

New Australian Author Book Release

CONQUERING CLOUDS

RUTH E WILSON

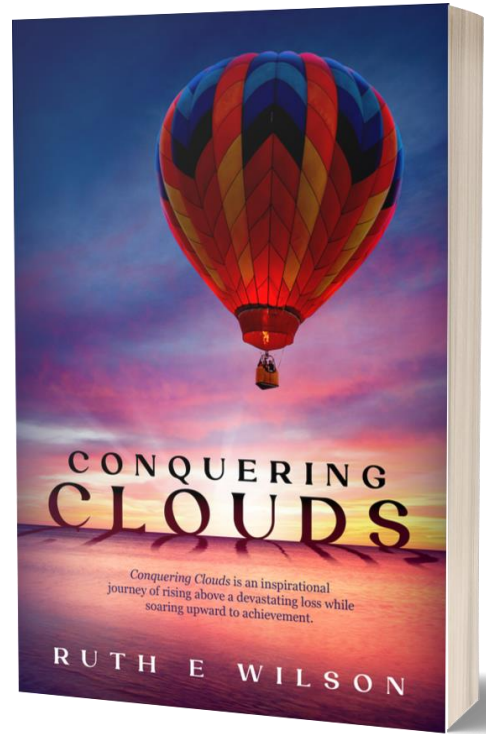
***RUTH, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HER LIFE EXPERIENCES,
HAS CHOSEN THE SKY AS HER PLAYGROUND...***

Ruth E Wilson, Australia's first champion balloonist, was born during World War II as the illegitimate daughter of a mining family, from where she escaped the confinement of the two-room, fibro garage known as home when secretly she entered and won a local beauty contest aged 17. Married by age 20, she was initially content to follow her husband's career, taking her from Sydney across to the American country clubs, to the enigmatic culture of Japan, where she fell afoul of the Japanese Yakuza. But conventional female roles proved too confining for the restless soul of this determined adventurer.

Years later, and after learning of a dark family secret, Ruth discovered the world of ballooning and a new passion fired within her soul. Challenges at each turn made those early days worth every small triumph as Ruth became known quickly as one of the early pioneers in Australian ballooning.

To this day, she is still one of the world's elite female gas ballooning competitors.

Conquering Clouds is an inspirational journey of rising above a devastating loss while soaring upward to achievement. It is a reminder of our universal quest for freedom, love and fulfilment and the unique tale of adventure in which a young girl's dream to leave darkness behind is achieved through her sheer, indomitable force of spirit.



Visit shawlinepublishing.com.au for more details on the author, Ruth E Wilson.

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A LIFE OF NOTABLE FIRSTS - RUTH E WILSON

1959, Age 16: First female to play the Last Post on Anzac Day at her hometown, Bowen North Queensland.

1960, Age 17: Crowned the First Queen of the Coral Coast.

1973, Age 30: First Australian winner Squash Championship Kobe Japan.

1976, Age 33: First female balloonist in New Zealand.

1977, Age 34: First commercial ballooning company established and managed by a sole female pilot in Australia.

1979, Age 36: First National Champion of the Australian Open Hot Air Ballooning Championship.

1981, Age 38: First Australian female to compete in World Open Hot Air Ballooning Championship in USA.

1983, Age 40: First Australian female to compete in World Open Hot Air Ballooning Championship in France.

1987, Age 44: First Australian female to compete in World Open Hot Air Ballooning Championship in Austria.

1988, Age 45: Created & managed one of the major Bicentennial Celebrations, the Trans-Australia Ballooning Challenge; a 16 day fly/drive expedition from Perth to Sydney. Participants from 23 countries flew 78 hot air balloons.

1989, Age 46: World Record Night Sky Jump from her hot air balloon.

1995, Age 52: Responsible for pioneering media campaigns to Introduce Antioxidants, Omega Oil supplements to the Australian public.

1999, Age 56: First and only Australian female to compete as Pilot-in-Command in the prestigious gas balloon race, Gordon Bennett Cup, from Albuquerque USA.

2002, Age 59: Chief Operations Officer ARC Centre for Quantum-Atom Optics at the Australian National University – Pioneering Centre for this science.

2018, Age 75: First Australian female pilot-in-command to cross the Swiss Alps and the Italian Dolomites in a hydrogen balloon.

A Conversation with Ruth

**Why did you write ‘Conquering Clouds’?
What were your inspirations?**

Initially I wanted to write about the history of Australian ballooning as I was one of the first few pilots in my country. Then I worked to bring in more of my personal journey (with help from my UK editor)

My final commitment came from my achievement at age 75, representing my country – launching at night in a hydrogen balloon from Bern, Switzerland along with 19 other balloons with pilots (male) to compete in the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett.

I was awake for 33 hours, with little water (froze due to below freezing temps), flying at 15,000 feet above snow-covered alps to land in an Italian vineyard. Met hell in the sky along the way and survived. I am hopeful my story will prove inspirational to others to keep following their dreams and not be swayed by age.

And finally, my story is a legacy for my two grandchildren.

How had you decided on the best characters for the book?

I chose to include those who touched my life emotionally or contributed to my challenges and achievements.

What was the biggest challenge when writing the book?

Trying to create a balance in my story between flying adventures and personal life stories.

What was your hardest scene to write?

My conversation with my adopted father on why he was so physical with my brother who eventually committed suicide.

What kind of research do you do?

For my first book, I flew to Perth and interviewed twelve characters and gathered notes from the aero club’s files on its history.

What did you edit out of this book?

I edited out more ballooning exploits to try to bring a life balance to my story.

What are the ethics of writing?

To be true to yourself and to not bring hurt to another person.

How do you create or model your characters to fit the requirements of the story and the expectations of the readers?

I write to give an honest description of my characters and how they fit into the story.



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