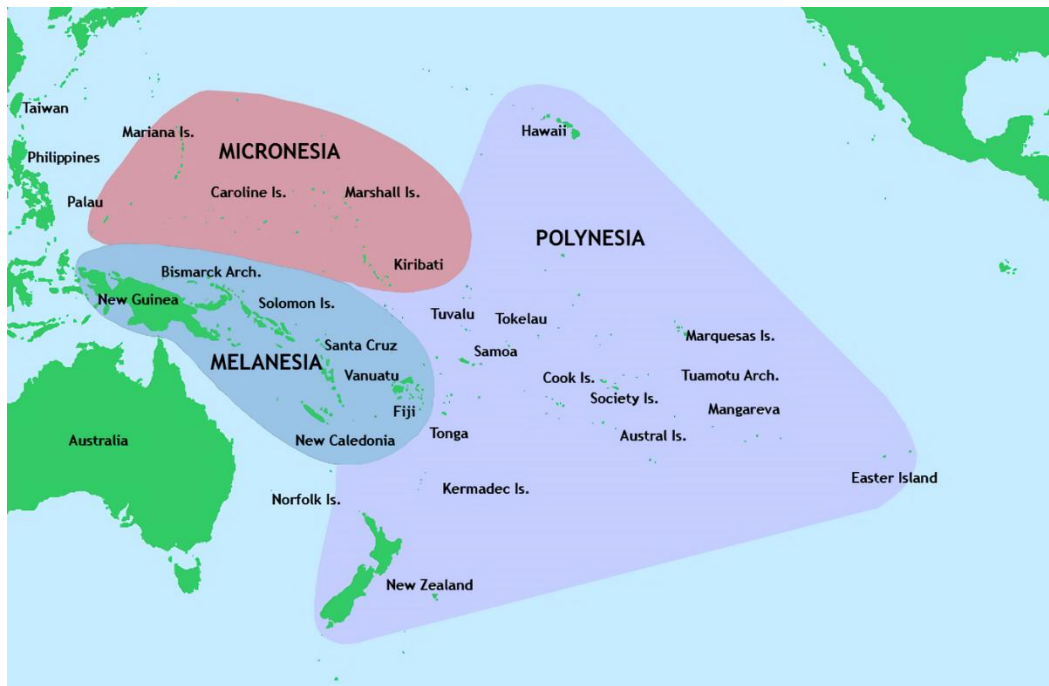


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July 2026 NEWSLETTER of the PALMERSTON NORTH BRANCH NEW ZEALAND DIVISION ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

Don Stewart enlightened us on the island of the Pacific where he was a roving doctor, mostly in Melanesia. Some of these island nations have been largely destroyed and impoverished by the US Nuclear testing programmes. I for one had never grasped the spread of the islands the Americans had assaulted during WW2.



Grumman amphibian, similar to one used in the islands



Display at Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre

Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre is a must see for aviation and history buffs. It comprises quite a large collection of NZ military aircraft from both World Wars and many other artifacts.

The OAHC is supported by Sir Peter Jackson who has managed to use his “Day Job” to enhance his aviation passion. The Aircraft in this display are a mix of original airframes and airworthy replicas, which are available for film work. Included are a Lockheed Hudson, light bomber/coastal reconnaissance aircraft which has been suspended in a dramatic crash scene in the depths of a Pacific island jungle, the magnificent ex John Smith de Havilland Mosquito and the famous ‘Gloria Lyons’ P-40 Kittyhawk.

July BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday 14th July at 7.00PM

Massey University School of Aviation

Airport Drive, Palmerston North

This month address will be by Major Mike Petterson, on the subject of “Nuclear Testing in Australia and its Effects on Pilots”

Major Pettersen retired from the NZ Army Regular Force after 52 years' service in the Royal NZ Engineers in 2024. Mike joined as a Sapper, the private equivalent of a soldier. He progressed through the ranks becoming the Regimental Sergeant Major or RSM of Linton Camp. After this posting he took an Officers Commission reaching the rank of Major. He is serving still in the NZ Army as a Territorial Volunteer in Headquarters of 2 Engineer Regiment, Linton Camp.

Mike's background in the Nuclear Warfare subject started when he was posted to the Royal Engineers in West Germany during the cold war. Here he qualified as a CBRNWMD Instructor. This is an acronym of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction

He further studied in UK, USA, Australia and Ukraine, to become the CBRNWMD adviser to the NZ Defence under the five eyes group known as ABCANZ – America, Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. He was the NZ representative of this group for 36 years.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting and sharing a cup afterward

Maurice Job,
Branch Chairman
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Phone (021) 670689

The subs, and raffle cost can be paid directly, to the Branch Bank account

11-6900-0018393-11

Please include your name, and “Raffle” in your deposit.