

# Oldest pilot touches down

## Wary chief wins prize

The RAN's oldest pilot, Commodore J. A. O'Farrell, retired recently after a career of 37 years.

CDRE O'Farrell joined as an adult entry writer in February, 1947.

CHIEF Petty Officer Ian  
Wray has been awarded

Wray has been awarded  
the 1983 Peter Mitchell In-  
structor of the Year

structor of the Year Award.

CPO Wray, a marine technical hull specialist, has been an instructor since November 1980 in the RAN NBCD School HMAS PENGUIN, which is the first instructional billet posting of his career.

He joined the RAN in 1965 from Newcastle, NSW, and highlights of his career have been two postings to HMAS TARANGAU and as a member of the Navy Display Team.

Although originally not a volunteer for instructional duties CPO Wray has demonstrated the ability to perform his job well and says he looks forward to continuing his role of instructor at the NBCD School, HMAS PENGUIN.

Seven years later he was at the centre of a UFO sighting which still remains unexplained.

While flying a Sea Fury from NAS Nowra on August 21, 1954, CDR F. O'Farrell re-

31, 1954, CDRE O'Farrell reported a UFO sighting.

Professor J. A. Hynek, formerly chief scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force, recently said this was one of the few UFO sightings he could not explain.

The Joint Intelligence Organisation holds a file on this sighting.

The next year he flew

rescue missions in helicopters during floods at Maitland and Dubbo.

He helped rescue the crew of a civil helicopter that crashed in rough country on the west coast of Tasmania in January, 1957.

Among his postings has been commander air and fleet aviation in HMAS MELBOURNE.

As director of naval aviation policy, he was responsible for the quick replacement of the Grumman Tracker aircraft destroyed in a fire at HMAS ALBA-

in a life at HMAS ALBATROSS  
TROSS in 1976.



***CDRE O'Farrell (left) receives a commendation from the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral David Leach.***