

12 Sqn meets UFO

When world famous Japanese composer Tomita brought his production "Sound Cloud" to Sydney, as a gift to Australia's Bicentenary, he was faced with the problem of suspending a "UFO" over Sydney Harbour during the two hour long performance. "Sound Cloud" was a musical extravaganza combining laser lights, a two

hundred voice choir, Japanese drummers, and the Australian band Gondwanaland, all performing on floating barges on Farm Cove.

A Chinook crew from No 12 Squadron Amberley happily took on the task of suspending the 15ft diameter doughnut-shaped steel "UFO" over the harbour, as Tomita conducted the show

from a huge perspex pyramid on the water below. The "UFO", complete with mysterious flashing lights, carried banks of speakers and generators blasting out recorded music as a highlight of the performance.

The 12 Squadron Chinook was the only solution to the problem of how to suspend the 1750 kg weight of the

UFO at the right height and for the required length of time.

Rehearsals were carried out in conjunction with the Japanese technical crew, through an interpreter — and everything went all right on the night with the UFO looking and sounding suitably futuristic as it appeared to "float" over the harbour.

A total of 4069 Australian pilots trained under the scheme in Canada, many

flying the Harvard.

This year is also the 50th anniversary of the Harvard, which derived from the North American BT9, from which also came the NA33 and subsequently the Wirraway.

The Harvard's history in the RAAF is very abbreviated: during service in Japan under the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces,



Below: FLGOFF Chris Hake offers his cap to Japanese

*offers his cap to Japanese
sound engineer Mr Shigeo
Ohki, during a break in re-
hearsal.*