

NATIONAL WINNER  
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PHOEBE BLAXILL

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN  
GIRLS SCHOOL

FLYNN OF THE INLAND

2015 National History Challenge  
*"Leadership and Legacy"*

**The Very Reverend JOHN FLYNN,  
OBE, DD**



<http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/>

*"Flynn of the Inland"*

*"The very Rev. John Flynn 1880-1951 OBE DD Founder of the Australian Inland Mission and the Flying Doctor Service was born at Moliagul opposite this spot. He spread a mantle of safety over inland Australia, by aviation, radio and medicine, and brought spiritual comfort, gladness and rejoicing.*

*'Across the lonely places of the land, he planted kindness and gathered love'"*

John Flynn's memorial inscription in Victoria

**Phoebe Blaxill**

*Year 9, Mrs Cumming*

*St Mary's Anglican Girls' School*

Using primary sources from the National Archives of Australia

**Descriptor:** *'Flynn of the Inland' discusses Reverend John Flynn's outstanding leadership, which allowed him to make his dreams come true. It also shows the positive legacy Flynn has made on the 'Inland' to provide a 'Mantle of Safety', which keeps Australians safe to this day.*

Living in the outback today is much less of a hardship than in the past. Organisations like the Presbyterian Inland Mission look after ones spiritual needs, the Royal Flying Doctor Service provides medical care in an emergency and The School of the Air provides for educational needs. However, life in the outback wasn't always so well serviced. In the 1800s, isolation was very prevalent, schooling was minimal and if one had a medical emergency, the chance of surviving was slim. So how did the outback turn from being a desolate and disheartening home, to flourishing and healthy community? The answer is the fulfilment of John Flynn's dreams powered by his hard work and inspiring leadership.

John Flynn was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1880 in the town of Moliagul in Central Victoria, the second son of Thomas and Rosetta Flynn. Following his mother's death, when he was two, his auntie raised him. When he was five he returned to live with his father.<sup>1</sup> Flynn first heard about the vast Australian outback from his father's business partners, who ventured unsuccessfully to Northern Australia<sup>2</sup> The loss of his older brother when he was 21, leaving Flynn with only his father, resulted in Flynn understanding loneliness and consequently wanting to help people living in rural Australia later in his life.<sup>3</sup>

As an adult, Flynn became a schoolteacher and had a strong interest in photography. He sold his photos to finance his studies. In 1903, John Flynn worked as a home missionary of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria. He decided to become a minister in 1907 and began his studies at the Presbyterian Theological Hall in Melbourne. Subsequently he was ordained in

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<sup>1</sup> Nla.gov.au, (2015). *Australian Inland Mission* | *National Library of Australia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/selected-library-collections/australian-inland-mission> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>2</sup> Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *The John Flynn Story* | *Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>3</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

Adelaide on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 1911.<sup>4</sup> Flynn then moved to remote areas of South Australia and Victoria for missionary work. From this, his association with minister Andrew Barber resulted in co-writing a bush-survival guide called *The Bushman's Companion*.<sup>5</sup> The book was a comprehensive guide containing vital information from first aid to hymns. In 1911, he joined the Smith of Dunesk Mission in South Australia, where he was struck by the rigors of life and lack of medical care in the outback. His energy and initiative impressed his supervisors<sup>6</sup> and in 1912 he was commissioned by the church to write a report on the condition of the people in the Northern Territory and South Australia.<sup>7</sup> His report, *Northern Territory and Central Australia – A call to the Church*, suggested the idea of a frontier service. It stated:

*“The first thing to do in any effort to lift the tone of bush life is to give women a sense of security...then the presence of women and white children in great numbers will sweeten the whole life.”*<sup>8</sup>

The loss of his own mother may have resulted in his sensitivity to the vulnerability of women in this way.<sup>9</sup> Due to his report, the Presbyterian Church consequently created the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) in 1912 and they appointed Flynn as the Superintendent.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>5</sup> Nla.gov.au, (2015). *Australian Inland Mission | National Library of Australia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/selected-library-collections/australian-inland-mission> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>6</sup> Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *The John Flynn Story | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>7</sup> Nla.gov.au, (2015). *Australian Inland Mission | National Library of Australia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/selected-library-collections/australian-inland-mission> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>8</sup> Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *The John Flynn Story | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>9</sup> Batstone, K. (2003). *Outback heroes*. South Melbourne: Lothian Books. Page 14.

<sup>10</sup> Nla.gov.au, (2015). *Australian Inland Mission | National Library of Australia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/selected-library-collections/australian-inland-mission> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

The AIM had humble beginnings, beginnings, with Bruce Plowman as the only padre, (someone who goes from house to house to give spiritual, medical and practical guidance) one nursing sister and a nursing hostel at Oodnadatta.<sup>11</sup> In 1913 Flynn launched a quarterly magazine called *The Inlander* that continued until 1929. He used this to release his ideas and as publicity for donations.<sup>12</sup> The AIM grew quickly and by 1918 patrols and nursing sisters were found at numerous locations.

