

RECIPIENTS OF RAeS AWARDS 2016/2017

George Watt Award – 2016/2017

This award was established by George Watt to recognize outstanding technical merit which enhances the efficiency of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. The award is open to all ranks of the RNZAF, and is for:

- Invention of improved equipment; or
- Improvements in methods which enhance efficiency; or
- A technical paper which describes ways and means of improving technical support; or
- Improved methods leading to an appreciable advance in technical training.

The winner is selected by Air Staff who make the RAeS Division aware of the successful candidate and the reasons for the selection. This year the George Watt Award is awarded to **Mr M J Pollock**, NZDF.

Mr Pollock joined the RNZAF Capability Sustainment Cell as an NZDF Civilian in 2013 to assist the RNZAF in addressing obsolescence challenges faced by the P3 Orion, C130 Hercules and the SH-2G Seasprite fleets, in particular the Data Storage Unit for the P3 Orion. This unit was based on a commercial model, which was failing to meet RNZAF requirements for system speed, capacity and capability. Mr Pollock assured the RNZAF that a solution was viable, and, Since L3 Spar was unable to address the performance deficiency, he was tasked with utilising a contractual financial offset to research, develop and design a replacement Data Storage Unit to deliver a more capable solution.

Utilising his extensive knowledge and experience in systems engineering, Mr Pollock successfully redesigned the hardware architecture utilising readily available commercial equipment. The new design provides a significant increase in system speed and capability, combined with careful componentry selection has reduced future obsolescence risk. Enhanced pre and post mission analysis has reduced data transfer time by 80%. The most significant effect is that the normal post mission download time of five hours has been reduced to one hour. Mr Pollock achieved all of this at a third of the cost of the budget provided by the financial offset.

In recognition of his innovative approach, attention to detail and dedication to the RNZAF to deliver a more capable, efficient, and cost-effective solution than was originally envisaged, Mr Pollock is awarded the George Watt Award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017

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

Kestrel Trophy – 2016/2017

Avionics Squadron supports NZDF military air operations, by bearing the responsibility for all off-aircraft avionics fault confirmation and repairs for the RNZAF fleet. During a challenging period, a strong commitment to excellence and empowerment of Squadron members has resulted in significant growth and advancements in unit output, and strengthening of Squadron esprit de corps.

Avionics Squadron's focussed innovation has seen the development of new test sets and repair schemes for the NH90, A109, P-3K2 and C-130 fleets resulting in enduring, enhanced efficiency and cost savings e.g. the NH90 Plant Maintenance Computer battery replacement repair scheme, utilising additive printing, has combined with other repairs to achieve annual savings of more than \$125,000 and significantly reduced time to repair by up to 390 days per repair.

Proactive initiatives including Squadron visits, work experience, and the hosting of local high school technology classes have seen Avionics Squadron play a leading role in attracting suitable candidates for enlistment, whilst strengthening relationships with industry partners Beca, Loop Technologies and Rocket Lab, has enhanced repair outcomes.

Avionics Squadron has distinguished itself by displaying the highest levels of initiative, innovation and determination to achieve outstanding results. Accordingly, Avionics Squadron is "adjudged to be the most excellent" unit and is awarded the Kestrel Trophy for excellence.

Douglas Patterson Award – 2016/2017

The purpose of the Doug Patterson Award is to encourage those persons who are making or intending to make a career in aviation in South Pacific countries, where aviation is still in the developmental stage, such as, Samoa, Fiji, New Guinea and other near Pacific Islands. Where appropriate, the award would assist the successful candidate to gain experience in the aviation industry in New Zealand or where advisable overseas. The award for 2016/2017 goes to **LAME Matai Manako Qalovaki**.

Manako graduated in early 2012 with a certificate in aircraft maintenance and in the same year, he commenced his Civil Aviation of Fiji [CAAF] basic modules exams for airframe and engine. CAAF rules required Manako to seek work experience for three years before he could gain a CAAF 'Licence Without Type Rating' [LWTR]. The practical work experience he subsequently gained over the next 3 years with the airlines, enabled him to gain his CAAF Licences with ratings for Cessna 152/172 aircraft and Lycoming engines. He is currently pursuing his ratings for Britton Norman Islander, Duchess and Twin Otter series aircraft.

