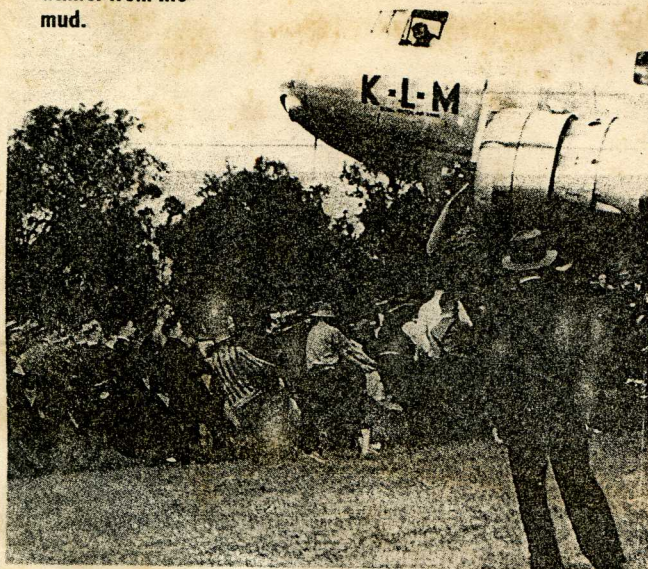


Good Weekend September 1989.

**Albury locals pull
KLM's 1934 race-
winner from the
mud.**

THE UIVER.



CLOGGING THE SKIES

◀ Although Qantas is often erroneously awarded the distinction of being the world's first airline, Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij, or simply KLM, was founded on October 7, 1919, well over a year before the inauguration of the Australian service. The national carrier of the Netherlands celebrates its 70th anniversary next month, and Australia figures prominently in its annals. Royal Dutch Airlines, the winner of the 1934 London-to-Melbourne air race — even though the plane became bogged in Albury, NSW — became the first international airline to use Sydney's Kingsford Smith

Airport on a scheduled overseas flight four years later. In KLM's infancy, passengers sat in open-air cabins and were provided with leather flying coats, helmets, gloves and goggles — and even a hot water bottle on cold days. The fare between London and Sydney was 207 pounds and included accommodation, meals — and even tips. The planes which travelled between the two cities had room for 11 passengers instead of the 21 allowed on European flights. Suitcases (supplied free by KLM) were placed beside footrests so that the passengers could have access to their luggage during the long journey.