Skipper Partridge was early Patrol Padre for AIM and his daughter said:

*"...John Flynn just inspired him [Skipper Partridge] and he wanted to help in the outback..."<sup>13</sup>*

Flynn soon realised the importance of a better medical service. He envisaged an aerial medical service, but during the war, progress was slow. However, *'he fought tirelessly for a share of public sympathy for his beloved Inlanders'*.<sup>14</sup> In 1917 Lieutenant Clifford Peel encouraged Flynn. Dulcie Andrews was Clifford Peel's niece:

*"He could see the connection between medicine and flying...he wrote a very long letter to John Flynn. It described how a Flying Doctor could be used in the inland...Unfortunately my uncle was killed..."<sup>15</sup>*

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<sup>11</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>12</sup> Batstone, K. (2003). *Outback heroes*. South Melbourne: Lothian Books. Pages 22&23.

<sup>13</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>14</sup> Batstone, K. (2003). *Outback heroes*. South Melbourne: Lothian Books.

<sup>15</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

Flynn continued to fight hard for his plan, but he struggled with an uncertain church, lack of funding and communication. Donations were plentiful, but there still wasn't enough money to start the service. Nevertheless, he continued on and has been described as *'a gifted speaker and understood the value of a strong image. A tireless advocate for an aerial medical service, he presented illustrated lectures, turning his photographs into magic lantern slides.'*<sup>16</sup>

In response H V McKay left a large bequest for Flynn, finally allowing the Aerial Medical Service (AMS) to take flight. Flynn made arrangements with Hudson Fysh, the co-founder of QANTAS to operate the AMS. **(SOURCE 2)**<sup>17</sup> Flynn's dreams finally commenced. The first flight took place on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1928. Arthur H. Affleck flew 'Victory'; a DeHavilland 50 Bi-Plane loaned by QANTAS from Cloncurry with Flying Doctor, Dr Kenyon St Vincent Welch. **(SOURCE 1)** **(SOURCE 6)**<sup>18</sup>

Eight months after the AMS started, Dr Welch wrote to Flynn regarding issues facing the service. Welch suggested that the scheme could be modified or enlarged to be able to treat anything no matter how large. However he went on to say that, *"AMS gives a tremendous sense of security to the district and its discontinuance would be regretted everywhere"*.<sup>19</sup> Despite these early hardships Flynn persevered following his well-known words- *"If you start something worthwhile – nothing can stop it"*. This perseverance resulted in an outstanding first year of the service, with 32 000 km flown and 255 patients visited.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Villers, A. (2008). Snooping around Flynn's Legacy. *National Library of Australia*, [online] pp.11. Available at: <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/131760/20120120-0944/www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/2008/may08/story-3.pdf> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

<sup>17</sup> Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *The John Flynn Story | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>18</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>19</sup> National Archives of Australia, Barcode No. 3398783, Letter from Dr K. Welch, Pages 45-51

<sup>20</sup> Skwirk.com, (2015). *Rev. Dr. J. Flynn, Contribution and significance of an individual in the 1920s, Australia between the wars: 1920s, History Year 9, NSW | Online Education Home Schooling Skwirk Australia*. [online]

However, there was still a major problem with communication, as stations could not call for help without Morse code and telegraphs. So, ever-persistent Flynn recruited inventor Alfred Traeger to invent a device cheap enough to be installed in each home and suitable for emergency calls. He produced the pedal radio in 1929, which was installed in homes and AIM bases for communication.<sup>21</sup> Through this Flynn was also able to encourage communication between neighbours to prevent loneliness.<sup>22</sup>

The AMS grew quickly and after 10 years of operation the AMS was handed over from the church to an independent body. The service went through many name changes. Changing first to Australian Aerial Medical Service, then the Flying Doctor Service of Australia, and finally the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in 1953.<sup>23</sup> **(SOURCE 8)**

Flynn's amazing contribution to the Australian outback community was rewarded in 1933 with an OBE.<sup>24</sup> He continued furthermore, to work in the outback in many ways, such as organising a Holiday camp for outback children in Adelaide and was the Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church from 1939 to 1942. He also continued as superintendent of the

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Available at: [http://www.skwirk.com/p-c\\_s-14\\_u-43\\_t-51\\_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s](http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-43_t-51_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s) [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>21</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>22</sup> Skwirk.com, (2015). *Rev. Dr. J. Flynn, Contribution and significance of an individual in the 1920s, Australia between the wars: 1920s, History Year 9, NSW | Online Education Home Schooling Skwirk Australia*. [online] Available at: [http://www.skwirk.com/p-c\\_s-14\\_u-43\\_t-51\\_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s](http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-43_t-51_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s) [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>23</sup> Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *John Flynn Timeline | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/John-Flynn-Timeline/> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

<sup>24</sup> Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *John Flynn Timeline | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/John-Flynn-Timeline/> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