LAME Matai Manako is employed by Sunflower Aviation, operating a variety of fixed wing aircraft and Helicopters. A well-rounded individual, he has been an asset to the company and provides a leadership role for the rest of the team on the hangar floor. He is a good listener and a great role model, assisting other engineers with their basic licence and type ratings. Previously, Manako was an exemplar student at school, where he was the 1st fifteen rugby captain and achieved second best overall student in 7th form. He also served the local community as the charity club treasurer.

In recognition of his achievements and dedication to aviation, LAME Matai Manako is awarded The Doug Patterson Award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017

Recommended for this award by Jim Samson, Group GM Sunflower Aviation.

Duncan Campbell Award – 2016/2017

The Duncan Campbell Award recognises excellence in aviation journalism. There are separate awards for young journalists and writers, and for established journalists and writers who have demonstrated their ability and dedication in this specialised area of journalism.

This award is made to Phil Taylor, an established journalist with the New Zealand Herald, for his work on a multimedia package about the safety record of Robertson helicopters that ran in the NZ Herald on April 1 2017.

Phil put a considerable amount of work into this project. During his research he had to learn about some complex, specialised areas of helicopter design, in an attempt to take the emotion out of a debate that engenders strong opinions. Phil became an expert, at least compared to his newsroom colleagues, on such things as mast bump and rotor head designs.

As well as a text story, Phil's multimedia package included video and graphic content in an effort to make a complex subject accessible to laypeople.

He spoke to many sources on both sides of the debate, on and off the record. The result was a compelling multimedia package that was informing, non-judgemental and faithful to the views of those interviewed. His work became the definitive New Zealand piece on the debate so far, at least in the mainstream media.

Phil Taylor is a worthy recipient of the Duncan Campbell Award for 2016/2017.

Presented this day in Wellington
8th September 2017

Recommended for this award by Shayne Currie, Managing Editor, NZME

E A Gibson Award – 2016/2017

This award was set up by the RAeS as a memorial to E A Gibson, a former Director of Civil Aviation, and is to acknowledge substantial technical achievement in the field of agricultural aviation or generally in the field of aviation safety. The Award takes the form of a silver medal, a certificate and a citation.

The award for 2016/2017 goes to the **RPAS (Remote Piloted Aircraft System) Training Team of the Massey University School of Aviation.**

RPAS are now ubiquitous (seen everywhere), which poses a significant safety challenge for airspace management and conventional manned aerial platforms. Particularly, commercial operations coming under threat from enthusiastic amateurs operating RPAS without necessarily having any knowledge of the potential danger their operation poses to other airspace users.

Recognising this hazard, the Massey University School of Aviation worked closely with the CAA to develop a training course designed to introduce aviation knowledge, regulations and an understanding of the safety culture within aviation to non-aviators.

This resulted in the development of a CAA Part 141 Certified Course that is in two parts: Introduction to Regulations and Operator Conduct; and Introduction to Flight Operations and Procedures. The latter course includes a CAA approved Flight Examination where students are required to demonstrate the application of the rules and procedures and handling competency

with their RPAS. All students sit a follow-up on-line test and graduates are issued with a Certificate and a Pilot Certificate (and a set of “wings”).

The courses were developed and are delivered through the initiative of a small group of dedicated Flight Instructors, outside of their normal duties. They used both technical and soft-skills from their professional instructing duties to relate to non-aviation people from diverse walks of life to inculcate (verb implant, infuse information – instill?) in them a level of airmanship, risk management and situational awareness. Each of the Massey staff members has, predominantly in their off-duty time, undergone training in operating RPAS and a number are now fully qualified RPAS Flight Examiners.

The demand for these courses has been remarkable and the feed-back from graduates who are now operating RPAS on a commercial basis under CAA Rule part 102 has been rewarding. To date, since Course Number 1 in October 2015, the RPAS Training Team has graduated 230 people. The vast majority had no previous aviation experience, and now, many are competently and safely operating their RPAS in support of a broad swathe of industries, including agricultural activities.

