with the National Airways Corporation. In 1964, having gained his Commercial Pilot License, he was appointed to the position of DC3 First Officer with the Corporation. He progressed as First Officer through Fokker F27, Vickers Viscount, and Boeing 737, becoming an F27 Captain in 1974. NAC merged with Air New Zealand in 1978 and following a period as a Boeing 737 captain, Des went on to command Boeing 767 and 747 aircraft.

Having turned the family life-style property at Swananoa close to Christchurch into a private airfield, he has collected several light aircraft which he flies regularly. He remains a strong flying enthusiast. At his well-equipped hangar and briefing room, he runs lectures for aspiring pilots, and with the help of a group of mostly retired aviation volunteers, has inspired a great number of young people to achieve. What began as science days for the local school have, over many years developed into activity days which schools from far afield are keen to attend. Those who participate in his physics demonstrations do so with enthusiasm which can make their teachers jealous!

In a new venture, Des. is establishing a panel of senior people who will conduct mock employment interviews for young people, to provide them with the skills required to impress a future employer. Encouragement to young people to explore careers in aviation and watching their subsequent career paths gives him great personal satisfaction.

Des' encouragement of young people into aviation makes him a worthy recipient of the Society's Meritorious Service award.

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This Meritorious Service award is made to Air Commodore **Graeme Gilmore** OBE, FRAeS, RNZAF (Rtd).

Graeme spent 33 years in the RNZAF, retiring as an Assistant Chief of Defence staff. His subsequent civil career included roles as General Manager of Safe Air, Engineering Operations Manager of Air New Zealand and others –all of which he discharged with distinction.

Following his retirement Graeme agreed to a request from the Ministry of Defence to take on the management of the Production Phase of the C130 Hercules Life Extension Programme (LEP) at Woodbourne. The collapse of the overseas prime contractor and the withdrawal of the New Zealand sub-contractor had left few options to recover this high-profile programme.

The chosen course to complete the last three aircraft was to set up a new organization from scratch in a complex political, commercial, technical and regulatory environment, The C130 LEP has proved to be an immense challenge; the largest modification and repair programme ever undertaken on any aircraft type in New Zealand and the most extensive C130 programme anywhere in the world. Up to 200,000 man-hours of specialist work were required on each aircraft. Graeme put together and provided the leadership for a highly skilled team that managed a myriad of sub-contractor, contractor and agency relationships.

Two of three C130s in the production phase have been delivered to the RNZAF and the last is well underway. Graeme's no-nonsense approach, his extensive professional and industry experience and judgement, and his encyclopaedic knowledge of the C130 aircraft have been an inspiration to his team and to the many visitors to the programme, from Cabinet Ministers to aspiring aviation professionals.

Defence and the nation owe Graeme a great debt for taking on the programme and the outstanding manner in which he has executed it. It is unlikely that the task could have been achieved without him. This achievement alone makes him a worthy recipient of the Society's Meritorious Service award with a gold medal.

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## Kestrel Trophy 2014

**No 230 Squadron, RNZAF** is selected as the worthy recipient of the Royal Aeronautical Society Kestrel Trophy for 2014.

The operational deployment of the Airborne Surveillance and Reconnaissance Force (ASRF) to OP TIKI VII in Jul 14 required No 230 Squadron personnel to develop, procure and test a Mobile Tactical Operations Centre (MTOC) and a Deployable Air Ground Gateway (DAGG) capability in order to support P-3K2 flying operations. Not only was the time frame available for the development and initial deployment deemed extremely short, there were very challenging, operational, technical and security requirements that required a high level of flexibility, initiative and drive from a wide range of squadron personnel. Through their work with various RNZAF units and their high levels of commitment, ownership and dedication, No 230 Squadron personnel delivered on the mission support aims and raised the bar for pre and post mission support provided to expeditionary deployed NZDF capabilities.

On arriving in the Middle East theatre, the detachment, a large number of which were No. 230 Squadron personnel, worked tirelessly in challenging environmental conditions to setup and test

the MTOC and associated DAGG. Despite the fact that the MTOC had previously never been deployed beyond RNZAF Base Auckland, the MTOC outputs and capabilities soon exceeded commander's expectations.

Quickly adapting to their environment and task requirements, the MTOC team rapidly developed mission data flows, drafted Standard Operating Procedures and refined and developed post mission reports and products in order to support the Combined Maritime Forces coalition headquarters. Due in part to the high calibre and professionalism of the No 230 Squadron personnel involved in this deployment, the RNZAF contribution to OP TIKI VII has been heralded a great success. The RNZAF has received glowing accolades from foreign allied nations for the quality of the mission and intelligence product being provided by the ASRF effort.

Since its inception in 2008 (initially as Integrated Mission Support Squadron) No 230 Squadron has proven itself on the world stage, demonstrating true professionalism and teamwork. Furthermore, the small team have shown that by taking great pride in their work and embracing the skills and strengths of squadron personnel, the output from the team has increased exponentially. For their excellence in the provision of deployed mission support to RNZAF P-3K2 Orion operations, No 230 Squadron is awarded the RAeS Kestrel Trophy for 2014.