

MEDIA ALERT

CONQUERING CLOUDS Gathers International Readers

Ruth Wilson is a courageous, adventurous and very determined woman. Her fascinating story is unputdownable. Amanda Hampson, Bestselling author of 'The Olive Sisters'.

Ruth Wilson was presented with the prestigious Swiss Federation Aéronautique Internationale Paul Tissandier Diploma for serving the cause of Aviation in general and Sporting Aviation in particular, by her work, initiative, devotion and in other ways by Ms Pip Spence CEO/Director, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in Sydney earlier in 2022.

Ms Wilson began her 47-year flying career in 1975 with her first balloon flight in New Zealand. She won the inaugural Australian Ballooning Championship in 1979 representing Australia in a further five world championships and other international competitions.

As the only Australian female pilot to command a hydrogen balloon twice in the history of the prestigious Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett (<https://www.fai.org/gordonbennett>) Ruth Wilson flew her hydrogen balloon *Bernadette* lifting off at night from Bern Switzerland to climb to 15,000 feet to fly the length of the snow-covered Swiss Alps. After 33 hours without sleep, water bottles frozen she and her navigator Tanys McCarron landed in an Italian vineyard. The only all-female team participants were feted by their male competitors on return to Bern Switzerland. Chapter 56 in her memoir, **Conquering Clouds**, covers the highs and lows of such a mammoth challenge.

Chapter 37 finds Ruth being saved by a pod of dolphins after being wrecked on a marlin fishing expedition near Byron Bay. Her story of her emotional journey with her brother Ron, a Vietnam Vet, ends with his suicide.

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For further information: www.ruthwilson.net

Media kit for her memoir at Shawline Publishing Group:

<https://www.shawlinepublishing.com.au/our-titles/non-fiction/display/168-conquering-clouds>