

# RECIPIENTS OF RAeS AWARDS 2015

## Meritorious Service Award - 2015

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 Warrant Officer **Bryan Cox** RNZAF (retired).

Bryan is a veteran fighter pilot who served in the RNZAF during the Second World War and went on to a long and successful career in civil aviation.

His first-ever flight was in February 1943 in a Tiger Moth with a cruising speed of 175kmh. By April he was flying Harvards across the sky at 330kmh; four months later he had advanced to Kitty Hawks travelling at 580kmh and in September Corsairs that dive-bombed at 670kmh.

Bryan completed three operational tours in the Pacific before the cessation of hostilities in August 1945. His military service continued when he was assigned to 14 Squadron in support of the post-war policing of Japan. Bryan flew his last Corsair flight on 31 March 1947, returned to New Zealand and was demobbed. He did not set foot in another aeroplane for 9 years.

In 1956, after a visit to the Auckland Aero Club at Mangere he embarked on a civil aviation career that lasted until his retirement in 1993. Initially a flight instructor, he trained as an air traffic controller and in 1965 set up the Manakau Flying School. This organisation continues today as Flightline Aeronautical College. He has flown an estimated 18,000 hours as an instructor. Bryan has also been involved in a number of aviation groups and has also been an aerobatic and display pilot. He has written several books on aviation, including; 'A New Zealand Guide to Flight Training', 'Too Young to Die', 'Pacific Scrapbook' and 'Cats Have Only Nine Lives' about his wartime and subsequent career.

From his very first experience as a student pilot with the RNZAF, Bryan developed an encyclopaedic recall of flights, incidents and the technical specifications of the aircraft he flew which he is readily able to recount. His twelve pilot's logbooks verify every one of the 21,145 flying hours he made on 21,620 flights over four decades. Even in his 90's in Tauranga, Bryan continues to share his passion for aviation with others and does his bit as a volunteer at the Classic Flyers Air Museum. Bryan Cox is a worthy recipient of the Royal Aeronautical Society's Meritorious Service award.

Presented this day in Hamilton

6 April 2016

Recommended for this award by Des Underwood and Bay of Plenty Branch, RAeS

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This Meritorious Service is made to Air Vice Marshal **Peter Adamson**, CB, OBERNZAF (retired).

Peter joined the RNZAF as a cadet pilot in 1955 and was selected for entry to the RAF College at Cranwell, England. On graduation in 1958 he was awarded the Queen's Medal, the Air Ministry Prize, the RNZAF Trophy for Commonwealth and War Studies, and was appointed to a permanent commission in the RNZAF.

On returning to New Zealand, he served initially as a pilot with No. 40 Squadron. Between 1964 and 1983 he held numerous postings as he rose through the ranks; flying instructor at Wigram, serving in Malaysia, commanding number 1 squadron flying Bristol Freighters, OC flying training wing at Wigram, OC operations Wing and Base Commander Auckland.

He was appointed to Air Staff in 1983 and took over command of RNZAF Operations Group HQ in 1986. In 1988 Peter became Chief of Air Staff, having fulfilled the deputy role during the previous year. He retired in 1992.

Among the many achievements during his illustrious 37-year RNZAF career, his time at Defence HQ was the most significant. Peter was responsible for a number of major re-equipment projects. Principal among these was a program to update and improve the RNZAF's operational strike capability. As Chief of Air Staff, he also guided the RNZAF through the period of a major Defence Review in the late 1980s, ensuring the Service could continue to meet its Defence objectives.

Peter received a number of awards during his long career; Member of the Order of the British Empire (NY list 1974), Officer of the Order of the British Empire (NY list 1985), Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Queen's Birthday list 1990), and Hon ADC to Gov Gen (Dec 1973-Oct 1974).

Peter has continued his interest and involvement in aviation since his retirement. He has been involved with the Air Force Museum since 1996, being Board Chairman since 1999. He has also been President of the Air Training Corps Association since 1996 and a member of the Board of the Life Flight Trust since 1992.

Peter Adamson's RNZAF career has been marked by excellence. This and his generous contribution of time to the not for profit aviation organisations since his retirement make him a worthy recipient of the Society's Meritorious Service Award with a Rhodium medal.

Presented this day in Wellington

1 April 2016

Recommended for this award by the Council, Royal Aeronautical Society (NZ Division)