

RECIPIENTS OF RAeS AWARDS 2023

George Watt Award - 2023

This award is made by the Royal New Zealand Air Force to a member of the RNZAF to recognise outstanding technical merit which enhances the efficiency of the RNZAF. It can be given for the invention of improved equipment, improvement in methods, a paper on means of improving technical support or for improved methods leading to advances in technical training.

The Award consists of a silver medal, a certificate and a monetary amount. The award for 2023 is made to **SGT B. Sandbrook** F1028105 Avionics Technician.

SGT Sandbrook is an outstanding technical Senior NCO at Avionics Flight Ohakea where his exceptional drive, determination, and innovation has been displayed across a wide range of initiatives in the Capability Development Bay. His stand out achievement is the NH90 Horizontal Stabilizer De-icing Kit (HSDK) test set, a piece of equipment that will save the RNZAF significant time and money and as such SGT Sandbrook is a very worthy recipient of the GPCAPT Watt Award.

The NH90 HSDK test set project was initiated to provide 3 SQN the capability to power-on and conduct testing of the NH90 Horizontal Stabilizer De-Icing Kit (HSDK) independently of the aircraft. SGT Sandbrook proposed a project to research and develop an off-aircraft testing facility to reduce inefficiencies of the extant process. SGT Sandbrook conducted a comprehensive research project to determine the requirements of the test facility. SGT Sandbrook fully employed his broad and expert level knowledge of coding, 3D manufacture, and general avionic expertise to successfully deliver a fully operable test facility for this key aircraft component.

The success of the HSDK project is but a small indication of the ability of SGT Sandbrook. He is a highly intelligent and diligent tradesperson and leader. He has a well-developed range of skills which are invaluable to the RNZAF when dealing with the complexity of new operating systems and capabilities. He has also provided outstanding mentoring, coaching, and leadership to a range of subordinates and superiors alike.

While the HSDK test set is the stand out achievement of SGT Sandbrook during his time in the Capability Development Bay, he has also been instrumental in updating and refining procedures and processes used in developing test sets. The use of these procedures and processes in test set development reduces the time taken to complete test sets, and also aids the approving authority in approving the final product for RNZAF use.

SGT Sandbrook has demonstrated outstanding technical merit in all elements of the HSDK test set project; from recognising the need through to producing a solution. The HSDK test set will provide significant enhancement to the efficiency with which this equipment is tested, rectified and returned to service.

For his exceptional drive, determination, and innovation, SGT Sandbrook is a worthy recipient of the Royal Aeronautical Society Group Captain Watt award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by GPCAPT, Mike C Going, RNZAF Chief Engineer

George Watt Award - 2023

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The Award consists of a silver medal, a certificate and a monetary amount. The award for 2023 is made to **CPL T. Parkinson** T1034603, Master Aeronautical Metal Worker.

CPL Parkinson joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 2013 and is currently posted to the metal shop in Maintenance Support Squadron Ohakea. In his role as a Master Aeronautical Metal Worker, CPL Parkinson has demonstrated outstanding technical merit in the development of improved equipment and methods that can greatly enhance the efficiency of RNZAF NH90 maintenance.

The NH90 helicopter Main Gear Box has a chip detector that alerts the pilot when a metallic chip is detected in the oil system during operation. A chip warning requires the aircraft to land as soon as possible to prevent further damage and gear box failure. This is followed by a full drain of the effected oil and replenishment with new oil before the aircraft can fly again. This process is expensive and time consuming, with a gravity drain of the oil alone taking up to three hours if the oil is cold.

Following consultation with the NH90 maintenance teams, CPL Parkinson designed, prototyped, and trialled a deployable oil drain system to pump, filter, and rapidly replenish the gear box oil without causing damage. The system is built into a standard two person lift military space case, and allows for replenishment using the filtered oil with minimal oil lost to the system itself. This new system enables a full refresh of the oil system in as little as ten minutes.

