



## CRANWELLIAN ASSOCIATION

### Colin Loveday RIP



We regret to report the passing of Colin Loveday of 59 Entry (A Sqn) who died in Sydney, Australia on 18th June 2024. In response to a RAF Commonwealth recruitment drive, Colin (born and raised in New Zealand) enlisted into the RAF on 3rd April 1950 and reported to Cranwell on 10th January 1951. A talented tennis player, he was part of the Tennis VI throughout his Cranwell years, captaining the team by 1953. Prior to Graduation in 1953, he was selected as the Colour bearer parading the Queens Colour in Parliament Square on the new Monarch's coronation. Colin's flying training was on Proctors and Chipmunks, advancing to the Harvard 2b before a posting to Gloster Meteors Marks 7 and 8 at RAF Worksop, Lincolnshire. In 1954, he moved to 50 Squadron, RAF Binbrook, flying Canberras, the aircraft which came to define his service years. Following a tour with CFS, in July 1961 he flew 32 Squadron's first Canberra B15 nuclear bomber from England to RAF Akrotiri,

Cyprus direct. This posting tasked him with devising and instructing crew training on the Low Altitude Bombing System on the American-modified Canberra B15 (granting it nuclear strike capability). In the process he excelled by achieving top score when securing the NEAF Sassoon Trophy for 32 Squadron (1962) and winning the Individual Element for most accurate target strike (a standing world record for Loft Bombing). In 1963, promoted to Squadron Leader, he assumed command of 231 Operational Conversion Unit RAF based at RAF Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, training crews on Canberras. His final posting was to RAF Changi, Singapore in 1965 on staff at the Head Quarters of RAF Far East Air Force. In 1969 he left the RAF to return to New Zealand and began a long and distinguished civil aviation career chiefly in Airline Captain posts flying for various companies serving the Australasian, Pacific and South East Asian routes. His last professional flight was in November 1992 flying as a senior Captain with Malaysia Airways System aged 62, thus ending a career of 43 years of military and civil aviation; the latter flying a multitude of different types from Piper Cubs to MacDonnell Douglas DC-10s. He retired to Buderim on the Gold Coast of Australia to bask and write the occasional aviation article.