

# RECIPIENTS OF RAeS AWARDS 2021

## Kestrel Trophy - 2020

The Kestrel Trophy is presented annually to the Royal New Zealand Air Force Unit adjudged the most excellent by the Chief of Air Force. The size of the unit nominated does not matter, and the trophy is able to be displayed by the winning unit.

The **Royal New Zealand Air Force's Air Military Design Organisation (Air MDO)** is nominated for the 2020 Kestrel Trophy for the exceptional effort undertaken to achieve the first Defence Aviation Rules (DARs) organisational approval on 01 December 2020, whilst concurrently providing a high volume of design support to the Royal New Zealand Air Force's aging aircraft fleets.

Since received its design organisation approval, the Air MDO has continued to work closely with the New Zealand Defence Aviation Authority (NZ DAA) to allow its Exposition and Design Assurance System Manual to reflect best practice. The Air MDO is now able to demonstrate that it is providing a service that meets or exceeds the previous levels of safety, is improving the efficiency of the design process, and is steadily increasing the level of safety assurance for aeronautical design.

The Air MDO delivered the first Approved Change to DARs Type Design in July 2020, with the ADS-B/IFF modification for the C-130. This milestone was closely followed by similar success on the B757 and SH-2G(I) fleets in December 2020, resulting in the delivery of three capability enhancements on three different aircraft types, all under the new DARs framework. These modifications utilised all specialisations across the Air MDO, demonstrating the effectiveness of this new organisation.

The creation of the DARs-approved Air MDO was achieved while the small unit continued to deliver critical design functions to not only sustain existing Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft fleets, but to also support critical capability upgrades. This included numerous structural repair designs, avionics and software engineering support services, the provision of advice to the Ministry of Defence Integrated Project Teams for P-8, C130J and Naval Dive Hydro Projects, and to Capability Branch for the Cryptographic Refresh, and P3 and B757 SATCOM Projects.

For these reasons, the AIR MDO, as a trailblazing DARs-compliant organisation, was nominated for the Royal Aeronautical Society Kestrel Trophy for 2020.

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## Duncan Campbell 'B' Award - 2021

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. Today, we recognise the emergence of the digital era in the knowledge that Duncan would fully support this modern-day interpretation of his written words.

This award is made to **Peter Singleton**. Peter's contribution to aviation journalism and consequently aviation safety has been significant over the last two decades. Peter joined the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand in 2001, where he worked tirelessly behind the scenes as the webmaster operating with a product of limited capability yet presenting all the highly regulated information necessary, in a manner best able to enhance safety, including managing daily updates.

During the early 2000 period, Peter produced the “Notification Service” to keep industry informed and that communication remains effective, and increasingly popular today.

He has been a freelance writer, editor and content manager of the well-read CAA safety magazines CAA News and Vector. In recent decades the popularity of Vector has been evident in both anecdotal and survey feedback. Peter has managed the tightrope of ensuring safety messages are delivered to pilots and engineers in an informative, highly readable manner, while ensuring political manipulation of the magazines content has been avoided.

Peter has been editor of the highly successful CAA Good Aviation Practice (GAP) and ‘How to...’ safety booklets distributed free of charge to industry, keeping them constantly revised and up-to-date. His astute oversight, editorial skills, management of a team of writers and their material, his aviation background and aviation enthusiasm has ensured a sustained high standard of all published CAA safety material.

Peter also established 'outreach' by organising the unit's regular attendance at major air events, to introduce to the public what the Authority was and did, and to engage with the aviation community, answer their questions, and distribute free booklets and products.

Since leaving CAA last year Peter has been working on a contract project to revise the CAA Flight Instructor Guide (FIG) which serves as a resource for all flight instructors. This includes both the hard copy version and web production and access.

Peter Singleton helped to drive safety promotion at the Civil Aviation Authority for much of the almost two decades he was with the Authority. His unique blend of journalistic talents underpinned his philosophy that if the CAA wanted pilots and engineers to act in a safe manner, the Authority should make that as easy as possible, including safety products, periodicals and education being straight-forward, free and accessible. Peter Singleton is a worthy recipient of the Duncan Campbell Award.

Presented in Wellington  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by The Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand

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## Geoffrey Roberts Award - 2021

This award is open to any young person, a New Zealand citizen, 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 takes the form of a silver medal, a certificate and a monetary amount.