AIM.<sup>25</sup> He opened the Old Timers Home in Alice Springs in 1949. This retirement village for elderly outbackers continued to grow even after Flynn's death.<sup>26</sup> **(SOURCE 3).**

Sadly, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1951 at the age of 71, John Flynn passed away from cancer. His ashes can be found at Flynn Memorial, west of Alice Springs at Mount Gillen. **(SOURCE 9 & 10)**<sup>27</sup>

This area is open to the public and has become a reserve. **(SOURCE 4).**

Ann Blakely remembers the internment of his ashes:

*"... It was very moving. I remember mum telling me that the outback stood still..."*<sup>28</sup>

Flynn's leadership was outstanding and has left a strong legacy. He had his vision of a 'mantle of safety' and never strayed from it. *'For if we once dream it, the rest is easy'*, as he wrote in the 1920 edition of *The Inlander*.

Rev. C Goy said at one of Flynn's memorial services:

*"The secret of his life, quite apart from his keen intellect, his natural gifts for organisation, his tremendous tenacity of purpose, and his remarkable manner of enlisting interest and support in his undertaking, was the simple fact that early he found life's work and stayed in it to the end."*<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Naa.gov.au, (1944). *Reverend John Flynn and the Australian Inland Mission - Fact sheet 159 – National Archives of Australia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs159.aspx> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>26</sup> Wilkins, P. (2002). *Old Timers Home and Museum - South Alice Springs..* [online] Wilmap.com.au. Available at: <http://www.wilmap.com.au/atts/101.html> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

<sup>27</sup> Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *The John Flynn Story | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>28</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>29</sup> Batstone, K. (2003). *Outback heroes*. South Melbourne: Lothian Books. Pages 3&4.



Flynn has been described as always dressed in a suit, smoking a pipe and driving an old Ute. This appearance gained the locals respect allowing his dreams to come true. *“He looked like a bloke from the city, but always had the smell of the bush about him.”*<sup>30</sup>

Many sources describe his kindness, such as Dulcie Andrews who was 90 in 2012 and was a one of the first nurses covering Australia’s northwest as part of the AIM:

*“And he gave us a menu and he said, now you girls have been out there cooking your own meals for 2½ years now you have whatever you like on this...He was a lovely man. He really was.”*<sup>31</sup>

Peg Nelson remembers John Flynn:

*“In the early days, he’d visit all the stations...I think I was about six or seven. I think he had camel teams...he went round everywhere... It was a wonderful thing...One poor fella had his leg amputated on a windmill ... but the flying doctor went out and gave him blood and brought him in...”*<sup>32</sup>

Despite Flynn’s death, his legacy is still very prevalent in modern day Australia.

Every time an RFDS plane takes flight he is remembered. As a service, his life changing idea has grown into the largest and most comprehensive aero-medical service in the world today.

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<sup>30</sup> Skwirk.com, (2015). Rev. Dr. J. Flynn, Contribution and significance of an individual in the 1920s, Australia between the wars: 1920s, History Year 9, NSW | Online Education Home Schooling Skwirk Australia. [online] Available at: [http://www.skwirk.com/p-c\\_s-14\\_u-43\\_t-51\\_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s](http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-43_t-51_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s) [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>31</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>32</sup>Nt.gov.au, (2015). Flynn's Legacy - History Stories - The West Macs. [online] Available at: <http://www.nt.gov.au/westmacs/stories/history/all/111> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

(SOURCE 11)<sup>33</sup> His original vision has grown to cover over 80% of Australia.<sup>34</sup> RFDS now provides 24-hour medical service as well as hospital transfers, clinics to remote communities, radio and telephone consultations, rural women's medical services and medical chests to isolated communities.<sup>35</sup> In 2013/14 the RFDS Western Operations alone transported on average 24 patients per day.<sup>36</sup>

*"It's really opened my eyes as to how important the RFDS is...I will be forever grateful."*<sup>37</sup> Says Brock Philpott from Newman after he was flown to Port Hedland hospital for the emergency care that saved his life.

Sally Edmonds, Deputy Medical Director of the Western Operations, met with me and discussed the role of the RFDS today. She explained how Flynn's legacy is present in the organisation today. Dr Edmonds stated Flynn's emphasis on communications is still very important as well as the management of combining medicine, aeronautics and communications. It is noticeable, that the support from the city for outback people, which Flynn encouraged, is still evident. Medical patrols, which occurred during Flynn's time, still run today. *"We...fly out once a week to Marble bar... and to Nullagine... and also we ... do a driving trip out to Yandeyarra."*<sup>38</sup> She explained that without the RFDS, life would be difficult, and the rural hospitals would have to develop more.

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<sup>33</sup> Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>34</sup> Villers, A. (2008). Snooping around Flynn's Legacy. *National Library of Australia*, [online] pp.11. Available at: <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/131760/20120120-0944/www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/2008/may08/story-3.pdf> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

<sup>35</sup> 2011/12 Highlights; Our Services. (2012). *RFDS Western Operations Annual Report 11/12*, pp.8-10.

<sup>36</sup> RFDS Western Operations 'Facts at Glance' card 2013/2014

<sup>37</sup> Brock's Story. (2014). *The Flying Doctor Newsletter WA*, p.8.

<sup>38</sup> Dr Sally Edmonds, Deputy Medical Director, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Western Operations

Today Flynn's AIM has been replaced with the Frontier Services, Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) and other Christian Missions, who continue AIM's role of providing assistance and ministry to outback Australia.<sup>39 40</sup> Both Frontier Services and PIM send out patrols to regions of Australia and Flynn is remembered by one of PIM's patrols, 'John Flynn' in South Australia. PIM's aim is; *'By God's grace we seek to continue what John Flynn started over 100 years ago, spreading the gospel to remote and isolated parts of our nation.'*<sup>41</sup>

The pedal radio, as well as the RFDS also allowed the commencement of the School of the Air. The School of the Air is still used today and provides schooling to isolated children who cannot reach a school, via satellite (originally by the pedal radio).<sup>42</sup>

Flynn is remembered in many ways, with more memorials dedicated to him than any other Australian.<sup>43</sup> He is also remembered in our pockets on the \$20 note. It features images of a pedal radio, a body chart, a camel and Flynn himself. **(SOURCE 5)** In 1956 the John Flynn memorial church was named in his honour and later the John Flynn Hospital. **(SOURCE 7)**<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Presbyterian Inland Mission, (2015). *Presbyterian Inland Mission: Beyond the Furthest Fences*. [online] Available at: <http://pim.org.au/> [Accessed 16 Apr. 2015].

<sup>40</sup> Frontierservices.com.au, (2015). *Services - Frontier Services*. [online] Available at: <http://www.frontierservices.com.au/services> [Accessed 16 Apr. 2015].

<sup>41</sup> Presbyterian Inland Mission, (2015). *Presbyterian Inland Mission: Beyond the Furthest Fences*. [online] Available at: <http://pim.org.au/> [Accessed 16 Apr. 2015].

<sup>42</sup> Schoolair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au, (2015). *School of the Air | Home*. [online] Available at: <http://www.schoolair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/home> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2015].

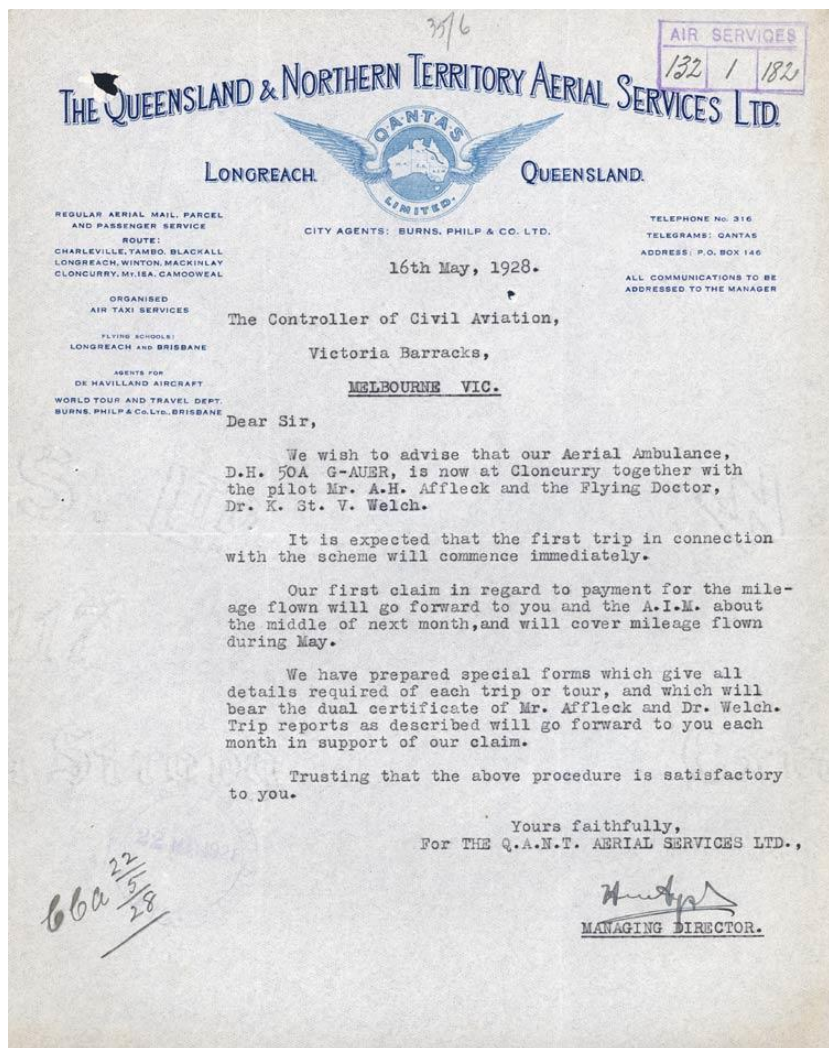
<sup>43</sup> Skwirk.com, (2015). *Rev. Dr. J. Flynn, Contribution and significance of an individual in the 1920s, Australia between the wars: 1920s, History Year 9, NSW | Online Education Home Schooling Skwirk Australia*. [online] Available at: [http://www.skwirk.com/p-c\\_s-14\\_u-43\\_t-51\\_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s](http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-43_t-51_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s) [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

