



## The Old Fliers Group

Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

Coordinator: Stephen Rogers – email: [henol@bigpond.net.au](mailto:henol@bigpond.net.au)

### Bulletin No 173 November 2020

**Next Meeting**  
**Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

#### Report on the November meeting

##### November Speaker of the Day

Our main speaker in November was Richard Moore who spoke on the first flight from England to Australia by Keith and Ross Smith in 1919.

You may remember Richard spoke to us previously about his father, John Moore, who flew for Airlines (WA).

Richard told us that the Australian Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, had developed a love of flying and in March 1919 announced that his government would provide a £10,000 prize for the first aviator to make the journey of 17,900km in less than 30 days.

Valid aircrews all had to be Australian nationals. The aircraft had to have been constructed in the British Empire. The flight had to be completed within 720 consecutive hours (30 days) and be completed before midnight on 31 Dec 1920. The departure point for landplanes was Hounslow Heath while the arrival point in Australia was Darwin.

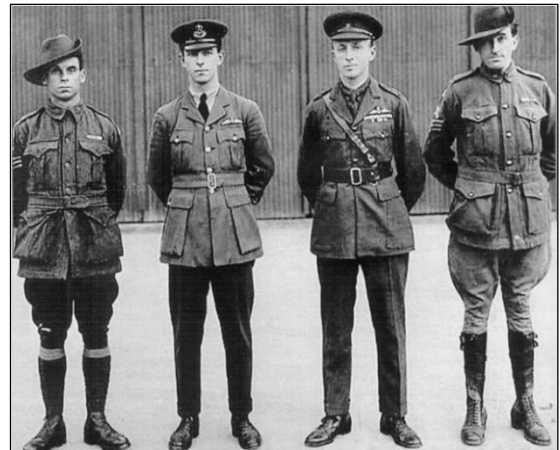
There were six aircraft entered:

1. Sopwith Wallaby
2. Vickers Vimy
3. Alliance P2 Seabird
4. Blackburn Kangaroo
5. Martynside Type A
6. Airco DH9.

The Vickers Vimy was the only one to make the journey in under 30 days. The registration was G-EAOU, which some say stood for God 'elp all of us.



*Keith Smith (centre) being greeted in Darwin by Hudson Fysh (right).*



*The crew of the winning Vimy, Sgt. Wally Shires, Lt. Keith Smith, Capt Ross Smith and Sgt. Jim Bennett.*

##### Special Visitor

Also, at the November meeting we were introduced to Max Sylvester, the untrained aviator, who on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 piloted a Cessna C152 to a safe landing when his instructor became incapacitated. We hope that Max will return to tell us of his experience.



*Max Sylvester talking to Steve Rogers at the November meeting.*

##### Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, starting at noon on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>. Rob Montgomery will tell us how he built his RV7A and John Landwehr, Air Operations Officer from DFES, is bound to interest you as bushfire calamity is on everyone's mind.

Hope you can make it.

Brian Hernan.