This Sir Geoffrey Roberts Award is made to **Claire Walton**.

Claire’s interest in an aviation career was first sparked at the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School, Matamata. She was both amazed and impressed by the diverse group of volunteers from many areas of the aviation industry, ranging from the Meteorological Service, Airways, Air New Zealand pilots, Engineers and aviation enthusiasts who combined knowledge and energy making it such a successful and enjoyable experience.

After finishing High School, Claire attended Ardmore Flying School where she completed her PPL, CPL and C Category Flight Instructor rating before being employed at Ardmore Flying School as a

ground school lecturer and junior Flight Instructor. During this period, Claire also completed her B Category Flight Instructor rating, her Multi-engine Instructor rating, and a Multi-engine Instrument Rating.

Claire then spent fifteen years as a Flight Instructor and Commercial pilot, including meeting the challenges of two years instructing in China and seven years' operating as a line pilot in Indonesia, both positions enabling her to gain a broader appreciation of cultural diversities in aviation. The latter position in West Papua requiring much adaptability and resilience from Claire to safely operate in one of the most challenging flying environments in the world.

Having returned to New Zealand Claire commenced her "airline phase" only to have COVID-19 close that option down. Claire decided it was time to explore other areas in the industry.

Following commencement of her Bachelor of Aviation Management, Claire was still undecided as to where she wanted to focus her aviation studies, so she joined the Palmerston North Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) and generally tries to talk with different people each meeting to learn more about the many areas within aviation. Also, the many guest speakers have further opened her mind to possibilities. Since starting at university, and joining the RAeS, Claire has realised how important it is to learn from aviation history to move the industry forward and she values everyone she meets who share their aviation experiences with her.

Claire is interested in accident investigation, the design of instrument approaches and New Zealand's current path to satellite tracking (ADS-B); however, since commencing her university studies she has realised that aviation has such a vast range of interesting possibilities that she is still open minded as to which path her career will take within the aviation industry.

Claire Walton's aviation journey to date, her decision to challenge herself with university studies and her passion for aviation in its many forms, makes her a woman who is determined to succeed in whichever part of aviation she chooses. Claire Walton is a worthy recipient of the Sir Geoffrey Roberts Award for 2021.

Presented in Wellington

29th October 2021.

Recommended for this award by Palmerston North Branch RAeS

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## Ian J Diamond Award - 2021

The Ian James 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 **SGT Hamish McAlpine** X1018852 Armament Technician

Sergeant McAlpine has served in the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) since September 2005. He is currently employed as an RNZAF Armament Specialist Instructor, where his role is to impart knowledge onto tradesmen and aircrew alike, across the entire RNZAF fleet in the field of aircraft armament.

Throughout Sergeant McAlpine's career he has consistently shown remarkable dedication to his duties and displayed high professional standards. His positive attitude and motivation give his peers and superiors respect and confidence in what he instructs and demonstrates in the workplace, wherever that may be.

Sergeant McAlpine displays vision and a drive for improvement. For the RNZAF, Sergeant McAlpine has helped lead the transformation of traditional armament trade training and thinking to that which is required by new regulations and trade compositions. His commitment to personal improvement is demonstrated through his growth in learning and development through further independent study.

His academic excellence has been routinely demonstrated throughout his RNZAF armament career, where he achieved top student awards for both his Armament Technicians Course and Conventional Munitions Disposal Course. He has completed a National Certificate in Extractive Industries (Land Operations Using Explosives) and other National Certificates.

Currently half way through part-time study towards a Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Mechanical Engineering), Sergeant McAlpine continues to show motivation and success in extending his knowledge in aviation engineering, achieving an A-grade average in his undergraduate studies thus far.

The desire he displays to further his knowledge in aviation engineering through higher education, under his own capacity, is testament to his resolve for personal development.

Sergeant McAlpine's command have enthusiastically nominated him for the Ian James Diamond Memorial Award. For the reasons stated above, SGT H. McAlpine is a worthy recipient of the Ian James Diamond Memorial Award.

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by Chief Engineer RNZAF

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## Michael J Neville/Boeing Aeroplane Company Award - 2021

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 2021 goes to **SQNLDR Craig Austin** G1000759 Air Warfare Officer.

