

8. **WIGRAM PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION:
REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR KINGSFORD-SMITH CELEBRATIONS**

Officer responsible Martin Maguire, Community Advocate	Author Roger Cave, Community Secretary, DDI 941 6502
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The purpose of this report is to seek Board endorsement to the payment of a grant to the Wigram Park Residents' Association to assist in their staging of the 75 year celebration to the landing of Charles Kingsford-Smith at Wigram on 11 September 1928.

(By way of email) a request was circulated to Board members on Tuesday 19 August 2003, in which the amount of \$2,500 (maximum) was sought; the request had the support of the Board Chairperson and Community Advocate.

The Residents' Association has been working with the Air Force Museum to stage a re-enactment of this historic occasion.

In 1928 the first aeroplane crossing of the Tasman Sea was made by Charles Kingsford-Smith and his crew C T P Ulm, H A Litchfield and T H M Williams (a New Zealander) in the Fokker-F tri-motor "Southern Cross". Radio broadcasts throughout the night reported the aeroplane's progress and planes from the flying school escorted them in. A crowd estimated at between 30,000 and 40,000 people gathered at Wigram to watch the touchdown at 9.22 am on 11 September 1928. The crew was welcomed by Sir Heaton Rhodes before being taken to a civic reception in Cranmer Square.

The original granite slab which marked the landing site has been relocated to the Air Force World Museum but the site is still marked by a small stainless steel plaque covered over by turf to protect it from aeroplanes.

The requested funds will enable the re-enactment to take place, by an historical Dominey airplane, hired from the Board grant.

The recommended source of funds is the Board's discretionary fund, the current balance of which is \$37,165.00.

Recommendation: That the Board endorse the decision to make a grant to \$2,500 maximum to the Wigram Park Residents' Association to assist in their organising the 75 year anniversary celebrations for Charles Kingsford-Smith; the funds to be sourced from the Board's discretionary fund.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the Officer's recommendation be adopted.