

RECIPIENTS OF RAeS AWARDS 2024

Sir Geoffrey Roberts Award - 2024

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 consists of a silver medal, a certificate and a monetary amount.

This award goes to **Graeme Broadstock**.

Entry-level pilot, Graeme Broadstock, was building hours as a part-time pilot at Air Gisborne, while concurrently working as a Ramp Service Agent with JNP Aviation at Gisborne Airport.

Graeme has demonstrated a superior work ethic in many aspects of his employment. He always conducts his ground operations with the highest level of safety, being cognizant of the hazards of handling dangerous goods, as well the need for safe and expeditious handling of critical medical shipments.

One threat to safety that often materialises in Graeme's ground position role is when he is required to service two aircraft at the same time with minimal staff. The tightly timed schedules of modern airlines leave little room for error. Any aircraft running behind schedule can result in Graeme and his team having to ground service 2 aircraft with only the staff on duty to handle one. A high potential for error exists and Graeme handles this situation in a safe and efficient manner.

He clearly communicates to pilots any safety risks in a timely manner. Once an aircraft is parked on the gate at the completion of a flight, Graeme quickly connects the aircraft with electrical power. Expeditiously carrying out this function means the aircraft engines can be shut down sooner and thus reduce the amount of fuel burnt and carbon emitted into the atmosphere.

Graeme's diligence, tenacity and integrity also overcomes the downsides of his work, such as having to report at 0430 in order to get the first flight of the day out on-time, or dealing with harsh weather conditions while he works outside.

Graeme demonstrates a strong grasp of Safety Management System principles by promptly filing reports, including the self-reporting of errors instead of hiding them. This mentality is extremely important, because the best way to improve aviation safety is through the accurate reporting of safety hazards and risks. Only when those issues are brought to light can essential changes be made.

For his high level of safety awareness, commitment to continuous improvement, and an industrious work ethic Graeme Broadstock is a worthy recipient of the Geoffrey Roberts Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington
1st of November 2024

Recommended for this award by Mike Zaytsoff, Dash 8-300 Captain, RAeS Auckland Branch

Sir Geoffrey Roberts Award - 2024

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 consists of a silver medal, a certificate and a monetary amount.

This award goes to **Braeden Leung**.

Braeden Leung is a 17-year-old student from Kerikeri High School, who has displayed exceptional achievements and dedication to aerospace engineering. As a part-time intern at Merlin Labs NZ, he excelled in maintenance tasks and software/integration engineering roles, playing a pivotal part in designing complex systems. Braeden possesses remarkable intelligence, problem-solving skills, and a profound understanding of intricate systems. Beyond his technical prowess, he excels academically, serves as a prefect, and embraces company goals with humility and sociability.

Braeden's achievements and dedication to the field of aerospace engineering at such a young age are truly remarkable. In 2023, Braeden approached Merlin Labs NZ, seeking an opportunity to volunteer and pursue his passion for aerospace and technology. Merlin employed Braeden as a part-time student intern, working at Merlin after school and during school holidays. Braeden was initially employed in the maintenance team. His capability, skill, and enthusiasm were quickly recognised, and he was soon entrusted with increasingly challenging tasks within the maintenance team including the application of silicon to a Cessna 206 engine firewall which he delivered with enthusiasm, attention to detail, and a level of quality that far exceeded his age and experience.

Braeden's talents caught the attention of the Design Team, and he was promptly recruited to work as a software and integration engineering intern. In this role, he has played a pivotal part in designing and implementing an Artificial Intelligence flight deck camera system and a bespoke flight simulator with custom display systems, test interfaces, and the integration of multiple computers and displays. Braeden's ability to deliver highly complex systems and software engineering tasks was instrumental in the successful completion of high-profile projects for Merlin Labs.

What sets Braeden apart is his remarkable combination of intelligence, the ability to comprehend complex systems, a dedication to his tasks, and a passion for aviation and technology. He demonstrated exceptional problem-solving skills, troubleshooting abilities, and a profound understanding of the challenges he encountered. Braeden's adaptability allowed him to apply his skills utilising various software languages, libraries, operating systems, and hardware and software integration requirements.

