

FATHER AND SON LEARNING TO FLY

John Witten has always been interested in aircraft, and at one stage owned a Cessna C150 which he bought from the USA. It was only a matter of time before his son, Ed, got the flying bug as well. "I originally enrolled Ed with the Aero Club to make him focus on his school work, and the discipline has paid off, it has helped him a lot, I'm quite impressed with him." said John.

John has put 5 hours so far towards his licence but Ed is well on the way to his GFPT having completed 25 hours in the Cessna C172. Ed is being taught by both Albert Poon and Mike Strudwick at the moment, "I like it when I'm up in the air and the landings, the challenge of doing them well." said Ed. John added, "since Ed has gone solo he seems to be enjoying flying even more."



John Witten and son Ed. 16 year old Ed has his car learners licence but is already in command of a Cessna C172 as he works his way towards his GFPT. His school mates are looking forward to going flying when Ed gets his ticket.



A: John owns a successful mechanical repairs workshop. B: Ed, his father enrolled him with the Aero Club to give him focus.

John moved to Tasmania about twenty years ago, originally from Sydney, he spent five years in Canberra before settling in Tasmania.

He operates a successful mechanical repairs workshop fixing anything from chainsaws to light trucks. They do a lot of work on motorhomes and four wheel drives. John has been working as a motor mechanic and automatic transmission specialist since about 1975. He had business's in Sydney, Canberra and now down here.

flying because I wanted to make sure Ed was ready for it, because there is a lot of theory to learn and kids don't necessarily warm to it." said John



"The business is going well, so I don't mind spending the money on Edward to get his flying up to scratch or for that matter buying a Cessna C172 so he can get his hours up, I'm lucky enough to be able to do that." John said.

"At high school I never really tried, cause I couldn't see a goal, I'm in college now and I'm trying a lot harder and doing pretty well. I think flying has given me a bit more maturity and a need to work harder and try and achieve my goals." said Ed.

"We did the BAK course before we started

GYROCOPTER AUS

Tasmanian Adventurer and Aero Club member, Don McIntyre, has completed an historic, world first 13,000km, 20 day flight around Australia in a 230kg ultra-light open cockpit gyrocopter. "I only had 40 hours flying experience when I set off and even now, I am still learning about gyrocopters." said Don McIntyre.

"There were many big frights with sweaty palms along the way but it was the most spectacular magic carpet ride of my life and an unbelievable way to explore Australia." said Don. *See more www.exfac.com.au (click on) ozgyro to go to the story.*

Flying the most direct route took Don over 5,000ft mountains, across the Great Sandy and Tanami Deserts, across open water and through all weather conditions and temperatures. Flying into rain eroded the leading edge of his propeller, headwinds and severe turbulence frustrated his progress. At times, Don would be pushed up 5,000 ft in strong thermals, but he tried to fly at 300 feet most of the time to enjoy the view.



Flying along the Great Australian Bight



"For 25 years, I said I would never fly gyrocopters, but Red Devil is a modern German MT-03 machine, well designed and engineered, so the challenge was to face my fears and fly as safely as possible." said Don. This is a man who sailed solo around the world, lived alone with wife Maggie in Antarctica for a year, Treasure hunted in the Philippines, raced Tarmac Rally cars, he and Maggie were awarded Australian Geographic Adventurers of the year. What's Next? They are planning to fly an Ultra light, to the North Pole..