

An Invitation to attend the

2018

**CANOWINDRA
INTERNATIONAL
BALLOON CHALLENGE**

21st – 29th April 2018

www.canowindrachallenge.org.au

Supported by the



Canowindra Challenge Inc.
752 Longs Corner Rd
Canowindra NSW 2804
ABN: 97 936 392 710
Phone: 1300 908 825

Sunday, January 20th, 2018

Dear Pilot,

On behalf of the CCI Board hereby extend a warm initiation to you to register / participate in 2018 Canowindra International Balloon Challenge.

We guarantee, great competition flying and experience, lots of fun, media coverage, interest and participation by the public, ballooning enthusiasts get together / exchange, massively improved conditions, new sponsors and much, much more.

The recent appointment of Paul Petrehn as the Event Director combined with the tireless efforts of the organizing team will guarantee a Quality Sports / Competition Event as well as a Fun time.

Each year since 2010, the event has grown bigger, stronger, more professionally organized, officially recognized with numerous awards. With the view of hosting a potential world ranking event in the future, we know that all eyes are on Canowindra again in 2018.

As a major event for the region (state government funded and multi award winning), the local community literally open their homes and hearts, welcoming and supporting us Balloonists 100% and allows CCI as a not for profit organization to feed all the profits generated into the NEXT event and keep costs for Balloonists as low as possible.

The recent media coverage such as the ABC Backroads program – <http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/back-roads/FA1627V006S00#playing> – has caused a spike in enquiries from many balloonists, the public, the media and accommodation bookings, which leaves us to believe that we will see record numbers both in terms of Competitors and enthusiastic spectators lining the roads, targets and cheering you on while doing what you love to do.

So, register and book now to secure your place in this year's Challenge – we are looking forward to seeing and flying with you in April.

For the Board
Graham Kerr
Chairman

P.S. The details and format of the event are outlined in the Invitation Document below

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ABOUT CANOWINDRA

Canowindra is a small country town in the central West of NSW with a population of 2000 people. It's a truly charming Australian country town. The town features a heritage-listed main street and a collection of art galleries showing works by local artists, potters and artisans.

Canowindra became world-famous when a 360-million-year-old fossil was found. Today, you can see it among other fascinating exhibits at the amazing [Age of Fishes Museum](#) where the NSW State fossil emblem is housed.

During the Canowindra Balloon Challenge the town swells as over 10,000 visitors come to see the balloons. The wide-open spaces, stable weather conditions, and friendly local people make this an ideal area for hot air ballooning.

Canowindra is approximately 320km west of Sydney in New South Wales; the drive by car takes around 4.5 hours from Sydney Airport, depending on traffic and road conditions or 2 hours' drive from Canberra.

Rex Airlines flies to Parkes (\$99 flights) & Orange (45min drive) where rental cars are available

The town has some lovely restaurants, cafes and pubs. There are 2 supermarkets in town for all your basic needs.

THE EVENT FORMAT

Based on previous competitor's / participant's feedback, the board has decided to change to a slightly different format compared to previous years. As continuous improvements are vital, the new format shall make the event more inclusive and increase the enjoyment for all participants alike.

Competition Flights which will contribute to the overall winner of the event will only be held in the mornings unless weather dictates the need for afternoon competition flights. Afternoon flights FIESTA ???? will be fun competition flights with prizes and open to all registered pilots.

The competition will not have observers and we will use the FAI loggers for scoring on some flights. Our aim is to get you throwing as many markers as we can and only use the loggers if it is necessary. We believe throwing markers is more enjoyable for you, your teams, also for the public.

As per previous years the event will be operating under a Permit from CASA (Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority) and the rules will be based on the current AXMER.