An exceptional young individual with the capacity to make significant contributions to the future of New Zealand's civil aviation and technology industries, his accomplishments at such a young age are truly remarkable. Braeden Leung is a worthy recipient of the Geoffrey Roberts Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington
1st November 2024

Recommended for this award by Paul Wright, Senior Principal Engineer (Software), Merlin Labs, and Chris Allen, Licensed Avionics Engineer, Merlin Labs.

Duncan Campbell 'A' Award - 2024

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. The Award consists of a silver medal, a certificate and a monetary amount.

This award goes to **Anisha Satya**.

Anisha is a young kiwi journalist who has been making a name for herself in the New Zealand Aerospace and aviation community, particularly through her powerful videography and writing skills. Anisha has covered the NZ Aerospace Summit, the New Zealand Rocketry Association (NZRA) National Launch Day, and the achievements of the University of Canterbury (UC) Aerospace Club events over the last several years.

Anisha has worked for Aerospace New Zealand, filming and editing a variety of videos for their "Aerospace Academy" programme, published in CANTA magazine about UC Aerospace's win at the Spaceport America Cup, and served as the UC Aerospace Media and Communications Officer.

Anisha can reliably be found behind a camera lens at industry events around Christchurch, photographing the aircraft, rockets, and technologies being displayed, as well as the incredible people behind them. She always takes the time to ask insightful questions and finds the interesting or overlooked stories to share.

Anisha writes with clarity and passion, making often niche topics accessible to a wider audience. Her photos have been published widely by key players in the industry, and footage she has taken of UCA and NZRA rocket launches always impresses!

In 2023, Anisha volunteered as the media and communications officer for the University of Canterbury Aerospace Club. Often the only non-engineer in the room, she took on the challenge of promoting the club's activities. She authored social media posts, took beautiful photos, and significantly increased the club's profile.

Her unwavering dedication to her role as the media and communications officer with UC Aerospace, as well as a sense of professionalism, integrity, and enthusiasm that was obvious to all those around her, is inspirational, where she will be a significant asset to aerospace/aviation journalism in New Zealand in the years to come.

For her tireless capture of the beauty and innovation of New Zealand's aerospace industry, Anisha Satya is a worthy recipient of the Duncan Campbell 'A' Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington
1st November 2024

Recommended for this award by Ella Fraser Cornish, and Simon Willoughby-Martin.

EA Gibson Award – 2024

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 2024 goes to **Kavita Vanmari** and **Glen Somerville**

New Zealand's newest aircraft type, NZAero's new 'Super-Pac' 750XL-II, is the latest in the development tradition of Fletchers and Crescos, and an Agricultural variant (Andy Stevenson Aviation/Flight Structures Limited's new Super-Falco) followed swiftly after the main type certification, both highly complex projects for the CAA's Product Certification Team and expertly led by certification engineers Kavita Vanmari and Glen Somerville respectively.

New aircraft type certifications only come along around once a decade and require a huge amount of coordinated effort across multiple parts of the CAA, and externally. As they are relatively rare, limited institutional knowledge exists within the Authority about how to tackle such a large project. The nominated lead engineer for the sizeable project has responsibilities that demand leadership, complex communication and attention to detail, coupled to a high degree of personal determination. Certification Engineers Kavita Vanmari and Glen Somerville excelled in these skills as they successfully led their respective projects to certification in 2023. The Super-Pac 750XL-II has also been validated by other National Airworthiness Authorities, enabling export and operation in other jurisdictions, underpinning international acceptance of the NZ type certification work.

In addition to the usual challenges of such a large and complex project, the certification of the new Super-Pac 750XL-II (incorporating a new engine and propeller along with other modifications) had multiple pauses and changes of scope due to the turbulent times for Pacific Aerospace Ltd. PAL ceased trading part way through flight testing a previous version of this design in 2021, prior to being bought by NZAero (a trading name for NZSkydive Ltd, previously trading as "Pacific Aerospace"). This increased the complexity of the type certification, conformity was a particular challenge, as it used evidence from both test campaigns and increased the significance of the achievement for both the developers and the CAA. It was also cause for relief for the NZ aerospace ecosystem in general as it enabled NZAero to continue as one of the few active New Zealand-based aircraft manufacturers.

