



ZONTA
CLUB OF
BRISBANE INC
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY



Lores Bonney Riverwalk, Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton, Brisbane

On 22 June 2019 the newly constructed Lores Bonney Riverwalk was official opened on Kingsford Smith Drive - the major route for locals and tourists travelling by road to Brisbane airport – signifying a long-awaited recognition of a great Australian woman.

This amazing achievement is testament to the dedication, commitment and persistence of the Zonta Club of Brisbane Advocacy Committee who lobbied Brisbane City Council for more than three years to commemorate Australia's Lores Bonney as part of the \$billion Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade.

Thanks in particular to club members Susan Davies, Janet Prowse and Kay Saunders who undertook the initial advocacy work.

Maude Rose 'Lores' Bonney (1897-1994) was little known and yet was the greatest Australian pioneer woman aviatrix. A contemporary of Amelia Earhart, Lores was a huge fan of Amelia Earhart and flew to Darwin in 1937 to try to meet her before she embarked across the Pacific. They missed each other by just one day, something Lores forever regretted.



Lores was a quiet achiever but her achievements in the 1930s speak for themselves - the first woman flyer to circumnavigate Australia, the first woman to fly from Australia to England and finally the first PERSON to fly from Australia to South Africa.

Lores did not seek the notoriety of flyers like other Aussies, e.g. Sir Charles Kingsford Smith - the first to cross the Pacific from US to Australia. She was most famous in the 1930s and, after World War II she retired quietly to the Gold Coast, Queensland where she lived for another 50 years until she died in 1994.

In the 1980s she often visited the Zonta Club of Brisbane for Amelia Earhart Day each year in January. Her exploits equal those of other countries' pioneer airwomen - Amy Johnson (Britain), Jean Batten (New Zealand) and Amelia Earhart (US).

Well done to all involved for honouring Lores Bonney – you have made our Club very proud.



'The unveiling' – Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner with Janet Prowse and Jane Keating (Advocacy Chair)



'Unveiled' – Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Cr David McLachlan with Janet Prowse



Julie O'Sullivan, Leonie Briggs (Club Secretary), Jane Keating (Advocacy Chair) and Janet Prowse in Kingsford Smith Drive park, 22 June 2019