<sup>44</sup> Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *John Flynn Timeline | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/John-Flynn-Timeline/> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

He has established his legacy from inspiring leadership and his vision for a 'mantle of safety' to turn the isolated outback into a thriving community. He was prepared to go out into the outback to build relationships with people and to put himself in their shoes.

*`Across the lonely places of the land, he planted kindness and gathered love`*

John Flynn's Memorial Inscription in Victoria.

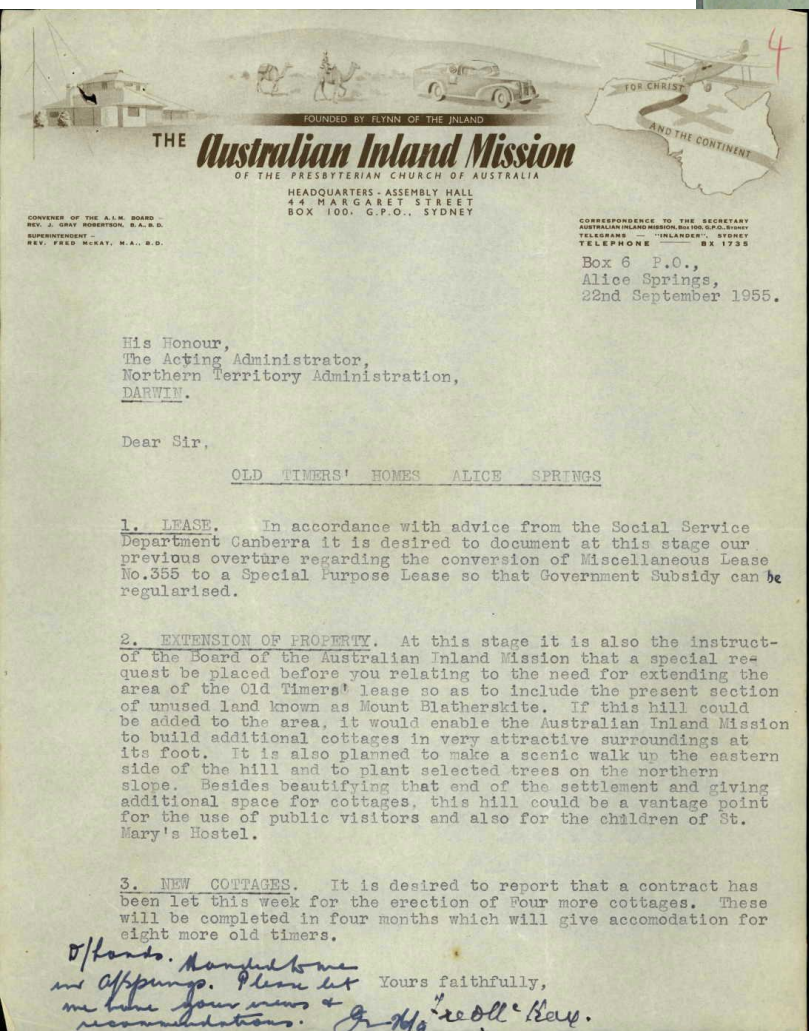
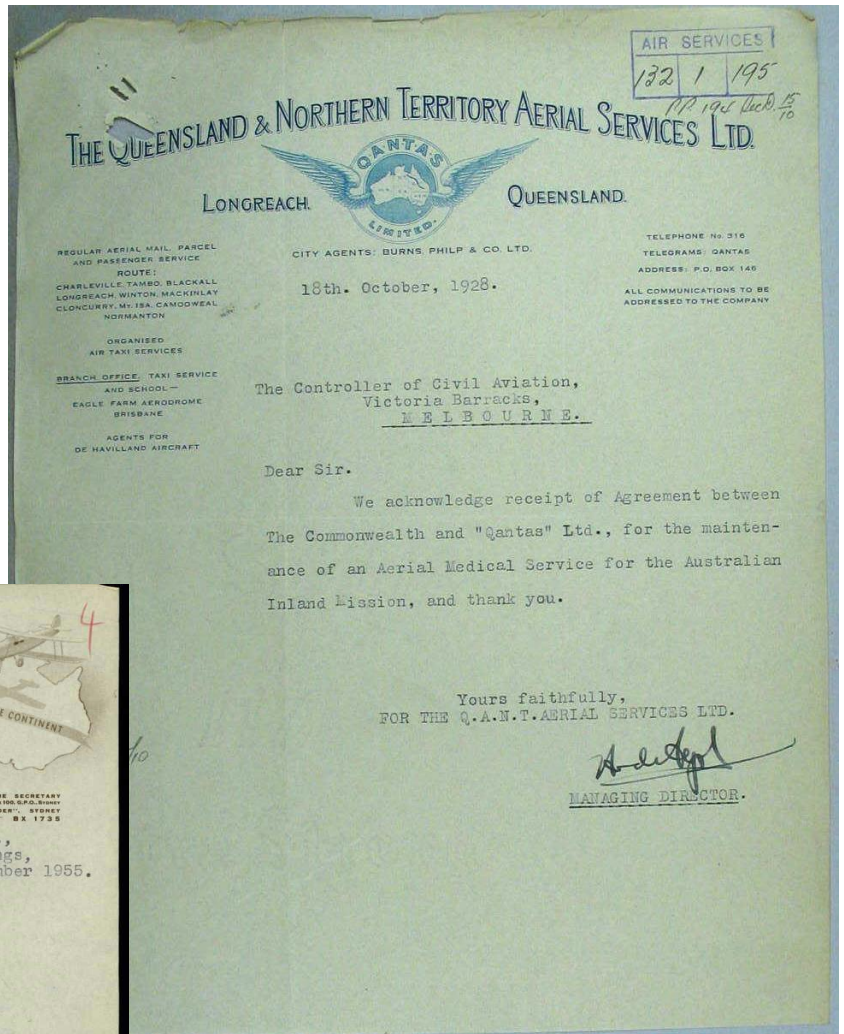