No project of this scale can be pulled off by just one or two people. However, the driving force behind the Super-Pac 750XL certification, from the CAA's perspective, was Kavita Vanmari. She is quick to point to the team who were directly involved in the project across multiple units, as well as the support of the wider Product Certification team, and beyond.

The subsequent certification of the Super-Falco Agricultural version by Andy Stevenson Aviation and Flight Structures Limited, was led by Glen Somerville. Building on the excellent work and evidence from the 750XL-II type certification led by Kavita, this was a separate and complex project in its own right, and completed within a few months of the 750XL-II's certification.

Both Kavita and Glen supported each other and their teams to achieve significant results, and are both worthy recipients of the EA Gibson Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington
1st day of November 2024

Recommended for this award by Rebecca Langton, Flight Test Engineer, and Jason Ashworth, Certification Manager Aircraft and Product, CAA.

Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award — 2024

This award is made to a young person working in aviation in New Zealand who demonstrates excellence in work ethics, values, application and results, and has a firm and appropriate intention for further study or learning. The award consists of a special medal, a certificate and a monetary amount.

This award goes to **FGOFF Anthony Zhang**.

Anthony has impressed and positively influenced those within his sphere of influence with his technical competency, altruistic endeavours, and his dedication to continual professional development. He is an inspirational young engineer, who seeks to maximise his knowledge and ability to contribute to the aeronautical fraternity.

As exemplars of his technical competency, Anthony completed a diploma in aeronautical management in 2023, attaining an impressive 98.16% grade for content provided by NMIT. He is also undertaking a Masters in Engineering Project Management, where he is likely to gain similar results. To expand his knowledge in his core role, he is also undertaking external study in the field of aeronautical structural analysis via an internationally recognised provider; Jean-Claude Flabel. Anthony has so far attained excellent marks in each of the core subjects, and at an impressive speed of completion, thereby demonstrating his enthusiasm for development, and sound learning capability. Anthony has expressed a positive desire to carry out self-directed study in the field of Finite Element Analysis; a field is not currently taught within the RNZAF engineering branch.

In regard to Anthony's contribution to the aeronautical sector, he recently volunteered to be the ambassador at The University of Auckland STEM EXPO where he shared his experiences and promoted the field of aeronautical engineering to New Zealand's youth. He is an influential figure in the Pan Asian Network (PAN); which is an initiative to support young Asian engineers. Further, when able, he also volunteers his time to frequently contribute to the NZDF's 'Race to Space' Rocketry Program.

In recognition of Anthony's leadership potential, this year he was awarded a position within the highly coveted RAAF Leader Enrichment Programme. He demonstrated ambitions to serve New Zealand in a deployment to Korea's DMZ, with a recent application from him stating in his own words that he has "aspirations of undertaking meaningful and impactful missions that contribute to global peace and security" with intentions to "further my leadership and interpersonal skills in a multicultural and multi-service environment".

With a clear passion and commitment to aeronautical structural specialisation, continual professional development, and dedication to aerospace, FGOFF Anthony Zhang is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington
1st November 2024

Recommended for this award by SQNLDR S J Bradley, OC Structures Design Office, RNZAF.

Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award — 2024

This award is made to a young person working in aviation in New Zealand who demonstrates excellence in work ethics, values, application and results, and has a firm and appropriate intention for further study or learning. The award consists of a special medal, a certificate and a monetary amount.

This award goes to **Jack Cleaver-Marshall**.

Having completed his New Zealand certificate in Aeronautical Engineering Level 4, Jack has proven to be an indispensable team member at NZAero. He demonstrates exceptional work quality, a commitment to professional growth, and exemplifies the core values. His ambition is further highlighted by his ongoing pursuit of a Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (LAME) license, underscoring his dedication to both personal and professional advancement in the aviation industry.

Jack's journey in aviation engineering began in December 2016 with Pacific Aerospace Limited (PAL) working briefly in detail fabrication before transitioning as an operator of the laser cutter. It was at PAL that Jack started the New Zealand certificate in Aeronautical Engineering Level 4, which he successfully completed in January 2024 with NZAero.

