



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## **Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship igniting Australia this weekend!**

Lausanne, Switzerland, 30 August 2023 – **Thirty of the world's best female hot air balloon pilots are heading to Australia to compete in the 5th FAI Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship.**

After the opening ceremony and pilot parade in Northam, Western Australia on 2 September, competition flights will take place from 4 - 9 September in a 30-40 km area above the Avon Valley. It is the **first time that the competition has taken place outside Europe** and will be a central part of the Northam Festival of Ballooning.

During the two daily flights (early mornings and afternoons) **the highest ranked female pilot Nicola Scaife** from Newcastle, New South Wales, will seek to make her two previous world champion titles into a hat trick on her home territory.

Other pilots battling for top spot include well-known pilot **Lindsay Muir of Great Britain and her daughter Chloe Hallett, and twice US Women's national champion Meg Skelton from Denver, Colorado.**

Pilots from Lithuania, Austria, Brazil, Germany, UK, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland and the USA will compete against the Australian home team.

### **Editor's Notes**

- Website: [northamballooningevents.com](http://northamballooningevents.com)
- Tracking: <https://bit.ly/WWHABC2023>
- Facebook: [@northamballooningevents](https://www.facebook.com/northamballooningevents)
- Instagram: [@northam\\_ballooning\\_events](https://www.instagram.com/northam_ballooning_events)
  
- FAI Ballooning Facebook: [@faiballooning](https://www.facebook.com/faiballooning)
  
- Requests for vision and photography and to attend: contact Janine Pittaway at [jpittaway@brightcommunications.com.au](mailto:jpittaway@brightcommunications.com.au)
  
- FAI logo: [bit.ly/FAI\\_logo](https://bit.ly/FAI_logo)
- FAI media corner: [www.fai.org/media](http://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.

[www.facebook.com/airsports.fai](http://www.facebook.com/airsports.fai)  
[www.instagram.com/airsports.fai](http://www.instagram.com/airsports.fai)  
[www.twitter.com/airsports\\_fai](http://www.twitter.com/airsports_fai)  
[www.flickr.com/airsports\\_fai](http://www.flickr.com/airsports_fai)  
[www.youtube.com/@airsports\\_fai](http://www.youtube.com/@airsports_fai)  
[www.fai.org](http://www.fai.org)

For more details, please contact the FAI:

Faustine Carrera  
Communication Manager  
0041 21 345 10 70  
[communication@fai.org](mailto:communication@fai.org)

###