

## Vale - Ron Biddell

We are saddened at the loss of our friend and club member, Ron Biddell, who recently passed away aged 81. Ron joined our club in 2016 and attended our events in his modern S-Type and XK8. Ron's son Leith, advised Steve Weeks that his Dad thoroughly enjoyed his time spent with our club..

Ron was born in Adelaide in 1939. As a youth he played Baseball competitively and represented South Australia and was selected for the Australian side. He was once looked at by the New York Yankees.

During Army National Service training, Ron watched the Air Force Mustang's and Canberra's fly over while on exercise and was inspired to become a RAAF pilot.

In 1961 at the age of 21, he successfully applied for pilot training and completed No 44 Pilot Course at Point Cook from late 1961 to 1962. He was presented with his Wings at RAAF Pearce by the Duke of Edinburgh.

After graduating from pilot training he was posted around Australia and overseas including two postings to Malaysia and one to Vietnam in 1967 flying Canberra's.

Fourteen years after enlisting, Ron was appointed chief flying instructor at the Central Flying School (CFS) at RAAF



*Photo of Ron Biddell's 1996 blue 4.0 litre XK8 taken at All-British Day 2020.*

Base East Sale and became leader of the Roulettes aerobatic team.

As Chief Flying Instructor CFS, he was responsible for coming up with the famous 'R' logo that has been used on the Roulette aircraft for over 40 years and the famous image of the Roulettes flying over Uluru. He was awarded the Air Force Cross in the 1978 Queen's Birthday Awards for his work with CFS.

Ron retired as a Squadron Leader from the RAAF in 1981 to focus on supporting his three sons. He retired to the Gold Coast becoming self-employed before moving to Adelaide in the early 2000's.

Ron joined the Air Force Association (AFA) Mitcham Branch in 2010 and in 2017 became President of the Club until this year when ill health forced him to retire.

Ron was recently awarded a Distinguished Service Award for his work with the Air Force Association SA Mitcham Branch.

Ron marched at the 2021 ANZAC Day March even though he had been fighting cancer for over a year with a condition that was causing pain and suffering.

Our club wishes to pass on our deepest sympathies and condolences to Ron's family and express that our thoughts are with them at this time.

Ron will be sadly missed by our club members.

**Ron Biddell**  
(JDCSA Member 3690)

*Reference: "Baseballer spins the wheel to become a Roulette" by Flying Officer Steffi Blavius, 13 November 2020 and Air Force Association - SA Division 1 July 2020 (facebook entry).*



*Wing Commander Ron Biddell (ret'd) organised for the Roulettes aerobatic team to fly over and be photographed flying over Uluru at sunset (June 7, 1977).*