

WINGS

SUMMER 2025
VOLUME 77 NO.4

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

R I C H M O N D A I R S H O W

THE AUSTRALIAN LONE EAGLE

AVIATION PIONEER
BERT HINKLER

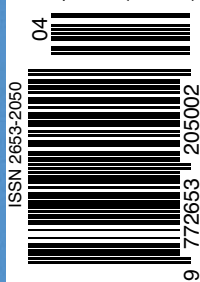
MISSION SYRACUSE

ACCELERATING
COUNTER-DRONE
TECHNOLOGY

AIR ACADEMY

STREAMLINING FLYING TRAINING

AUS \$14.95 (Incl. GST)



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE
- ESTABLISHED 1943 -

MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE

THE SUMMER EDITION is our final edition for 2025. I wish to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the *Wings* team for their commitment, efforts and passion in producing the magazine throughout the year. I would also like to thank the AFA, the RAAFA Publications Board, our contributors and our advertisers, whose ongoing support is greatly appreciated. Most of all, I wish to thank you, our readers.

In this edition, we present a wrap of the RAAF Base Richmond Airshow, conclude a two-part article on countering threats, and look at Defence flying training reforms. Articles on a counter uncrewed aerial system program, advanced composites and additive manufacturing focus on developments in critical areas. Also highlighting advancing technology is an article on the new digital air traffic control tower at Western Sydney Airport.

Our Interview series continues with Chief Defence Scientist Professor Tanya Monro AC, head of the Defence Science and Technology Group.

Visit our website, wingsmagazine.org, and arrange a personal or Christmas gift subscription to receive a regular copy in the mail and to access the magazine online. Alternatively, become a member of the Air Force Association and receive a free copy of each edition of *Wings*.

Enjoy the festive season and all the very best for the New Year.

Rob Amos, Wings Managing Editor

EDITORIAL DEADLINES

Please send submissions and letters to managing.editor@wingsmagazine.org, including your name and details. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. We cannot guarantee all material will be published.

EDITION	DEADLINE
Autumn 2026 (March)	3 February
Winter 2026 (June)	5 May



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



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This edition continues to present our regular features whilst introducing some new perspectives and insights. We wrap up the RAAF Richmond 100th Anniversary Airshow and conclude our two-part article on countering threats.

We focus on flying training reforms and training for the future. Articles on advanced composites and additive manufacturing highlight developments and progress in

critical areas. An article on a Counter Uncrewed Aerial System (C-UAS) program highlights advancements in this area. Also highlighting advancing technology is an article on the new digital air traffic control tower at Western Sydney Airport.

Our Interview series continues with the Chief Defence Scientist, Professor Tanya Monro, AC who is head of the Defence Science and Technology Group. The CDS provides a valuable insight into the role and wide range of responsibilities.

We conclude our series on the RAAF involvement in the Vietnam War, with a story on 2 Squadron. The Battle of Britain Commemoration in Hobart is acknowledged by AVM Joe levarsi (Retd), AFA National President. WWII RAAF radar veterans are also honoured.

We include an article on missing in air operations and also feature Bert Hinkler, a pioneer Australian Aviator.

The Women in Aerospace article highlights the RAAF program for women which provides inspiration for a future career in aviation and defence.