

High flying Scout Chloe Familton takes to the skies before she can drive

The sky's no limit for Sydney high-schooler Chloe Familton – a qualified pilot with more hours in the cockpit than behind the wheel.



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Meet Chloe Familton – the Scout flying a plane before she can drive a car.

Meet the girl flying a plane before she can drive a car.

While getting a driver's licence is a symbol of independence for many teens, Chloe Familton, 16, took to the skies for hers after qualifying for her solo pilot's license late last year.

The Cherrybrook Technology High School student has so far accrued more hours in a cockpit than behind the steering wheel of a car.

Her long-running family passion for aviation was unearthed last year when she attended an open day at Scouts NSW's Air Activity Centre at Camden airport.

"My grandfather was a navigator in the air force in Vietnam War so I guess I'm the third generation to be interested in aviation," she said.



16-year-old and third generation aviator Chloe Familton in the cockpit at Camden airport. Picture: Brendan Read



Chloe recently obtained her full recreational pilot's licence through the Air Activity Centre with her father Scott. Picture: Brendan Read

After attending the Scouts NSW open day, Chloe began training alongside her father Scott, with the pair getting their flying licenses last year.

“I was pretty scared when she went up in the air for her first solo, as any dad would be, but she handled herself well ... I’m hugely proud,” Scott said.

The pair were among those celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Air Activity Centre on Sunday, with Scouts Chief commissioner Neville Tompkins saying learning to fly was one of the many diverse activities offered by the organisation.

“A lot of people think scouting is learning how to tie knots – very few would know you can join Scouts and learn how to fly,” he said.

“We’ve got a diverse program of activities (which) is how we are repositioning ourselves to be much more attractive to what young people want.”