

# WINGS

AUTUMN 2022  
VOLUME 74 NO.1



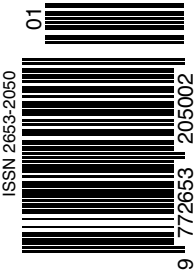
PORCUPINES & CATS  
RAAF FLYING BOATS

AIR ASSIST  
PEACETIME MISSIONS

FLYING KANGAROO  
QANTAS' JET AGE

DRAGON LADY  
SKUNK WORKS U-2

AUS \$14.95 (Incl. GST)



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE



# MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE



**WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN 22 EDITION OF WINGS.** In this edition we complete our series on the histories of both the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian airline, Qantas following their centenary anniversaries. I believe both series are a concise but quite comprehensive record of the evolution of those two great enterprises, and I would encourage all our readers to retain the magazines for future reference.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the two authors who committed the time and effort to research and bring each series to life, Michael Nelmes, our resident historian, and recently promoted B-787 Captain Don Hill. Mike also extracts the material for our Skunk Works series that will conclude shortly. We have some exciting content planned for future editions that will then take up Mike's time.

A big thankyou also to our loyal advertisers and sponsors, the past couple of years have tested all our patience and we hope we can return your support through the growing appeal and reach of the magazine.

*Ron Haack,*  
Wings managing editor

## WINGS EDITORIAL DEADLINES 2022

Wings welcomes editorial submissions and letters to the editor. Please note the following deadlines for submissions.

EDITION	DEADLINE
Winter (June)	8 April 2022
Spring (September)	8 July 2022
Summer (December)	7 October 2022

Please send submissions and letters to: [editor@raafpublications.org.au](mailto:editor@raafpublications.org.au), including your name and details. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. We cannot guarantee all material will be published.



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



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In the Autumn 22 edition of Wings magazine, the RAAF history series concludes with the Air Force contribution to Peacekeeping, Humanitarian assistance and Aid to the civilian community. The cover photo draws attention to RAAF support of the national Antarctica custodianship and research. There is a light focus on seaplane operations and the two primary seaplane bases that retain significant heritage facilities and appeal.

We introduce a program run by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and promoted in Australia by One Giant Leap, to encourage the younger generation to engage with activities aboard the International Space Station. We briefly explore some ground-breaking laser research conducted by Defence Science and Technology Group and our Skunkworks excerpt follows the evolution of the U-2 spy-plane and the little known history of U-2 operations in Australia.

Again, we believe we have produced an interesting variety of content that should entertain most readers.