Squadron Leader Craig Austin's exemplary service in his primary employment has been matched by outstanding academic achievements. He demonstrated excellence in work ethic and study through a targeted approach to learning for the greater benefit of the NZDF, NZ Police, Ministry of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Squadron Leader Austin is studying extramurally towards a Master of Aviation with Massey University, having been awarded a Bachelor of Aviation Management degree in 2020, maintaining an 'A' average throughout. He oriented his study to focus on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

and Counter-UAS, because the rapidly emerging and disruptive technology will inevitably continue to offer future study options as UAS use grows within the operating environment. He has balanced years of continuous extramural study with the demands of full-time military service and family.

Squadron Leader Austin wrote a paper for a RNZAF UAS safety case, which was published for RNZAF Commanders. This led to a secondment to the NZ Police Major Events Team to help plan the Police response to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum 2021 and the 36th America's Cup regatta, for airspace security management and operations planning to counter UAS threats. He also contributed to a Defence Counter Intelligence Annual Security Threat Assessment for NZ strategic statement on behalf of the NZDF Air and Land Component Commanders.

Squadron Leader Austin continues to gain support from his academic supervisors to pursue research topics directly applicable to the aviation community across a breadth of areas including legislation and human factors (HF). For his Legal Issues in Aviation paper, he looked at how NZDF Aviation Orders fit within the legal construct of the Defence Act 1990 and assessed how proposed changes to the NZ Civil Aviation Bill could impact NZDF aviation. His latest Master's level HF paper identified a significant gap in training for UAS pilots; his assignment developed a relevant and contemporary HF training system for operators. Testament to the quality and ground-breaking nature of his work, Massey University has since developed his paper into an academic resource podcast for undergraduate students.

Having identified an organisational knowledge gap regarding UAS, Squadron Leader Austin utilised his academic abilities, sustained dedication, commitment and passion, to fill this gap for the benefit of the NZDF and wider security community. He is becoming a subject matter expert and his work will continue to elevate and add to the maturing literature on UAS. This enables more considered analysis of the future operating environment and the resultant options for shaping decisions in support of NZ domestic and global strategic interests.

Squadron Leader Austin has demonstrated excellence in his ongoing academic studies with a strong focus on solving current and future challenges facing the RNZAF, NZDF, NZ Government Agencies and wider aviation community. For his outstanding commitment and passion for aviation learning, Squadron Leader Austin is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award.

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by Chief Engineer RNZAF

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## Meritorious Service Award - 2021

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 **Mark Woodhouse**. Mark's contribution to the New Zealand aviation industry has been continuous, with contributions in most NZ aviation publications ranging from subject matter expertise contribution to ASL (ASPEQ) examinations and CAA syllabus reviews.

Mark's input to the New Zealand aviation community, from his early days as a flight instructor, flight examiner and airline pilot, have been unselfishly directed toward speaking up in the interests of safety and the right way to do things in aviation.

Mark has achieved two decades as the volunteer Chief Flying Instructor at the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School, held in Matamata each January. A significant contribution was leading the writing and compilation of the Walsh Operations Manual and Flight Training Manual.

At the invitation of the late Walter Wagdendonk, Mark took over the Pilot Books series of technical manuals for pilots. With his wife Ruth managing the business, Mark has been an ambassador and owner for the popular Waypoints Aviation Ltd company for the past 26 years, which he established in June 1995, and which is very active today.

Mark provided the aviation industry with a constantly reviewed, revised and exceptional training resource. This includes the production of online practise exams to assist students with exam preparation, through to sponsorship of multiple aviation groups with donations of pilot books. Mark also oversaw the development and delivery of Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL) and Basic Turbine Knowledge (BTK) ground courses.

As a consultant, Mark has attended multiple aerospace themed conferences and networking events, where he delivers a variety of presentations at workshops and seminars.

One of Mark's most significant achievements was the culmination of a long-held ambition to provide Walsh students with their own aircraft. Mark co-ordinated a group of enthusiastic supporters and sponsors to create an Incorporated Society, the Walsh Aviation Support Society Inc (WASSI). This group's objective is to purchase training aircraft for the Walsh School, refurbish and maintain them to the highest standards to ensure young teenagers attending Walsh are given the safest opportunity available. The testimony to its success is that for the last two camps the Piper pa-38 Tomahawk, ZK-FML, has been a shining example and now, in less than three years, five aircraft have been purchased. All five WASSI aircraft are anticipated to be available for flying activities at the January 2022 Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School camp.