At NZAero, Jack has quickly become an integral member of the engineering team. Jack has transitioned to the aircraft final assembly, where he applies his theoretical knowledge to practical tasks with precision and care. His work consistently exceeds expected quality standards and contributes significantly to NZAero's operational success and safety record.

Jack's dedication extends beyond routine tasks; he actively seeks out additional responsibilities and learning opportunities. His initiative is evident in his current pursuit of the Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (LAME) license. This qualification will not only enhance his capabilities but also position him as a leader in the field, capable of overseeing critical operations and mentoring junior staff. Jack's commitment to further study exemplifies his long-term vision for his career in aviation and prepares him to contribute to the evolving demands of the aviation sector.

Beyond his technical abilities, Jack is highly regarded by his colleagues for his teamwork and interpersonal skills. He is respected by his colleagues for his work ethic and collaborative spirit, often involving himself in projects that require coordination across multiple departments, enhancing productivity and fostering a positive work environment. His ability to communicate complex technical information clearly and efficiently makes him a valuable asset to our team.

Jack's exceptional achievements to date, outstanding work ethics, values, and relentless pursuit of knowledge and excellence in aviation, promises significant contributions to the future of aviation in New Zealand. Jack Cleaver-Marshall is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington

1st November 2024

Recommended for this award by Lucas Cronin, Production Supervisor, and Stephen Burrows, CEO, NZ Aero.

Special Recognition Award — 2024

This Special Recognition award is made to **John H Mounce FRAeS**, for his significant contribution to the New Zealand Aeronautical Trusts Ltd, and New Zealand aviation, over many years. This award is in addition to his 2011 Gold Meritorious Service Award and recognises the subsequent 13 years' dedicated service to NZ aviation.

John started his entire career in aviation in 1963, joining de Havilland in the UK and graduating as an aeronautical engineer. He joined the RAeS in 1965 and was Chair of the Students and Graduates section. John moved to New Zealand in 1970. His 35-year New Zealand career spanned National Airways Corporation and later Air New Zealand, where he retired as Vice President, Engineering Services, in September 2003. While John's forte was aircraft design and repair, he was highly respected within the aircraft manufacturing and aircraft leasing industries for always contributing to a satisfactory resolution for all parties. John was a senior player in bringing to conclusion the Joint Venture between Pratt & Whitney and Air New Zealand for a new generation jet engine facility in Christchurch, without which New Zealand would have lost the ability to service narrow body jet engines. John went on to form an aviation consultancy, until retiring in 2012.

Aviation has been a major passion and at an early stage John demonstrated a strong desire to contribute widely to the industry through the development of like-minded young aviation enthusiasts and contributing to aviation organisations. John was active in the Royal Aeronautical Society all his career and was President of the NZ Division from 2000 to 2002.

John was appointed as a director of New Zealand Aeronautical Trusts Ltd (NZATL), on 28th November 1995. He diligently participated in and managed the company for nearly 30 years in a thorough and professional way. The role of NZATL is to administer the trust funds that provide the income for the awards made by the RAeS and NZATL. There is no financial reward for taking on a role at NZATL. All the work, time, and travel associated with NZATL is donated by directors free of reimbursement or charge.

With NZATL, John was instrumental in the coordination of awards to young people and high achievers, where his active involvement in the awards process and maintaining a thorough record of past awards has enabled the high standards that were set by his awards committee to be maintained. John has ensured that the same diligence will be provided after he retired from the position earlier this year, handing over the reins to Peter Johnson MBE FRAeS.

Part of his role as chairman of NZATL is attendance at many of the youth camps of both the Air Training Corps, and NZ Scouts, to personally hand over awards to deserving young people. John also oversaw the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School trophy and the RNZAF Kestrel Award trophy designs, both designed by Sir Richard Taylor's Weta Workshops.

