

8 Duton Court
Wheelers Hill, Vic 3150

14 February, 2011

Dear Former Colleagues:

Aeradio/Com/Flight Service Survey

As you would be aware, Aeradio, Com and Flight Service Officers have been providing in-flight communication services to aircraft operating in Australian and PNG airspace since the 1930s.

Roger Meyer of the Melbourne based Civil Aviation Historical Society (CAHS) has written numerous articles detailing the contribution that the various units have made to the development of civil aviation over the years and his efforts in recording this contribution are very much appreciated by most of us. Roger's articles can be located on the Society's web page at www.airwaysmuseum.com.au under the "History" tab. Many other officers have also made individual contributions in the past of their Aeradio/FS experiences, which are scattered in various personal collections, libraries and local museums throughout Australia.

However, what is missing, in my view, is a consolidated record of the name of each officer who staffed a particular unit over the years, along with accounts of the personal experiences and environmental difficulties they would have encountered at each unit. Whilst the CAHS has undertaken extensive effort in the past to record the experiences of some of the older Aeradio operators, much of the personal experiences of the newer FSO generation are still yet to be fully collated and recorded.

This situation needs to be remedied before too many of us pass on to that great FSU in the sky otherwise, in another 30 to 50 years, the valuable contribution made by the Aeradio/FS organisation as a whole, and each of you individually, will be forgotten and never fully appreciated within this new fast-paced, technologically driven aviation industry that we now see.

The ultimate objective is to develop an "*honour roll*" of Aeradio operators/FSOs who served at each unit located within Australia and PNG and to eventually hand over all collected records to the CAHS so that your names and contribution are never forgotten by future generations. It is also noticeable, that there are very few photographs of

Aeradio/FS units in action so, if any of you have such photos, scanned copies of these (JPEG format) would also be very much appreciated for the national record.

I have circulated this letter and the attached survey form to as many of you as I am aware of. However, many of you are in contact with other former officers through your own email lists so, therefore, I would appreciate it if each of you could re-forward this letter and survey form to those officers you are in contact with, so that distribution of the survey form is effected to as wide an audience as possible. It may be that you will receive this letter and the survey form more than once if you appear on a number of different email lists. If so, I apologise for that, but ask for your understanding and patience given the circumstances.

Sadly, some of our esteemed former colleagues are already quite advanced in age and may not have access to computer facilities or may already be resident in aged care facilities. If you should have the good fortune to be associated with any of these "*living legends*", then I would appreciate it if you could assist in making them aware of the importance of this exercise and/or assisting them to complete and return the survey form.

Please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone if you have any queries.

Thank you for your assistance; your efforts are very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Jackson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Brian Jackson

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