The long-term dedication and commitment that Mark has provided to the New Zealand aviation industry, to safe informed flying activities based on sound knowledge and understanding, is a shining example of high standards in both professional and volunteer activities. Mark Woodhouse is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service award for 2021.

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School

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## Meritorious Service Award - 2021

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 **Dr Ritchie de Montalk**.

Dr Ritchie de Montalk's long, varied and successful career in aviation, commenced with pilot training and service in the RNZAF, then seven years as an agricultural pilot at Wanganui Aerowork. He served ten years with the Lesotho Airways Corporation (LAC) as the Chief Pilot, then



progressed to Manager Flight Operations, in which capacity he was responsible for supervising forty pilots and cabin crew, airline check and training functions. While at LAC he led the acquisition and introduction into service of Fokker F27 aircraft and the introduction and development of scheduled air services to South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique and Botswana.

On return to NZ, Ritchie became a General Aviation Inspector/Airline Inspector with the Ministry of Transport Civil Aviation Division (CAD), for five years. During that time his duties took him to various South Pacific Island states on a regular basis both in an inspectorate role and assisting the development of their air transport capabilities.

Foreseeing the need to obtain tertiary qualifications to develop his career further he elected to resign from CAD, joined the staff at Massey University, initially as the Chief Flying Instructor, and enrolled into the Bachelor of Aviation programme. He subsequently became Manager of Aviation Safety and Standards.

His experience and academic inclination led him into postgraduate research and, following the completion of a masters degree, his ground-breaking study into ab-initio professional pilot training, both in New Zealand and abroad, identified the importance of introducing and assessing non-technical skills to complement the traditional technical skills. This body of work extended the aviation knowledge base and earned Ritchie a Doctor of Philosophy.

Throughout this period Ritchie continued to fly as a Flight Examiner and, uniquely, he was able to apply this knowledge, which enabled him to refine professional pilot development courseware. Working with the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority, under the Universities Equivalence Approval, he further developed assessment criteria and methodologies, particularly non-technical considerations during Flight Tests.

In 2011 Ritchie received the Greg Vujcich "Award for Excellence" from the New Zealand Airline Pilots Association (ALPA). Ritchie also dedicated four years of service as Secretary to the Royal Aeronautical Society NZ Division Council.

Ritchie is an Upper Freeman of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and his contributions, both in the air and on the ground, have assisted literally hundreds of young New Zealanders to follow their passion and be properly prepared to enter their own aviation career.

With an unassuming manner that masks a keen mind, and as a passionate aviator whose dedication and energy has contributed significantly to New Zealand aviation, Ritchie de Montalk is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for 2021.

Presented in Christchurch

29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by Palmerston North Branch, RAeS NZ Division

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## Meritorious Service Award - 2021

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 Gold Award is made to **Brian Hare** for a six-decade career in New Zealand aviation, specifically recognising his drive and leadership while CEO at Pacific Aerospace Corporation (PAC) where he oversaw several significant achievements.

Following a short career in Supply with the RNZAF, Brian Hare built a career with Aero Engine Services Ltd and was Supply Manager with NZ Aerospace Industries before he and a colleague, the late David Mundell, set up Aeromotive Overhauls Ltd at Hamilton airport, in 1976, initially as a subsidiary of Airwork NZ Ltd.

After qualifying as a Part 145 aircraft maintenance organisation, the company became an ISO9002 certified overhaul facility for aircraft components, piston and jet engine aircraft, complemented by a certified engine test cell. The company added salvage and restoration to its repertoire and was the NZ agent for Britten-Norman and Embraer, supplying Eagle Air Ltd with its Bandeirante fleet. Aeromotive also supplied aircraft on lease and flight-line maintenance support to several organisations, including Massey School of Aviation, the RNZAF for CT/4 Airtrainers at Ohakea and B200 King Airs at Whenuapai. Brian qualified as a private pilot in 1980 and accumulated some 4,500 hours, to cover the dispersed activities of Aeromotive Group, usually flying a Cessna 210.

In 1995, Brian became CEO of PAC, after he bought the assets of the company and retained the role until 2006. This significant contribution to the local aviation industry, provided employment for many local skilled workers during a tough period in the industry.

