

# Mission Pilots of the Australian 'never-never'

Christian aviators seem to pop up anywhere and at any time in the Australian skies.

*"It's God's domain, and we are His family, - so enter", they say.*

As did Cessna 182 flyer Rob Vance sky-writing about God at 10,000 ft. over Sydney's WYD in July, '08. He makes a habit of reminding earth-bound creatures that ...

J E S U S I S L O R D .

He wrote the words **GOD LOVES YOU** and **P E A C E** at 9/11, and **HE IS RISEN** at Easter. Millions see it and it appears on the TV news ... .. but atheists hate it.

See his best work at - <http://www.skywriting.com.au/web/Photos.html>



## Zealous Evangelists:

Vance is a zealous evangelist, and joins veterans like Arthur Stace, who scribbled the enigmatic word ...

Eternity

... half a million times on a thousand Sydney footpaths. over 30 years, and is said to be Australia's greatest graffiti artist.

The city fathers highlighted the word **ETERNITY** on the Harbour Bridge at midnight NYE 2000 as a cultural symbol and identity of a ritzy city like Sydney. It held no Christian meaning to them, but the people who knew the man and the history saw through it ...



Symbol of Sydney's NYE 2000

It goes to the Mark 16:15 **commission** of Jesus Christ, - and Isaiah's 'wings'. Australia does not appear in Biblical prophecy, but is no exception to the edict. Christian people are commissioned to reach the world for Jesus' sake. *And to fly like eagles.*

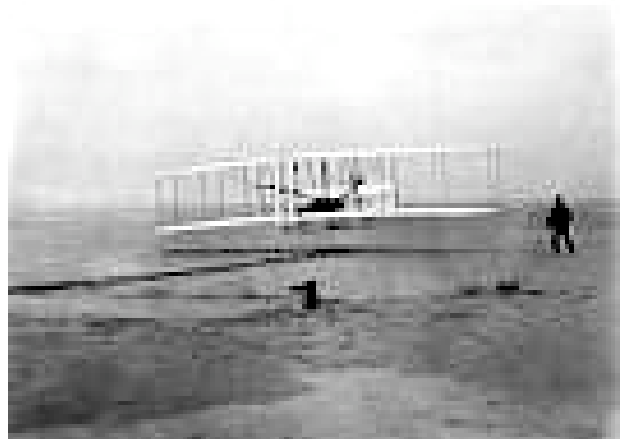
Arthur Stace concealed his work on long winter nights when few were about. but, the aviator's activity is revealed for all to see.

Though Stace hardly witnessed to a single soul in those private and lonely days, his words spoke eloquently for him. Similarly, every Christian pilot is engaged in worthwhile conversation every time he lands his plane, and that's when he does his best work.

## The Aerial Parade.

They do it 'for-Jesus'-sake", and humanity, not publicity or status, following the Wright Brothers example in 1903.

Len Daniels thought so in 1921. He began the aerial parade of Christian aviators in Australia, with his DH Cirrus Puss Moth, - and his successors have not stopped since. On a return visit to Tibooburra in 1964 in a Cessna 182, several locals quickly made themselves known to the ageing clergyman. Each one firmly declared they owed the faith in Christ to his ministry thirty-five years before, and were dead sure they'd bring their children and grandchildren up the same way.



Wright Flyer II at Kitty Hawk in 1903

In the 1890's, Wilbur and Orville Wright prayed earnestly as they threw themselves off sand hills into the chilly air at Kitty Hawk. All they had to save themselves was a

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crude under-powered box-kite and when it flew, they yelled "we did it, we did it!". They'd flown for just 12-seconds. Only a lad was there to see it, but they prayed over the meal that night in gratitude that He'd answered the prayer of their heart to break the bond of gravity.

**World's First Flying Parson**

Ten years later, a Britisher who was destined to become the "World's-First-Flying-Parson" had just ridden his bicycle to London University to earn his Arts Degree.

After teaching at Andover Grammar School, he ended up as a pilot in India and Egypt for the Great War. That was Flying Officer Len Daniels. But there was to be more ...

Wilbur and Orville Wright achieved their amazing feat after twenty years and thousands of experiments, as well as reading papers written by other experimenters in the UK, Europe and Australia. Their flying exploits were about to change the world.

