

HUSBAND & WIFE LEARN TO FLY

Meet Donna and David Healey who are joining a group of husband and wife teams who fly with the Aero Club. Sue and John Davis, Stan and Bonnie Tilley, Graeme and Frances Martin, Suzie and Barry Smith, Lynda and Graham Vertigan and Elaine and Tony Gray are just some names that jump to mind.



“Learning to fly had been in the back of our minds for sometime, and we came out to the Open Day, and the prices were so good we went for a Trial Flight over the City with Sam Merlo. The people out here were so approachable, so down to earth about flying, that’s what we liked.” said David “Well, that was it, I had always wanted to learn to fly, a childhood dream just waiting for the right time, you know, children a bit older and a bit more of our own time and money.” added Donna.

Donna’s father was an aircraft engineer and had his Pilot’s licence and David had an uncle who was also an engineer owning a C172, so flying is in the

blood.

David is an electrician by trade doing a lot of fit-out work giving him plenty of time to fly. You can meet Donna at Banjo’s at the Shoreline where she is the assistant Manager. “I started out as a chef years ago but I much prefer the front of house, the people contact.” said Donna

Donna and David are originally from Auckland N.Z, they have been married for nine years and have two children from previous marriages. They met through Pipe Bands, Donna is an accomplished Bagpiper, and David has been in Bands since he was nine becoming Drum Major in a top N.Z band competing in Edinburgh. They owned a retail business in Brisbane, sold that, re-charged the batteries buying a 40ft catamaran and sailing up North for two years.



“Then we bought a car and drove to Tasmania, bought a property at Maydena, built on some Tourist Cabins, and ran an Alpaca Stud. The children grew up and moved into the city, so Mum and Dad had to follow buying a new house in Warrane.” said David. “My Mum calls us the two year couple, every couple of years we move onto something new.” laughed Donna.

“Being in the city has meant we can spend a bit more time on ourselves, we generally do things together, like the sailing for two years, now it’s learning to fly.” “From when I was a little tot, my Dad would always take me out to the airport when there was something on, you know, anything to do with flight.” said Donna.

“A challenge in life is brilliant, we just absolutely love challenges.” added David.

PLANE SPOTTING Pictures by Rob

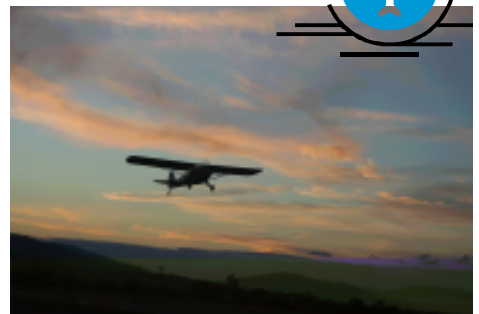


Dornier 228 landed at Cambridge Airport, operating a freight run Melbourne, Launceston, Cambridge, return. B: Allison turbine engine

Snapped at Cambridge, a Toll Aviation freighter a 228 turbine powered Dornier. One of the larger aircraft to drop into Cambridge - it was impressive, loud and used plenty of runway.

Also it was the annual inspection time for the more exotic “Rag and Tube” aircraft around Cambridge. The owners of the Citabria, the vintage Austers “Rosie” and in the Army camouflage colours VH-ADT a 1951 J5F, all got together to bring over Harvey Mcbain and his brother in-law, Peter, to carry out the annual inspections on these rarer birds.

As they did last year, it worked out very cost effective to pool together their three annuals and bring into the state the guys who specialize in Vintage aircraft.



A: Rob Gard’s “Rosie” takes to the sky on a late afternoon test flight following it’s annual inspection. B: Cowling off for Citabria annual.