The efficiency of the system will drastically reduce the time aircraft are grounded following a chip warning, thus reducing aircrew and maintenance staff hours involved in this process. This translates to considerable cost benefits that are enhanced by the ability to replenish using filtered oil, reducing the costs of new oil and waste oil disposal. Additional benefits can be found in using the system for regular servicing. It can increase process efficiency while also providing the ability to check the filter between uses and gather data on oil contaminants. This data can be used to track the condition of oil over time and potentially identify maintenance issues before they occur.

CPL Parkinson was involved in the liaison and design process, and was the primary tradesperson responsible for the system's fabrication. He also drew the schematics for the system's engineering approval, and wrote the operating procedures that were followed by the NH90 maintenance team during the successful trial process.

For his demonstrated outstanding technical merit in the development of new equipment and methods, which will greatly enhance the efficiency of RNZAF NH90 maintenance, CPL Parkinson is a worthy recipient of the Royal Aeronautical Society Group Captain Watt award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by GPCAPT, Mike C Going, RNZAF Chief Engineer

Duncan Campbell 'B' Award - 2023

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 monetary grant, a citation and a medal.

The award for 2023 goes to **Jillian (Jill) McCaw**

Jill McCaw's first published writing was as a contributor to the 'New Zealand Gliding Kiwi', the official bimonthly journal of Gliding New Zealand. Gliding Kiwi was originally established in the 1960s and was supported through subscriptions from Gliding New Zealand's members.

In 2007, Gliding New Zealand sought tenders for a five-year contract to edit and produce its magazine. Jill McCaw won the tender, and the first issue of her new magazine, Soaring NZ, was the December 2007/January 2008 edition.

This was a modern glossy A4 size magazine and far superior to its predecessor in terms of printing quality, style, and content. It combined superb photography with excellent article writing and editing of other author contributions. It became the gold standard and envy of many other gliding magazines around the world.

Jill achieved this through her great vision, dedication, and much underpaid hard work. Unfortunately, the economics of a small circulation, rising cost of printing, and inroads from social media eventually caught up with Soaring NZ after twelve years and 61 high quality issues. The final issue of May/July 2020 was a 68-page glossy.

The magazine was recognised internationally as a publication that reflected the strong camaraderie across the sport in New Zealand, showing an eclectic mix of unique 'home grown' deep technical content, along with human interest stories that glue the soaring community together.

Not only did Jill edit and produce Soaring NZ, but she has also been a regular contributor to Kiwi Flyer magazine. Jill's first article for Kiwi Flyer appeared in Issue 8 and she's had something in almost every issue since. Most of the contributions have been related to gliding, with numerous interviews in an 'Interesting People in Aviation' series, plus some historical articles.

Jill continues writing articles about gliding and other topics for Kiwi Flyer, which are considered as 'lovely pieces of writing'; she writes with a genuine passion for aviation that just make you want to go out and fly after reading them. Many editors find that Jill's work is always perfectly structured and needs nothing removed nor added to it.

For her passion and natural ability to inspire people through words about NZ aviation, specifically gliding over the last 15+ years, Jillian McCaw is a worthy recipient of the Duncan Campbell 'B' Award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by Max Stevens, FRAeS, Executive Officer Gliding NZ Inc, and, Bob Henderson, President of Honour, International Gliding Commission of the FAI.

Geoffrey Roberts Award - 2023

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. This proposal is a formal statement of achievement.

The award consists of a monetary grant, a citation and a medal.

The award for 2023 goes to **Nathan Catton**, who, as a student pilot, demonstrates a high level of safety, a commitment to continuous improvement, and an industrious work ethic, employed as a ramp/ground support agent at Whangarei Airport, which funds his pursuit of an airline pilot career.

Nathan first flew in 2016 with the Sport Flying Academy in Whangarei. Following on from that he completed additional hours of microlight training in 2016. After finishing high school in 2021, Nathan concurrently began flight training to obtain his Private Pilot License while also taking a job as a Ramp Service Agent with JNP Aviation at Whangarei Airport. In this role, Nathan provides ground handling and support services to Air New Zealand. His responsibilities include marshalling aircraft, processing cargo and passenger baggage, and loading/unloading cargo and baggage from aircraft. In July 2021 Nathan received additional training to become a loading supervisor. This makes him responsible and accountable for ensuring aircraft are loaded correctly, accurately, and safely before they can depart.