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COMPETITION & OFFICIALS TEAM

Position	Name
Director	Paul Petrehn (USA)
Deputy Director	Adam Barrow (VIC)
Safety Officer	Tim Steiner (VIC)
Meteorologist	Don Whitford (VIC)
Target Team Managers	Ian and Carol Benning (VIC)

EVENT ORGANISING TEAM:

Position	Name
Event Manager	Canowindra Challenge Incorporated
Chairman	Graham Kerr
Vice Chairman	Colin Pryor
Treasurer	Karen Clarke
Financial Advisor	Joseph Cunial (CKC Accountants)
Secretary/Media & Marketing	Jan Kerr
Balloon Operations	Adam Barrow
Landowner Relations	Graeme Steedman assisted by Matt Rice and Anton Kerr
Volunteer Co-Ordinator	Michelle Bolding
Site Manager / Logistics	Christian Uhrig

QUALIFICATION

The 2018 Canowindra International Challenge is open to all Australian and International pilots with more than 30 hours PIC. This applies to both Competition and Fiesta pilots.

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EVENT ENTRY

Once again, this year we are using Eventbrite for secure on-line registration via our website.

<http://www.canowindrachallenge.org.au/pilot-information.html> or alternatively you may go to <http://www.canowindrachallenge.org.au/index.html> and click on the "Pilot Registration" button on the top left corner of the green bar.

The more information you record on your registration form, the quicker and simpler the check in process will be for you. All fields on the form represent the info we need from you. As the event date approaches quickly and spaces are filling up, we will accept incomplete forms as long as pilots come back to complete / provide all required information. You may edit or complete your entry form at a later date by following all the same registration links and when you get to "buyer information" click on the blue "login to your account". If you login using the same e-mail address that you used in your original registration you will be able to edit or add information to your original entry.

You will need to bring the following documents with you and have them available at pilot check in:

All Pilots

-) Your barcoded Eventbrite registration ticket either as an e-mail or as a paper print.
-) Proof of current ABF membership or temporary membership of ABF for overseas pilots
-) Pilot License / Certificate??
-) Pilot Log Book showing your total hours as PIC and currency requirements have been met
-) Balloon Log Book showing date of last annual for the balloon used in the event.
-) Certificate of Airworthiness
-) Certificate of Registration
-) Insurance: Certificate of currency for a minimum of \$2 million AUD third party liability balloon insurance is compulsory.

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Extra information for International Pilots

-) If you are flying an Australian aircraft, you will need a temporary Australian balloon license / certificate from the Australian Ballooning Federation (ABF).
-) This is available from the ABF Ops Manager Grant McHerron, opsmanager@abf.net.au who has been extremely supportive in the past.
-) We are happy to assist where possible, please let us know as soon as possible if you wish us to get involved. Please allow a minimum of 4 weeks for the temporary license to issued.
-) If you are flying an Australian balloon you must ensure the Australian owners add your name on the insurance policy. If you are not named on the policy, you will not be able to fly. Evidence of this (temporary) inclusion in form of a updated certificate of currency needs to be presented.
-) If you are bringing your own balloon you will need to ensure that you have at least \$2 million insurance cover valid for Australia. We may be able to put you in touch with an Australian insurer, but this will need to occur at least 4 weeks before the event.
-) If you are bringing your own balloon you will need to ensure your aircraft is approved for use in Australia by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.
-) We will loan you safety cones for your fan if you ask nicely.

ENTRY FEE

The entry fee for competition pilots is: **\$250AUD**

The entry fee for fiesta pilots is **\$100**

Please note we propose that \$5 of your entry fee this year will be applied to automatic membership of Canowindra Challenge Incorporated. In the future, this may result in certain membership benefits to pilots, like subsidized propane whenever you fly in Canowindra (proposed). It will also allow us to include you in our irregular newsletter to members with information about our plans for CCI. Please agree or decline to this offer by ticking the appropriate box on the official entry form.

Payments

Payment is by credit card on the online booking system. There is also a Paypal payment option.

