

Global citizen leads the way for women in aviation

The self-confessed “global citizen” is leading the way for an increasing number of women

who are choosing to pursue a career in aviation.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- IT was money that stopped her flying the skies but an empty bank account has led Dutch international [Airways Aviation](#) student Marije Kenter to achieve her dream of flying helicopters. The self-confessed “global citizen” is leading the way for an increasing number of women who are choosing to pursue a career in aviation.

Since 2010 the 24-year-old has travelled the globe, living in parts of Asia and on a sailing boat while also spending time volunteering at an orphanage in Cambodia where she taught English and arts and crafts to children.

But after returning to Malaysia, Ms Kenter made the decision to travel to Australia in search of work after running out of money.

“It was either go home or go to Australia to work and so I did that,” she said.

Ms Kenter spent time working in the mines at Karratha where she was in close contact with numerous [helicopter](#) pilots who convinced her to follow her dream of flying.

“I did a lesson in a fixed wing when I was 17 and loved the feeling of being in the air and in control,” Ms Kenter said.

“I was always interested in flying aeroplanes but didn’t think it was something I could ever do.

“But after talking with the pilots at Karratha I decided I didn’t want to fly aeroplanes but helicopters instead.

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“I had a look around at different schools and Airways Aviation seemed to have the best course for international students.” Ms Kenter began her Commercial Pilots Licence (CPL-H)



Airways Aviation international Commercial Pilots Licence (CPL-H) student Marije Kenter.



course in February before celebrating her first solo flight last week.

"It went really well and it was something I wasn't expecting," Ms Kenter said.

"I wasn't too nervous and felt confident because the instructor was really good."

Ms Kenter said she was aiming to finish the course by September and gain experience flying in the tourism industry before one day working as a search and rescue pilot.

Airways Aviation Managing Director Ted Kabbout said there has been a marked increase in women becoming involved in the industry through flight training and other non-traditional areas.

"I think the perception of those jobs has now changed and there are as many opportunities there for women as well as men," Mr Kabbout said.

"There is a greater acceptance in the work force and a greater belief among women that they can easily handle the positions.

"The biggest areas of global growth we've seen in female commercial pilot numbers are in the engineering departments for both fixed wing and rotary craft.

"We have a lot of female engineers and a growing number of female pilots working around the world."

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