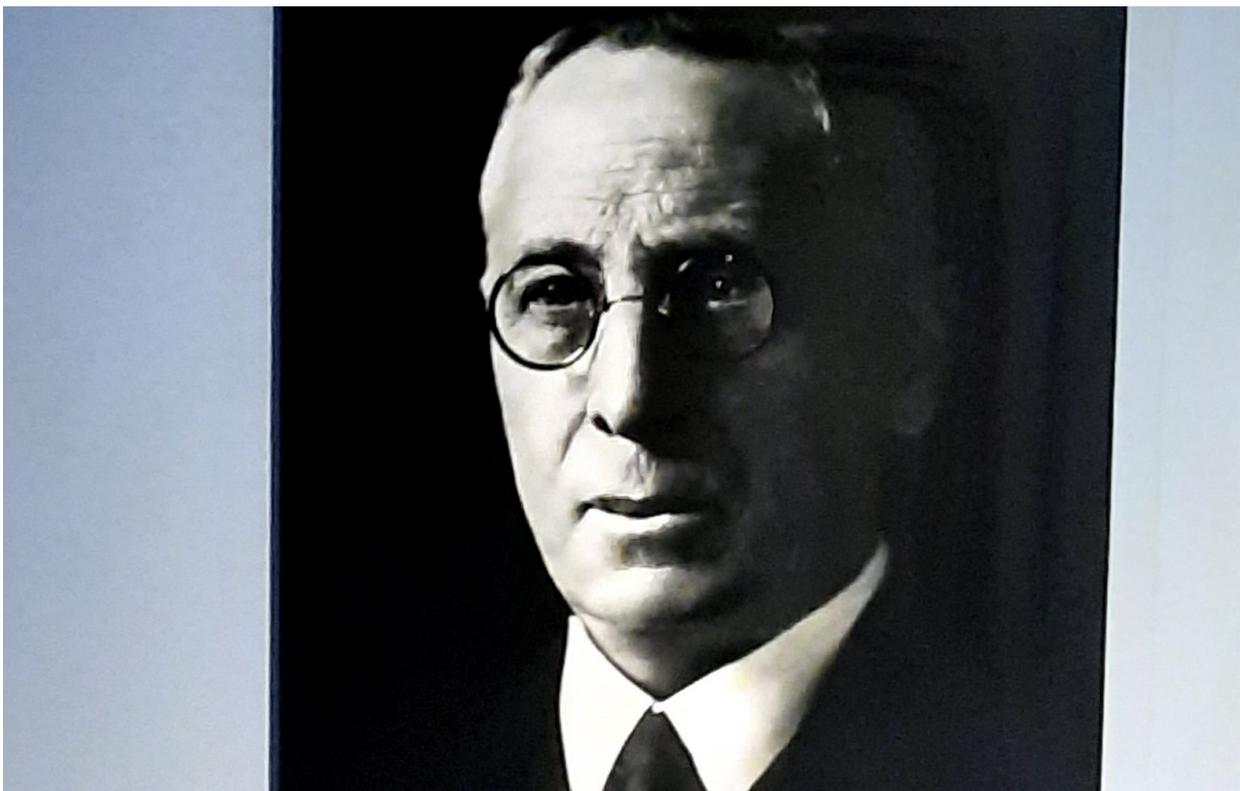




FLYNN AVENUE NAMESAKE

During the Holidays, our Bus Driver Russell and his wife Joanne, visited the Royal Flying Doctor Experience in Dubbo.

While they were there he took this photo with information about The Reverend John Flynn.





1928

Reverend John Flynn

Ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1911 and drawn to the outback, Reverend John Flynn set up hostels and bush hospitals for pastoralists, miners, road workers, and other settlers. He witnessed the daily struggle of pioneers living in remote areas and developed a vision to provide a 'mantle of safety' for people of the bush.

On 15 May 1928, a long-time supporter, H.V. McKay, left a large bequest for 'an aerial experiment'. This enabled Flynn to open the Australian Inland Mission Aerial Medical Service in Cloncurry, Queensland (later to be renamed the Royal Flying Doctor Service).

Over time, Flynn expanded the Service to include the first 'telehealth' services for those in the bush using the early radios of the time (which later led to the establishment of the School of the Air).

Rapid growth of the Service in those early days meant it soon reached people right across Australia. By the late 1930s, there were sections of the Flying Doctor (as it became known) operating in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Northern Territory and Queensland, and by the 1950s the Flying Doctor was acknowledged by former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies.

'Perhaps the single greatest contribution to the effective settlement of the far distant country that we have witnessed in our time.'

Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies

From the 1960s the Flying Doctor moved away from using aircraft contractors to progressively purchasing its own aircraft and employing its own pilots and engineers. Today, the Flying Doctor operates from 23 aerobases across Australia.

In 1994, the Australian Council Office collaborated with the Reserve Bank of Australia on the design of the Australian \$20 note, which now features the face of the Reverend John Flynn.

Portrait of Reverend John Flynn, ca. 1929

Photo courtesy of the National Library of Australia, <http://nla.gov.au/nla:img-1028222>

Rev. Flynn was the founder of the Flying Doctor Service. Flynn Avenue running alongside the College is named after him. The Very Reverend John Flynn, OBE, DD, "Flynn of the Inland" was born at Moliagul, central Victoria on 25 November, 1880.

It's good to be reminded of Christian men and women who have served and contributed in such major ways to the greater Australian community.
