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### It's planely Harry who did it in Diggers Rest

NEWS > PEOPLE | 03 SEP 08 @ 08:30AM | BY ANDREW JEFFERSON



The Houdini Monument on Holden Road, Diggers Rest.

MELTON Council has started planning commemorations to mark the 100-year anniversary of Harry Houdini's first controlled power flight of an aeroplane in Australia.

The famous American escapologist became the first person in Australia to successfully fly an aircraft on March 18, 1910 at Diggers Rest.

Interested community members are invited to provide feedback for the celebrations at a special community forum to be held this month.

The forum is on September 11 at Diggers Rest Community Hall, Plumpton Rd, between 7-8.30pm.

Melton Mayor Bruce Rowan said the event would

mark an important occasion in the shire's history.

"What Houdini achieved at Diggers Rest was a significant milestone in Australia's aviation history," Cr Rowan said.

"Houdini brought a Voisin biplane to Australia at the request of the Aerial League of Australia and used Plumptons Field in Diggers Rest as his base.

"After waiting through days of bad weather, he was finally able to fly on March 18, 1910."

Houdini and his Voisin made three successful flights at Diggers Rest, ranging from one minute to three minutes.

He reached an altitude of 100 feet (30 metres) and travelled a distance of more than two miles.

"This is a significant event in our shire's history and the history of Australia," Cr Rowan said.

"I encourage all interested residents to go along to the forum and contribute to the discussion about how they would like to see the occasion commemorated."

A monument to Houdini's flight is on Holden Rd, Diggers Rest.

How should Melton Council mark Houdini's milestone? Email melton@leadernews papers.com.au or write to: Melton/Moorabool Leader, 4/3 Alexandra St, Melton, Vic 3337.

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