



The Freda Thompson and Claire Embling Aviation Award

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Freda Thompson and Claire Embling Aviation Award of up to \$2000, is intended to assist in the advancement of practical and/or theoretical training, has been established to honour the memory of Freda Thompson OBE, a staunch member of the Australian Women Pilots' Association. By her example and friendship she was able to encourage and inspire the members with whom she came into contact.

- In 1933 Freda was the first woman in the British Empire to gain an Instructor's Licence.
- In 1934 Freda was the first Australian woman to fly solo from England to Australia. This flight was made in a De Havilland Moth Major.
- In 1947 she was the first woman elected to the committee of the Royal Victorian Aero Club and in 1948 she became the first woman to be elected its President.
- The name of Freda's sister Claire Embling was added to the award in 2008 to acknowledge the financial support from this former (now deceased) member.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA:

- Applicant must 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
- Applicant must have RPC or RPL as a minimum and a minimum of 50 hours flying experience on powered aircraft
- Applicant must hold a current CASA Medical Certificate or RA Aus medical declaration

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

All scholarship applications must include the following items:

1. Your essay – tell us (in up to 500 words) how this scholarship will be used for training to enhance your practical flying skills and how it aligns with your aviation ambitions. Also describe how you demonstrate your commitment to encouraging and inspiring pilots both through AWPAA and other avenues.
2. Signed References from two flying referees.
3. A cost estimate from the proposed flying school or organisation must be included.
4. Copy of current CASA aviation Class 1 or 2 medical or RA Aus medical declaration.

Australian Women Pilots' Association - ABN 61 009 026 279 – September 2026

The Freda Thompson and Claire Embling Aviation Award 2027
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 JANUARY 2027

5. Provide Evidence of Australian Citizenship, Permanent Residency or Australian residential address.

SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS:

- Candidate may already be undertaking the rating, endorsement or training being applied for but only those invoices for training taken after the application closing date will be considered for the award
- Award monies will be paid on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to the value of the Award
- Award 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 Award
- Scholarship funds may either be paid directly to a Part 141 or 142 Flight Training Operator, or an RAAus Training provider or the applicant may have scholarships funds reimbursed to them if proof of payment to a Part 141 or 142 Flight Training Operator or RAAus training provider is provided. Note: Gliding Clubs are not subject to the Part 141 or Part 142 requirement and the applicant can be reimbursed following proof of payment to a Gliding Club
- The successful applicant will be announced at the annual AWPAs National Awards and Presentation Dinner on
- In the event there are no suitable applications for the 1974 Memorial Grant your application may also be considered for that award, subject to you meeting the criteria.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

Applications are to be submitted electronically via the website.

Closure date: **31st of January 2027**

Note: Late applications will not be accepted.

If you need technical assistance please contact the Scholarship Coordinator.

scholarship.coordinator@awpa.org.au

For further information about this scholarship please contact the VIC Scholarship Coordinator: vic.scholarships@awpa.org.au

Each applicant can apply for a maximum of four scholarships and may be awarded one attendance and one general scholarship.