



**FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE
Ballooning Commission**

Hall of Fame Nomination

John Wallington



Nationality: Australia

Date and place of Birth: (Year/Month/Day): 1955 April 3

Ballooning Activities

Interest in Aviation developed very early with a strong family background in gliding and meteorology.

- 1977 *Graduated Australian National University. Bachelor of Economics. Never even considered ballooning
- 1982 *Developed a casual interest in ballooning
- 1985 *Learnt to fly Hot Air Balloons
- 1986 *Commercial Hot Air Balloon Pilots Licence
- *Established Balloon Aloft Canberra, passenger rides and promotional business

- 1987 *instructor rating
- 1988-89 *Australian National Hot Air Balloon Champion
*Examiner rating
* Balloon Maintenance Authority holder
- 1989 *Placed 19th in World Hot Air Balloon Championships, Saga Japan
- 1990 *Appointed Civil Aviation Authority commercial flight instructor and approved test officer
- 1992 *Australian National Balloon Champion
- 1993 *First person (with Dick Smith) to fly a balloon non stop across Australia.
Four thousand kilometers in forty hours. This flight resulted in the award of a 1995 Montgolfiere Diploma and a world altitude record for Roziere balloons .
*Competed in the Luxembourg World Hot Air Balloon Championships and achieved a forgettable result although had some influence on the standard of competition direction.
*Competed in The Gordon Bennett gas balloon race as co pilot and achieved gas balloon pilot rating.
- 1994 *Mission Controller for first solo trans continental balloon flight.
- 1995 *Established BalloonWalk -a permanently tethered Aerophile gas balloon at the Gold Coast. Not a business success.
- 1996 *Selected as pilot for the Re/Max project to circumnavigate the world non stop by balloon at a proposed flight level of 130,000 feet in a 39 million cubic foot stratospheric balloon.
- 1997 *America's Challenge gas balloon race as pilot in command
- 1998 *Completed skydiving course
*Completed Pressure Suit Training at the Russian Space Agency, Zvesda
*America's Challenge gas balloon race
- 2000 * First crossing of the Tasman Sea. West - East from New Zealand to Australia with Dick Smith
- 2004 *Professional Ballooning Association of Australia delegate to the Standards Consultative Committee (peak Civil Aviation Safety Authority advisory body) after successfully lobbying for new balloon specific aviation regulations. Possibly world's best practice ballooning legislation.
*Developed of the concept of a one stop regulation for ballooning being accepted by CASA
*Worked closely with private balloonists, the commercial industry and CASA to develop and co-author the first drafts of what was finally to become Civil Aviation Safety Regulation 131.
- 2006 *First ever balloon flights in the Simpson desert to promote awareness of lung cancer
- 2007 *Sole international invitee to the inaugural Mongolian International Balloon Fiesta
- 2008 *Australian balloon altitude record of 11,500 metres breaking the previous record by a significant margin.
- 2009 *Worked closely with Chinese balloon operators to establish China Hot Air Ballooning.
Ongoing project assisting them with the development of regulations for passenger carrying balloons and Type Certification of Chinese built balloons
- 2010 *Received the inaugural Royal Federation of Aeroclubs Des Kelley AM Special Achievement award.

2011	*Jury Chair, Australian National Hot Air Balloon Championships, Canowindra
2015	*Consultant to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority for ongoing development of the new Australian Ballooning Regulations - Part 131 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations. *Safety Officer, Australian National Hot Air Balloon Championships, Northam, West Australia.
2025/2016	*Consultant to the the Royal Australian Airforce on the introduction of their first Special Shape balloon. * Test Pilot for Cameron Balloons to establish/test balloon operating limitations
2016	*Australian project manager for Fedor Konyukhov Round The World balloon flight attempt. *Consultant to the Taitung Government, Taiwan on the development of a world class balloon Festival/Competition. 2015/2016
2015/2016	*Assistant Fiesta Director, Saga in support of the World Championships. Responsible for liaison to ensure safe and coordinated operations between Fiesta and Competition balloons. Also responsible for managing international special shape balloons.
1991/present	*Consultant/Instructor/Examiner to the Royal Australian Airforce on their use of balloons for promotional activities. This role has involved the initial conversion training and ongoing skills development of approximately 25 RAAF pilots.
2004/present	*Flight Director/Balloonmeister Annual Canberra Balloon Festival.