



NEWS RELEASE

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Rod Davison, President of the **Hastings District Flying Club** awarded three youth flying scholarships to **Jack Hansen**, **Noah Douglas**, and **Luke Everson**, who demonstrate a passion and potential that reflect the future of aviation excellence.

Passion for Aviation Flies High for Youths at Hastings District Flying Club (HDFC)

HDFC awarded three youth flying scholarships and celebrated the outstanding achievements of pilots, aviators, and club members at their annual dinner and awards presentation.

Port Macquarie, NSW, Australia, 7th December 2024 - The Hastings District Flying Club (HDFC) hosted its annual Dinner and Awards Presentation on Saturday, 7th December 2024. HDFC has been key in promoting the passion for aviation among youths. They are proud to award three flying scholarships this year to Jack Hansen, Noah Douglas, and Luke Everson, who demonstrate a passion and potential that reflect the future of aviation excellence.

As one of the leaders in Recreational Flying Training, HDFC offers annual scholarships worth \$1,500 to youths aged between 14 and 20 years old. HDFC's dedicated team of instructors brings their multi-faceted experience from years of aviation to provide a thorough, professional and high quality flying training. Scholarship recipients have 12 months to complete their training in the Sling2 aircraft, which will lead to a Recreational Aviation Australia pilot certificate. Many of HDFC's scholarship recipients went on to pursue careers in aviation.



“HDFC has a proud legacy of igniting a passion in young people to chase their dreams. Our dedicated instructors excel at channeling that enthusiasm into action, motivating our scholarship recipients to dive into their training right away and fully embrace the journey. Through their commitment to both theory and practice, these young pilots cultivate a strong sense of discipline and determination. Watching them take to the skies for the first time is a transformative moment—boosting their confidence in a way that stays with them, shaping not only their future in aviation but also their lives beyond their time with us at HDFC.”

– **Rod Davison, President, Hastings District Flying Club**

“Our students emerge transformed after earning their Pilot’s Certificate—more mature, disciplined, confident, and responsible. These qualities remain with them for life, setting them apart in every arena, even if they choose not to pursue a professional flying career. It’s a profound privilege for every young individual who takes to the skies. At HDFC, our mission is to produce GREAT and RESPECTED pilots. We achieve this by upholding the highest standards of aviation safety and disciplined airmanship through precise, professional flying training and our invaluable Pilot Proficiency Days. Among RA-AUS Flying Schools and General Aviation Schools, we stand unmatched in our commitment to excellence.”

– **Ray Lind, Chief Flying Instructor and Club Captain, Hastings District Flying Club (since 1990)**

Aviators Awards

HDFC also gave out 11 first solo awards, 7 pilots earned their wings and can now call themselves pilots, 2 pilots completed their cross country endorsements, and 4 experienced pilots transitioned to Light Sport Aircraft.



Max Pursehouse as Student Pilot of the Year 2024, was celebrated for his dedication, perseverance, and outstanding achievements, from earning his first solo flight to receiving his wings and passenger endorsement.



Pilot of the Year Jon Bown received this prestigious award for his exceptional piloting skills, dedication to the club, and invaluable support in ensuring smooth operations.



HDFC Club Awards

Bruce Dunlop earned his upgrade to **Senior Flying Instructor** after successfully training three students to solo standard, demonstrating exceptional mentorship and skill. **Bruce** was recognised for his unwavering commitment to the club's success and was awarded **Club Person of the Year 2024**.

Life Memberships were awarded to Steve Smith, Vice-President and Senior Flying Instructor, David Toulson who is also HDFC's Treasurer and Bruce Dunlop, Secretary and Senior Flying Instructor.



Bruce Dunlop, Club Person of the Year 2024 and Life Membership 2024



Steve Smith, Life Membership 2024



David Toulson, Life Membership 2024

HDFC stands out in the community as a nucleus for promoting a passion for aviation, making flying dreams come true for youths, and providing a trusted training ground for amateur pilots. HDFC also has a strong air of camaraderie which comes from its range of social and flying activities which pilots, families, friends, and visiting pilots participate in such as Pilot Proficiency Day, Tri Club Competition, Fly and Spy, Sausage Sizzles and Restaurant Nights. The club's strong base of dedicated instructors, engineers, committee members, and volunteers ensure the club remains a beacon of aviation excellence.

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Get the full list of award winners here: <https://www.hdfc.com.au/single-post/hastings-district-flying-club-celebrates-achievements-at-the-2024-presentation-night>

Photos:

Jack Hansen, recipient of the HDFC Flying Scholarship 2024

Luke Everson, recipient of the HDFC Flying Scholarship 2024

Noah Douglas, recipient of the HDFC Flying Scholarship 2024

Max Pursehouse, Student Pilot of the Year 2024

Jon Bown, Pilot of the Year 2024

ABOUT HASTINGS DISTRICT FLYING CLUB

The Hastings District Flying Club is where people who believe in their flying dreams come together since 1958. HDFC has a long and proud history dating back to 1958. It operates a flying club and Recreational Aviation flying school out of Port Macquarie on the New South Wales Mid North Coast, with a hangar and club house at the airport.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.hdfc.com.au>

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