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**VICTORIAN SOARING ASSOCIATION**

**JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

The Victorian Soaring Association (VSA) is recognized by the Gliding Federation of Australia and the Victorian State Government as the peak administration body for all glider pilots and gliding clubs in the Victoria and Tasmania regions. Its members are gliding clubs, including near border clubs affiliated with the VSA. We recognize and unite all VSA member glider pilots and represent their interests. Our mission is to work from a base of member organizations to provide a safe environment for all people to experience the thrill of gliding and achieve lifelong enjoyment from the sport and to foster strong clubs, encouraging enthusiastic participation by volunteering, inclusion and diversity whilst maintaining robust safety systems.

In line with our mission, the Victorian Soaring Association (VSA) can offer scholarships to encourage young people to take up gliding, either as a pathway to a career in aviation or for the pure enjoyment of a unique sport.

This year, the VSA will provide up to six (6) scholarships in total. Their will be four (4) general scholarships valued at $1000 each and two (2) scholarships valued at $500 each. The awarding of the scholarships will be based on the current VSA Gliding Vic/Tas YouthGlide and YesGirlsGlide scholarship criteria already in place.

Applications are now sought for the 2024 VSA Junior Gliding Scholarships, for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

The scholarships will be open to applicants who have reached the age of 15 years by 1 September, 2024 and who will be no older than 26 years by 31st August, 2025.

The scholarship does not include Gliding Federation of Australia or Club membership costs. Detailed scholarship conditions and application process are summarized below.

**Applications are NOW OPEN and are to be received no later than 11.59 pm on 31st August, 2024 addressed to:**

**VSA YouthGlide Scholarship Committee**

**State Gliding Centre**

**Samaria Road, Benalla 3672**

**OR EMAIL TO:** secretary@victas.glidingaustralia.org

**VSA Junior Scholarship Guidelines**

The award of the scholarship will be subject to the following [guidelines](#guidelines):

1. The name of the scholarship is the “VSA Junior Scholarship". The scholarships are open to all genders.
2. The scholarships will be open to applicants who have reached the age of 15 years by 1 September, 2024 and who will be no older than 26 years by 31st August, 2025.
3. The scholarship will be administered by a committee of the applicant’s gliding club and awarded at the discretion of that committee.
4. Applicants are required to submit the attached form describing their suitability for the scholarship. The application should explain their goals (both in gliding and in aviation generally), why they are deserving of the scholarship, and what benefit they believe they will bring to the sport of gliding.
5. Junior pilots in receipt of funding under any of the VSA programs are expected to:
* Provide an interview for the VSA Newsletter and/or Gliding Australia magazine
* Publicise their experiences to young people via social media and share with the VSA Facebook page to broaden the appeal of gliding to other young people.
* Be available for appearances and to assist at Club or VSA marketing events
* Maintain a level of activity which ensures consistent training progress noting that there will be times when educational study has priority.
1. Clubs making applications are expected to:
* Provide additional subsidies to junior pilots either on flying rates, club membership or both.
* Hold the VSA Funds in trust and utilise them to reimburse flight training expenses.
* Ensure the junior pilot achieves a satisfactory rate of progress.
* Provide the VSA with an acquittal of expenses per student at the end of 12 months.
* Return any surplus monies if the student discontinues the program.
* Provide VSA with a report of involvement in volunteer activities.
1. The VSA supports family participation, where possible, in order that the junior pilots are given ongoing encouragement and recognition.
2. The scholarship funds are not for Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA) or Club membership. These must be paid independently by the scholarship holder prior to any flying.
3. The scholarship amount will be placed into the successful applicants’ flying accounts held by their Gliding Club.
4. All instructor tuition, flying log book and training aids are provided free. Launch fees for winch and aero-towing will be at the standard junior rates and are the major costs of the Scholarship.
5. The Scholarship will end on 31st August, 2025 and unused funds returned to the Victorian Soaring Association. The investment policy for the scholarship funds is to be in accordance with the applicant’s Gliding Club’s general investment policies.
6. Unused scholarship funds after first solo remain available for subsequent post solo gliding and gliding training until their withdrawal after the end of the scholarship period.
7. Applicants must be aware that gliding clubs are volunteer organisations and team work is required on the airfield to keep flying operations running smoothly. It is a requirement of the recipients to be punctual and prepared for each day’s flying tasks and to actively participate in all general flying routines as directed.
8. Applicants must belong to a gliding club that adheres to the [VSA Child Protection Guideline](https://www.victastest.glidingaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/child-protection-guidelines-in-victorian-gliding-clubs-1.pdf)s and its committee members have undertaken the Sport Integrity Australia [Play by the Rules](https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/login/index.php) training for Victorian gliding clubs and the credentials loaded to their member profile on the GFA JustGo system.

**Scholarship Application and Award Processes**

1. Applicants must complete the attached application form with the required information. The submission may include optional graphics or photography of any existing flight training undertaken. Applications and supporting submissions should be the original work of the applicant and must be certified by the nominated advocates.
2. In preparing the submission, applicants should describe why gliding and flying is important to them. This could include descriptions of what gliding related experiences or research have affected them, their appreciation of soaring flight or the fellowship of aviators. It is important to describe future aspirations, such as gliding being a pathway to a career in aviation or for sporting enjoyment, and what benefit they will bring to the sport of gliding in Australia.
3. Submissions may also describe circumstances that affect their ability to learn to glide or get access to gliding facilities. Submissions might also be supported by a referee statement, if desired.

