



## SPECIAL AROUND AUSTRALIA EDITION

*What's going on!*

*Why are around 7 seaplanes all setting out to flyaround Australia on the 6th of April?*

The 6th April marks the 100th anniversary of the first circumnavigation of Australia by aeroplane in 1924. That this was not undertaken until 5 years after the first (1919) and many subsequent flights from England to Australia, is testament to the difficulty in undertaking this endeavour. Even today, it is a project of logistics, flight planning and time management – but in 1924 it was a gargantuan mission, involving military forces, grit and some luck.

The flight was conducted under the auspices of the new Royal Australian Airforce, using a Fairey Mk iii D Seaplane, and piloted by Wing Commander James Goble and Flight Lieutenant McIntyre, in a primitive fragile aircraft through inhospitable terrain, it was an incredible achievement.

In April and May of 2024 Michael Smith (AG Adventurer of the Year 2016) will retrace this historic journey in the modern seaplane “Southern Sun.” The route and dates will be followed as close as possible, to celebrate the anniversary and great achievement, and look at how aviation and the towns visited have changed over the last 100 years

At the same time, a group of around 5 seaplanes led by David Geers will be travelling in the opposite direction around Australia

The majority of participants are departing Point Cook, VIC on April 6th and proceeding clockwise. Three to five aircraft are planning to complete an entire circuit. Others are joining the flight for a partial circuit.

Michael will be sharing stories along the way, on Insta / FB, with Aus Geo and on new YouTube channel - Southern Sun TV - but need to crack 1000 subscribers to be able to do live posts - He has installed a Starlink satellite dish in Southern Sun with a 360 camera on the nose so he expects to be sharing some pretty epic footage as he follows the beach around the coast of Australia.

More information on the trip: click here <https://www.southernsun.voyage/aroundoz100>

Please subscribe to Michael's channel and join him on the ride.

[www.youtube.com/@southernsuntv](http://www.youtube.com/@southernsuntv)

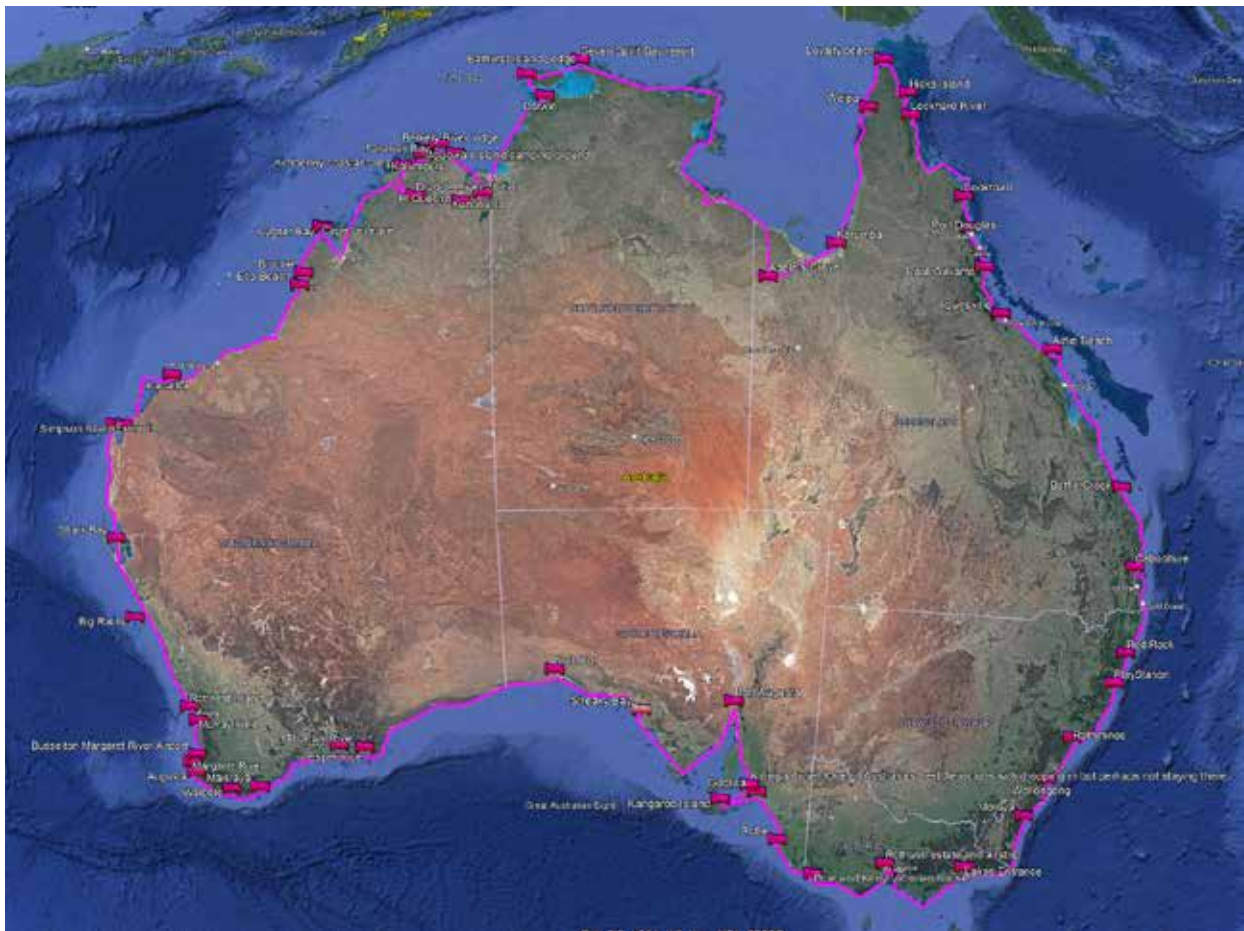
Also, please follow @southernsunjourney on FB or Insta where he will be sharing short pieces and advising when live events are about to begin.



