

MEET IAN BALMER

Ian Balmer has done a lot of passenger flying in smaller aircraft and has decided to give it a go himself although he admits he took for granted what was going on most of the time, he's finding Learning to Fly a little more intensive than he first thought.

Ian has always looked at planes as a means of transport, not a hobby. He still does, having been in many remote spots, Ian feels a Pilots Licence would be a handy skill to have.

Based at Kettering, Ian and his partner Kim started Roaring Forties ten years ago with the idea to make a little bit of money while enjoying their passion and helping people appreciate the beautiful waterways of Southeast Tasmania. "Kayaking is a great way of very inexpensively and easily enjoying our waterways for pleasure, yes if you are really adventurous you can paddle around Tasman Island or on a duck pond on Bruny Island with virtually no skills." said Ian.

During the Summer months it's a bit difficult to fit flying with the Roaring Forties business, Ian gets one day a week off and it's usually a Wednesday, his business thrives on the weekends.

"I find the weather interpretation for aviation is just as important as with Kayaking, the skills I have learnt with boating are very handy now I'm learning to fly. I fly mostly with Sam, having got to know him with our business running Kayaking trips to Bathurst Harbour, Port Davey region. Sam was working doing the tourist run with Par Avion and I spent many hours flying from Melaluca."

"Before starting the Kayaking business I was a Ships Radio Operator, one thing I've noticed is how much faster the aviation transmissions are, you've really got to concentrate. I can see I'm glad I didn't put off learning to fly any longer it would have been nice to have done it ten year ago." said Ian.



Ian, time between flying and Roaring Forties

"Flying engages the mind, it's very satisfying to do all the things you have to do and combine them with the motor skills, yeah so the thinking, the reasoning, the motor skills. I don't know what it will be in the future when I can do it better!" laughed Ian.



TARMAC NEWS

Barry Rowell has sold his Piper PA 28 Cherokee 140. The new owner is Ed Rodes from Shepparton who has bought Barry's very tidy 4 seater for Private and



Barry Rowell's Piper Pa 28 140 SOLD

Pilot for a Day is still one of the most popular courses in the TAFE Curriculum. Instructor Mike Strudwick, taking another course which includes theory, and a flight as part of the students introduction to aviation.

An overflow class will need to be undertaken between now and November accommodate all the interested students.



R. Mike Strudwick with TAFE Tasmania Pilot's for a Day, one of the most popular courses on their books.

Business use. "I have to do the interstate ferry flight Barry laughed, you'd be surprised at how many people balk at the Bass Strait crossing, one interested buyer was an ex Qantas pilot, he must have done it hundreds of times!" Barry said. "I originally had the two planes the Rolls Royce of little planes the Jabiru and the Piper, should have sold the Piper first instead of the Jab, wouldn't mind another Jabiru." Barry.



L. Rob Gard & George Newell
L Rob Gard & George Newell

Dynamic duo of **Rob Gard and George Newell** have donated labour gear and some recycled goods to install a stainless steel wash trough in the main Aero Club hangar. Something that's been needed for a long time, a decent area to wash greasy hands.

Get a load of the fittings though, Gold taps! Soap holder complete with a cake of Solvol and there is hot and cold running water.