## APPENDIX

**SOURCE 1:** National Archives of Australia: A705, 132/1/211, Page 107, The First 'Flying Doctor' Trip, May 1928

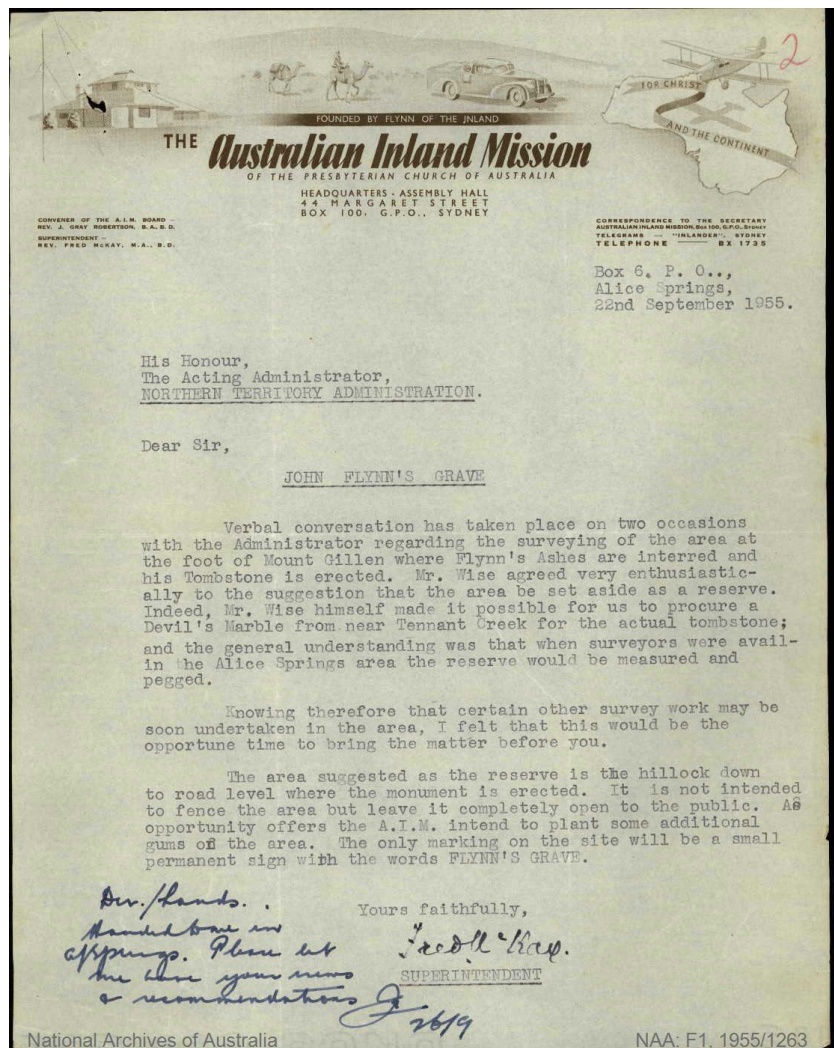


**SOURCE 2:** National Archives of Australia: A705, 132/1/211, Page 55, QANTAS Letter, October 1928



**SOURCE 3:** National Archives of Australia: F1, 1955/1263, Page 10, Old Timers' Home Extension, September 1955

**SOURCE 4:** National Archives of Australia: F1, 1955/1263, Page 12, **Flynn's Grave**, September 1953



**SOURCE 5:**  
Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015).  
The John Flynn Story | Royal  
Flying Doctor Service. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015]. \$20 Note.



