



FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE Ballooning Commission

Hall of Fame Nomination

Ruth Wilson



Nationality: Australia

Date and place of Birth: (Year/Month/Day): 1943 February 17

One of the early pioneer Australian balloon pilots (pilot since 1975), Ruth was the first National Ballooning Champion, is one of only four current gas balloon pilots in Australia, the only female. She represented her country in the 1999 Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, as well as 5 World HAB Championships. After 42 years involvement in our sport Ruth continues to remain active.

1. Governance: She has held the positions of Australian Ballooning Federation (ABF) President, Vice President, Secretary, CIA Delegate and currently is the ASAC (National Aero Club) ABF Delegate & CIA Alternate Delegate. She is past Chair of the ABF Competition & Events Committee and currently a Committee Member.

Over 12 years through the '80s and '90s Ruth was the ABF Liaison Representative with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, educating other airspace users on the capability of balloons as safe aircraft in controlled airspace.

2. *CIA Jury*: Juror 2014 CIA 2014 Cat 1 event in Japan.

Jury President - Australian Championships plus CIA Cat 2 events in Australia.

3. *Competition Director*: New Zealand International Balloon Fiesta, 2004 World HAB Championship Fiesta Flight Director plus Narromine Airshow, NSW.

4. *Instructor & Examiner of Airmen – Balloons*: One of the first pilots to hold these Australian ratings, continuously training student pilots plus fulfilling her Examiner status.

5. *Flying*: Has actively ballooned and competed over many years in USA, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, UK, UAE, New Zealand & throughout Australia. Her log book shows 3062 hrs as Pilot in Command.

Achievements, Honors & Awards:

- 1979 Australian HAB Champion
 - 1988 - It was Ruth's concept and management of the unique Bicentennial Balloon Challenge that attracted pilots from USA, UK, Germany, Japan, Canada, France, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Netherlands, Hungary, New Zealand, Yugoslavia, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland & Australia to compete across the Australian continent over 16 days. The sport gained both national and international media coverage.
 - 1989 World First in Aviation – First night skydive from her balloon.
(<http://www.ballong.org/notable/rptF.php>)
 - 2000 Awarded Australian Women's Pilots Association Trophy for long distance gas ballooning (1999 Gordon Bennett)
 - 2002 Inducted into Ballooning Hall-of-Fame, Australia
 - 2008 Awarded William Dean Award for Excellence for Contribution to Ballooning
-