This award acknowledges all of the individuals who, as part of the School of Aviation RPAS Training Team, contributed and collaborated to design and deliver courses. The courses have directly enhanced the level of professionalism amongst commercial RPAS operators; including their awareness of airspace use and flight safety.

To receive the Award on behalf of the School of Aviation’s RPAS Training Team is the current Team Leader, Flight Instructor Andrew Vialoux.

Presented in Wellington
08 September 2017

Recommended for this award by F Sharpe, Massey University School of Aviation

Geoffrey Roberts Award – 2016/2017

This award is open to any young person who is a New Zealand citizen and who has the firm intention of following a career in civil aviation in New Zealand. At the time of selection, the candidate could be in training in preparation for taking up such a career or could be gaining experience in civil aviation overseas. The award consists of a monetary grant, a citation and a medal.

The award for 2016/2017 goes to **Matt Fearon**. Matt started a NZ Diploma in Aviation course of training with CTC Aviation in February this year.

Prior to joining CTC, Matt gathered experience in the building industry and retail sales. Through demonstrated perseverance, he is pursuing his aviation dreams and was successful in selection for the NZ Diploma Course, demonstrating the attributes looked for with the goal of CPL/IR and selection for a position with CTC Aviation in Hamilton as a Flight Instructor (FI).

Matt has clearly demonstrated his commitment and firm intention of following a career in civil aviation in New Zealand by changing his career to enable the realisation of his aviation goal.

Matt is in the very early phases of flight training achieving first solo in April this year. He has since progressed out of circuit to local area solo and general handling. To date Matt has achieved all objectives with no additional training being required.

Matt exhibits very high standards, values and a strong work ethic, taking pride in his work and upholding the “Committed to Excellence” standard that CTC prides itself on.

Concurrent with full-time training, Matt supports his father in their business, he has a supportive family and committed partner, and it is encouraging that he is able to manage these relationships with balance.

Matt Fearon is a worthy recipient of the Geoffrey Roberts Award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington

8th September 2017

Recommended for this award by Jonathon Stanwix, Head of Training, CTC Aviation

Ian J Diamond Award – 2016/2017

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 **Sergeant Michael Jeffcoat**, RNZAF.

Through his 10-year career in the RNZAF, Sergeant Jeffcoat has been engaged in range of aviation work. His current role is with Technical Support Aeronautical Software, as an Avionics Technician in support of 5 Squadron RNZAF. He has shown his dedication behind the scenes in the bays, as an avionics technician, and through his strong ethics on front line squadron work; where working weekends and long shifts were necessary to keep the P-3K2 Orion serviceable. His commitment was also ably demonstrated through exercise deployments overseas, such as OP ROKIWI, in South Korea.

Sergeant Jeffcoat has been a role model for ‘at risk’ young people through his time at the Youth Development Unit, where he mentored and taught trainees life skills to help them find employment. It was an opportunity to instill NZDF values in the youth involved on the programme and helped to turn their lives around to reach their true potential. The success of the programme is built upon mentors, like Sergeant Jeffcoat, who have strong work ethics and values.

Sergeant Jeffcoat has also shown commitment to further study completing several extramural study papers through Auckland University of Technology and Massey University. These papers have had a direct benefit on his job in Technical Support Aeronautical Software and through passing on his knowledge, will further benefit the RNZAF in future posts. He has enrolled in a Bachelor of Information Science in Software Engineering to meet the tertiary study requirements to become a RNZAF Engineering Officer and to further his aviation career.

The RNZAF thanks Sergeant Jeffcoat for his service to the aviation community. He is a worthy recipient of the Ian Diamond Award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington

8th September 2017

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

Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award 2016/2017

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 grant.

The Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2016/2017 goes to **SGT B. Thwaites**, RNZAF.

SGT B. Thwaites Galo is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2016/2017.

Arriving at 5 Sqn as a maintenance supervisor in 2014, SGT Thwaites quickly established himself as a key enabler of the team and standout supervisor who has been instrumental in a number of major unit efforts. From being the sole trade supervisor deployed to the Middle East in support of OP TAKAPU, through to exercises in Guam, Hawaii, Korea and Malaysia he has demonstrated his innovation, pragmatism and sound aviation maintenance knowledge to excellent effect. His ability is such that on each deployment he has been trusted by senior managers to manage teams upward of a dozen personnel providing swift and successful rectification to meet deployment objectives.

As an example, when an engine change was required on an aircraft in Korea SGT Thwaites deployed with the spare engine as a subject matter expert. His input and assistance on this occasion aided in the efficient troubleshooting, rectification and return to service of the aircraft under the added pressure of the unit and RNZAF's reputation in front of international partners. His calm and measured demeanour along with logical and effective management of his team ensured that all maintenance was carried out in not only a timely, but also safe and airworthy manner.

SGT Thwaites' track record stands as testament to his reputation as a conscientious, diligent and output-focused tradesman and supervisor. When combined with his current efforts to further himself through tertiary studies, in the form of a Massey University Bachelor of Aviation Management, SGT Thwaite is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017,

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

Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award 2016/2017

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The Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2016/2017 goes to **Matthew William Galo**, CTC Aviation.

A year after high school, Matt started his flying dream at Mainland Aviation in Dunedin and upon successfully completing his training he was employed by them as a C-Cat instructor for a year. The ill-health of a family member meant his flying was put on hold for 2 years; however, he successfully gained a position at CTC Aviation in 2011, initially as a Flight Instructor and more recently as a Flight Examiner.

Matt's ongoing professional development comprises an EASA instructor certificate, B Cat Flight instructor Rating, NZ & EASA instructor ratings for; night, instrument rating, multi-engine, authority to conduct instructor training, and, more recently, being selected by CTC Aviation to train as an A-Cat instructor (one of only three A-Cats over the past 9 years) through his demonstrated enthusiasm for developing and mentoring prospective pilots into the industry. After many months of study and preparation, Matt attained his A-Cat in Nov 2015. In-line with his desire for continued professional development, he also gained his General Aviation Examiner rating.

Matt's current work with instructor training and mentoring has seen him guide many newly qualified flight instructors into the industry. Leaning on his 3600 hours (3000 as an instructor) he has recently become involved in 'Upset Prevention and Recovery Training', where he is a leader in this field for light aircraft training in New Zealand.

Many students trained by Matt are now successfully working in the airline industry worldwide. His unwavering high standards in flying is testament to his commitment to excellence and contribution to aviation by delivering the highest quality flight instruction and testing. In recognition of Matt's professional performance, ongoing professional development, commitment to the flight training sector and development of new instructors, Matthew William Galo is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017

Recommended for this award by Jonathan Stanwix, Head of Training, CTC Aviation

Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award 2016/2017

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The Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2016/2017 goes to **Dr Stephen Walmsley**, CTC Aviation.

Dr Walmsley has been employed by CTC Aviation in variety of roles since 2007; initially as a flight instructor and more recently as a theoretical Knowledge Instructor (THI). Prior to joining our organisation, Stephen gathered his experience both in the education and instructors' sectors of

aviation. He has accumulated over 1800 hours as a flight instructor, teaching ab-initio student pilots.

Having graduated from Massey University with a Degree and professionally qualified as a C-Cat Flight instructor, Stephen has regularly completed on-going professional development; A post graduate Diploma in aviation followed by a Masters in Management, endorsed with aviation; both of which were achieved with Distinction. His recent PhD in Aviation investigated Cognitive Biases in Weather-Related Decision Making, which received international recognition through publication in Journals and a presentation to the Australian Aviation Psychology Conference; he is furthering his Doctorate work researching 'availability bias and hindsight bias.

In day-to-day work, Stephen lectures Meteorology and Human Factors to both New Zealand and international trainee pilots. Stephen's abilities have also seen him elevated to CTC's Safety Advisory Group as the Human Factors specialist.

Instead of departing CTC Aviation for new skies like so many of his peers, Stephen's commitment to the highest standards of education and training in flight operations, his ongoing professional development and focus on Human Factors in Aviation, continues to set trainees on a safe path in the industry.

Dr Walmsley is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017

Recommended for this award by Jonathan Stanwix, Head of Training, CT Aviation

Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award 2016/2017

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 grant.

This award goes to **Lucas Cronin**, Pacific Aerospace.

Lucas started with Pacific Aerospace in June 2011 as an Aeronautical Electrical/Avionics Trainee Technician and was inducted into a comprehensive training programme that involved Avionics theory and practise across the P750XL aircraft electrical/avionics systems. He quickly demonstrated a sound understanding of the build process and the standards of workmanship required in aviation to ensure systems are of a high quality and are safe to be released to service. Within two years Lucas became a very competent and highly skilled technician, with an excellent understanding of the instrument systems used in the P750XL and the knowledge and skill set to install such equipment.

In 2015 PAL supported Lucas' request to commence studying towards his AME Licence (Electrical/Avionics). He has shown a great deal of dedication and commitment to his studies, working steadily through the programme, while also seeking every opportunity to improve his skills and broaden his knowledge.

Lucas is a good role model for others and is a good example of what can be achieved with the right attitude and diligence. He is very personable and demonstrates great work ethic and values, making him a valuable employee for Pacific Aerospace.

Lucas Cronin is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017.

Recommended for this award by Claire Malligan, Human Resources Manager, Pacific Aerospace Ltd.

Meritorious Service Award – 2016/2017

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 **Hugh McCarroll**

The New Zealand Division of the Royal Aeronautical Society depends on its Council Members and Branch Chairs to provide leadership, inspiration, and energy to deliver programmes of lectures, events and papers for its members and potential members. Hugh McCarroll has achieved all that, and more, over the past *** years.

Hugh has always had a passion for aerospace. At nine-years-old, he gave a presentation on multi-stage rockets to his primary school class in Wellington's Hutt Valley. At 14, he was captivated by Sputnik's launch into orbit. At 17, he was devastated to discover poor eyesight meant he couldn't fly for the air force, so he became an aeronautical engineer through the University of Canterbury, where, in 1996, he gained a Bachelor of Engineering in Aeronautical Engineering.

In 1968, Hugh joined Qantas Airways Ltd as an Aeronautical Engineer in Tech Services in Sydney, Australia, until 1984. During this period Hugh was the Technical Representative for North America from 1977 and then the Audit Manager in 1980 followed by the Engineering Services Manager in 1982.

Hugh's career developed further upon his return to New Zealand, where in 1984 he became the Airport Director for Christchurch International Airport Ltd and was promoted to General Manager Operations in 1988, where he successfully ran the operation and was heavily involved in the development of the airport through until 2002, when Hugh left Canterbury to become the Chief Executive of Waikato Regional Airport Ltd – Hamilton Airport – where he managed the business and oversaw the design and construction of the new terminal, though to April 2006.

In 2002, Hugh established Molesworth Engineering, where he could indulge as an engineer to design and fabricate engineering devices and mechanisms of his own invention. He has been reported on in 'The Shed' and in numerous radio interviews for various designs including a bespoke baby stroller, indoor sundial, scaffolding, geodesic dome for fruit tree bid protection, and bespoke bookcase designs.

More recently, Hugh's passion for space and rockets culminated in an award associated with the Space Poop Challenge, where he was one of 15 semi-finalists out of 7,700 entries from around the

world in a NASA competition to design a device for astronauts so they can go to the toilet in their space suits.

With his Royal Aeronautical Membership, Hugh drove the visiting speaker programme for the Branches he chaired and has delivered several of his own talks over the years. Hugh spent 17 years in Canterbury and ran the Branch for many of them. As the NZ Divisional President from 1996 to 97. Hugh crystallised his passion for the society. His work on the Board of Directors for the New Zealand Aeronautical Trust Ltd, has been exemplary over many years of service, notably his dedication to ensuring the awards and citations were run smoothly each year.

Hugh is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service award for 2016/2017.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017

Recommended for this award by NZATL and RAeS New Zealand Division

Meritorious Service Award – 2016/2017

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 **Brian Leonard Lockstone**.

Brian's career spans journalism, government service and the aviation industry at home and overseas; in Australia, the Pacific, the United States and Europe. He has worked at the top levels of governments, at home and abroad, advised prime ministers, cabinet ministers and senior executives of multinational companies and retains strong links with the New Zealand aviation and government communities. Amongst his many experiences he has been an aviation journalist, Press Secretary to the NZ Prime Minister, Director of Civil Aviation in the Cook Islands, a senior executive with Ansett in NZ and Australia, and an adviser to the government on military history.

He is a prolific researcher and historian and has written and co-authored several civil and military aviation history books, as well as other military histories.

Brian also has a long association with NZ Aviation News, contributing articles and columns over many years. For the last decade he has produced a quarterly series entitled 'Classic Corner'.

Brian also has a long association with the NZ Aviation Historical Society, where he is currently President and Editor of the Society's quarterly journal.

His illustrious career and his contributions to New Zealand's aviation and military history make Brian Leonard Lockstone a worthy recipient of the Society's Meritorious Service Award.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017,

Recommended for this award by Des Underwood, MRAeS, Chairman Bay of Plenty Branch

Meritorious Service Award – 2016/2017

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 **James A Evans, AMRAeS.**

Jim is a well-known retired Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer and private pilot, who ran an aircraft maintenance business at Ardmore Aerodrome for many years.

Upon his retirement and subsequent move to Whitianga over a decade ago, Jim saw an opportunity to get young people interested in aviation, and also help them to develop life skills and potential future careers in the aviation industry. The idea crystallised from a conversation with a teacher and the project developed from there.

The inaugural build-a-plane at school project started in 2011 and in conjunction with the Mercury Bay Area School, Jim made available his 'brown shed' located behind the Mercury Bay Aero Club. Jim's 'shed' provided interested students with a facility where they could learn how to build an aircraft themselves, under close supervision, with a classroom and workshop on site.

The first flight and subsequent sale of 'ZK-MBA' was in November 2013, when the Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust was established, involving the School and the Mercury Bay Aero Club. The Trust funds, manages and oversees the build program, and also provides student flying lessons at a discounted rate for those students wishing to take the next step.

Since its inception, the build-a-plane project has constructed and flown two new aircraft and completed one aircraft restoration project. The local community recognises the merits of the scheme and supports it. Private individuals have bought further Van's RV12 kit-sets allowing the practical educational program to continue for the foreseeable future.

Jim Evans, supported by a number of teachers and other like-minded mentors, has given his time and energy to share his passion for aviation with the next generation of potential aviators.

For his efforts, Jim was recognised when he was awarded the Kiwi Bank Local Hero Award in 2016, which was featured in an article in the Hauraki Herald on 30 December 2016. He has also featured as a community spirited personality on the One News 'Good Sorts' report.

Jim Evans' inspired and selfless leadership in aviation education for secondary school students makes him a worthy recipient of the Society's Meritorious Service Award.

Presented in Wellington
8th September 2017

Recommended for this award by Des Underwood, MRAeS, Chairman Bay of Plenty Branch

Meritorious Service Award – 2016/2017

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 **Derek Williams.**

Derek began flying in 1954 at the Piako Aero Club, and retired in 2014 after 60 years in agricultural aviation. He has amassed over 32,000 hours, and takeoff and landing cycles which number in six figures.

Derek started as a loader driver with Adastra in Tauranga. He got his type rating for the 225HP Fletcher in 1957 so he could ferry aircraft when needed.

He joined the Tauranga Aero Club in 1956 and got his CPL in 1960. He remains a club member and well-known figure in the local aviation community.

Derek flew Fletchers and Aero Commander Snows for Adastra and James Aviation in the Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Hawkes Bay. When James Aviation closed down in 1971 he started Williams Aerial Work with a Fletcher acquired from James Aviation. This company in turn was bought by Super Air in 1988, where he remained for the rest of his flying career.

As well as his flying in NZ, Derek has flown in Malaysia spraying palm oil forests and tea plantations, as well as instructing.

In his long career Derek has been involved in only two accidents, both of which he was able to walk away from.

As well as his agricultural flying Derek also enjoys flying his own ex RNZAF Harvard ZK-ENC. This aircraft is a regular feature of ANZAC and other commemorative occasions.

Derek Williams is a worthy recipient of the Royal Aeronautical Society's Meritorious Service award.

Presented in Hamilton

8th September 2017

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