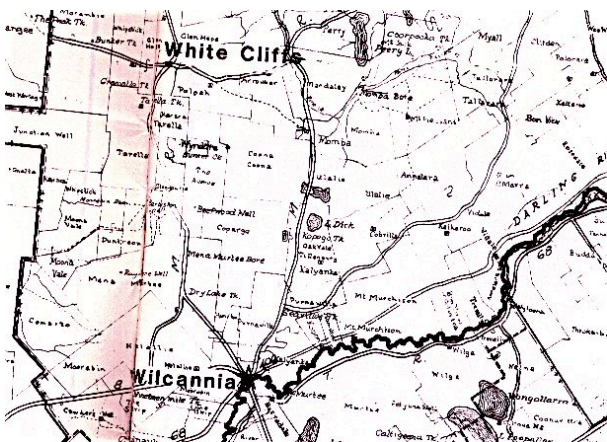
Baden Powell and Maxim in the UK, Herring, Lilintheil and Chanute in Europe were all vying for the prize to be the first to fly a heavier than air machine. And Daniels in 1929 outback, made it a vital part of his life's goal, too.

**Hargraves, too:**

Chanute in 1894 published his "Progress in Flying Machines", which was the first well thought-out work on aeronautics. It contained 14-pages on Hargrave's experiments and photos at Stanwell Park, NSW. See the Hargraves kites at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, and Google 'Progress in Flying Machines', to read Chanute's papers.

**To Answer the call:**

By 1921, Daniels had completed Salisbury Theological College, and served as Anglican Rector at Christ Church Woking in Surrey. Then he sailed for Australia to answer the call to be the Anglican BCA Missionary at far-off Wilcannia, to reach the people of the never-never, for Jesus Christ and the Church - in his T Model Ford.



It was a parish of 160,000 square kilometres that drew him - roughly the size of England and Wales. Around 500 farming homesteads fall within its borders, and perhaps five thousand souls. It was impenetrable and a perfect challenge for a flyer. *That was 1922.*

**The First Puss - UK to Wilcannia:**

During a 1928 UK furlough, his inspiring appeal was heard by philanthropist Charles Cheers Wakefield.

Lord Castrol topped up Daniels frail funds to send a De Havilland DH80A Puss Moth to Wilcannia. FW Boreham had his lively pen writing then, and Tinsley and Ridley and Barker preached from town halls and tents, and Daniels had his wings to take him to the people.



Revd. & Mrs. Len Daniels

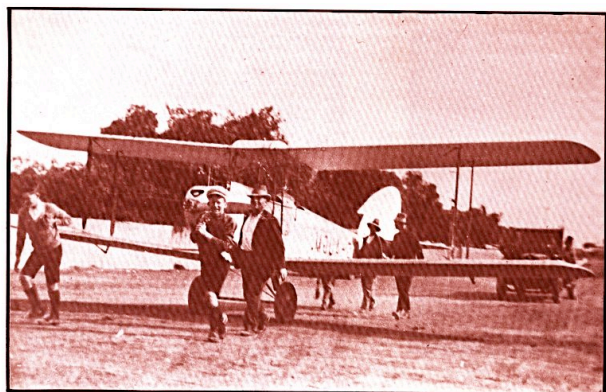
This plucky clergyman then tackled the impossible. He labored in the heat and dust. In just four years against all odds, he conquered distance and isolation.

*(But he'd crashed twice on the delivery flight between Melbourne and Wilcannia. He waited for parts, repaired the damage and dared to fly on. Nothing but human death stopped those pioneers.)*

His valiant achievements were alike to Jim Irwin walking on the moon or Thor Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki Pacific raft, and became the stuff of generational folklore.

He wrote, "This silent air is pulsing with the presence of God's Grace". But before he moved on to city parish work in 1934, he quoted the part about Banjo Paterson's desert people ... "on the upper Paroo, where the Churches are few, and the men of religion are scanty".

He ended his 1959 book "Far West" with the words: "We travel from dawn to dusk, 'till the day is past and by, Seeking the Holy City beyond the rim of the sky."



Daniels Puss Moth at Wilcannia

His trials and successes appear in BCA's 1980 pictorial book, "Wings over Wilcannia", and at ... <http://www.outbackpatrol.com.au/bbc.htm>

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