Refunds

Registration fees can only be refunded if you withdraw from the event prior to 30th March 2018. There will be a \$50 administration fee deducted from the refund

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COMPETITORS WILL RECEIVE

- Access to this unique competition event in Australia for 2018
- The competition is directed by Paul Petrehn, director of the world's largest Ballooning.
- Free propane from Saturday 21st April until Sunday 29th April 2018. Please note this will be the **last year we will be providin free propane for decant fills** through adaptor hoses. See notes below under **REFUELING** for more info.
- Automatic entry in afternoon fiesta flights for daily prizes
- Event "Balloonist" long sleeve antistatic cotton Polo shirts 4 per team.
- 250 personalized Pilots business calling cards for use on farm landings (Requires you to send a photo of you and your balloon before 15th March)
- An opportunity to compete for a prize pool valued at over \$12,000
- An opportunity to compete in the **Kavanagh Balloons Key Grab**.
- Maps both paper and electronic
- The use of an FAI logger to record your flight details.
- Welcome BBQ after Master Briefing on Saturday 21st April.
- Post Balloon Glow meal (for 4 people)
- Brunch post Key Grab, Sunday 29th April
- As a condition of entry, competition pilots may be required to participate in Night Glow if requested by the Night Glow organizing team
- \$1 per night onsite campsite if required and available
- Membership of Canowindra Challenge Inc. if you agree to this on your registration form.
- As a condition of entry, Competition balloons/pilots may be required to participate in Night Glow if requested by the Night Glow organizing team

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FIESTA PILOTS WILL RECEIVE

- Free propane from Saturday 21st April until Sunday 29th April 2018. Please note this will be the **last year we will be providing free propane for decant fills** through adaptor hoses. See notes below under **REFUELING** for more info.
- The opportunity to participate in afternoon prize flights plus morning fiesta flights.
- An opportunity to compete in the **Kavanagh Balloons Key Grab**.
- Event “Balloonist” long sleeve anti-static cotton Polo shirts 4 per team. Royal blue color.
- 250 personalized Pilots business calling cards for use on farm landings Requires you to send a photo of you and your balloon before 15th March.
- Maps both paper and electronic
- Welcome BBQ after Master Briefing on Saturday 21st April at the Golf Club
- Post Glow meal (for 4 people per balloon).
- Brunch post key grab on Sunday 29th April
- \$1 per night onsite campsite if required
- Membership of Canowindra Challenge Inc. if you agree to this on your registration form.

As a condition of entry, Fiesta balloons/pilots are required to participate in Night Glow if requested by the Night Glow organizing team. Depending on Weather and event operations we may also ask you to assist with one of the following:

-) Tethering on the launch field one morning
-) Manning the “walk in the balloon” (balloon supplied by us) on one morning

Fiesta pilots must attend all daily briefings and in the mornings, Fiesta balloons will launch separately or 15 minutes behind competition balloons and must avoid flying into the competition fleet at all times.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- January 22nd,2018 - Pilot registrations open
- March 30th,2018 - Registrations close
Late registration will be subject to available positions
- Saturday 21st April - 5.30am Practice flights (under own organisation prior to registration)
- Saturday 21st April – Check-in Midday to 3.00pm (online pre-check will be available)
- Saturday 21stApril – 4pm Master briefing followed by BBQ at Canowindra Golf Club
- Sunday 22nd April – Saturday 28th April - 5.30am Competition briefing and flight
- Sunday 22nd April – Friday 27th April - 3.30pm Afternoon Prize flights
(Open to all registered pilots)
- Saturday 28th April - 5:30am Last Briefing and comp flight
- Saturday 28th April - 5.00pm Assemble for Pilots Parade & 7.00pm Balloon Glow
- Major Awards to be presented on stage before the Glow
- Saturday 28th April - 8.00pm to 9.00pm Post Glow pilots, crew and volunteer’s meal
- Sunday 29th April - Kavanagh Balloons Key Grab followed by farewell brunch

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PRIZE DETAILS (\$AUD)

There is over \$12,000 worth of prizes to be won!!!!