Nathan demonstrates a superior work ethic, and conducts his ground operations with the highest levels of safety. Cognisant of the danger working around propellers, he also clearly communicates with pilots. Once an aircraft is parked on the gate at the completion of a flight, Nathan works quickly and safely to expedite shut down procedure, which means the aircraft engines can be shut down sooner to reduce carbon emissions and the risks associated with running propellers. He has a strong grasp of SMS principles, including 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. He understands that it is only when issues are identified essential changes be made.

Nathan does all this without ever complaining about the downsides of his job, such as having to report for work at 0430 to get the first flight of the day out on-time, or dealing with harsh weather conditions while he works outside.

Nathan furthers his aviation knowledge by observing practical applications of the skills he learns in flight training. He does this by taking the initiative to get permission to sit in the flight deck jump seat while traveling on vacation.

Nathan successfully obtained his PPL in April 2023 and currently has 96 hours of flying experience. He is looking forward to gaining a Commercial Pilot Licence and embarking on a career as a professional pilot.

Nathan Roberts is a worthy recipient of the Geoffrey Roberts Award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November, 2023

Recommended for this award by Mike Zaytsoff, Technical Director for NZ Region, Honourable Company of Air Pilots.

Henry Wigram Award - 2023

The Henry Wigram Award was established in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by Sir Henry Wigram to the development of aviation in New Zealand. The purpose of the award is to encourage the preparation and delivery of technical and other papers, and is awarded for the best paper delivered to a branch of the RAeS in New Zealand. The award takes the form of a silver medal, a certificate and a citation.

Beca Applied Technologies Ltd are a worthy recipient of the Henry Wigram Award for 2023.

The 2022 RAeS NZ Symposium presentation “Not Just Demographics - Diversification as a critical enabler for innovation in the NZ Aerospace environment.” by Beca systems engineers Alex Altobelli and Patrick Laylor, portrayed how an adaptable, flexible aerospace sector in New Zealand reflects the diversity of business needs, of extant and emerging technologies, and of peoples and populations across the country. This presentation touched on the benefits and challenges of diversity in the context of NZ aerospace as a catalyst for innovation, as experienced by Beca Applied Technologies, and illustrated how innovation in the NZ advanced aerospace sector has enabled Beca Applied Technologies to diversify into the civil aviation software sector.

Beca Applied Technologies Ltd is the first certificated Part 146 Aircraft Design Organisation (ADO) for airborne software and complex electronic hardware in New Zealand, and the only organisation accredited in Australasia which is certifying civil software at the highest levels of safety criticality. This is a significant achievement and a prime example of diversification in the aerospace sector which is directly unlocking the ability of the NZ aviation sector to innovate. The use of software and complex electronic hardware is becoming increasingly prevalent in aerospace systems. Historically, the means to certify such advances was restricted primarily to the major OEM's, limiting the ability of those in smaller enterprises or geographically distanced from major hubs such as the USA and Europe. Beca's P146 certificate now allows access to software development and certification services in New Zealand that can be scaled to suit any participant.

The contribution of the Beca team in achieving its P146 ADO certification was significant. Airborne software is core in many emerging advanced aviation technologies. Adopting new technologies comes with the challenge of certifying they are safe in a risk-based regulatory framework. The Beca team drew on its experience developing and supporting RNZAF aircraft systems and software over the last 15 years and tailored an approach to meet the CAA NZ regulatory framework. Providing civil airborne software certification services carries unique risks and challenges. Software is often core to the functionality and safety of an aircraft or aviation system. Beca carefully worked through these complex issues to put the necessary management processes in place. Diversifying onto civil airborne software provides a nucleus for an airborne software engineering and certification 'centre of excellence' in New Zealand. The centre of activity provides a career-path in airborne software engineering in New Zealand and a key element for the advanced aviation sector.

