



Media Release

Darwin City Council

Communications & Marketing Ph. (08) 8930 0504 Fax (08) 8930 0669

Council Supports First Flight to Australia

On the 10th December 1919 Darwin became the centre of attention with the arrival of Australia's first overseas flight. Ross and Keith Smith landed at Fannie Bay on what is now Ross Smith Avenue. This site served as Darwin airfield until the current military site was established in 1939.

This Epic flight was a part of The Great Air Race initiated by then Prime Minister Billy Hughes with an attractive price of 10,000 pounds on offer.

Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer is please Council is supporting this important event in Australia's history "these early aviators battled the tyranny of distance and paved the way for the modern air services we enjoy today" he said "it is significant to note that the founders of QANTAS Hudson and Fysh surveyed the airfields used in the Great Air Race".

This December will be the 90 anniversary and the will The Fannie Bay Historical and Heritage Society is organising and event to mark this milestone. At the last Council meeting Aldermen voted to support this event with \$10,000 in cash and up to \$5,000 in kind.