John's involvement with aviation history is renown, where his activity on the MOTAT Board, the Air Force Museum Board of Trustees, and involvement with the Aviation Historical Society, has been widely acknowledged and appreciated. John's network is world-wide, and he likely has one of the best collections of aviation photos in NZ, having amassed a large collection of images, some of which are in '100 years of flight in New Zealand', a book he co-authored with Richard Williams.

Through his dedication to the NZATL, his long aviation related career, and his support in the preservation of NZ aviation history, John Mounce has made a most notable contribution to New Zealand aviation and is a worthy recipient of the Special Recognition Award.

Cited in Wellington
1st November 2024,

Presented at the 2025 Walsh Wings Presentation and Awards Dinner, Matamata.

Recommended for this award by Directors of the NZATL Board and RAeS Division President.

Meritorious Service Award — 2024

This 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 medal, a certificate and a citation.

This Meritorious Service Award for 2024 goes to **Gordon Alexander**.

Gordon Alexander's career in aviation spans over 50 years. He joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) at 17 becoming the youngest person to be accepted for pilot training. His early career flying helicopters took him everywhere from Singapore, where he transported New Zealand infantry soldiers to Antarctica on an exchange with the US Navy, flying scientists. There was search and rescue in the Southern Alps before modern rescue helicopters and numerous disaster relief missions in NZ and the Pacific.

During the next stage of his RNZAF career, he became an instructor on the Strikemaster jet trainer maintaining the flying standards of generations of pilots. He was selected for an exchange instructor posting with the Royal Australian Air Force, Perth, and became part of the Roulettes formation display team that flew Macchi MB-326 aircraft in a display for the 1983 America's Cup.

When Gordon came back to New Zealand, it was to ascend to the pinnacle of his air force career. At 32 years old, Gordon was promoted to lead a squadron of 15 aircraft and 120 staff. He shouldered the enormous responsibility of overseeing the training and graduation of every one of New Zealand's air force pilots, and led the training for strike pilots.

Gordon left the RNZAF and after 20 years' service, and 5000 flying hours in his log book, to fly corporate jets out of Christchurch. Over the last 30 years he has worked at Airways as an ATC instructor and Manager International Contracts and continues to hold the position of Aviation Manager at Aspeq.

At Aspeq, Gordon found a home for his decades of tactical and strategic experience in the aviation industry. In his role as Aviation Manager, Gordon oversees all the flight examining activities for the civil aviation sector, which have been foundational to Aspeq's core business.

In recent years he has been Chair of the Training Division, committing considerable time to the support and maintenance of training standards. Currently, Vice President of the Aviation Industry Association, he continues to dedicate considerable time and effort in support of the organisation.

Not content with his demanding roles at Aspeq and the Aviation Industry Association, he also accepted a position on the RAeS Council 2024 symposium committee.

Gordon Alexander has had an illustrious career in aviation spanning over 50 years. His passion and commitment to maintain high standards of pilot training, in New Zealand and overseas, in both the military and commercial sectors, as well as his considerable contribution to organisations in the aviation sector, make him a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington

1st November 2024

Recommended for this award by Mike Lynskey, Director Business Development, Aspeq

Meritorious Service Award - 2024

This 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 medal, a certificate and a citation.

The Meritorious Service Award for 2024 goes to **John M Smith**.

John Smith has spent the last 12 years successfully teaching and embedding aerospace topics within physics lessons and extracurricular activities at Rosmini College in Takapuna, Auckland.

John's interests in aviation hobbies include radio control aircraft, rocketry, a Recreational Aircraft Association of New Zealand approved pilot for high performance microlights and is presently training for a General Aviation Private Pilot's Licence. John began the unique STEM education 'One Foot in the Clouds' program in 2012, which has expanded to include five schools and their teachers across Auckland. This is largely funded by John himself and is a commitment outside normal class hours during the week, and Saturdays.

With John's program, students construct aerospace themed projects developing theoretical and practical skills, and engage with local aeronautical groups, including Auckland RAeS, Sport Aircraft Association New Zealand, University of Auckland and Aerospace Auckland, to encourage them to pursue technical and STEM based careers. The main project of the program is the building of a full-size ICP Savannah two seat aeroplane at Rosmini College for year 12 senior students. There have been 30 senior students involved in the build, of which 14 have gone on to University of Auckland to study engineering, two have won a Prime Minister's trade training prize, and another has gone to Sydney North University to study aeronautical engineering.

