



## **SPORT HOUSES**

**HINKLER (Red)**

**KINGSFORD-SMITH (Yellow)**

**MILLER (Green)**

### ***OUR SCHOOL VALUES:***

*Respect Integrity Responsibility Learning*

*Passion for Aviation High School*

*Famous Australian aviators are acknowledged in the House names voted in by students and staff. For your information and interest a brief biography of each aviator bearing a House name at Aviation High School follows.*

**BERT HINKLER** (8 December 1892 - 8 January 1933)

Herbert John Louis Hinkler, DSM, better known as Bert Hinkler, was a pioneer Australian aviator. Hinkler was born in Bundaberg, Queensland, the son of a German-born stockman. In his early life, he constructed and flew gliders on beaches near his hometown.

During the First World War, he served with the Royal Naval Air Service as a gunner/observer in Belgium and France, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, and later as a pilot in Italy.

During the 1920s he competed in numerous aviation events and created many records e.g. a nonstop flight from England to Latvia.

He flew the first solo flight between England and Australia, departing England on 7 February 1928 and arriving in Darwin on 22 February 1928 and back in his hometown of Bundaberg, Queensland on 27 February 1928. This reduced the England-Australia record from 28 days to just under 15½ days.

In 1931 he performed his most remarkable feat – the first solo flight across the South Atlantic.

Hinkler was more than a great airman, he was a fine mechanic with a fertile brain continually throwing up ideas which were often given to his employers, and his engines frequently had gadgets of his own invention. He was thoroughly courageous without being reckless, and was successful in his most amazing feats because he was practically faultless as a pilot and knew exactly what he and his machines could do.

**CHARLES KINGSFORD-SMITH** (9 February 1897 – November 1935)

Charles Edward Kingsford-Smith was born in Hamilton, Brisbane, Australia on 9 February, 1897 and graduated from Sydney Technical College as an Electrical Engineer at age 16.

He enrolled in the Australian Military Forces in 1915 firstly serving in the Middle East then in 1917, in France as a fighter pilot where he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in action.

From 1919 to 1927 Kingsford-Smith performed at aerial circuses and pioneered commercial aviation service throughout Australia. In 1927, he went to the United States to purchase and prepare a Fokker Trimotor aircraft that he named the "Southern Cross". On 31 May 1928, Kingsford-Smith and his crew took off from Oakland, California, arriving in Brisbane via Honolulu and Fiji eight days later.

In succeeding months, piloting "Southern Cross" he made the first non-stop flight across the Australian Continent and the first flight across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand. In 1929, Kingsford-Smith completed a round-the-world flight and in 1934, he made the first west to east crossing of the Pacific. In November 1935, on a flight from England to Australia, Kingsford-Smith and his co-pilot John Pethybridge disappeared in typhoon weather over the Bay of Benga.

**ROBIN MILLER** (8 September 1940 – 7 December 1975)

Robin Elizabeth Miller, known as “The Sugarbird Lady”, was an Australian aviator and nurse. The name “The Sugarbird Lady” was given to her by outback aborigine children during her work combating polio. She died of cancer at the age of 35.

After obtaining a private pilot licence and a commercial flying licence while training as a nurse, she approached the Western Australian Department of Health to ask permission to fly to northern Western Australia in order to carry out a vaccination programme. She later flew with the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (RFDS), after carrying out 9 aircraft delivery flights for them.

She is remembered fondly in Perth. As well as the large memorial in Jandakot Airport, there is also a seminar room in Royal Perth Hospital named after her in addition to a road at Perth International Airport: *Sugarbird Lady Road*.

Two quotes from ABC’s “George Negus Tonight” described her flying prowess. “One was a solo flight from Paris to Australia. And in another one, I think she actually came across the Pacific. Later, did a co-pilot flight across the Atlantic. So she circumnavigated the world. She was one of the outstanding women pilots of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and we should recognise her as such.”