

# Men of sky to be honoured ☆

By Andrew Pearson Nov. 16, 2013, 7 a.m.



NINE inductees will soar into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame (AAHOF) at a gala dinner in Wagga tonight.

From aviator and entrepreneur Dick Smith to the inventor of the aircraft "black box" and the founders of Qantas, some incredible feats will be recognised.

At least 160 guests are expected to attend, including deputy prime minister Warren Truss who will present the Southern Cross Award for outstanding contribution to aviation to Qantas Airways Limited.

Deputy chairman of the AAHOF, Geoff Breust, said descendents of inductees will travel from across the country to honour legends of the aviation industry.

Mr Breust was yesterday putting the finishing touches on Charles Sturt University's Joyes Hall ahead of the event, which includes an audio-visual display.

"The audience can get a real impression of the tremendous feats these people achieved," Mr Breust said.

Mr Smith, who is being inducted for his passion for aviation, will be the special guest speaker.

"I'm not sure what he'll speak about, but it'll be entertaining," Mr Breust said.

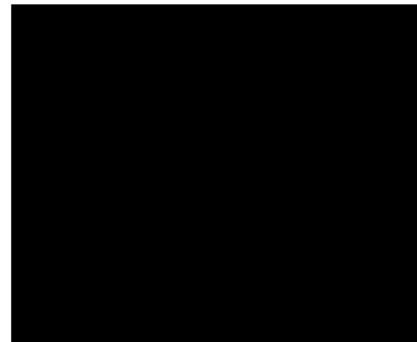
Among the inductees are Hudson Fysh, Paul McGinness and Fergus McMaster the trio who were instrumental in founding the Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Limited (Qantas) in June 1920.

They will be joined by Arthur Baird, the first Qantas engineer; Lawrence Wackett, who is regarded by many as the father of the Australian aircraft industry; and the inventor of the black box David Warren.

Hubert Wilkins, the man who brought aviation to the Antarctic, will also be inducted, along with Freda Thompson, the first Australian woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

Meanwhile, the AAHOF were recently the beneficiaries of a \$1000 donation from the Classic Motoring Car Club of Wagga and Douglas Aerospace.

Mr Breust said the money would be used to help cover the costs of the induction program.



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