

As the heat of the Wagga sun blazed down on Tilly, she lamented how unfair it was that boys got to do all the fun things. "Surely there is more to life than housework". She paused to remember the rabbit stew from last night. Overcooked meat was her specialty. Yuck. The washing water slopped on her dress and it clung to her legs. "All the girls in Sydney wear pants." she grumbled, while continuing to scrub the bedsheets. "Why can't I?"

In the distance, she heard the roaring of a plane's engine and recalled the barnstorming show at last year's fair. She had pushed in line, desperate to get a ride on the plane. "Some of them were even female pilots!" she thought. "Imagine learning to fly!" "TILLY, TILLY!" She looked out to see Max, her best friend for as long as she could remember, running towards her, his messy light brown hair blowing in the wind. "You won't believe what I just got to do!" he said, his blue eyes twinkling. "Uncle Jim's got a crop dusting plane and he took me up in it! Do you want to come next time I see him?" Tilly couldn't believe her luck, agreeing in an instant.

A week later, Tilly and Max went to Jim's farm, 'to help with the washing' she had told her mum. Her mum was worried at the moment, especially with her dad being away as there was no work around. When they arrived, Uncle Jim greeted them with a friendly smile. "Come on Tilly, let me show you the beauty." They walked into the hanger and Tilly gasped at the shiny buttercup yellow plane. She couldn't believe it. They spent the afternoon flying over the fields. It was the best fun.

Tilly spent the next day daydreaming about flying. 'Max would your uncle give us flying lessons?' she demanded the second she saw her friend again. Let's ask him,' he replied. With a bit of convincing, Uncle Jim agreed, and over the following months they spent many afternoons in his yellow tiger moth.

One afternoon, after their flight, Uncle Jim announced 'you two are ready for your licence! Where are you going to fly first?' The three of them sat lost in thought for a moment until Max interrupted the silence 'I know! I read a newspaper article about the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. I'd love to be there.' 'Me too!' said Tilly thoughtfully, 'Mum said that's where Dad's found work.' 'That's a big trip, you two, but with some planning it can be done.' said Uncle Jim beaming with approval.

Max and Tilly managed to get their pilot's licence the next week, tested by Charles Kingsford-Smith the well known aviator. The week before the trip felt like a blur with all the planning, but by the time the day arrived, they felt ready for anything.

The day of the flight they both got up at the crack of dawn and met at the hangar. Now the adventure was truly beginning. After completing the safety checks, they excitedly hopped into the plane and Max took off. As the cold air whipped past Tilly's face and she glanced down at the ground getting smaller behind her. This was really happening.

Well into the flight, Tilly took a moment to look around and then noticed grey clouds looming in the distance. They exchanged worried glances. What if they couldn't make it? Tilly knew that there was only one way to find out.

As they approached the storm, the wind began roaring against their ears, and the rain soon followed. Suddenly, a flash of white appeared almost right next to them, and a low rumble followed immediately. They were losing altitude and airspeed. "We should find somewhere to land." said Max. As much as Tilly wanted to keep going, she reluctantly agreed. They landed in Goulburn, waiting nervously for the storm to pass. After about half an hour, the storm had moved on, and they hurriedly jumped back in the plane, Tilly in the pilot's seat this time.

A few hours later Tilly landed the plane at Sydney Airport. And after the bump of touchdown, it all went smoothly and she knew they had made it. They hopped out of the plane, looking around nervously for Uncle Jim. A beaten down truck pulled up around the corner, Uncle Jim driving and... Tilly's parents? 'We're so proud!' cried Tilly's mum. Tilly couldn't believe what she'd heard and ran up to hug them.

"Come on you two, get in!" said Tilly's dad. Tilly and Max climbed onto the back of the truck and they sped into the city. As they pushed through the crowd, they watched in astonishment as a man on a horse galloped through the crowd and cut the ribbon. Tilly had to stop herself from laughing seeing the shocked look on Premier Lang's face.

As she stared at the Harbour Bridge Tilly thought about all they had accomplished and felt great excitement wondering what she'd be able to do next.