Applications will be judged by the VSA Judging Committee. The considerations of the committee are confidential and final. Judging criteria are merit based and include:

* The quality and originality of the application.
* The motivation and aptitude of the applicant, including evidence of commitment, research and effort.
* Strength of aspirations in gliding and flying, and
* The future benefit of gliding to the applicant and the Australian gliding movement.

The VSA Judging Committee may also consider any special social, economic, distance and opportunity factors, and Advocates’ comments.

The VSA Judging Committee will judge the most deserving applicant, in terms of their effort, commitment, aptitude, motivation and aspirations and recognising any special social, economic, distance or opportunity factors, as most likely to benefit from a scholarship and grow within the Australian gliding movement.

Successful applicants may be requested to attend a modest awards ceremony, with accompanying photography and post-award publicity. Applicants are encouraged to make personal contact with members of their local gliding movement, particularly junior members through the Australian Junior Gliding Club.

Further information is available from a number of sources:

Victorian Soaring Association: <https://victas.glidingaustralia.org/youthglide>

Gliding Federation Australia: <https://glidingaustralia.org/>

Australian Junior Gliding Club: <https://www.juniorsoaring.org/>

**APPLICATION FOR**

 **VICTORIAN SOARING ASSOCIATION JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP**

Applicant’s details are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant’s first name |  | Applicant’s middle name/s |  |
| Applicant’s last name |  |
| Home street address |  |
| Suburb | Postcode |  |
| Postal address (if different from home address) |  |
| Suburb | Postcode |  |
| Telephone Home (03) |  |
| Mobile Number  |  |
| Parent/Guardian Mobile number |  |
| Email address |  |
| Parent/Guardian email address |  |
| Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) | Gender (Please tick applicable – Female, Male, Other or Prefer Not to Say) |  F |  M | O |  P |
| Gliding Club Name |  |
| Gliding Australia Member Number |  |

Please describe how you will benefit from receiving a Scholarship:

Please describe why a gliding scholarship is important to your future:

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

* I certify that the attached submission is my own original work and not AI generated and has been approved by the club’s advocates as designated.
* I am aware that gliding clubs are volunteer organisations and team work is required on the airfield to keep flying operations running smoothly. I agree to be punctual and prepared for each day’s flying tasks and to actively participate in all general flying routines as directed.

**Acknowledgement**

* I confirm that I have read, understood and agree to the Terms and Conditions in the VSA Junior Scholarship Guidelines (as above).

**Privacy**

The information collected on the application form will be used by Victorian Soaring Association Judging Committee to assess your application for funding. The VSA may wish to provide certain information to the media in relation to the YouthGlide and YesGirlsGlide programs for promotional purposes associated with the VSA Junior Scholarship Fund. The information provided will only include the applicant’s first name, surname, age, town, and/or gliding event and grant. Information collected on this form will be retained as required by all relevant Acts and regulations. If you have any further questions regarding your privacy, please contact the VSA Secretary by e-mail at

secretary@victas.glidingaustralia.org.

Signature of Applicant:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Parent / Guardian Endorsement (if applicant under 18 years of age):

|  |
| --- |
| I/We have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions outlined above and certify that all information provided in the funding application is correct. My signature below signifies agreement to the conditions of this offer. |
| Parent / Guardian’s Name: |
| Signature: | Date (dd/mm/yyyy) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MAIL:** VSA Junior Scholarship CommitteeState Gliding CentreSamaria Road, Benalla 3672 Victoria  | **EMAIL TO:** secretary@victas.glidingaustralia.org |

Please tell us what is the most important factor about the applicant that makes them deserving of a Gliding Scholarship:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE FOLLOWING ADVOCATES OF YOUR GLIDING CLUB**

**Club President or Chief Flying Instructor or Level 2 Flight Instructor**

The applicant’s gliding club must provide a copy of the club’s current

Child Safety Policy.

Gliding Club Advocate signature:

Gliding Club Name: ………………………………….….confirm that:

* We are an Accredited YouthGlide Centre

or

* We have attached the Gliding VicTas Child Safe Standards - [Child Safe Policy](https://victas.glidingaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/VSA-Child-Safe-Policy-24082022.pdf) which is displayed at our club.
* We adhere to the [VSA Child Protection Guidelines](https://www.victastest.glidingaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/child-protection-guidelines-in-victorian-gliding-clubs-1.pdf) for Victorian gliding clubs which is displayed at our club and a copy is attached.
* Our club committee has undertaken the Sport Integrity Australia [Play by the Rules](https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/login/index.php) training and credentials loaded to their member profile on the GFA JustGo system.

Gliding Club Advocate:

*(Please choose one and tick appropriate qualification)*

* Club President - Name: …………………………………………….
* Chief Flying Instructor Name: ………………………………………
* Level 2 Name: ……………………………………………………….

Club advocate contact phone number: