



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

A third gold medal for Nicola Scaife (AUS) at the 5th FAI Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championships

Northam, Australia, 11 September 2023 – **Nicola Scaife has added another gold medal to her collection at the 5th FAI Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championships (WWHABC). The Australian pilot racked up the points to bring her well clear of the other 29 competitors during the 20 different tasks to claim her hat trick on home turf. The seven flight days ran from 2-9 September in Northam, Western Australia.**

The 38-year-old from Newcastle, New South Wales, commented: "Ballooning is a small community. To win in my own country amongst my friends and so many familiar faces, people that have supported and encouraged my journey over the last decade, to share it with our community, it's an incredible feeling."

Australian Ballooning Federation President Martin Tregale conveyed his congratulations: "We are all so proud of Nicola's achievement winning her third World Women's Championship and especially special to win this week on home soil."

Nicola Scaife also claimed gold in the WWHABC in 2014 and 2016, and a bronze in the 2018 competition.

This year, the first in which the WWHABC has been held outside Europe, pilots from Lithuania, Austria, Brazil, Germany, UK, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland and the USA competed against the Australian home team, but Scaife's success helped the Australian team's other members, Georgia Croft, Josie White, Alana Kahl, and Scarlett Saunders to take the team medal as well.

Scaife continued: "I am also so impressed with our whole Australian team. This was the first world championship event for the four other Australian pilots, they were focussed and embraced the experience and their fantastic results reflect that."

Final individual results:

1. Nicola SCAIFE (AUS) - 17,240 points
2. Stephanie HEMMINGS (GBR) - 13,799 points
3. Sanne HAARHUIS (NED) - 13,592 points

Final team results:

Average Points / Task

1. Australia - 614.1
2. Great Britain - 590.0
3. Netherlands - 534.4

5th Women's World Hot Air Ballooning Championship Jury President Debbie Spaeth conveyed her thanks to organisers for a great week of competition:

"Our thanks to the Northam Ballooning organisation for their work to make this 5th FAI Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship a great event. Our thanks also to the team of volunteers that kept the 'infrastructure' in place, always with a smile. From sausages and breakfast at the Northam Aero Club, to propane, to all the other details the pilots and crews didn't have to worry about, thanks to all. And

finally, thanks to the team of officials assembled by Event Director, Gary Lacey. Congratulations to his team.”

Editor's Notes

- Website: www.northamballooningevents.com
- Standings: <https://bit.ly/wwhab2023-results>
- Pictures (free for editorial purpose): <https://bit.ly/wwhab2023pics>
- Pictures of winner Nicola Scaife: <https://bit.ly/wwhab2023pics-scaife>

- FAI logo: bit.ly/FAI_logo
- FAI media corner: www.fai.org/media

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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