

Kingsford Smith Memorial Visit

Scouts in Action Month – ‘Flight’ – August 2020

Cub Name

Sir Charles Edward Kingsford Smith, MC, AFC (9 February 1897 – 8 November 1935), often called by his nickname Smithy, was an early Australian aviator.



In 1928, he made the first transpacific flight from the United States to Australia. He also made the first non-stop crossing of the Australian mainland, the first flights between Australia and New Zealand, and the first eastward Pacific crossing from Australia to the United States; and, also, made a flight from Australia to London, setting a new record of 10.5 days.

His most famous aircraft, the Southern Cross, is now preserved and displayed in this purpose-built memorial to Kingsford Smith near the International Terminal at Brisbane Airport.

(source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Kingsford_Smith)

About the Southern Cross Aircraft

What type of aircraft is the Southern Cross?

Fokker

What colour is the Southern Cross?

Silver (wings and tail) and Blue (fuselage)

How many wheels does the Southern Cross have?

2 (and a tail skid)

How many engines/propellers does the Southern Cross have?

3

How were the engines of the Southern Cross started?

Each had to be wound up

What are the wings made of?

wood

What number is on the tail and wings of the plane?

1985

How many crew can the Southern Cross carry?

4

How many passengers could the Southern Cross carry?

12 passengers – for a joy flight, 8 passengers – for airline operations

What were the main aids to navigation in the Southern Cross?

radio and compass

The First Trans-Pacific Flight

Where did the first flight which crossed the Pacific Ocean leave from?

Oakland, California

Where did they stop along the way?

Honolulu and Suva

Where did they land at the end of the flight?

Eaglefarm, Brisbane (not far from the memorial)

Who was in the crew for the first air crossing of the Pacific Ocean and what jobs did they have?

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Captain Charles Ulm – Pilots

Harry Lyon- Navigator

James Warner – Radio Operator

How did the crew of the Southern Cross communicate with each other during the flight?

Scribbled notes, stuck to a pin

What was the name of the ballad chanted by Fijians to farewell the Southern Cross when it left Suva?

Wanga Vaka (bird ship)

About Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith and his planes

Where was Sir Charles Kingsford Smith born?

Hamilton, Brisbane

What type of plane was the 'Lady Southern Cross'?

Lockheed Altair

What type of plane was the 'Southern Cross Junior'?

Avro Avian

Around the Airport

How many planes did you see today:

On the ground _____

In the air _____

How many planes did you see with the following logos:



Jetstar



QANTAS



Virgin



Other

Draw all or part of a plane which you have seen:

What are the differences can you see between modern planes and the Southern Cross?

Modern planes - all made of metal, can carry more people, have jet engines not propellers, are bigger, their wheels tuck up

Airport Buildings

The tall building you can see from the grass is the air traffic control tower for the domestic airport (planes which are going to, or coming from, places within Australia). Air traffic control monitors and controls the movement of planes to avoid collisions and help traffic flow.

Draw a picture of the tower:

Why do you think the tower is that shape?

Often a tall, windowed structure located on the airport grounds) to allow visual observation – see they can easily see the planes.

The building where an aircraft is housed is called a hangar. The building which covers the Southern Cross is a common hangar shape. Draw a picture of the hangar:

Why do you think the hangar is that shape?

Building (and doors) need to be wide to fit the plane in- you can't put columns down in the middle, the curved roof is an efficient way to span the distance, allow for a plane which is taller in the middle and lower at the wings (uses less building materials)

Lest We Forget

Under the tree near the grassed area is a memorial for the 460 Squadron. The plaques are there to help commemorate airmen who fought in World War Two. Treat this area with the respect you would show to an ANZAC memorial.

No. 460 Squadron was a Royal Australian Air Force unit first formed as a heavy bomber squadron during World War II on 15 November 1941 and disbanded on 10 October 1945 after seeing extensive combat over Europe. The squadron was a multinational unit, but most personnel were Australian. The first planes flown were the Vickers Wellington and last planes flown were the Avro Lancaster (below).



No. 460 Squadron was reformed on 2 July 2010 as an intelligence unit active within the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation (DIGO). It is currently located in Canberra.