Prize money for the 2018 Canowindra International Balloon Challenge competition is below:

Position	Prize Money
1st Place	\$3,000.00
2nd Place	\$2,000.00
3 rd Place	\$1,000.00

HEADING???

Flight	Prize
Sun 22 nd April	Flight Equipment
Mon 23 rd April	Social Prize
Tuesday 24 th April	Social Prize
Wednesday 25 th April	Flight Equipment
Thursday 26 th April	Social Prize
Friday 27 th April	Flight Equipment

THE KAVANAGH BALLOONS KEY GRAB

The key grab prize will be an exciting piece of balloon equipment, the details to be announced closer to the day.

There is also a consolation prize for the closest marker drop if the key doesn't go off.

If an overseas pilot wins the one of these prizes they may elect to accept cash in lieu.

Note: All prize monies will be paid by a cheque in Australian dollars or by direct deposit into a nominated bank account, unless other prior arrangements have been made with the organizers.

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EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

INFORMATION

As there are very few racer balloons available for hire in Australia we encourage you to bring your own balloon. Please note currently it is very difficult, but not impossible (with around three months' notice) to obtain Civil Aviation Authority permissions to fly balloons in Australia from non-ICAO compliant countries like Japan, China, Taiwan, Russia and Brazil.

Balloon Rental

There is only a limited amount of balloon rental equipment available for the event. All equipment is privately owned, and the final approval is subject to the individual owner.

Whilst we will do our best to find equipment for you, we cannot be held responsible for failing to find rental equipment. Application for rental equipment must be submitted with your entry so we can allocate and locate equipment.

Helium

We will have a communal helium cylinder available in the briefing centre where you may pre fill Pi-balls before each flight.

Helium rental is available in three sizes cylinders at 97% purity. Prices are a guide only. Pre-ordering is essential and extra, or replacement cylinders cannot be guaranteed during the event at they will need to be shipped in.

D	1.4m ³	\$220 AUD for the duration of the event
E	3.6m ³	\$375 AUD for the duration of the event
G	7.3m ³	\$635 AUD for the duration of the event

The above prices include a gas regulator for filling balloons. These may be sold back to the organizers for \$30 at the end of the event when you return your empty cylinder and regulator.

Please supply your own balloons.

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REFUELING YOUR BALLOON

-) Free refueling is only available from the official onsite refueling station. **Please note this will be the last year we will be providing free propane for decant fills through adaptor hoses.** Due to changes in industry standards and to ensure we gain a compliance certificate for our new purpose built, bulk storage, Balloon LPG refueling station, we will only be filling via AFL's in 2019 and onwards.
-) There are 2 other commercial propane outlets in Canowindra where you may purchase propane at your own expense and may be able to decant fill.
-) LPG will be free from Saturday 21st April until Sunday Morning 29th April
-) LPG is available at market rates of approx \$1.00 per litre from the official refueling station before and after the event.
-) The refueling station will be manned after every flight and after the balloon glow.

LOCAL CREW

We will try to organise local crew and local drivers for the event if you need them, they may or may not have balloon experience. However, there may be several different drivers in the duration of the event as they are volunteers, who may have other commitments. We do not guarantee that we will find crew for you. At the end of the day that is your responsibility.

There are a few local drivers available who also have suitable vehicles. If you engage a local driver with their vehicle it will be expected that you reimburse their fuel expenses. Most local crews participate and supply their time free of charge because they enjoy the interaction with the pilots and crew. We encourage pilots to supply breakfast and include the volunteer crews in social activities.

ACCOMMODATION

Pilots and crews are requested to book their own accommodation direct with local providers. Canowindra is a small rural town and has a limited number of accommodation options available. Cowra is 20 minutes away and has plenty of accommodation.

