

# BRENDA'S A WINNER

Women have been involved in flight since the beginning of Aviation in Australia. In 1927 Millicent Byrant became the first Australian woman to gain a flying licence. The Australian Womens Pilots' Association acknowledges the ability and achievement of women who fly and promote the satisfaction and pleasure from the pursuit of Aviation. The Tasmanian branch of the AWPA has provided a training scholarship to assist female student Pilots achieve their PPL theory. The Australian Womens'

Pi-



lots Association awarded Aero Club of Southern Tasmania student, Brenda Hampson, the scholarship for 2006. Congratulations Brenda.

planes!, I love the aerial landscape, I really want to take flying a fair way along". Originally from Victoria, Brenda walked the overland track and cycled the east coast and then decided Tasmania should become her home after moving back from Virginia, North Carolina.

"Real Estate like a few of those other 24/7 jobs means you have to block time out to yourself, in my case to go flying. I'm astounded at how many women are flying. Women have been in Aviation since the beginning, and like most of those outdoor pursuits it's fairly "blokie", I used to sail and I was one of the few women with a boat and people would go "oh you're a chick with a boat."

"Now I hope they will say you're a chick with a plane!" Brenda.



Brenda juggles time between selling Real Estate and learning to fly. The AWPA scholarship will make training for PPL a whole lot easier.

"I wanted to learn to fly before I was forty, you know, one of those milestone things you do in life." Brenda said

Brenda always wanted to fly since a kid, in her 20's she read an autobiography about Nancy Bird. Formally a P.E outdoor education teacher before the Real Estate gig, Brenda has always liked action and adventure movies. She travelled to the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida and was inspired by what the female astronauts had achieved.

"I'd love to have aviation as a job, just fly



## MEET PAUL WHITSITT WAC PRESIDENT

The Wynyard Aero Club started up around 1970/71, fell into a bit of a lapse, then fired up again and has never looked back since. It is a very social Club with hard working members, many successful functions and late nights!

"The Club has around seventy members. The Club does not own any aircraft but including the G.A and Recreational Aircraft the WAC has around 15+ personally owned machines closer to twenty if you add the Ultra-lights." said Paul. "Around here, five or six years ago, you wouldn't have seen a Recreational Aircraft - now they are everywhere. Our training is done through Western Aviation who have now branched into helicopter training as well." said Paul. Wynyard airport has two runways 09/27 and

06/23 which famously used to have a railway line running through it.

"I've been President of the Wynyard Aero Club for three years now, it's a good Club, everyone pulls their weight and a really good committee, they all know what they've got to do and they get in a do it'. Paul said. "It's the fellowship here, it's not segregated into groups we promote family based, everyone's invited."



Paul Whitsitt, President of the very socially active Wynyard Aero Club.

Working as a plant operator with the council Paul also runs a 200 acre beef property which pretty much takes care of the spare time. Paul has been a member of the WAC for ten years and flying for about the same amount of time. "It has been a childhood dream, the thrill of it," he said "once you're hooked that's it..." and laughed".