This journey has been a national effort by many organisations and people across the NZ Aerospace Sector. The presentation illustrated how New Zealand is certifying airborne software for the first time; software that is central to a complex autonomy system for the conduct of small aeroplane air operations. Diversification by Beca into civil airborne software has paved the way for the advanced aviation sector to take-off in New Zealand.

The Beca Applied Technology Team, led by Brian Fearnley and Jessica Tucker, and presenters Alex Altobelli and Patrick Laylor, are worthy recipients of the 2023 Henry Wigram Award.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November, 2023

Recommended for this award by David Weston, Merlin Labs NZ Ltd

Ian J Diamond Award - 2023

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 for 2023 goes to **CPL S. Cunliffe** U1031292 Aircraft Technician.

CPL Cunliffe is an outstanding aviation technician who has displayed a very high level of professionalism and technical expertise throughout his career in the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF). He has consistently displayed the qualities and personal attributes of a high achiever and is continually working towards higher goals.

The RNZAF recognised the outstanding potential of CPL Cunliffe by selecting him for the Degree Training Scheme, where he undertook full time study at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) over the period 2020 – 2022. During his three years of fulltime study his academic results were exceptional, achieving 14 A+ results out of a total of 18 papers. This equated to an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 8.38 out of 9. This GPA meant he qualified for a Pass with Clear Distinction, which is exceptionally high for a Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Mechanical Engineering. As a result, CPL Cunliffe was the highest performing RNZAF student graduating from the DT Scheme.

In addition to his outstanding academic performance on the course, CPL Cunliffe continued to impress when, during a break in his studies, he took the initiative to apply his technical knowledge and expertise to assist in the Seasprite aeronautical component bay which was understaffed. Here, he was able to apply the knowledge gained through his tertiary study to assist in making effective engineering decisions on obsolescent components. He was an asset to the team and gained excellent feedback from his supervisors.

CPL Cunliffe's commitment to improve himself also saw him take on extra responsibility and further professional development through the role of course leader in 2022 for all the RNZAF DT students. Upon picking up the role he continued to set a great example for students on the DT Scheme, and others around him. His positive attitude helped guide and motivate his cohort to achieve the highest standards during some challenging times at AUT.

CPL Cunliffe has achieved extraordinary results in attaining his Bachelor's Degree as part of the DT Scheme. His grades are a credit to his innate intellect as much as his dedication and work ethic. CPL Cunliffe has also actively sought to maximise his experience and usefulness to the organisation throughout his time on the DT Scheme, pursuing and creating opportunities to contribute and grow.

For his outstanding commitment and passion for aviation learning, including his recent undertaking for a Post Graduate Diploma in Engineering, CPL Cunliffe is a worthy recipient of the Ian James Diamond Memorial Award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by GPCAPT, Mike C Going, RNZAF Chief Engineer

Michael J Neville / Boeing Airplane Company Award- 2023

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 2023 goes to **SGT J. Baylis M1020314** Avionics Technician.

Since joining the RNZAF as an Avionics Technician in 2006, SGT Jonathan “Marc” Baylis has developed a wide range of military aviation experience that has included Iroquois, Orion, Seasprite platforms and a variety of component repair workshops. Throughout his career he has demonstrated a dedication and work ethic that has seen him rise to his current role as a maintenance certifier and supervisor.

SGT Baylis has proven himself to be competent in a variety of global operational roles that have included anti-terrorism and counter narcotics. He shifted his personal focus to upskilling to meet the rising complexity that he has observed in the aviation world. This has seen him, of his own initiative, undertake several distance and on-site engineering papers on a learning journey towards his goal of a Bachelor in Engineering Technology (Electrical).

SGT Baylis’ immediate managers and commanders consider him to be an intelligent, driven, and professional individual who readily rises to the challenge of novel and complex settings. Of note, is his current performance in managing and maintaining outputs for a busy Instrument Servicing Bay, all while balancing the demands of a young family, and successfully completing various courses of higher education.

