

18 July 2019

AUSTRALIAN AVIATION HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES INDUCTEES FOR 2019

The Australian Aviation Hall of Fame (AAHOF) has today announced the individuals and organisation to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2019.

In making the announcement AAHOF Chairman, Steve Padgett OAM, highlighted the rich history and aviation spirit of the inductees. He went on to say:

“2019 is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Sydney Airport and the 100th anniversary of the London to Australia Air Race. 2019 is also significant in the lead up to the 100th anniversary of the RAAF. These are major events in Australia's aviation and aerospace history and reflect the significant contributions of our inductees for this year.”

This year the Hall of Fame has the pleasure and privilege of inducting three individuals and one organisation. They include:

- **Nigel Love** - A pilot with No 3 Squadron Australian Flying Corp (AFC). On his return to Sydney in 1919 he took out a lease on an empty grazing paddock at Mascot. There he established Australia's first flying school and aircraft sales/maintenance business. The lease was taken over by the Commonwealth in 1923 and Nigel Love's aerodrome became Sydney Airport.
- **James Bennett** and **Walter Shiers** - AFC aircraft mechanics whose outstanding technical abilities and determination not only enabled the completion of the England to Australia air race in 1919 piloted by Ross and Keith Smith, but the winning of it. Ross Smith acknowledged publicly that the flight would never have been completed without the efforts of these two men. Prior to this flight they were the mechanics on the first Cairo to Calcutta flight, also piloted by Ross Smith.
- **Southern Cross Award: Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** – for its critical place in the front-line defence of our nation and in the formation and encouragement of the growth of Australian Civil aviation. Also, for outstanding work and essential support in disaster relief and rescue missions.

The induction ceremony dinner will be held on Saturday, 16 November 2019, at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT. Bookings for the gala event are available through the AAHOF website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE AAHOF WEBSITE - WWW.AAHOF.COM.AU.