

PROGRAMME

FOR

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF QUEENSLAND AIR MUSEUM  
CALOUNDRA AERODROME, SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 1987

- 2.00 p.m. INTRODUCTION BY MASTER OF CEREMONIES,  
COUNCILLOR JOHN HARRISON [LANDSBOROUGH SHIRE]  
2.05 p.m. ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF QUEENSLAND AIR MUSEUM,  
MR. RICHARD HITCHINS  
2.15 p.m. ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF CALOUNDRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
MR. ROBERT STAINES  
2.25 p.m. ADDRESS BY QUEENSLAND MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
AND MEMBER FOR LANDSBOROUGH,  
THE HONOURABLE MIKE AHERN M.L.A.  
2.35 p.m. INTRODUCTION OF MRS. LY BENNETT BY  
PRESIDENT OF PATHFINDER FORCE ASSOCIATION,  
SQUADRON LEADER ALLAN J. VIAL D.F.C.  
2.40 p.m. OFFICIAL OPENING OF Q.A.M. BY MRS. BENNETT.  
3.00 p.m. AEROBATIC DISPLAY SPONSORED BY THE  
CALOUNDRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
FEATURING:  
CHIPMUNK VH-BVP - OWNED AND PILOTED BY BARRY HEMPEL

Queensland Air Museum thanks Barry Hempel for making his aircraft available at minimum cost. QAM also thanks the Caloundra Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring operating expenses. The public address system for today's ceremony is courtesy of Rick Wiseman of Queensland Audio.

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With the unveiling of a plaque, Mrs. Bennett will name the building:

THE AIR VICE-MARSHAL D.C.T. BENNETT MEMORIAL BUILDING

in honour of her late husband and Patron of QAM. Subsequently, Mrs. Bennett will proceed to the front entrance of the building for the ceremonial cutting of a ribbon. The President of QAM will then escort Mrs. Bennett and her party on a tour of the building. Other invited guests will follow. QAM members will be in attendance at major exhibits to answer questions. After inspecting the building, guests will exit via the western door to inspect the Canberra bomber after which they will adjourn to the Aero Club for refreshments. The building will be closed to invited guests and the general public until after the opening ceremony. The public will be welcomed into the building after invited guests have completed their inspection [or earlier if space permits].

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF QAM

Today's ceremony is one of mixed joy and sadness. Joy because it sees the end of a twelve year struggle to find a permanent home for QAM and sadness because our Patron, Don Bennett could not be here. When it became apparent that we were at last going to have an opening ceremony, I asked Don if he would officiate whereupon he indicated that he would get to Caloundra "if he had to walk!"

Sadly, Don cannot be here but we are equally honoured that Mrs. Bennett has travelled all the way from the U.K. to open the museum. While the Museum you are seeing today represents twelve years of collecting, it also represents a mere nine months of restoration. Although small by international standards, the QAM Collection is displayed today with great pride by all members of the Museum. In effect this is only the beginning, for there is enormous potential for QAM to grow into an internationally respected aerospace museum.

What you are seeing today would not have been possible without the assistance of the Landsborough Shire Council who funded the erection of this fine building. The Council grant was supplemented by contributions from QAM members and the local business community. The land was made available by the Queensland Government who also contributed funding for several small projects such as cataloguing the collection and painting aircraft. One particularly noteworthy project was the repainting of the Meteor jet fighter. A grant from the Queensland Government "Assistance to Local Museums Scheme" enabled the purchase of paint which was expertly applied as a training exercise by Number 3 Aircraft Depot at RAAF Amberley. The Museum's latest restoration is the Vampire jet trainer. This particular aeroplane has been stored dismantled for ten years because the Museum's lack of a permanent site would not permit assembly. Both of the wings on the Vampire have been restored by students of the South Brisbane Technical College. Thus QAM is truly a community museum!

It will be readily apparent to all present that the Museum has already outgrown the new building! From the outset, the Canberra bomber was committed to outdoor storage as will be our latest acquisition, a de Havilland Dove which is scheduled for delivery in early May. There are several possible acquisitions which would greatly enhance the collection given the funds for their purchase! Now that the Museum is firmly established, it is hoped that the Federal Government will recognise what has been achieved with the presentation of several surplus military aircraft. To date it has been necessary for the Museum to compete with the likes of scrap merchants for the purchase of aircraft. Interestingly, the Meteor jet fighter was an outright gift from the British Government. Museum members are also hopeful that the forthcoming Expo 88 might be a stimulus for the donation of surplus aircraft by participating nations. Of course, once acquired, these aeroplanes must be housed. Naturally, the Museum aspires to a larger building to ensure that a rapidly growing collection can be maintained in display condition. It is hoped that the Museum's endorsement as an official [albeit self-funded] Bicentennial project will result in a sponsorship for the erection of a larger building. Such a sponsorship would entitle the sponsor to display the Bicentennial logo on company stationery. Of course, QAM can offer another benefit in that donations are allowable tax deductions. Anyone wishing to participate in QAM activities can become a member for a moderate fee. QAM thanks everyone who has made today possible.

A COMMUNITY OWNED MUSEUM PRESERVING THE NATION'S AVIATION HERITAGE