

26/01/2015

## Hinkler's Historical Armstrong Siddeley Comes to Bundaberg

Wide Bay Australia are excited to announce the Armstrong Siddeley Tourer used by Bert Hinkler during his processional motorcade and State welcome home in Brisbane on the 6th March 1928, has been donated to the Hinkler House Memorial Museum and Research Association.

A Donation of \$50,000.00 from Wide Bay Australia has allowed the purchase of two vehicles in various mechanical condition and a year long rebuild project of the Hinkler vehicle to commence. The launch of this project will be held on Australia Day as part of the Bundaberg Regional Council's Australia Day celebrations in the Botanic Gardens.

Upon completion the vehicle will be housed at the Hinkler Hall of Aviation as part of the Hinkler Collection.

"Following the parade which drew the largest crowd ever assembled in Australia at that time, the Armstrong Siddeley was given to Bert Hinkler to use for the next 3 1/2 days. Since then, it has had a number of owners, and been used as a farm vehicle and then purchased by Mr Tom Smehurst who has had it under wraps since 1974, with a plan to restore it" said Mr Lex Rowland - Hinkler House Memorial Museum and Research Association.

"Wide Bay Australia, an original supporter of the Hinkler House relocation project in 1983, plays an active part in our local communities and the decision to support this project is a reflection of our commitment to our regional area and its significant aviation history. These cars represent another element of the Bert Hinkler story, and helping the restoration and preservation is an exciting project to partner on" said Mr Martin Barrett, Chief Executive Officer.

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MEDIA RELEASE

"Over 25 years, we have assembled a significant and valuable collection of Hinkler related material, now held in trust by the Hinkler Hall of Aviation Memorabilia Trust. Thanks to Wide Bay Australia we are excited to be able to bring another piece of significant Bert Hinkler history to Bundaberg and to the collection" said Mr Rowland.

The three vehicles have arrived in Bundaberg and Mayor Mal Forman has confirmed that a suitable site to store and work on the project has now been sourced through the Bundaberg Regional Council.

"The Bundaberg Regional Council is excited to be able to assist with this project as part of our ongoing support for initiatives to promote the life of Bert Hinkler, Bundaberg's favourite son" said Cr Mal Forman, Mayor of Bundaberg Regional Council.

"We look forward to working with the Hinkler House Museum and Research Association on the restoration of the original Bert Hinkler car and would welcome discussions on any future plans to showcase the vehicle on a permanent basis within the region."

**All media enquiries to:**

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