John also introduced rocketry as part of the Level 2 Physics curriculum, which was an ideal way to encourage students to embrace physics concepts and formulae. As the program extended to the other schools John engaged and inspired teachers, developing a process to teach teachers how to introduce aviation into physics and how RC model building resonates to inspire young people. John designed, and ran, professional development days for teachers. Rocketry, to assist in the safe and effective integration of rockets into the science and physics curriculum, which included computer aided design & laser cutting setup. Middle school students have built, tested and flown RC aircraft with specific design criteria and function. Junior students construct and learn to fly a traditional balsa and tissue electric powered RC model aircraft, or experiment with their own designs in foamboard. This program is strongly supported by the local community with a good gender mix, and students with learning and behavioural disabilities.

John also established several large-scale student-led research projects covering earth and space, materials & technology, and physics projects with commercial potential. This was used as the basis for implementing a trial aviation-based STEM program at intermediate level, with students attending the School to Skies STEM development at RNZAF Whenuapai. John has directed student field trips to the USA, Hawaii and Pacific Northwest, and to North Shore Aeroclub. In his time at Rosmini College, John has doubled the number of students taking senior physics and has directed most of these students to pursue engineering at university level.

For his inspiration and devotion to provide an aviation related education program to school students, and his wider commitment to aerospace studies, John Smith is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington
1st November 2024

Recommended for this award by Roger Warren, Design Engineer, Auckland University

Meritorious Service Award - 2024

This 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 medal, a certificate and a citation.

This Meritorious Service Award for 2024 goes to **Phil Craig**.

Over many years Phil Craig has been, and still is, a staunch supporter of a wide range of aviation activities from his involvement as an Air Traffic Controller in Air Force, civil and recreational events. His involvement extends to recording and reporting of aircraft, activities and events and history in aviation publications.

Phil Craig's aviation "career" has been long and varied. He worked as an Air Traffic Controller at Ohakea Air Base from 1996 to 2009. During this time, he "volunteered" as a controller at many of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Wise Owl camps.

Phil then moved work to controlling at Wellington Tower in Tirangi Road and is still an Air Traffic Controller at Wellington Airport, commuting each roster from his home in Greytown in the Wairarapa. During this time, Phil has also contributed as a board member of the Airline Pilots Association.

His passion and enthusiasm for aviation events and air shows is clear to see, where he has attended and controlled at many shows and fly-ins around the country, including Women in Aviation, gyrocopters, gliders, Tiger Moths, hot air balloons, Wairarapa and Hamilton tail dragger competitions, Healthy Bastards, and Warbirds over Wanaka. During his spare time at these events, Phil can be seen behind the lens of his camera recording the event and the aircraft present.

His consummate dedication to seeing young people enter and excel in New Zealand aviation has seen Phil attend the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School an air traffic controller, since 1998, missing only one school in 2005. During the school, Matamata Airfield becomes one of, if not, the busiest airfield in the country, with up to 16 aircraft in the circuit. All these aircraft have ab-initio students working the radio and where the ground is most of the time. Add in students doing first solos, the pressure is immense and the requirement for a calm and clear control voice is paramount.

As well as controlling at the Walsh, Phil's enthusiasm extends to mowing lines on the grass airfield demarking left, right and centre on the vectors, mowing and re-mowing the aircraft flightline, presenting lectures to the students for the Flight Radio Telephone Operators rating, organising social activities for staff and the traditional 'theme day' for everyone on the camp. He can always be found behind the camera lens time in his spare time!

Spare time at home and during the quiet periods on nights at work, Phil has contributed to Aviation News and Kiwi Flyer and is editor of SPaNZ Aero News, a quarterly publication, now in its eighth year, covers aeronautical news from the South Pacific and New Zealand.

For his dedication to the NZ aerospace scene and providing his free time as a controller for the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School, Phil Craig is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for 2024.

Presented in Wellington

1st November 2024

Recommended for this award by David Jupp, Scouts NZ and RAeS Wellington Branch