



## Lounge Area, Terminal Building, Archerfield Airport, Brisbane

Friday 28 June 2019, 7:00pm for 7:30pm - 9:00pm

# The Longest Hop

by Bob Livingstone

In 1943 QANTAS began the longest non-stop civil airline service from Perth to Ceylon across the Indian Ocean with lend-lease Catalinas supplied from British stocks.

The outbreak of war in 1939 progressively made the Empire Air Route from Australia to England difficult, requiring various route changes in Europe and by early 1942 the Japanese incursions in the Pacific cut the route altogether. The only way to get to the UK by air was by a wide loop across the Pacific to the west coast of the US, then across continental USA and finally across the Atlantic.

The Indian Ocean Route, while perilous, was shorter and quicker, the British continuing the route to the UK from Ceylon.

Bob tells the story of how QANTAS kept the lines of communication with “the Mother Country” open through 1943-45 and the re-establishment of more normal routing in the early post-war years.