He reactivated the Cresco production line to meet market needs and established production of the CT/4E Airtrainer to meet the needs of the RNZAF, Royal Thailand Air Force, DSTAT Singapore and Aerotec Australia. The delivery of the aircraft also further extended the profile and reputation of New Zealand aviation internationally, a legacy that continues today as these aircraft continue to be operated, albeit outside of NZ. His most significant accomplishment was taking the PAC XL750 from design concept to certification in 2002 under FAA Part 23 and EASA CS23. A concurrent NZ and US certification campaign was notable. The nature of design, construction, test to design standard, flight test to type standard and if necessary, redesign, replace, retest, re-qualify and flight test is demanding. Brian Hare possessed the necessary drive to undertake this arduous process, certify and sell 130 XL750s to a niche market of skydiving, utility, and top-dressing roles across NZ and internationally.

The impact and legacy that Brian's business acumen has had on general aviation in New Zealand cannot be underestimated. As an astute businessman, with the courage to take a risk, Brian had an ability to see and deliver on opportunities as they arose. He had an eye for the less conventional and as MD of Flight Care Ltd, has set up operations across New Zealand.

The tenacity and fortitude required to embark and deliver on a variety of successful programmes is the mark of his character and why Brian Hare is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Gold Award for 2021.

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by Bay of Plenty Branch RAeS Division

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## **Meritorious Service Award - 2021**

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 **Dennis O'Rourke**. Dennis has been the Chairman of the Palmerston North RAeS Branch since 2004, where he ensured, through his leadership and energy, that the Branch sustained an active membership and thrived with a line-up of stimulating monthly presenters or visits. Dennis is one of the stalwarts who enable the RAeS Branch structure to continue to engage with regional New Zealand. He is a promoter of aviation whenever an opportunity arises, and through the Branch, he was pivotal in pro-actively supporting the aspirations of young people in aviation with annual awards and prizes.

Dennis's life has been one of service, initially with the RNZN which he joined in 1961, completing three twelve-month tours in the far East. Dennis left the Navy in 1969 to join the NZ Police where he served in Auckland, Tokoroa, Tauranga and Palmerston North, retiring as a Detective Sergeant after 44 years' service.

In 1982 Dennis joined the Territorial Army (Royal New Zealand Military Police), retiring with the rank of Warrant Officer Class One after 34 years, which included two deployments as a member of the security staff at the NZ Embassy in Moscow (then Soviet Russia).

Dennis has also been a member of the Middle Districts Lions Club for the past 30 years, during which time he has served as the Club President, District Governor, Chairman of the Council of Governors and served in the National Executive Management Committee (latterly as Chairman).

This above record of service is raised to illustrate the level of engagement and commitment that Dennis has made to New Zealand, which was recognised in 2012, when Dennis was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM). Perhaps a little ironically, Dennis has never served 'in' the aviation industry or held a pilot's licence. Nevertheless, he has had a life-long interest in all things aeronautical starting with encouragement from his uncle, who served as an engine fitter in the Pacific Theatre in World War II. It is this calibre of service that Dennis brought to the Palmerston North Branch of the RAeS when he joined in 1993. He became the Branch Secretary in February 1996 before becoming Branch Chairman in August 2004.

Through Dennis' quiet, but effective, management of the Branch committee, Branch membership has grown during his tenure, which is testament to his personal energy and drive to support and promote aviation in the region. He has ensured that the Branch focuses on youth in aviation, providing scholarships for the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School, awards and prizes that recognise the efforts of aspiring young people in aviation, and, in cooperation with the Wellington Branch, sponsored travel for local youth to attend Aviation Field Days at Hood Aerodrome.

For the significant contribution to the New Zealand Division of the RAeS, Dennis is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service award for 2021

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by Palmerston North Branch RAeS Division

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## Meritorious Service Award - 2021

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 **Des Ashton**. Des has been a major contributor to the New Zealand aviation industry for over 50 years, serving in the RNZAF, working at Safe Air and the Ministry of Defence and more recently serving as President of RAeS, where he arranged very successfully symposiums for 2019 and 2020, especially 2020 during Covid-19.

Des Ashton dedicated his time, either directly within NZ Aviation Industry, or as an active supporter of it. He spent 24 years as an engineer and pilot with the Royal New Zealand Air Force where he was instrumental in professionalising the engineering branch and particularly in structural integrity management of the fleets. This was followed by 6 years as General Manager of Safe Air and a further period as General Manager Aircraft Heavy Maintenance with Air New Zealand. A period of 8 years as Deputy Secretary (Acquisition) rounded off this interesting career before returning to Ashton Technologies representing several significant overseas Defence Companies in a diverse range of Defence Technology areas but with a heavy emphasis on Aviation.