The group with **David Geers** will be travelling in the opposite direction to the original flight in order to avoid the end of the wet season and hopefully encounter more favourable winds. This group is predominantly made up of Searey and Petrel amphibians which are smaller and slower than Michael Smith's twin engine "Southern Sun".

David will share pilot duties in a SeaRey amphibian with Cathy Babis, who will become the first female seaplane pilot to circumnavigate Australia. Throughout their adventure, they will promote STEM education and encourage diversity in all aviation occupations. Cathy will be making presentations at schools and clubs along the way. David hopes to do lots of joy flights, introducing young and sometimes disadvantaged children to the joys of water flying.

Their trip will take a bit longer than the original at around 60 days with a planned route as shown below.



David and Cathy have taken on a charity that I'm sure is close to many of us. Roses in the Ocean is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to save lives and reduce emotional distress when dealing with suicide prevention. They are very proud to have them on board and look forward to raising awareness for this fantastic organisation.

Accompanying David and Cathy will be; James Moline (Searey), Kevin More (Searey), Ian Bishop (Savannah), Hamish Kebbell (Searey), Mark O'Halloran/ Ian Decker (Piper Commanche).

A third group led by **Rohann Whittington** will fly directly to Darwin from Point Cook and then travel counter clockwise.



The groups would love to have your support, both through following them on their websites and financially to back them and the charities they are supporting.

*Want to know more or participate?*

## CONTACT

*Phone David Geers on 0418 103 535*

<https://www.100asa.com.au>

*Michael Smith*

<https://www.southernsun.voyage/aroundoz100>

*or follow on*

[www.youtube.com/@southernsuntv](http://www.youtube.com/@southernsuntv)



Our June training weekend approaches

Lock it in your diaries June Friday 7th- Sunday 9th we have a full weekend of flying comradery and knowledge impartation.

If you have any suggestions on topics that we could discuss or some area of interest that you would like to espouse them please drop me a line.

Don't forget to book your accommodation direct with the CATALINA CONFERENCE CENTRE on 048864500 and mention your with SPAA.

Safe flying and see you then

Regards

*Rohan Whittington*

# EVENT CALANDER

Date	Event	Location
<b>March 2024</b>		
01-03 Mar	Airshows Downunder Shellharbour 2024	Shellharbour Airport, Albion Park Rail, Illawarra, NSW, Australia
9 Mar	Lake Boga Splash Down	Lake Boga, Vic
10 Mar	Tyabb Air Show 2024	Tyabb Airport, Tyabb, VIC, Australia
23-24 Mar	Warbirds Over Scone	Scone and Upper Hunter Airport, Scone, NSW, Australia
<b>April 2024</b>		
07 Apr	Aldinga Airshow 2024	Aldinga Airfield, Aldinga, SA, Australia
13 Apr	Nhill Air Show 2024	Nhill Airport, Nhill, VIC, Australia
27-28 Apr	Anzac Weekend Airshow	West Sale Airport, Gippsland, VIC, Australia
<b>May 2024</b>		
25-26 May	Central Coast Airshow	Warnervale Airport, Warnervale, NSW, Australia
<b>June 2024</b>		
8 Jun	SPAA AGM & Pilot Skills Camp	Rathmines, NSW
7-9 Jun	Seaplane Training Session	Rathmines, NSW

## ONLINE SHOP

We are getting closer to launching our online shop which will offer you the opportunity to purchase SPAA merchandise. We are fine tuning the range of products that will be available so if you have any ideas, please let us know.

As always, we welcome any input from our members so if you have anything you would like to share, please email

[admin@seaplanes.com.au](mailto:admin@seaplanes.com.au)