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September 2013

The 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12:00 hours

Wednesday, 13 November 2013

at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla

to be followed at 12:30 pm by a luncheon

Speaker: Air Marshal (Retd) Errol McCormack, AO

'RPA/UAS in Australia: Issues'

From the President

I draw your attention to the date change for our final meeting this year to Wednesday 13 November. This new date accommodates the Royal Canberra Golf Club's request for us to de-conflict with a forthcoming tournament. Moving one week to the right of our original date also accommodates members who are heading to Melbourne in the previous week for activities involving horses and the first Tuesday of November.



**Newsletter
of the
RAAF
STAFF COLLEGE
ASSOCIATION Inc**

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Don't let the AGM deter you from attending our next meeting! While we are very keen to get some new blood on our executive committee, don't let fear of being 'volunteered' for something you had not planned to do deter you from attending. While we hope you will want to put up your hand to become a committee member, you can rest assured that all office holders have agreed to continue in their current appointments if there are no new starters. No pressure, a short sharp meeting before lunch, and an excellent speaker – what more could you want?

As you read this newsletter I will be enroute to the south-western states of the USA for a tour of aircraft museums and airfields operating some magnificent old aircraft. The dry air of Southern California and Arizona in particular offer the prospect of long-term survival for the many airframes stored there. Of course these conditions are in stark contrast to the conditions in which we store the RAAF's heritage aircraft at Point Cook. This has become a hobbyhorse for me, particularly after seeing that even tiny New Zealand manages to do a much better job of storing its historical airframes. In particular I commend to you the outstanding [Aviation Display Hall](#) at Auckland's Museum of Transport Technology – a short ride in a comfortable bus from the city centre (with free Wi-Fi enroute)! The [RNZAF Museum](#) at Wigram (near Christchurch) is similarly impressive. I look forward to the day when we can catch up with the Kiwis and be able to afford proper storage arrangements for our priceless aviation heritage. As Australia celebrates its centenary of military aviation next year, the associated focus on Point Cook might be just what we need to generate the level of broader community interest necessary for our military aviation heritage to be preserved – before it is too late to do so.

So much for my self-indulgent historical meanderings! The guest speaker for our next meeting will take us into the future of airpower. Last year we had a preview of that future when AIRCDRE Warren McDonald addressed us on Air Force's nascent remotely piloted aircraft/unmanned aerial systems (RPA/UAS) capability. Addressing recent developments and likely future employment of RPA/UAS we are very fortunate to have as our next guest speaker the Chairman of the [Sir Richard Williams Foundation](#), and former Chief of Air Force [Air Marshal \(Retd\) Errol McCormack, AO](#). The Sir Richard Williams Foundation is about to conclude an extensive study of [Remotely Piloted Aircraft/Unmanned Aerial Systems](#) the results from which are about to be publicly released. Based on that study, Air Marshal McCormack will address us on the topic: 'RPA/UAS in Australia: Issues'. Once again technology is out pacing legislation and regulation. In the context of RPA/UAS, what issues must be faced before Australia has a workable legislation and regulation environment? Be sure to attend on 13 November to hear answers to this question. I look forward to seeing you then.

Regards,

Ian Pearson

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