



AS IT HAPPENED

BY

ABBY BISHOP

LIFE BEYOND THE RAAF

To paraphrase an old cliché, 'Old aircrew never die, they simply become Air Traffic Controllers'.

At least I felt that way when I began training in Melbourne as a Civil Air Traffic Controller in 1949. A nice static kind of job, I thought. I will be able to settle down in the one location and not be subject to the kind of nomad life I experienced in the RAAF.

Well, experience has shown that 'Life' and 'Time' have their own teaching methods, so I will now demonstrate how those two aspects changed my fixed ideas about the type of job I took on. Read and laugh your heads off:

1950 - 1955 Airport/Approach Control at Brisbane Airport.

1955 - 1956 Airport/Approach Control as OIC Cairns Airport.

1957 - 1959 Airport/Approach Control, Operations and Search and Rescue Port Moresby Airport.

1959 - 1960 OIC Port Moresby Airport.

1960 - 1964 Airport/Approach Control as OIC Cairns Airport.

1965 - 1981 Area/Approach Control as Senior Area Approach Controller Brisbane Airport.

During this 'static' existence, I also served for short periods as Approach Controller at Redland Bay Flying Boat Base, and as a relieving controller at Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville.

In 1981, I retired 'medically unfit', with memories of the aircrew-style camaraderie which continued to exist as it still does with all people in the Aviation Industry and Military Aviation. I have been fortunate to meet some truly wonderful characters in both environments.