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AUSTRALIAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
**AIRSHOW**  
AVALON2009

## MEDIA RELEASE

### *AIRSHOW PAYS TRIBUTE TO NANCY BIRD-WALTON*

The Australian International Airshow will pay homage to one of Australia's great aviators with a special flying display tribute.

The sad passing of Nancy Bird-Walton will be marked at the beginning of the flying displays on each of the public days from Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> through until Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>.

A specially commissioned flag carrying the aviator's image will be used in a coordinated flag and parachute drop, accompanied by a fly-past of vintage aircraft.

The Australian Womens Pilots' Association, which Mrs Walton founded in 1950, will also play a significant role in the tribute.

Avalon 2009 CEO Ian Honnery says it's fitting that Australia's premier aviation event recognise the achievements of one of the country's greatest aviators.

"Nancy Bird-Walton was a pioneering female aviator and an inspiration to other women to take to the skies," Mr Honnery says. "The Airshow is proud to honour her achievements."

Nancy-Bird Walton was the first woman to hold a commercial flying licence in Australia at the age of just 19.

She was taught to fly in the 1930's by Charles Kingsford-Smith and then pioneered an outback air ambulance service. Last year, Qantas named its first A380 Airbus in her honour.

Aviation enthusiasts are encouraged to help honour this remarkable pioneer at the 2009 Australian International Airshow.

The Airshow is being staged at Avalon Airport near Geelong from March 13<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Avalon 2009 is presented with major support from its principal partners – the Australian Department of Defence, the Government of Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong.

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