Des has been an ardent supporter of the NZ aviation engineering community through his direct involvement with Safe Air and Air NZ. He also ensured that overseas Prime Contractors took NZ Industry seriously and recognised its niche capabilities, high skill levels and competitive business acumen.

As Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Des always took the opportunity to support local industry including a period as Chair of the Defence Industry Committee. During his tenure the RNZAF received new or upgraded capability including new Training Light Utility Helicopters, new Medium Utility Helicopters, Upgraded P-3 Mission Systems and the ex-RAN SH2 Helicopters. His knowledge of the NZ Aviation Industry together with his passionate support for it saw the establishment of "AGED" (Ashton Gilmore Engineering Department) at RNZAF Base Woodbourne. Following the collapse of the contract to extend the life of the RNZAF C-130 Hercules aircraft, Des set up the Ministry to be both supplier and customer and, under the stewardship of another ex RNZAF Engineer of note (Graeme Gilmore), supported by Safe Air, Aviation Labour Group, L-3 and the RNZAF, successfully completed the significant engineering task of upgrading the remaining three aircraft.

In 2017 Des was made an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit in recognition of his services to the New Zealand Defence Force and the Aviation Industry.

Des has also been a major contributor to the NZ Division of the Royal Aeronautical Society over his lengthy career and held the position of President from 2018 to 2020. He has shown the same commitment and drive over the period as President and delivered to two very successful symposiums in 2019 and 2020. This is particularly impressive considering the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, where the symposium was run with a surplus due to Des's commitment to getting sponsorship during this difficult time. Des continues his service the Society as the Chair of the Blenheim Branch of the Division.

For his significant contribution to a range of organisations over the last 50 years, where he has always put up his hand to help in a positive, friendly and jovial manner, Des Ashton is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service award for 2021.

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by NZ Division of the RAeS.

## Meritorious Service Award - 2021

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 **Bernard Weinstein**. Bernard is a member of a family closely associated with the aero club movement, with a particular interest in the Wellington Aero Club. Prior to the second world war, he was to be seen frequently at the club and earned the title of "Hanger Cat!"

His passion saw him join the Royal New Zealand Air Force, towards the end of the war, where he commenced pilot training at Taieri Aerodrome, which is now home to the Otago Aero Club. Unfortunately, the end of the war prevented Bernard completing pilot training, which saw him train as an Engineer, ultimately establishing his own engineering practice.

His ongoing interests in aviation saw his involvement in the building of a Slingsby T31 Tandem Glider, which he subsequently learned to fly. However, powered flight was his real passion and in 1970 he joined the Wellington Aero Club in and began pilot training. Bernard's ongoing interest in the affairs of the Club led to his election, twice, to the Club Executive Committee during the 1980s.

During this time, he became a part owner in a Grumman Tiger aircraft, which was made available to Club Members and, in recognition of his services to the Wellington Aero Club, Bernard was awarded Life Membership in 2010.

Bernard was elected to the NZ Division Wellington Branch Committee on 28 February 1985 and subsequently as Branch Secretary from 10 December 1986. He has served continually as Branch Secretary for over 34 years. His unassuming, dedicated and unique approach to the position has endured many chairmen, to whom his unwavering support helped to create a Branch that became the most active in Youth activities over the past decade. Bernard managed the Wellington Branch sponsorship for a Branch prize for the best aviation related project by a school pupil at the NIWA Wellington Regional Science and Technology Fair. This was one of the many Youth in Aviation activities where Bernard took on a lead support role to ensure its success. Bernard has just recently retired from the position of Secretary, whilst remaining a member of the committee.

Bernard has never sought recognition for the work he did for the Branch and has personally shared many interesting articles on new technologies to members. He has continued to be an active contributor to the areas of New Zealand aviation that has been of interest to him, often reaching out to speakers at Branch monthly meetings.

As an aside, as a further example of his community involvements, Bernard has enjoyed a lengthy period of participation in the Rotary movement including serving as Secretary of the Courtenay Place Rotary Club for a significant period of time.

