

**SHORT BIOGRAPHY**  
**AIR COMMODORE MARK LAX (Retd)**



Air Commodore Mark Lax joined the Royal Australian Air Force Academy in January 1974 and graduated dux of his class. After navigator training, he had operational, flight test and instructional tours before completing a number of staff positions. During his career, he was Base Commander of RAAF Base, East Sale in Victoria and later in 1997, Base Commander RAAF Base Richmond in NSW.

In the later years, Air Commodore Lax went on to hold a number of posts in Canberra developing higher level policy and defence strategy. These included Director General Policy and Plans - AF, Director General Military Strategy, and in 2006 – Director General Strategic Policy in Strategy Division – responsible for strategic assessments, the strategic plans function and a wide range of high level strategy and long term planning documents.

Air Commodore Lax retired from the PAF in January 2007 and for two years was managing editor of the ADF Journal. In 2008, he was appointed to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal where he acted as RAAF specialist advisor for reviews into veteran medal claims until July 2015. In 2011, he completed his PhD and pertinent for tonight's presentation, Mark is immediate past president of the Australian Society of WWI Aero Historians.

Mark is a graduate of the RAAF Academy, RAAF School of Air Navigation, Royal Air Force Cranwell, RAAF Staff College, USAF Air War College and Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He enjoys cricket, reading, writing and publishing on military aviation. He is also immediate past president of Canberra Legacy.