

Wings of Time

Australian Air Force Cadets, 7 Wing, Western Australia



Charles Page

Wings of Time takes us back in time to retrieve the experiences, adventures and achievements of our air cadets. For many of these air cadets, their happiest memories include the moment when they became what they dreamed they could be.

Many went from cadet to instructor, and mentored and inspired succeeding generations. It is also striking how well they have done in life, with their varied careers. Two of the cadets became WA State Governors, and several others have earned a high measure of fame. Some joined the RAAF, or became commercial pilots, and there are all manner of trades and professions, from architects to yachtsmen. Honours and awards include 3 ACs, 1 AO, 2 AMs, and 5 OAMs.

There is so much variety in these stories, that take us back to WWII and the decades since. However, one thing that stands out, is the camaraderie of those ever-remembered halcyon days in the air cadets.

Much as we treasure our memories, it is essential to share these memories, so that others may feel inspired, and our heritage and history preserved. That is why it has been so important to produce this book, and it is a record of which we can take great pride.

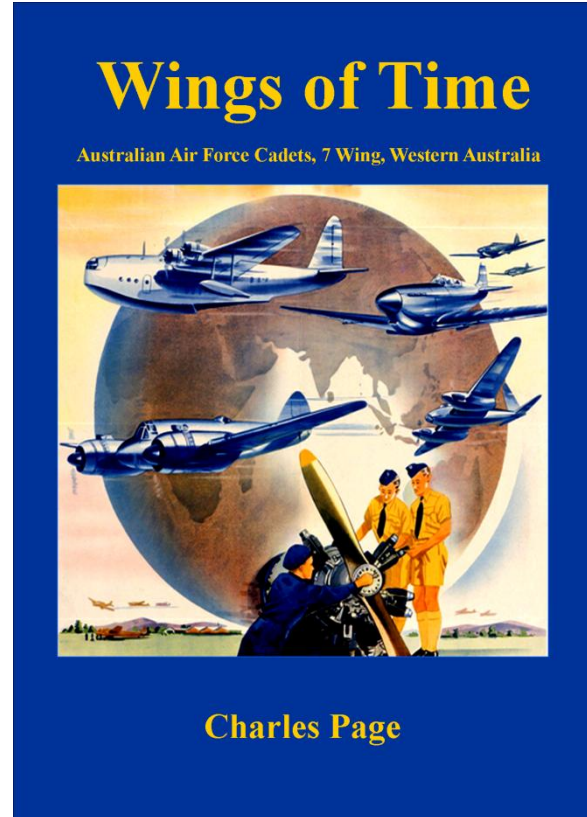
Charles Page is a retired Cathay Pacific Captain, with over 15,000 flying hours. Aircraft flown include the DC-3, DC-6, Convair 640, Electra, Hercules, 707, 747-200 and 747-400. Published books include *Vengeance of the Outback*, and *Wings of Destiny*, which was selected for the Chief of Air Force's RAAF Reading List in 2010. His last book, *Wings of Valour*, was published in 2017 and honoured air cadets who lost their lives in service. Charles' interest in the Australian Air Force Cadets stems from his time as a cadet in the Air Training Corps.



Wings of Time – by Charles Page

The book *Wings of Time* was launched on 7 December 2019 by Dr Ken Michael AC at RAAFA WA Merriwa. Dr Michael is a former Governor of WA, Patron of the AAFC Branch of RAAFA WA, and a former air cadet. The occasion was also attended by RAAFA WA Secretary Ron Onions and Squadron Leader Andy Shearman, representing 7 Wing.

Wings of Time allows us to travel back in time, to retrieve the experiences, adventures and achievements of 80 air cadets. Many went from cadet to instructor and mentored and inspired succeeding generations. Two of the cadets became WA State Governors, and several others have earned a high measure of fame. Some joined the RAAF, or became commercial pilots, and there are all manner of trades and professions, from architects to yachtsmen. Honours and awards include 3 ACs, 1 AO, 2 AMs, and 5 OAMs.



The many notables include WA Governors Dr Ken Michael and Malcolm McCusker, author Robert Drewe, Ray Hartley who wrote songs for Vera Lynn, yachting champion Rolly Tasker, and pilot Brian Edwards who flew his Tiger Moth 'Matilda' from England to Australia.

Others in the book, include Graeme McGlashan, who recalls how he met his future wife Berice at a dance organised by 3 Flight Fremantle. We also hear from Graham Wilson, whose Uncle Lyle had a dogfight with the Red Baron. Then there is pilot Harry Brown, who flew Hurricanes, Tempests, Mustangs and Vampires, and enthralls us with his many anecdotes.

There is so much variety in these stories, that take us back to WWII and the decades since. However, one thing the cadets and instructors have in common, is the camaraderie of those ever remembered, halcyon days in the air cadets.

The rich heritage of 7 Wing is being recorded in a trilogy of books for present and future generations. The first book in the trilogy, *Wings of Valour*, commemorated the cadets and instructors who died in service. This led to the construction of an Honour Board, and a Book of Remembrance Cabinet at 7 Wing HQ, Pearce. An Honour Board was also placed in the Aviation Heritage Museum, Bullcreek. The second book, *Wings of Time*, will be followed by a third book, *Wings of Eagles*, which will chronicle cadets and instructors who served operationally from WWII onwards, and won honours and awards.

Wings of Time is A4, soft cover, 304 pages, fully illustrated colour and b&w. It was funded by a grant from RAAFA WA. Enquiries chaz747@bigpond.com