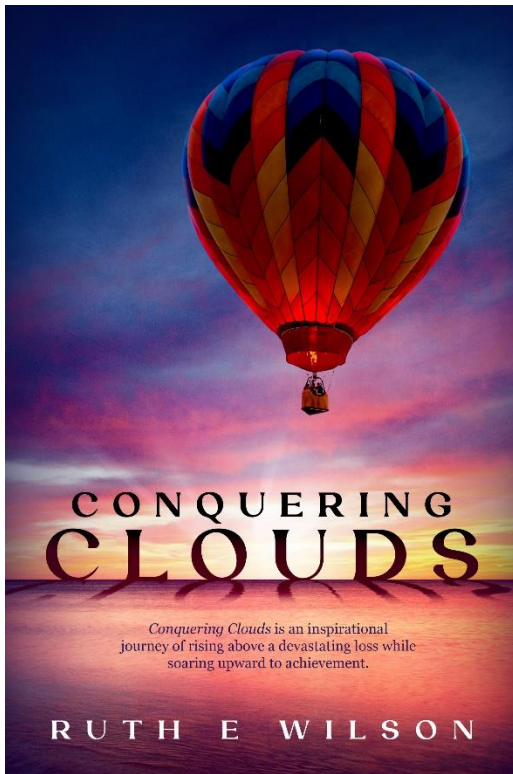


CONQUERING CLOUDS

RUTH E WILSON



Conquering Clouds is the story of pivotal moments and experiences throughout Ruth Wilson's life that led her to find the courage to pilot her hydrogen balloon over the snow-covered Swiss Alps at night to land in an Italian vineyard. At 75 this adventurer was definitely not swayed by her age.

Her fight to survive a marlin fishing accident in the waters near Byron Bay is riveting.

Ruth acknowledges that her rescue by a pod of dolphins is the reason she is alive today.

"An inspirational and fascinating account of transcending multiple limitations to reach heights of bravery and success while keeping heart, love, and soul intact. Ruth has lived a remarkable life – it's time everyone knew about it." Carolinda Witt, award-winning author, 'Double Agent Celery MI5's Crooked Hero.'

"Conquering Clouds is an unputdownable memoir of a remarkable woman. This book has it all – from impoverished childhood, death-defying adventures, failed romances and international fame as a balloonist, Ruth proves she conquered far more than clouds." - Libby Harkness ghostwriter of the best-selling memoir Turia Pitt's 'Everything to Live For'.

ISBN	9781922594648
Publication Date	MAR 1 2022
Genre	Non-fiction, Memoir
Format	Paperback
Audience	General
Location	Corlette, NSW

Price available on our site

AUTHOR BIO

Adventurer at birth. Aviator for 46 years. Author first published 2018. Same year piloted her hydrogen balloon at night along the snow-covered Swiss Alps at age 75. Landed in Italy.

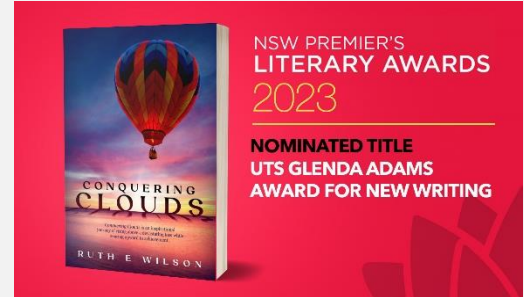
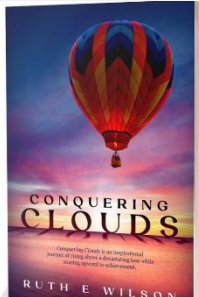
A pioneer – numerous FIRSTS throughout her corporate and aviation life.

Her ballooning has taken her throughout Europe, Canada, USA, New Zealand and Japan where she has accumulated numerous fun stories of flights and landings.

A mother of two sons who both flew balloons in their earlier years. Her two grandchildren find her sharing of the mystic amusing. She lives near water, collects Native American art, potted plants and teapots.



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CONQUERING CLOUDS

RUTH E WILSON

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

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 33hours, 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?

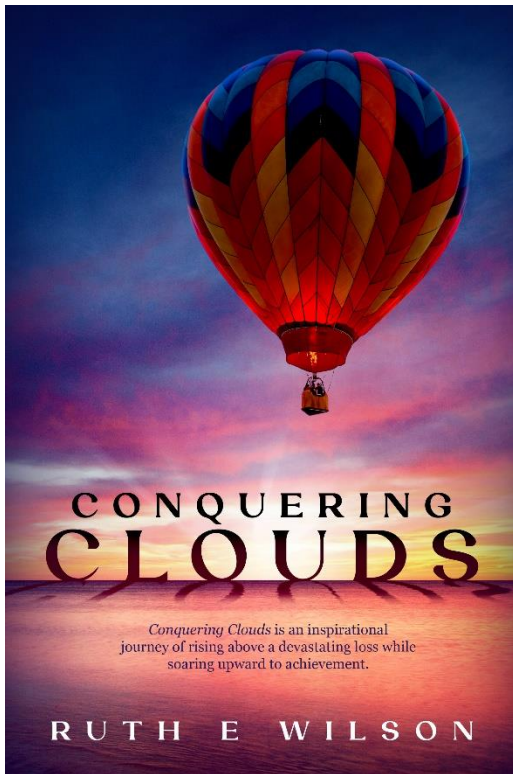
Trying to create a balance in my story between flying adventures and personal life stories.

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.



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CONQUERING CLOUDS

RUTH E WILSON

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.

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