

# Gliding Scholarship 2023

Emmanuel Biju Joseph

I am grateful and deeply honoured to have successfully completed the Honourable Company of AirPilots Gliding Scholarship. I am delighted to share that, from initially harbouring a mere aspiration to take flight, I now find myself eager to find my next opportunity to fly. Starting from a point where I had never even sat in a glider, I have now reached the stage where I can confidently take off and operate a glider.

The week spent during my scholarship was nothing short of a transformative experience. It began with meeting a group of strangers in dorms, who swiftly evolved into cherished friends. They definitely made the one week a whole lot more enjoyable. By being a part of a gliding club, we were surrounded by a group of passionate pilots with insurmountable enthusiasm and energy to share their love of flying, and that was an unexpected privilege. I was not only taught the art of flying but was also encouraged to push my limits and extract the best from myself. Being out on the airfield necessitated each of us to step up, assume responsibility at every instance, and constantly be of support to the crew. I cannot help but mention how this scholarship has been more than a flight training program; it has been a journey of camaraderie, teamwork, and unyielding dedication. In this environment, I forged invaluable friendships, found mentors who inspired me, and discovered a wealth of motivation during my time.

I am deeply thankful to HCAP for providing such a remarkable opportunity to young individuals like us. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to PNGC, with special appreciation for Dave and Emree, who meticulously organised our week and managed the entire logistics of our course. Lastly and most importantly, I want to express my profound thanks to Deborah Pooley for offering me the Ken Lyndon-Dykes Scholarship; I owe you much.

This scholarship represents not the culmination, but rather the initiation of my journey. I am committed to continuing my pursuit of piloting, and I'm currently working towards going solo and eventually my PPL. Once again, I am grateful from the very bottom of my heart to all those who've worked to provide me this wonderful opportunity, and I will do you proud.