For his lifelong passion and unswerving loyalty to the New Zealand aviation community and the Wellington Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Bernard Weinstein is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service award for 2021.

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by Wellington Branch RAeS NZ Division

## Meritorious Service Award - 2021

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 **Dave Brown**.

Dave Brown has developed an exceptional reputation for the dedication he brings to the diverse role as Chief Flying Instructor with New Zealand Warbirds. Dave trains and checks pilots to keep the variety of Ardmore based warbird aircraft flying and qualifies pilots to fly display routines at air shows across New Zealand. He does all this, while working around the demands of a career as an Airline Transport Pilot in Hong Kong and New Zealand.

After graduating University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Science, he completed a RNZAF wings course in 1980 before going on to qualify as an A2 Qualified Flying Instructor and serving with 14 Sqn flying the Strikemaster and 75 Sqn flying the Skyhawk. He qualified as a Forward Air Controller and completed an Electronic Warfare Operations course with the USAF. He was a Strikemaster display pilot and served as Operations Flight Commander on 14 Sqn.

Holding an airline transport pilot license rating in both NZ and Hong Kong, Dave embarked on a career with Cathay Pacific in 1990, where he served with distinction for 29 years, with ratings on L1011, B747-400, Airbus A330/A340/A350. In addition, he qualified as an Accident Investigator (University of Southern California), was a member of the HK ALPA Technical & Safety Committee and Vice President HK Aircrew Officer Assoc.

He joined NZ Warbirds in 1999 and was appointed Chief Flying Instructor, holding A and D Category Instructor ratings. Dave is a qualified test pilot and leads the Roaring 40s Harvard Aerobatic display team, where he is an aerobatics and formation instructor, and check pilot.

In addition to holding the Director New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority (NZCAA) delegation for Low Level Display Approvals and Aviation Event Authorisations, it is his readiness to make himself available to review and approve display pilot routines, to ensure they are safe to fly, which forms a vital element, both to the Warbird movement and other air shows across NZ.

In 2013, Dave was awarded the Flight Instructor Award by the Director NZCAA and is a founding Board member of the NZ Air Show Association (NZASA). He is chief examiner Aviation Training and Flight Testing Ltd. and is a contract examiner for ASPEQ.

Having flown some 24,500 hrs, he is rated on over 20 aircraft. What specifically marks Dave for distinction among his peers, is his role as a critical response and peer support volunteer both in Hong Kong and NZ, to support his peers and their wellbeing. Like his contemporaries at Warbirds, he contributes his own time, not only to the progress of warbirds, but also to the safe and successful conduct of air shows across NZ.

For his exemplary leadership and unswerving dedication to aviation, its safety and the wellbeing of its pilots, Dave Brown is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service award for 2021.

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by Bay of Plenty Branch RAeS NZ Division

## Special Recognition Award - 2021

The Special Recognition Award is made by the Council of the Society and recognises a significant achievement or contribution made by an individual across all sections of aerospace in New Zealand. The award takes the form of a certificate, a citation and a Royal Aeronautical Society Plaque.

This Special Recognition Award is made to **Captain Donald Offwood**.

Donald has been an outstanding advocate, supporter and philanthropist for the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School and encouraged many young people into aviation. He founded the Walsh Opportunity Trust with the purpose of creating a fund that would enable students to attend the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School and through their experience at the school encourage them to continue into a career in aviation.

Donald not only supported his daughter Celia and son Fraser to attend the school in 1993 & 1994 and 1997 & 1998 respectively, but has also continued to financially support the attendance of another 195 students over a period of 28 years.

Donald's personal generosity to enabling youth to experience aviation in this way has totalled over \$86,000, which is an exceptional commitment that has benefited many young people.

Captain Donald Offwood is a retired Air New Zealand captain and aircraft engineer with 40 years' experience in the aviation sector and, more latterly, he has become a published author.

His aviation career began with the 1963 apprenticeship class with the National Airways Corporation. However, at the end of his engineering apprenticeship, he chose to begin flying and subsequently became an international aircraft captain with Air New Zealand flying the B767.

Captain Donald Offwood's commitment and support to youth in aviation, the Walsh Opportunity Trust, and the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School, over 28 years is an exceptional achievement by an individual. Captain Donald Offwood is a worthy recipient of the Special Recognition Award.

Presented in Christchurch  
29th October 2021

Recommended for this award by the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School