Motivated by a passion for aviation and the RNZAF, SGT Baylis seeks to position himself, through improved qualifications, to make a positive difference in the New Zealand aerospace sector. His performance to date has shown that he has the work ethic, values, and ability to be successful and make this a reality.

For his exceptional service record, initiative, and drive SGT Baylis is a worthy recipient of the Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by GPCAPT, Mike C Going, RNZAF Chief Engineer

Michael J Neville / Boeing Airplane Company Award- 2023

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 2023 goes to **FGOFF Z. Cen D1063983** Engineering Officer.

As a structural engineer, employed within the Military Design Office (MDO), Flying Officer (FGOFF) Zhixin Cen has impressed senior leaders within the Royal New Zealand Air force (RNZAF) engineering community, with her passion and commitment to both her role and continual professional development. She has been observed to be an exemplary young engineer with strong values and a good work ethic.

Noted for being a person of honesty, integrity, humility, and professionalism, FGOFF Cen has thrown herself into all aspects of her work. Particularly, in upskilling to meet the needs of the RNZAF's aeronautical structural analysis unit. This has included her going above and beyond in seeking distance learning opportunities through the internationally recognised Jean-Claude Flabel (A Comprehensive Training Program in Aircraft Stress Analysis, which is widely used within the aerospace industry). To date she has attained excellent marks in each of the core subjects with an impressive speed of completion, both of which testify to her enthusiasm for development and sound learning capacity.

Within the wider MDO and RNZAF, FGOFF Cen has proven herself to be a selfless team player through a variety of means that have included organising unit adventure training (team building), volunteering for School to Skies (An RNZAF women in STEM initiative), and engagement in the RNZAF mentoring program. Her ability to openly communicate with personnel across the rank and diversity spectrum has been instrumental to her success in these endeavours.

Not content to rest on her laurels, FGOFF Cen has expressed a strong desire to continue her aeronautical structures-focused study into the field of Finite Element Analysis, a complicated area of competency. Based on her performance to date, there is little doubt she will succeed in this endeavour.

FGOFF Cen's character, performance, and future intentions make her a worthy recipient for the Michael J Neville/Boeing Airplane Company Award 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by GPCAPT, Mike C Going, RNZAF Chief Engineer

Meritorious Service Award - 2023

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 **Ross Crawford**. Ross commenced his almost 60 year, 21,500 hour, aviation career at Gisborne Aero Club and then Wanganui Aero Club Commercial Pilot's School, before moving to Australia to operate as a topdressing pilot and flight instructor. He was later Deputy Chief Flying Instructor at the Wanganui School.

During his airline career, Ross held various training rolls including Flight Instructor, Check Captain, Training Captain, Chief Training Captain, Training Manager, Fleet Captain, Fleet Superintendent and other ground and simulator lead training roles. Ross achieved a Batchelor of Aviation (Management) and credits in Human Factors and Air Safety Investigation. Throughout his long haul career and

following retirement from the airlines, Ross retained his interest in General Aviation, while 'giving back' in many ways, notably:

- Becoming an A Category Instructor and Flight Examiner.
- Over 25 years as an instructor and flight examiner at the Walsh Scout Memorial Flying School, with approximately half of that time as Deputy Chief Flying Instructor.
- A member of WASSI, the Walsh Aviation Support Society existing to support the Walsh School with its own aircraft.
- He has retained membership of Tauranga Aero Club, NZ Warbirds and the Tiger Moth Club.

When Ross retired from the airlines, he assisted several training organisations as a senior flight instructor. With the establishment of CTC Aviation. Acting as CFI following the loss of Wakatipu Aero Club's CFI in a helicopter accident. Assisting Tauranga aviation organisations with training and mentoring, and CFI at Airline Flying Club at Ardmore.

