

*Vale*  
**Aden Wickes**

**16th May 1934 - 14th January 2018**

Aden Wickes was born in Lismore, NSW on 16th May, 1934, the second of four children born to the late Albert (Bert) and Phyllis Wickes. His sisters Narelle and Kerin and brother John survive him.

It was while they were living in northern NSW he witnessed an event that was to affect him for the rest of his life. They were visiting the beach at Brunswick Heads when a light aircraft landed on the sand. Aden told many people it was from that time on he became interested in flight in all its forms.

The family moved to Goulburn. Aden completed his schooling and went to work in the Bank of New South Wales. He was not really interested in a banking career.

When he was 19 years of age it was time for him to do his National Service Training — when he received his papers to join the air force, he literally got on his bike and rode there as fast as he could.

He was so keen and bright that he excelled in the service and upon completion of his National Service he joined the Royal Australian Air Force and was trained as a pilot by 1954.

During his service with the RAAF, Aden accumulated over 2,000 flying hours, mostly on the Douglas DC3 and in command of Lockheed Hercules 0130 aircraft, operating from the RAAF base Richmond, in NSW.

Aden joined Qantas Empire Airways in January, 1961, having declined a permanent commission in the RAAF in favour of opportunities clearly opening up in an ever expanding Qantas.

He commenced as a second officer on the Lockheed Electra flying on the then “Cherry Blossom” run to Japan and the Far East, and he progressed to the rank of First Officer on the B707 by 1996.

In 1970 Aden was promoted to his first command in Qantas, flying the Douglas DC4 to Norfolk Island, beginning a love affair with the territory which was to remain with him all his life.

He flew over 400 flights between Norfolk Island and the mainland. Many of these flights were ferrying school children to their schools in Australia. When they were on board he had to fly two circuits of the island, one each way, so that all the children on board could wave to their parents on the ground.

Aden married and there were two children — a son Aaron who predeceased him and a daughter Joanne. This marriage was subsequently dissolved.

Later promotions in Qantas saw Aden move to command B707, B742 and achieve his status of Senior Check Captain B747 in June, 1984. It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when Aden became known as “Captain Adventure”, but at some point in the late 70s or early 80s, he embarked on a program of seeking and experiencing some of the more testing and exhilarating aviation related pursuits.

*(continued overleaf)*



**Norfolk Island  
AIRLINES**

## **FREIGHT NEWS**

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### *Aden Wickes - continued*

These including ballooning over Everest, hang gliding, ultra and micro light aircraft flying, all aspects of balloon flight in general and participating in the great Trans Australia Bi Centenary Hot Air Balloon race, in which he came third.

All races and experiences did not all end in glory, he once crashed into Mt. Fuji in Japan breaking his front teeth!

He was a confirmed and much celebrated aviator — and an enthusiastic member of the Qantas staff, for thirty years. He retired from Qantas on 5th November, 1991.

Romance again entered his life in about 1988 when he met Carol in Canberra, when he was returning from a skiing trip in the Snowy Mountains. As he was also participating in Hot Air Ballooning in Canberra at that time and Carol resided here — it was only natural a romance blossomed. They married at Cobbitty near Camden and their first home was in Orchard Hills.

However it was not long before they moved to Norfolk Island, which had always had a strong pull on Aden's affection. Here they resided for two years. Their next move was to Canowindra where of course Hot Air Ballooning was a major attraction for folk. Many friends visited them there and Aden would have his guests hot air ballooning in the early morning — go karting track activities during the day and then more hot air ballooning in the evening.

They then came to live in Bowral for a time when Aden would be seen flying his maroon bi plane around the district. He would take commercial photographers up so they would film the district. For a time Carol said she couldn't get away from Aden and his activities — she went to the Empire Cinema for relaxation once and the next thing before the movie commenced here was Aden and his plane coming straight for her in the audience — they were filming some commercial. At the local airport he built a hanger and then said he wanted to build another and so the expansion went on.

The pace of life changed for awhile when Carol and Aden spent seven years in Tasmania. Here he sailed a yacht, as their home on 13 acres was on a wide expanse of water and the winds were unreliable and not safe for flying activities. With his health deteriorating a little they returned to Bowral where they have lived for the past three years.

Carol said life with Aden was never dull — she had stayed in one place for 30 years but after meeting him she was constantly on the move. Even holidays had their moment — once they had to contend with pirates when they were in Fiji where Aden was enjoying another of his many hobbies — scuba diving. He had played golf as well at some time or another.

Aden's flying brought him into contact with many famous people, including Michael Crawford the actor/singer who Aden invited up to the flight deck when he was flying with him. He was on Good Morning Australia with Kerrie Anne and he had written articles for Aviation Magazines and there was a lovely fully photographed article on his flying in a 1987 edition of Australian Wellbeing.

Sadly over the years Aden's health continued to deteriorate. September last he and Carol had a wonderful final holiday to his beloved Norfolk Island.

Sadly this much loved and respected adventurer died at Anthem on Sunday 14th January, 2018. If there is any comfort in these sad circumstances, it is that Aden always knew he had the love and support of Carol to the last.

Not all ill, elderly people have a blessing such as this at the time of their passing.

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## January 27

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

January 27 is the 27th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar. There are 338 days remaining until the end of the year (339 in leap years).

1606 – Gunpowder Plot: The trial of Guy Fawkes and other conspirators begins, ending with their execution on January 31.

1785 – The University of Georgia is founded, the first public university in the United States.

1880 – Thomas Edison receives the patent on the incandescent lamp.

1939 – First flight of the Lockheed P-38 Lightning.

1943 – World War II: The Eighth Air Force sorties ninety-one B-17s and B-24s to attack the U-boat construction yards at Wilhelmshaven, Germany. This was the first American bombing attack on Germany.

1951 – Nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site begins with Operation Ranger.

1961 – The Soviet submarine S-80 sinks when its snorkel malfunctions, flooding the boat.

1967 – Astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee are killed in a fire during a test of their Apollo 1 spacecraft at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

1967 – United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union sign the Outer Space Treaty in Washington, D.C., banning deployment of nuclear weapons in space, and limiting use of the Moon and other celestial bodies to peaceful purposes.

1983 – The pilot shaft of the Seikan Tunnel, the world's longest sub-aqueous tunnel (53.85 km) between the Japanese islands of Honshū and Hokkaidō, breaks through.

1996 – Germany first observes International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

2013 – Two hundred forty-two people die in a nightclub fire in the Brazilian city of Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul.

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