

## The Life of Brian

IN the October issue of *RDU* we introduced a unique opportunity for budding young aviators – the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians Brian Condon Memorial Flying Scholarship. This month we learn more about the scholarship’s namesake and his life-long love of aviation and Rotary.

The \$5,000 International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians Brian Condon Memorial Flying Scholarship is paid as a contribution towards the successful applicant’s recreational pilot licence – the first step in obtaining their private or commercial pilot licence.

The intention behind the

scholarship is to foster an interest in aviation as a career or hobby, within the context of Rotary’s many youth initiatives.

The scholarship is named in honour of Brian Condon OAM, a member and past world president of the IFFR. Brian was a dedicated son, husband, father, brother, outstanding Rotarian, and a skilled aviator.

Brian’s love of flying started when he was five years old. Sir Charles Kingsford Smith was doing joy flights in the Southern Cross to fundraise for his overseas ventures, and Brian had a flight with Smithy in Port Pirie, SA. In the 1980s he was also given an opportunity to fly in the Southern Cross replica. He was probably the only person to have ever flown in both of those planes; a feat not even Smithy achieved!

As a pilot, his greatest thrill in the skies was when he and wife Joyce had two separate flights on the Concorde from New York to London. On one of those, they were lucky enough to be invited to sit in the jump seats in the cockpit with the captain.

Brian was heavily involved in Rotary and with the IFFR. It was a huge part of his life, and he made so many lifelong friends along the way. He was still flying his beloved Cessna aircraft VH-WXM until he was 90 years of age!

“Aviation has absolutely changed my life. The most significant thing in my life was learning to fly,” Brian said in 2016. “It hones your attitude to life. When you are up there in the three dimensions, you are in a different world.”

Brian amassed circa 3,400 hours as pilot-in-command after first learning to fly in 1968. He saw it as an efficient way to increase sales in the vast South Australian outback while working for Coca-Cola.

He became a member of the Rotary Club of Port Pirie in 1958 and was president 1969-71. Brian received every Paul Harris Fellow award up to three rubies; the first in 1976. He joined the IFFR in 1972 and was world president from 1994-96.

In 2007, he received the Order of Australia Medal for service to the community, particularly through the Rotary Club of Port Pirie and the IFFR.

The IFFR is honoured to name their scholarship after this generous Rotarian and passionate aviator. *RDU*

BELOW: Brian Condon and Joyce with their plane, *Whiskey Xray Mike*.



## Rotary car to serve our youth

By Paige Sullivan  
President, Rotary Club of Lincoln, NZ

YOUNG people in Canterbury, NZ, will now be able to access free healthcare at the 298 Youth Health Centre regardless of their transport situation, thanks to 19 Rotary clubs from across Christchurch.

The 298 provides free healthcare and counselling to young people aged 10-25 in Greater Christchurch. Established in 1995, it is one of 11 Youth One Stop Shops (YOSS) in New Zealand, providing a number of youth services in one place. While 298’s services are free, they identified that a large barrier to accessing healthcare was transport. Rotary Club of Lincoln President Paige Sullivan has been involved as a trustee of 298 Youth Health for several years and

identified an opportunity for Rotary to get involved in a worthy cause.

Her project began with a simple plan: raise money to buy a car for 298. She decided to set her sights a little higher and aim to bring together every single Rotary club in the greater Christchurch area. Then, she set them a little higher again and aimed for a late model, low-kilometre car. An inclusive model was established where every club could join in and have their name on the car equally, regardless of their dollar contribution. This meant that even the smallest clubs could get involved, and it worked!

One year later, a visit to every club was completed and \$31,000 was raised from

19 Rotary clubs, a district grant, the Hugo Trust, and two individual donations. The project received incredible sponsorship from Cockram MG and Signbiz, which donated a sponsored vinyl wrapping job worth \$10,000.

In late August, a brand new 2022 MG was handed over to 298, vinyl wrapped with the names of all 19 Rotary clubs and sponsors.

“We hosted a reveal event with over 30 Rotarians attending, followed by tours of 298,” said Paige. “For an organisation that never dreamed of owning a car, to own a brand new one is super exciting and will make a huge difference to the lives of young people accessing 298.” *RDU*

ABOVE: Rotary Club of Lincoln President Paige Sullivan with the new vehicle.




### ‘THE IFFR BRIAN CONDON MEMORIAL FLYING SCHOLARSHIP’

Applications are invited via Australian Rotary Clubs for a Flying Scholarship in memory of Brian Condon, Australia’s first IFFR World President. The concept is to foster an interest in aviation as a career or hobby, within the context of Rotary’s many Youth initiatives. Your Club can participate by seeking applications from youth within your community.



A Flying Scholarship to the value of \$5,000 will be provided by IFFR being a contribution to the successful applicant’s Recreational Pilot Licence as a first step in obtaining their Private or Commercial Pilot Licence.

**The sky is the limit!**

To request an Application Form please make contact directly with:  
 Rob Hannemann (IFFR Australian Chair) at [rob@maktrans.com.au](mailto:rob@maktrans.com.au) or  
 Mike McFarlane (VP Asia - Australasia) at [mikemcf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mikemcf@bigpond.net.au)

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