

History of the Australian Hot Air Balloon Championships

Year	1978	1979	1981	1982	1984
National Number	0	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4th
Location	Belconnen	Greenethorpe (near Cowra)	Northam	Seppeltsfield	Northam
State	ACT	NSW	WA	SA	WA
Number of tasks	1	3	6	4	10
Director	Eddie Selman & (Robert Sheppard-Balloonmeister)	Eddie Selman	Rod Cowley (Rockett Rod)	Rob Robertson & (Bill Lynas – Balloonmeister)	Gren Putland
Number of competitors	8	4	13	19	20
Naming sponsor				Seppelts	Airlines of WA
Champion	Bill Watson	Ruth Wilson	Bob Dickson	Peter Vizzard	Judy Lynne
Balloon Name	The Wizard	VAMP	Thunderbolts lookout	John Sands II	Justine
Balloon Type	Barnes	T&C	T&C	Barnes	Barnes
Balloon Size	AX56	56	77	AX 56	56
Registration					
Comments	‘The inability to fly three events required to officially declare a national champion meant that all pilots present were asked to vote on the person they considered most worthy to represent Australia at the fourth World Hot Air Balloon Championships in Sweden.’ Aeronotes: Vol ? No? Page 4	‘Approximately half the number of balloons in Australia attended these nationals’ Ruth Wilson The 1979 Australian Ballooning Championships Aeronotes: Vol 1. No 12 Sept/Oct. 1979, page 3	Radios still outlawed in competition	Over 70,000 see balloon Championship ‘ the ABF Executive have decided that the Australian National Hot Air Balloon Championships will be held in alternate years commencing 1984.’ Aeronotes: Vol 4. No 9 Nov. 1982 -Peter Vizzard went on to win the World championships in 1983 in Nantes, France. -“ The House of Seppelt ’ Perpetual Trophy awarded to Australian Champion Hot Air Balloon Pilot	
Dates	14-15 October	1-3 September	19-26 September	15-23 May	3-8 September

Year	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994
	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
Location	Seppeltsfield	Canowindra	Benalla	Leeton, Yanco	Mildura
State	SA	NSW	VIC	NSW	VIC
Number of tasks		8	15	14	21
Director	Nigel Tasker	Martin Moroney	Danny Galbraith	Danny Galbraith	Danny Galbraith
Number of competitors	26	23	26	20	21
Naming sponsor			Skilled Engineering	Sunrice	Mildura
Champion	Peter Vizzard	John Wallington	Phil Kavanagh	John Wallington	Edwin Michell
Balloon Name	John Sands II		Red Tape	Sunrice	Brainwave
Balloon Type	Barnes		Kavanagh	Balloon Works	Kavanagh
Balloon Size	AX 56		D77	65?	D77
Registration			VH-HTT	VH-LLG	VH-EEG
Comments	SA Jubilee 150 International Balloon Championship 37 Pilots Winner M de Bruijn, The Netherlands	No afternoon tasks Year of the Across Australia Bicentennial Balloon Challenge		The first use of GPS in balloon competitions Danny Galbraith, the first Australian Director to direct an Australian Nationals with a broken arm.	3 rd Pacific Championship Edwin Michell Pacific Champion! Phil Kavanagh won the Mitsubishi in Australia's first successful Key Grab
Dates	19-24 May	25-29 April	14-22 April	17-26 April	1-10 July

Year	1996	1998	2001	2003	2005
	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
Location	Mildura	Mildura	Mildura	Mildura	No Nationals
State	VIC	VIC	VIC	VIC	
Number of tasks	13	16	18	14	
Director	Danny Galbraith	Steve Ireland	Danny Galbraith	Danny Galbraith	
Number of competitors	25	18 (Nationals) 20 (Mildura Int.)	21	25	
Naming sponsor	Mildura				
Champion	Paul Gibbs	Paul Gibbs	Tim Stiener	Sean Kavanagh	
Balloon Name	AGFA	AGFA	Britannica	Vertigo one	
Balloon Type	Kavanagh	Kavanagh	Kavanagh	Kavanagh	
Balloon Size	D77	D77	90	EX-65	
Registration	VH-XRG	VH-XRG	VH-ASG	VH-EXI	
Comments		International Pilots to attend: Japan:- Takero Kitajima New Zealand- Rik Gant		Pre-Worlds	The World Hot Air Balloon Championship was held in the previous year in Mildura. Paul Gibbs (Australia) came 3 rd .
Dates	29 June – 7 July	27 June – 4 July	30 June – 7 July	28 June – 5 July	

Year	2007	2009	2011	2013	2014
	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
Location	Benalla	Benalla	Canowindra	Canowindra	Canowindra
State	VIC	VIC	NSW	NSW	NSW
Number of tasks	15 (7 flights)	29 (8 flights)	20	23 (6 flights)	15
Director	Les Purfield	Mathijs de Bruijn	Les Purfield	David Levin	Garry Lockyer
Number of competitors		14	18		16 (plus 6 Internationals)
Naming sponsor		None	Canowindra Balloon Challenge	Origin LPG	Canowindra International challenge
Champion	Paul Gibbs	Paul Gibbs	Thomas Datler	Paul Gibbs	Matthew Scaife
Balloon Name	JPEG	JPEG		JPEG	Winnie
Balloon Type	Kavanagh	Kavanagh	Cameron	Kavanagh	Kavanagh
Balloon Size	EX-65	EX-65	TR-70	EX-65	EX-65
Registration	VH-JPG	VH-JPG	VH-EEX	VH-JPG	VH-WNE
Comments				The event was run as two competitions, the Canowindra Challenge (open event) and the 18 th Australian Nationals	
Dates		9 th and 17 th April	14 th and 20 th April	20 th to 27 th April	22 nd to 27 th April
					http://www.kavanaghballoons.com.au/news/2014_APNG_CCI_Balloon_K

Year	2015	2017	2019		
	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
Location	Northam	Northam	Mudgee		
State	WA	WA	NSW		
Number of tasks	23 (9 flights)	20 (9 flights)	13 (4 flights)		
Director	Gary Lacey	Gary Lacey	Gary Lacey		
Number of competitors	12 (plus 4 Internationals)	22 (plus 4 Internationals)	23		
Naming sponsor	Northam Aero Club	Northam Aero Club			
Champion	Matthew Scaife	Matthew Scaife	Sean Kavanagh		
Balloon Name	Felix	Felix	Antic Pants		
Balloon Type	Kavanagh	Kavanagh	Kavanagh		
Balloon Size	EX-60	EX-60	EX-60		
Registration	VH-FEQ	VH-FEQ	VH-EXW		
Comments	The event was run in conjunction with the Northam Aero Club International Cup. Internationals were: Nigel Black (Hong Kong) Yong Jun I.I (China) Chi Kei Chow (China) Tomoko Kurahashi (JPN)	The event was run in conjunction with the Geoff Green International Memorial Cup. Internationals were: Dominic Bareford (GBR) Andrei Kulkov (RUS) Tomoko Kurahashi (JPN) Zenya Taguchi (JPN)	Matthew Scaife was the organiser and did not compete at this Event. The ABF agreed that he would automatically qualify for a place at the next worlds.		
Dates	30 th Aug to 4 th Sep	2 nd to 9 th September	26 th to 31 st May		
ELB	http://www.balloon-enb.org/?cat=10	http://www.balloon-enb.org/?cat=29	https://watchmefly.net/events/event.php?e=ausnat2019		