



## 5. No highway in the sky: Can air routes join land and sea examples of cultural exchange?

Aviation helped forge a truly international twentieth century. This session considers the validity of air routes as cultural routes, along with land and sea examples, in the context of current definitions and understandings of global heritage. The session invites contributions on the evolution of different aviation routes, such as the QANTAS Kangaroo Route, from early flying-boats to the jumbo-jet and beyond. It will explore the cultural exchanges that flowed from the global migration and mass tourism of the post war boom. It welcomes reflections on the intangible cultural significance of early air travel through access to both private and public memories. Diaries, photographs, travel posters, press reports and populist media such as Frank Clunes' 1948 travelogue *High Ho to London* and Neville Shute's 1948 novel, the 1951 film classic *No Highway in the Sky* can illuminate and record cultural exchange.

Session Convenors: Sandy Blair (MC), Kirsty Altenburg and Timothy Hubbard

### 1. Investigating air routes as sites of dynamic cultural exchange

*Sandy Blair (MC)- University of Canberra*

This paper considers the validity of air routes as cultural routes, along with land and sea examples, in the context of current definitions and understandings of global heritage. It explores the dramatic cultural exchanges that flowed from global migration and mass tourism by air and how this is expressed in physical remains. It also reflects on the intangible cultural significance of early air travel and how it is remembered and represented in the twenty-first century.

## **2. Overcoming isolation: memories of early air and land travel**

*Kirsty Altenburg- Altenburg Consulting*

This paper investigates some mid twentieth century journeys by air and land in response to Australia's geographic isolation. Innovative travel routes developed prior to the era of mass tourism, from flying boats to the post war overland 'hippy trail' to Europe. Accessing both private and public records the paper explores the ephemeral nature and intangible cultural significance of these memories as cultural exchanges. It will explore how these early air and land routes can be remembered as themes contributing to the evolution of the Kangaroo Route as a cultural route.

## **3. When the Kangaroo Route Boomed: from its post WW2 rebirth to the jet age and beyond**

*Timothy Hubbard- Heritage Matters Pty Ltd*

Building on two previous papers (Hubbard, 2012; Hubbard 2014), this paper explores the rapid evolution of the QANTAS Kangaroo Route after the Second World War. It shows how the Kangaroo Route facilitated enormous cultural changes in Australia and, more broadly, in the British Commonwealth. Evidence is found in private diaries, media coverage, memorabilia and the statistical analysis of the decline in alternative transport (mainly travel by sea) and the rise in mass tourism. Sub-themes will include: Australians 'going home' to the UK; migration from the UK and Continental Europe; international sport, especially cricket; and how Coronation Street met Ramsey Street. The paper tests the cultural significance of the Kangaroo Route against the official definition of a cultural route. It challenges the international heritage community to fly higher and further.