

Lainie Anderson

The first flight from England to Australia in 1919 by Ross & Keith Smith

**5.30 pm, 20 May, Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Urrbrae.
Book here through [EVENTBRITE](#)**

This is among the world's greatest aviation feats – the 1919 flight from England to Australia by South Australian brothers Ross and Keith Smith, with their mechanics Wally Shiers and James Bennett. The 28-day journey was in a Vickers Vimy biplane of spruce wood lined with lacquered fabric, with open cockpits and little more than a compass and maps for navigation. They won the £10,000 prize offered by the Australian Government.

Journalist Lainie Anderson researched the flight using war diaries, letters and Churchill Fellowship research from along the race route and wrote an account of it in her book, *Long Flight Home*.