(Source – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._460_Squadron_RAAF)

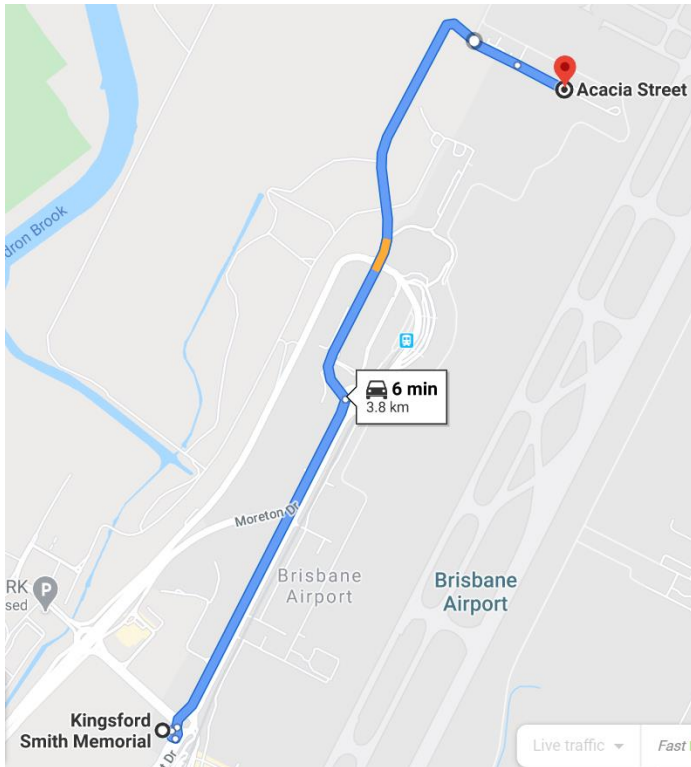
What animal is shown on the 460 Squadron badge?

kangaroo

Airport in Action

To see more of the airport in action, ask if you can have a look at the planes on the runway on the way home. Directions for the best viewing point are below.

You can drive and look, or there may be opportunity to stop and view.



Turn left out of the carpark on to Airport Drive

At the roundabout take the second exit and stay on Airport Drive

At the next roundabout take the first exist to Dryandra Road

Follow Dryandra Road through the lights and across the next intersection

Follow Dryandra Road through the runway underpass

Dryandra Road bend right and becomes Casuarina St and then Acacia St

There is a turnaround and there may be parks available on Acacia Street

Select one thing you have seen to share at Cubs next week.

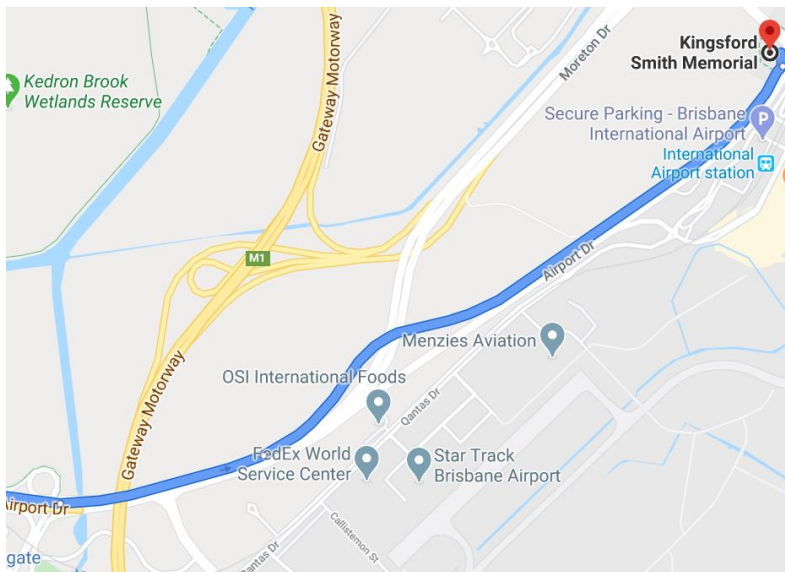
Notes for Cub Leaders

Answers in blue – can be found from the information boards at the memorial

Answers in red – require thinking from the Cubs!

The memorial is open 24/7. (Have not checked out how well it is lit at night). It is undercover, so this could be a wet weather activity. The carpark has 20 car space and is free 2 hour parking. There is space to sit down for a snack – on the concrete or the grass (something to sit on might be needed).

To get to the memorial, head to the airport and make sure you take the exit for the International Airport.



Note: At the memorial during July, in the 1.5 hours taken to explore and draft the questions only 3 planes were seen in the air due to coronavirus travel restrictions. Parked QANTAS planes could be seen through the fence of the International airport. So chances of seeing at least part of a plane are high, but there is likely to be a lot less plane spotting than usual.

Consider whether a visit to the end of Dryandra Road/Acacia Street (and the viewing platform) should be part of the visit or an optional extra with parents – requires car transport between the two points.

This booklet is formatted to print on A5 paper.