



The Michelle Lappin Memorial Helicopter Scholarship 2026

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Michelle Lappin Memorial Helicopter Scholarship is established to honour the memory of Michelle Lappin, a passionate member of the Australian Women Pilots' Association. Michelle was an accomplished fixed wing powered pilot and glider pilot, RA-Aus instructor, Chief Flying Instructor of the Latrobe Valley Gliding Club, Chief Flying Instructor of her own Recreational Aviation school, Aerial Extras and RA-Aus accident investigator.

When she passed away in 2016, she was studying for a helicopter licence. Through her own example and friendship, Michelle encouraged and inspired women in the aviation community.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA:

- Be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or reside in Australia.
- Applicant must be an AWPAA member or have applied for AWPAA Membership prior to application and maintain membership for the duration of the scholarship
- Hold a current CASA Medical Certificate
- Minimum of 5 hours experience in a helicopter
- Scholarship monies are to be used by the recipient within 12 months, failure to do so without the written permission of the committee may result in forfeiture of the Scholarship

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Your application must be accompanied by the following:

1. Copy of your licence (GA or RA certificate)– all pages showing licences, ratings and endorsements
2. Copy of your current medical (GA or RA)
3. Copy of the last two pages of your open log book (both sides of the last two pages of your open log book)
4. Signed copies of references from named referees
5. Projected costs
6. An essay of up to 500 words addressing but not limited to:
 - How you intend to use this Scholarship

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APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 JANUARY 2026

- Explain how this award will enhance your flying skills and/or knowledge
 - Explain how the proposed training aligns with your aviation ambitions
 - Describe your commitment to support women to achieve excellence in aviation.
 - Describe how you currently contribute to encouraging and inspiring other women pilots or aspiring pilots, both in AWPA and other venues
7. Evidence of your Australian Citizenship, Permanent residency or Australian residential address

SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS:

1. Scholarship monies will be paid on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to the value of the Scholarship (currently \$2500) on presentation of invoices or validated receipts to State Scholarship coordinator
2. Scholarship funds may either be paid directly to Part 141 or 142 Flight Training Operators OR the applicant may have scholarship funds reimbursed to them if proof of payment to a Part 141 or 142 Flight Training Operator is provided.
3. The successful recipient will be announced at the Awards and Presentation Dinner at Airlie Beach on 9 May 2026.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

Applications are to be submitted electronically via the website.

Should you require a paper form of the application please Email:
scholarship.coordinator@awpa.org.au

Closure date: **31st of January 2026**

Note: Late applications will not be accepted.

If you need technical assistance please contact the Scholarship Coordinator.

For further information on this scholarship please contact the VIC scholarship co-ordinator via Email: vic.scholarships@awpa.org.au

Multiple scholarship applications will be accepted but an applicant can only be awarded one scholarship.