



# HOW TO TELL MARJ

**Stan Tilley**

Everything was looking fine, winning the overall trophy in the Australian Light Aircraft Championships, I was delighted to be selected once again to be in the Australian team to contest the Trans Tasman Wings competition to be held at Whitianga on the north island of New Zealand.

Then it happened, stupidly persisting in replacing loose roofing iron on a hot tin roof on a windy day, wanting to get the job finished I skipped lunch and adequate water breaks. Starting to feel a bit uncomfortable for the first time ever working on the roof, I was pleased to see the job done and climb down.

I tried re-hydrating a bit, but it was too late, later in evening I had a "dizzy spell" caused by sunstroke which left me with double vision. The medicos decided I was unfit to drive and flying was out of the question. My eyesight would right itself, but when?



*Mercury Bay Aero Club, Whitianga. Note the beginnings of an Air Park next to runway*

I had to own up to Royal Federation of Aero Club's President Marj Davis, that I had been running around on a roof in the heat of the day! And feeling really rotten because I had to withdraw from the team, letting the side down and our "Red Sparrows" Formation team had been planning such a lot of fun in New Zealand.

I was delighted when our Club members Bernie Samms, Sue Davis, and Peter Waite were selected to fill the Formation slot. West Australian, Jerry Hughes flew the Aerobatics and Glen Garouche from NSW flying forced landings and Peta Garnaut also

**It was great to see Bernie Samms, Sue Davis and Peter Waite chosen to fill the Formation slot.**



**L: Jerry Hughes, Peta Garnaut, Glen Garouche, Bernie Samms, Sue Davis, Peter Waite  
Inset: The Wings Trophy returns to Australia**

from Western Australia performed the Spot landings, making up the rest of the Australian team.

We had a team but was there time to get ready? Could the Formation team get up to speed in just weeks?

With the three "Red Sparrows" now coaching, it was up and flying by 07.00. The team improvement was dramatic but wanting to help more, I readily agreed to join the team in New Zealand to continue coaching. RFACA President Marj Davis, delighted at the suggestion, nominated me for Australian judge as well.

ACST Club members and friends joined us at Cambridge, as David Chalk rustled up "A Big Hearty Bacon and Egg Breakfast", to wish us well on the final morning of practice. We were off to New Zealand.