

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Embargoed until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Beverley couple fly high for the RFDS**

27 November, 2015

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 26 aircraft took off from Esperance Airport in Western Australia, en route across the country for the finish line of the Outback Air Race on Hamilton Island – including aircraft number 17, consisting of married Beverley couple Alan and Jo Sattler.

The Outback Air Race is a GPS-based navigation time trial throughout the Australian Outback, having raised over \$2 million since the inaugural event in 1996.

Every three years, up to 60 aircraft take part in this unique event, with pilots nominating an elapsed time between two visual waypoints, receiving points for both time and location accuracy.

Beverley farmers Alan and Jo Sattler, who made up team ATOM, blew their fundraising out of the water this year, raising over \$31,000 in total – \$11,000 above their initial target. This year was Alan's second Outback Air Race, convincing his wife to come along for the first time, and Alan said they'll be back again.

"As parents to four children, and owners of a broadacre cropping property, people quite often ask us why we participate in the Outback Air Race," said Alan. "After we thought about it for a little bit, the only answer we could come up with was 'because we can'. We have an aircraft and we can take time off our work – that and it's a lot of fun."

Alan previously worked in the Pilbara and Kimberley, so there was a natural link to fundraise for the RFDS and get involved in the event.

"We've made some great friends through the Outback Air Race and we'd really like to thank everyone who supported us and helped us reach our fundraising tally," said Alan.

This year the RFDS in Western Australia is celebrating 80 years of service, and with demand at record levels, the fundraising efforts of events such as the Outback Air Race is paramount in ensuring the RFDS can be there to support those in need into the future.

"The RFDS are thrilled with the result from this year's Outback Air Race – an event record of \$585,000 was raised nationally, which will assist us in continuing to deliver our services to those living, working and travelling right across Australia," said Nick Harvey, RFDS WA Executive General Manager of Corporate Affairs.

This morning the RFDS hosted a morning tea and tour of the facilities at its Jandakot Base for sponsors, participants and their families, to acknowledge their significant commitment and support.

To donate to the RFDS call 1300 669 569 or check out [www.flyingdoctor.org.au](http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au)

**Photo opportunity:** *Outback Air Race participants Alan and Jo Sattler along with their aircraft – RFDS, 3 Eagle Drive, Jandakot at 10am Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.*

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