

Andrew Robertson (Australia)

Nominee – Deputy Director

6th FAI Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship

Profile

Andrew Robertson was born into ballooning and has been immersed in the sport his entire life. He began ballooning in 1978 at the age of just four, and as soon as he was able to fly, he entered the competitive side of ballooning. Now a pilot for 32 years and competitor for 31 years, Andrew is also a qualified instructor, examiner, and commercial pilot, giving him a well-rounded perspective on all aspects of the sport - from training new pilots to participating in and managing world-class events.

International and National Competition Experience

As Competitor

- Represented Australia at 4 x FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championships (2006, 2012, 2018, 2022)
- Competed at every Australian National Championship since 1996.

As Crew Chief

- Supported Australian teams at World Championships in 1997, 2004, 2008, 2016.
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Championship Directing & Official Roles

- Director of numerous high-profile international championships in Australia, including events in Canowindra, Mansfield, and Mildura.
- Onsite Technical Support for the 5th FAI Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship (2023) in Northam

- Extensive scoring and technical support experience for many events, including most of the recent FAI Category 1 & 2 events.
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Technology & Innovation Leadership

- Founder, developer, and operator of the WatchMeFly platform which is now the official competition management platform for:
 - All FAI World Championships (Open, Women's, Junior)
 - All National Championships for NAC Members
 - Over 90 events annually worldwide.
 - Provides remote scoring and technical support for major championships globally, ensuring consistent, high-quality operations.
 - Recognised expert in all aspects of ballooning competitions, including:
 - AXMER Rulebook
 - Scoring calculation
 - Competition technology
 - Navigation, task setting, penalties.
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FAI & Balloon Live Contributions

- Member of the FAI Balloon Live Working Group, that is responsible for:
 - WatchMeFly platform
 - Balloon Live App
 - Balloon Live Sensor

- Actively involved in development, support, and deployment of these tools across global competitions.
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Collaboration with US Team

- Long-standing working relationship with Paul Petrehn and members of the US scoring team, developed over numerous US and International events.
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Skills & Expertise

- International competition management and leadership.
- Advanced scoring systems & competition technology.
- Strategic event planning and task setting.
- High-pressure decision making in live event environments.