Additional accommodation information is available on our website:

<http://www.canowindrachallenge.org.au/accommodation.html>

If you need assistance finding accommodation, please contact Jan Kerr on 0428441819 or email via flyingwinejan@gmail.com

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COMMUNICATIONS

There are no public Wi-Fi hotspots in Canowindra and the only reliable mobile phone coverage is with Telstra 4G, so you will need to purchase a Telstra pre-paid SIM card if you are with any other carrier. There may be limited Optus but no Vodafone.

Arrangements are being made with CASA regarding the use of VHF radios for overseas pilots without the appropriate Australian Radio operator's license. All pilots and crew are required to have UHF radio.

We will also be communicating via text messages to your mobile phone number that you supply us when you check in. Please advise if you will not have a mobile phone.

SOCIAL FUN

There will be a **welcome BBQ** at the Golf Club following the master briefing, with drinks to be purchased from the bar, an onsite meal after the **Balloon Glow** plus a **Farewell Brunch** on Sunday morning. There will be opportunities to attend other social events at restaurants, clubs and pubs throughout the week organised by the local community.

Depending on the weather we may organise other social events throughout the event which will be notified closer to the date.

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HOW TO GET HERE

Map

Approximate Travel Times by Car

Sydney –	Canowindra	: 4.5 Hours
Newcastle -	Canowindra	: 6 Hours
Melbourne –	Canowindra	: 8 Hours
Adelaide –	Canowindra	: 12 Hours
Brisbane –	Canowindra	: 12 Hours

Car

Due to the limited rental options for cars and trailers in the region we suggest that you pick up your hire car in Sydney. As you drive to Canowindra you will cross the amazing Great Dividing Range and scenic areas of the Blue Mountains. Details can be found on Google Maps.

Licence

In Australia we drive on the left-hand side of the road. In most Australian states and territories (the exception is the Northern Territory) it is legal to drive on a current overseas licence. You must drive according to the conditions and authorisations on your overseas licence.

Car for balloon retrieve & trailer

Most balloon retrieve vehicles in Australia are Utility trucks (known as Utes) or 4WD vehicles with the balloon transported in a trailer so you will need to hire a vehicle with a trailer. All vehicles should be able to carry 4 people, 3 crew, including driver, plus the pilot.

NOTE The use of closed vans as often used in Europe and Japan are not legal for the transport of your fuel tanks in Australia.

Vehicles with lift gates as used in the USA are not in use, however duel cab tray top Utes work well.

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Public Transport

There is the limited option of trains and buses to get to Canowindra and details can be found here:
<http://www.nswtrainlink.info/>

Fly

Flights are available to Orange or Parkes from Sydney and are options if you do not need to transport balloon equipment from Sydney. For flights to Orange or Parkes go to Regional Express (REX)
<http://www.regionalexpress.com.au/> Recent information we have is that one-way flights from Sydney to Orange are approximately \$350 but flights to Parkes may be as low as \$99. Please do your own research, Orange and Parkes are both about the same travelling time to and from Canowindra.

SOME TRAVELLING TIPS:

Customs and Quarantine

Australia is lucky to be isolated from many pests and diseases, to protect our farming and natural flora and fauna from introduced pests. Thereby we have very strict quarantine laws. Bringing food and plants into Australia is prohibited and heavy penalties apply.

On arrival you can expect to have your bags x rayed and inspected for these items. Boots etc. will be checked for mud and dirt. Please make sure you carefully read and answer the questions on the incoming documents, as this will be one of the toughest customs and quarantine clearances you will encounter while travelling.

If you are bringing a balloon and basket over for the competition it will be important that you clean all traces of dirt, grass and seeds from the envelope, bag and basket before shipping. If it is not clean, it may result in delays in customs clearance, and expensive cleaning and inspection fees from quarantine on arrival. Please refer to the document on temporary import of your equipment. Check this website: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav>

Electricity

Australian electricity is 240 volt/50Hz and uses a three-prong plug, so adapters may be needed. Please check all your radio charges and electronics for compatibility with our 240-volt supply. You may also need to purchase an inverter or similar.

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