the fabric bi-plane 'Victory' which flew the first Flying Doctor mission from Cloncurry, QLD on 17 May 1928

beneath 'Victory' is the pedal radio invented by Alfred Traeger in 1929 enabling the people of the Outback to call on the Flying Doctor for assistance



the Body Chart created by Sister Lucy Garlick in 1951 and still used today. It enables patients to describe the region and intensity of their pain or injury during a remote telehealth consultation

a camel signifying the five camels Flynn purchased in 1913 so that his Patrol Padres could complete their mission work throughout central Australia

**SOURCE 6:** Batstone, K. (2003). *Outback heroes: 75 Years of the Royal Flying Doctor Service*. South Melbourne: Lothian Books. **Victory**, The plane used in the first flight of the AMS in 1928.





**SOURCE 7:** National Archives of Australia: A1200, L21852, **The John Flynn Memorial Church,** 1956



**SOURCE 8:** National Archives of Australia: A1200, L4504, **John Flynn (right) with Flying Doctor, George Simpson and his wife, 1946**



**SOURCE 9:** National Archives of Australia: A6180, 26/11/73/114, **John Flynn's Memorial Plaque**, 1973



**SOURCE 10:** National Archives of Australia: A1200, L17490, **John Flynn's Memorial**, 1954



**SOURCE 11:** National Archives of Australia: A1200, L17874, **Darwin RFDS Base, 1954**



**SOURCE 12:** RFDS Western Operations Base, Jandakot, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015



**SOURCE 13:** Dr Sally Edmonds and me standing outside one of the newest RFDS planes.



# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

## Primary Sources

### Documents

National Archives of Australia: A705, 132/1/211, Page 107, **The First 'Flying Doctor' Trip**, May 1928

*This document provided first hand information on the first flying doctor trip and the link with the AIM and QANTAS.*

National Archives of Australia: A705, 132/1/211, Page 55, **QANTAS Letter**, October 1928

*This short letter acknowledges that the Commonwealth and QANTAS will provide the maintenance to allow the Aerial Medical Service to run.*

National Archives of Australia: F1, 1955/1263, Page 10, **Old Timers' Home Extension**, September 1955

*This letter discusses the growth of the Old Timers' Home. This shows the continued growth of this important part of outback Australia.*

National Archives of Australia: F1, 1955/1263, Page 12, **Flynn's Grave**, September 1953

*This document provides information on the idea of John Flynn's Grave area to become a reserve. This shows how John Flynn was an important person to many people, with a profound legacy.*

### Photographs

National Archives of Australia: A1200, L21852, **The John Flynn Memorial Church**, 1956

*This image shows the John Flynn Memorial Church in 1956, showing the legacy of Flynn, which inspired people to name a church in his honour.*

National Archives of Australia: A1200, L4504, **John Flynn (right) with Flying Doctor, George Simpson and his wife**, 1946

*This image shows John Flynn in his suit and hat, which has often described by locals and the first flying doctor. It also shows one of the later planes, which were used to the service.*

National Archives of Australia: A6180, 26/11/73/114, **John Flynn's Memorial Plaque**, 1973

*This shows the plaque on John Flynn's memorial as part of Flynn's legacy.*

National Archives of Australia: A1200, L17490, **John Flynn's Memorial**, 1954

*This picture shows John Flynn's memorial against the back drop of its location in Alice Springs, part of Flynn's beloved outback.*

National Archives of Australia: A1200, L17874, **Darwin RFDS Base**, 1954

*This shows the growth of Flynn's idea, even after his death, showing how important the service was becoming, despite its humble beginnings.*

### Audio

Nt.gov.au, (2015). *Flynn's Legacy - History Stories - The West Macs*. [online] Available at: <http://www.nt.gov.au/westmacs/stories/history/all/111> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

*The audio An early encounter with John Flynn provides a first person view of Flynn from a local's perspective. It shows how important John Flynn was to the outback community and how much joy he brought. Peg Nelson also talks about how the Flying Doctor was a great support for the outback people.*

### Transcript

Abc.net.au, (2012). *Compass: The Man on the \$20 Note - ABC TV*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3579576.htm> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

*This transcript provides some primary source information, from people who knew Flynn and recognised his importance to the outback. It also provides secondary information, such as the events in his life, particularly on his work in the outback. It provides some opinions on his character and legacy, with interviews with patrol padres today.*

### Interview

Dr. Sally Edmonds, Deputy Medical Director, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Western Operations, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

