

# Point Cook Airshow

By Laird Darren Gallagher

February saw the stage set for a great day down at RAAF Base Point Cook as it played host to the 2008 Air Pageant. The theme this year down at the RAAF birthplace was 'History of Point Cook'. For those who don't know, the RAAF Museum is situated there on the base and show cases some fantastic aircraft spanning all time periods of the RAAF.

At the pageant, visitors were treated to a range of military and civilian aircraft from the 1930s to more current models, showcased in both flying and static displays. Some of the aircraft involved included the current RAAF Hawk which treated everyone to a fly-past, plus a C-130J, a Caribou and PC-9/A. The older varieties, the Mustang (a real crowd pleaser), a Tiger Moth, Winjeel and CT4 were on site too. Most of the kids, however, seemed to really love the Spitfire, Kittyhawk, Harvard and Vampire genre. There is just something about those teeth painted on the front end of the fuselage that makes it great to look at. I was lucky enough to snap one of the guys administering some dental work on the day - at no charge I would suspect, with free dental and all that!

Defence Force Recruiting (DFR) were on hand to make sure everyone who was interested in recruiting found out just what they needed to take it further. Being a car enthusiast, it was great to get a look at the new DFR Holden Panel vans that have been fully tricked out with all the speakers and TVs needed to make a flashy presentation.

Interestingly, there was quite a bit there for the car lover this year and I had a great chat to Graham Jacobs, owner of a 44 Willys (see middle graphic below) which was part of a great historic military vehicles display on the day. More intriguing than that was the collection of historic race cars that were on site in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the only Grand Prix held at Point Cook in 1948. This 1935 Morgan Super Sports is

similar to those raced down at Point Cook at that time. The race was the second post-WWII Grand Prix to be held in Australia and used the existing runways and taxiways to form the race track. The entire race track still exists today as it existed then.

As I moved around the event it was really great, and filled me with memories of a school fete I once attended. The RAAF Cadets were there as well representing their interests, which was great to see. It really demonstrates that aviation as an industry spans all generations and their youthful involvement added to the flavour of the day. In addition, I loved all the vendors who were selling everything from plastic models and detailed di-cast pieces to squadron patches and unit badges for those of us that are a little more 'signed on'. Sniff sniff, wipe the tear from the eye - Ok, I'll admit it, I bought a few patches.

Moving onto to the No 1 Airfield Defence Squadrons' display, it was impressive to note just how patient the team was with so many people passing through, who were most likely asking the same questions time and time again. But like anybody who loves their job, you never get sick of talking about it, and it was clear they were loving the attention.

Over 20,000 people flooded in for this event and all were treated to a wonderful day of past and present aviation masterstrokes. Even if you can't make it down there for the next one, I urge you to stop by the museum and take a look. The team down there have done such a great job in creating what is the premiere RAAF trip down memory lane.

Tally-Ho!

For more information about the RAAF Museum then check out their website.

RAAF Museum: [www.rafmuseum.gov.au/raafmuseum/](http://www.rafmuseum.gov.au/raafmuseum/)

