

CIA Delegate, Australia report to the 2012 FAI Ballooning Commission Annual Meeting (CIA Plenary) Birstonas, Lithuania 21 – 24 March

Introduction:

Aerostation in Australia in 2011 has remained much the same as 2010 with the private ballooning community being quite active and the commercial balloon sector still flying 150000 - 200000 passengers particularly in the popular tourist locations.

Private Ballooning:

There has been a slight increase in students and instructors this year which is positive but there needs to be more recruiting of new pilots. There are many club flying/training weekends held throughout the year with considerable participation and this should continue in years to come.

The Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority is working with the Australian Ballooning Federation (and the other sport aviation organisations) to have more say in the new regulations governing ballooning and to have the ABF more involved in managing the control of everyday private ballooning. This is a very positive step forward but it has meant a significant increase in the workload for the ABF and also increased surveillance of private ballooning and there will be significant changes in future years. This will enhance safety and the general standards of Australian ballooning and will be worth the increased workload.

Competition Ballooning:

Australia conducts its Hot air balloon (HAB) Nationals every second year between HAB World Championships consequently our Nationals was held in April 2011. The event went well with 18 competitors and 20 tasks flown. Les Purfield was the competition director and it was a combined logger/observer event using the CIA loggers.

Unfortunately during 2011 the ABF in conjunction with the Victorian Major Events Company were forced to withdraw their intention to bid for the 2014 HAB World Championships. This was mainly due to the withdrawal of financial support by the Victorian State Government. However, Australia is still interested in putting in a bid for events in the future.

We are fortunate this year that we have David Levin as competition director for a competition in April. Australia is interested in building up our competition ballooning experience and we are interested in continuing to invite experienced competition directors and other senior officials to help make this possible.

Commercial Ballooning:

This year has been a reasonably good year for the charter operators but the poor weather has played a big factor in less flying during Spring and Summer.

Balloon Clubs:

At the time of writing there are 5 active balloon clubs operating in Australia, these clubs represent all the States and Territories of the country and 4 are affiliated with the ABF. All the clubs have Delegates that represent each club on the committee of the ABF.

Accidents/Incidents:

There were 2 incidents involving minor injuries to passengers and several incidents that resulted in serious balloon damage but no injuries to pilot or passengers.

Conclusion:

Australian ballooning has remained in a steady state in 2011 and this is quite encouraging.

Steve Ireland
CIA Delegate, Australia

Australian Hot Air Balloon Competitor's Ranking List

The Australian HAB Competitor's ranking list is based on the results of the last Australian Nationals, the last Australian HAB Nationals was held in April 2011.

Rank	Name
1	DATTLER, Thomas
2	GIBBS, Paul
3	ROBERTSON, Andrew
4	MICHELL, Edwin
5	PEART, Scobie
6	WRIGHT, Peter
7	SPRINGETT, Les
8	LACEY, Gary
9	BIERMA, Maaike
10	KAVANAGH, Phil
11	MENZIES, Gretta
12	BARROW, Adam
13	KENT, Ronald
14	GILLESPIE, Dan
15	GIANNIOTIS, Stephen
16	DUTNEAL, Peter

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