Ross was the first Part 115 examiner under the then Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Adventure Aviation rule. He has often been called upon by CAA to assist with remedial training for pilots, including consulting services in ground courses, review panels at Massey School of Aviation, CAA Impaired Colour Vision, and contributed to Good Aviation Practise (GAP) booklets. Ross also served on the CAA Board and was one of the few board members to represent the Board at aviation events.

His interest in the development of the four-day Instructional Techniques Course has helped resolve concerns about the quality of flight instruction. Since 2009 Ross delivered over 60 courses to help over 520 instructors become better tutors, and helped prepare over 130 instructors for the Flight Examiner role. Ross has been the Chief Examiner for Flight Test NZ, conducting flight tests, renewals, type ratings and BFR on an almost weekly basis since his retirement from the airlines.

His recent retirement from most practical aviation is well deserved after a full and diverse career contributing, supporting, encouraging and developing many young aviators. He has never lost the enthusiasm to do so and enjoys providing his 'crazy flying display' in a Piper Cub whenever asked.

For his passion for aviation, technical accuracy, debate, approach to practical aviation safety, ability to fly a wide variety of aircraft and his willingness to assist others Ross is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by Carlton Campbell, Civil Aviation Authority

Meritorious Service Award - 2023

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 **GPCAPT John McWilliam AFC**. GPCAPT McWilliam's career has spanned over 45 years and during this time he has made a very significant contribution to military and civil aviation.

GPCAPT McWilliam joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) in June 1975 and served over 20 years as a pilot flying fixed and rotary wing aircraft, including instructor and aerobatic disciplines. In

1991, when appointed Officer Commanding Pilot Training Squadron, he was awarded the Air Force Cross (AFC) for his dedication and determination for ensuring the continuation of RNZAF flying training during a period of critical flying instructor shortages, without detriment to flight safety.

In 1996 GPCAPT McWilliam joined Pacific Aerospace Limited and in his 10-year engagement fulfilled many roles including Chief Test Pilot, Chief Executive Officer, Technical Director, and General Manager for Part 145 maintenance and engine overhaul organisation. Of particular note was his role in the development of the PAC P-750 aircraft as the experimental test pilot and lead in the type certification with the NZ CAA, FAA and EASA.

In 2010 GPCAPT McWilliam was specially recruited back into the RNZAF as the Operating Airworthiness Regulator (OAR), an independent advisor to the Chief of Air Force (CAF) on matters pertaining to operating airworthiness. The OAR position was created to provide independent oversight of flying operations following the tragic loss of life and aircraft in the Anzac Day and Red Checkers practice accidents. GPCAPT McWilliam was the driving force behind improving operating doctrine by writing and imbedding the Defence Force Order 9 (DFO 9) Standards for Operating Airworthiness. Issue of DFO 9 assured adequate airworthiness governance of flying operations across all formations in the military, greatly contributing to the organisation's operating safety. GPCAPT McWilliam was awarded a Chief of Defence Force Commendation for his work in establishing the military framework for operating airworthiness.

In 2017 the RNZAF agreed to change its technical airworthiness rules from a bespoke set of publications to a new defence airworthiness rule set based on the European Military Airworthiness Requirements, known as Defence Aviation Rules (DARs). Through GPCAPT McWilliam's dogged determination to improve airworthiness standards across the military, the implementation scope of DARs was increased to include operating rules. This ensured a contemporary advancement in airworthiness standards across technical and operating disciplines. Further still, GPCAPT McWilliam was instrumental in building the support for an independent New Zealand Defence Aviation Authority (NZ DAA) with the responsibility of enhancing and promoting the safety of military air operations.

In 2020 the RNZAF established the NZ DAA as an independent safety regulatory body for all military aviation. GPCAPT McWilliam was appointed the inaugural Director and has played a leading role in the formation and growth of the NZ DAA as a reputable and trusted airworthiness organisation.

GPCAPT McWilliam's passion for military airworthiness extended beyond the New Zealand context where he served on the multinational Air Force Interoperability Council to enhance other Military Airworthiness Authority's (MAA) safety assurance activities. Of significance, GPCAPT McWilliam's efforts were pivotal in the introduction of an operating airworthiness assessment as part of future MAA to MAA recognition activities.