*Dr. Edmonds provided information on the role of the RFDS today and showed me around some of the organisation's newest planes and I was lucky enough to see a plane landing and a patient being unloaded. She helped me understand what it is like to work for the RFDS and how the organization operates.*

## Secondary Sources

### Photographs

Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *The John Flynn Story | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015]. **\$20 Note.**

*This image shows the \$20 note and the significance of and the symbols, which represent John Flynn and his work. It is an important example of John Flynn's legacy in today's world.*

Batstone, K. (2003). *Outback heroes*. South Melbourne: Lothian Books. **Victory, The plane used in the first flight of the AMS in 1928.**

*This photograph shows the first plane, loaned by QANTAS, illustrating what AMS planes looked like in the early days.*

## Websites

Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *John Flynn Timeline | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/John-Flynn-Timeline/> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

*This displays the important events in his life and after his life, as a timeline, making it easy to read. This structural presentation helps to understand how parts in his life, triggered later events.*

Flyingdoctor.org.au, (2015). *The John Flynn Story | Royal Flying Doctor Service*. [online] Available at: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Our-History/The-John-Flynn-Story/> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015]

*This website has a biography of Flynn and focuses particularly on the history of the RFDS and how Flynn campaigned to help the service unfold. It also contains some of his inspiring quotes.*

Frontierservices.com.au, (2015). *Services - Frontier Services*. [online] Available at: <http://www.frontierservices.com.au> [Accessed 16 Apr. 2015].

*This website shows how Flynn's legacy is continued today in the Frontier services. This shows the many services Flynn inspired being continued today and providing comfort to people living in the outback.*

Naa.gov.au, (1944). *Reverend John Flynn and the Australian Inland Mission - Fact sheet 159 – National Archives of Australia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs159.aspx> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015]

*This fact sheet has basic information of John Flynn and also includes records relating to John Flynn and the Australian Inland Mission, some of which I have used.*

Nla.gov.au, (2015). *Australian Inland Mission | National Library of Australia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/selected-library-collections/australian-inland-mission> [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

*This page on the National Library of Australia's website, has information on the Australian Inland Mission, and Flynn's work in it. It has many Manuscripts and Publications related to the topic, providing extra information.*

Presbyterian Inland Mission, (2015). *Presbyterian Inland Mission: Beyond the Furthest Fences*. [online] Available at: <http://pim.org.au/> [Accessed 16 Apr. 2015].

*Similar to the Frontier Services website, this site explains PIM's role in the outback, also reflecting John Flynn's work in the outback today.*

Skwirk.com, (2015). *Rev. Dr. J. Flynn, Contribution and significance of an individual in the 1920s, Australia between the wars: 1920s, History Year 9, NSW | Online Education Home Schooling Skwirk Australia*. [online] Available at: [http://www.skwirk.com/p-c\\_s-14\\_u-43\\_t-51\\_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s](http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-43_t-51_c-151/-rev-dr-j-flynn/nsw/-rev-dr-j-flynn/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/contribution-and-significance-of-an-individual-in-the-1920s) [Accessed 14 Apr. 2015].

*This website discussed the significance of John Flynn, and what he did that made him so important. It also provides so information, on his legacy today.*



Wilkins, P. (2002). *Old Timers Home and Museum - South Alice Springs.* [online] Wilmap.com.au. Available at: <http://www.wilmap.com.au/atts/101.html> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

*This website shows Flynn's legacy prevalent in the Old Timers home he set up in Alice Springs. It also discussed the history of the AIM in Alice Springs.*

Schoolair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au, (2015). *School of the Air | Home.* [online] Available at: <http://www.schoolair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/home> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2015].

*This website provided up-to-date information on the role of the School of the Air today, providing another example of Flynn's legacy.*

### Newsletters/Reports/Magazines

2011/12 Highlights; Our Services. (2012). *RFDS Western Operations Annual Report 11/12*, pp.8-10.

*The RFDS' annual report provided facts showing the growth of RFDS and the services they provide today.*

Brock's Story. (2014). *The Flying Doctor Newsletter WA*, p.8.

*Brock's story was an example of how important the RFDS is and the influence the service has on people's lives. It provided a personal account and a grateful opinion of the organisation.*

Villers, A. (2008). Snooping around Flynn's Legacy. *National Library of Australia*, [online] pp.10-13. Available at: <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/131760/20120120-0944/www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/2008/may08/story-3.pdf> [Accessed 15 Apr. 2015].

*This article presents opinions on Flynn's leadership and legacy, when the writer explores some of his personal letters in the National Library. It also gave me an insight into his personality, with quotes from a variety of his letters.*

RFDS Western Operations 'Facts at Glance' card 2013/2014

*This fact card provided recent facts, again showing the growth of Flynn's original idea.*

### Books

Batstone, K. (2003). *Outback heroes: 75 Years of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.* South Melbourne: Lothian Books.

*This book not only provided information on the history of the RFDS, but it's legacy today, with many personal stories and photographs.*