



Invitation to Pilots

Art of Flight International Balloon Championship Benalla, Victoria 6–12 April 2026

Dear Competitive Balloon Pilots,

On behalf of the Balloon Association of Victoria and the event board, we warmly invite you and your team to join us in Benalla for the **Art of Flight International Balloon Championship**, taking place **6–12 April 2026**.

This new event is designed to bring our community together in a truly inspiring setting — **bringing together aviators, artists, and enthusiasts to explore the Art of Flight, in the air, on the ground, and through imagination**. Across six days, Benalla and the wider north-east region will host up to **30 balloon teams** for a week of competition, colour, and community.

The 2026 festival also proudly incorporates the **Australian National Championship**, where the nation's top pilots will fly for national honours. With a **proven flying area**, a **dedicated local team**, and an **international Director** setting high-quality competitive tasks, pilots can look forward to a professionally run, enjoyable, and memorable championship experience.

Whether you are joining us to compete, to support your team, or simply to be part of a new chapter in Australian ballooning, we would be delighted to welcome you to Benalla. Your participation will help shape and strengthen this event as it takes flight for the first time.

We look forward to flying with you in April.

Warmest regards,

Francois Steyn
President, Balloon Association of
Victoria

Paul Gibbs
Event Chairman, Art of Flight Festival
& International Balloon Championship