For his unwavering commitment to aviation safety across civil and military domains, GPCAPT McWilliam is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Gold Award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by Chief of Air Force Air Vice Marshall Andrew Clark, FRAeS

Meritorious Service Award - 2023

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 **Stephen Davies Howard**. Stephen's career in aviation covers his time in the Royal Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force, New Zealand General Aviation, Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC), and the preservation of historical aircraft in a flying condition through his professionalism and leadership while President of the Wairarapa Flying Tigers (WFT), which was formerly the Sport and Vintage Aviation Society.

Stephen began his military career as a fighter pilot with the RAF flying Phantom and Tornado F3 aircraft. He has a wealth of strategic international experience from appointments in London, NATO HQ in Brussels, as Commander British Forces West Africa, and as an accredited Attaché to the British Embassy in Washington DC, USA. As a squadron commander in the strategic reconnaissance role he undertook 50 operational sorties, including over Bosnia, Kosovo and Serra Leone. In New Zealand, he served in the Royal New Zealand Air Force as the Training Group Commander. Stephen attained the rank of Group Captain in both services.

Stephen has represented Pilatus Aircraft Ltd of Switzerland in New Zealand since October 2011 and provides in-country support services for any New Zealand aircraft acquisition. He has maintained a NZCAA Commercial Pilots Licence.

As the President of WFT, Stephen has given up many hours of his own time to provide Part 115 flights to the public, including many 'bucket list' flights and several notable flights for pilots in their later years who had operated Tiger Moths in their youth. Stephen's dedication to providing a quality product has seen a step change in the promotion of safety education for members, emphasising procedures and aircraft husbandry, to ensure the future viability of WFT. This role also led to Stephen displaying in the Wings over Wairarapa air show and sees him encouraging young people into aviation, through his support of Young Eagles and young people keen on aviation, hosting visits and encouraging involvement with WFT at Hood Aerodrome.

As the Director of Sycamore Limited from 2011 to 2016, Stephen helped develop fledgling Unmanned Aerial Systems, with Altus becoming the first company to achieve FAA authority to fly 'beyond line of sight' flights. He was Chairman of the Xerra Earth Observation Institute from 2017 to 2021, who helped New Zealand's industries access new and existing space-based measurements to develop satellite data products and solutions specific to industry needs to drive regional economic growth.

Stephen qualified as a cross country glider pilot and achieved his Silver C and 300km Diamond Distance flight recognised by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. He also accomplished several 1000km dual flights in Namibia. He is an accomplished tow pilot, towing gliders into the Wairarapa wave systems. Stephen has provided many lectures to up and coming glider pilots in the field of human factors.

Stephen was first appointed as a TAIC Commissioner in June 2015. He was appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner from 01 November 2018 with he has just been appointed by the Governor General for a third term, expiring on 28 June 2028.

For his rich aviation centric career and passionate dedication for preserving historical NZ aircraft in an airworthy condition, Stephen is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November, 2023

Recommended for this award by David Saunders, MRAeS NZ Division, Director NZATL.

Meritorious Service Award - 2023

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 **Robert Jon Kerr**, who has provided leadership and service to the aeronautical industry over the last 30 years as a Delegate of the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority (CAANZ), Designer, Project Manager and Mentor, and has contributed to the safety and stability of aviation in NZ through his leadership at Flight Structures Ltd. (FSL).

Jon began his career with three years at Pacific Aerospace as a Graduate Engineer, where he reported to Murray McGregor. He returned there four years later to the role of Design Office Manager. He then spent two years as a Structures Engineer at Aerostructures in Melbourne where he gained exposure to working with the RAAF. Jon's experience includes all aspects of light aircraft, design and certification, across aero-medical, agricultural, utility, training, military and autonomous flight sectors during his 30 years in the industry.

