

**OPENING REMARKS BY CHIEF OF AIR FORCE AIR  
MARSHAL GEOFF BROWN, AO  
AVALON AIR SHOW 24 FEBRUARY 2015**

Madame Minister, thank you very much for those remarks and also for the vital support of the Government of Victoria to this event. The Avalon Air Show is now *the* major forum for air power professionals, aerospace industry representatives and aviation enthusiasts in the Southern Hemisphere.

My task today is simple and pleasant. I wish to welcome you all to the Avalon Air Show. So welcome one and all. I am especially grateful to those who travelled from overseas and interstate to be with us over the course of the week.

I wish to extend a particular welcome to members of allied and neighboring air forces. Your attendance is powerful symbol of our shared desire for a peaceful region and a secure global order. I am pleased that so many of our industry partners and suppliers have joined us again. Your support and collaboration is central to our performance.

To my Air Force colleagues from all over Australia, welcome. The theme of this year's show is 'Heroes of the Sky'. That is a fitting tribute to the bravery of those who have served before us and continue to serve in harm's way. Use this week to learn, to make new friends both within Air Force and among other air forces. But also have some fun and enjoy the week. Sometimes the informal discussions enabled by these events are as important as the formal discussions.

Finally I am delighted to welcome all of you who simply love aviation and aircraft. Your enthusiasm is infectious and gives this air show a fantastic atmosphere. So without further ado, let's take off for Avalon 2015.