

WINGS

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CHIEF OF
AIR FORCE
ON A CHALLENGING FUTURE

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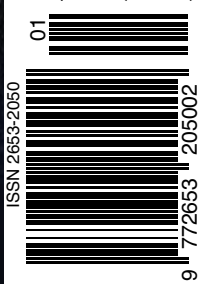
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MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE



WELCOME TO a special Avalon Australian International Airshow edition. Australia's largest aerospace and defence industry event celebrates aviation, aerospace and space. Our article, 'It's Showtime', highlights the extraordinary commitment by all concerned to showcase the efforts and achievements of the whole aviation community. In addition, we focus on one of the more unusual exhibits, the rocket-powered land-speed car *Aussie Invader 5R*.

We look forward with a focus on the development of sixth-generation future fighter programs and conclude our series on the fifth-generation F-35 JSF.

In an interview with *Wings*, Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Stephen Chappell DSC, CSC, OAM expands on his intent – people, purpose and preparedness. For an industry perspective, we interview Lockheed Martin ANZ Chief Executive Warren McDonald AO, CSC.

Highlighting a diverse range of industries and capabilities, articles cover managing air traffic from space, flying cars, collaborative combat aircraft, flight test developments, training solutions and pathways, GPS security, and the first impressions of the Shark 600 Sports aircraft which will be displayed at Avalon.

Finally, *Wings* would like to acknowledge Air Vice-Marshal Neil Smith AM, MBE (ret'd), Managing Director of RAAFA Publications for the past 10 years. Neil hands over to Air Vice-Marshal Roxley McLennan AO (ret'd) following this edition. Thank you, Neil, for your leadership and welcome Roxley.

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.

WINTER EDITION DEADLINE: 21 April



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



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The Wings Autumn 2025 Edition is a special Avalon Australian International Airshow edition. The Airshow is Australia's largest aerospace and defence industry event celebrating aviation, aerospace and space. The article "It's Showtime" highlights the extraordinary commitment by all concerned to showcase the efforts and achievements of the whole aviation community. In addition, we focus on one of the more unusual exhibits, the rocket-powered land speed car Aussie Invader 5R.

This edition continues to present our regular features whilst introducing some new themes associated with the Airshow. We conclude our series on the F-35 JSF, a fifth-generation fighter, and look forward with a focus on the development of sixth-generation future fighter programs and next generation capability. Terms like fifth and sixth generation refer to a force's overall capability and not just to one element of it.

In this edition we have an Interview with Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Stephen Chappell DSC, CSC, OAM where he focuses on his intent - people, purpose and preparedness. For an Industry perspective we have an interview with the Lockheed Martin ANZ Chief Executive, Warren McDonald AO, CSC.

Wings also focuses on a diverse range of industries and capabilities, including managing air traffic from space, flying cars, collaborative combat aircraft, flight test developments, training solutions and pathways, GPS security and countering drones. We also include the first impressions of the Shark 600 Sports aircraft which will be displayed at the show.

We continue our series on the RAAF involvement in the Vietnam War, with a story on Caribou transport aircraft and the

Tet Offensive. Similarly, the service and role of the C-130 in support of Operation Spitfire, an emergency evacuation in East Timor, is highlighted.