Jon is highly respected by his clients, the CAANZ, his team at Flight Structures Ltd (FSL) and our partnering organisations. One of Jon's significant achievements has been the development of young engineers at FSL- taking on inexperienced interns and graduates and training them up to become skilled design and certification engineers. FSL retain an outstanding team within the organisation and several alumni have gone on to commendable careers within the industry, with some gaining executive or senior roles with Salus Aviation, Dawn Aerospace, Air New Zealand and Boeing Aircraft.

On his return to NZ in 2003 Jon, along with Richard Andrews, started FSL gaining a Part 146 Certification this year. As a Class A Delegate of CAANZ and Chief Designer, Jon has been involved in many leading General Aviation projects over the last 20 years, such as; SuperPac and SuperFalco Certification (NZ SkyDive), Merlin Labs Cessna 208 Autonomous Flight Programme, BK1170850D international re-engineering project, and numerous aeromedical fitouts. FSL is the largest independent Design Organisation in NZ.

Jon excels in leading complex development and certification projects – he has deep knowledge of the rules and regulatory framework, and is able to choose the best path forward to ensure a project is certifiable.

As a delegate, Jon uses his excellent engineering judgement to make critical safety decisions and using his experience and knowledge to determine the most important safety factors, critical for any design. Whilst he has a large and varied workload, Jon manages this effectively, keeping his clients, the CAANZ and his team well informed and content in the knowledge that the products from the numerous FSL projects are of the highest quality.

For his immense knowledge, passion for aviation, and his leading role within the New Zealand and international aerospace industry, Robert Jon Kerr is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November 2023

Recommended for this award by Murray McGregor MRAeS, Snr Engineer, Flight Structures Ltd.

Meritorious Service Award - 2023

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 **Allan Boyce**. Allan Boyce has made a significant contribution to the New Zealand Aviation community through his long serving contributions to the Royal Aeronautical Society, Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators (The Honourable Guild) and the Aviation Industry Association (Aviation New Zealand) together with the training of Pilots in several areas including Aero Clubs, the RNZAF and Air New Zealand.

Allan was an airline captain on international routes for twenty-eight years, and commanded aircraft and people worldwide. His undergraduate degree was in aviation instructional design and crew resource management. His master's degree was in aviation management systems. He is well qualified with extensive knowledge and experience in the Aviation Industry, complemented by his pilot training experience demonstrated in the role as Flight Examiner for the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority (NZCAA), Flight Instructor for Air New Zealand, Aero Clubs and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Allan's proficiency and experience has also helped in the development of Instruction Manuals for the Aviation Industry.

Using his extensive experience, Allan's involvement with the development and coordination of the Civil Aviation Authority rules, education and training aspects including the Aviation Tourism and Travel Training Organisation ICARUS Confidential Reporting System, has seen him involved in the Air Pilot's Submission on the 2023 review of the NZCAA Act.

Allan has been the Technical Director of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators (1993 - 1997) and as Chairman of the Guild, he was involved in legislation concerning cockpit voice recorders and similar devices. He was the assistant to the Court (Ruling Body) of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators in London (now the Honourable Company of Air Pilots) and has also been involved in the development of Air New Zealand Standards.

Allan's time with the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) has seen him in various leading roles. He is a Fellow of the RAeS, was President of the New Zealand Division of the (RAeS NZ), Director of the NZ Division's Air Transport Course, and a Council Member of RAeS, London. Allan continues to serve on the Council of RAeS NZ and currently continues to hold the role of Chairman of the Honourable Guild - NZ Branch.

Allan is also an Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation, a Master Air Pilot, a Freeman of the City of London, a Liveryman with the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators of London, a Justice of the Peace for New Zealand.

Allan has been the Managing Director of Heavy Jet Ltd (Helicopter Leasing Company) since 1994, Board Member of the New Zealand Helicopter Association, Aviation Industry Association member of training sub-committee, and Member of Aircar Management Committee.

For his significant and extensive service to international and New Zealand aviation, Allan is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for 2023.

Presented in Wellington
3rd November, 2023

Recommended for this award by John Cook and David Jupp, RAeS NZ Division.