

MEET HUGH GARNHAM

Hugh is a familiar face around Hobart through his various efforts and some of you would have bought furniture from him at some stage over the last fifty years. Hugh ran Excelsior Furnishing Company, which became The Pine Place and then became At Home. "We advertised on television a heck of a lot, my father was in business before me and we used to advertise Jack & Hugh Garnham. It's over ten years since the doors were shut and I still get people ringing me up asking about Jack and Hugh Garnham." laughed Hugh.

"I have always wanted to fly all my life, but my main forte was boats and sailing which I did for 65 years." The urge to become a Pilot grew stronger when Hugh took his boat down to Port Davey and left it there for six months. He did a deal with Par Avion to fly in and out, he enjoyed lots of long weekends, and thought that flying looked pretty easy, all you had to do was steer. it! "I was soon



"I was rapidly disillusioned when I first started at the Aero Club." joked Hugh.

Hugh joined the Club after seeing an Ad in the Mercury for the new Jabiru, he said to his wife Gail, "look at that Gail I can learn to fly for five thousand dollars." Gail, who had been completely against Hugh learning to fly for years, finally gave in and said "Oh I suppose, if you want to, you can!" Hugh was out the door so fast and down to the Aero Club, and he signed up for the Cessna for seven thousand instead.



Hugh Garnham's first passion was sailing, racing on the Derwent then Ocean Racing in nine Sydney Hobart's where he's been both last and first across the line. Gave away Ocean Racing to go Cruising, sailed all around the Pacific, Fiji, New Zealand, Lord Howe Island, New Guinea, and circumnavigated Australia and more. His new challenge is Flying.

Hugh has been a successful person, and admits he needed something new to get his teeth into. "I have had boats all my life, I sold my big Ocean Cruising boat, then bought a smaller one but the family didn't use it enough so I sold that and that's when I saw the Ad." Hugh said.

"I've had to use my brain for the first time in a long time. With sailing I can do everything in my sleep, I thought flying would be quite simple but in actual fact it is stimulating, challenging and I'm enjoying every minute of it, I really am, the smile on my face just doesn't disappear,

even when I do the wrong thing occasionally." laughed Hugh.

"I started in May last year and I've got my GFPT. I said from the word go to Sam, I want to do as much as I can as fast as I can, cause how much longer have I got! I didn't ask what was happening next, I came out and did what I was told each day." "Because I'm retired I book in three days a week and through that rough weather period you would get at least one of those sessions in, a bit frustrating," added Hugh.

"At 72 I don't think I could carry on without a challenge of some sort."

TOTALLY DIFFERENT

"Flying is totally different to what I expected. The discipline of it gets me, don't lose fifty feet in height, you've got to be spot on. During the training sessions, I thought how am I going to do



"Are you getting it at home, you should be getting it At Home." His mother didn't talk to him for 5 years after that Tv Ad slogan

this, how am I going to land the thing. The instructor just took me through the process and it is just like learning to type, something else I only learned how to do two years ago. You go through all this training and then all of a sudden it just happens you are flying." said Hugh.

Hugh hasn't sat for a written exam in fifty years, he was a bit dubious, but found study worked and he's coping having passed all his written tests so far. "When I do a 100% steep turn, I say that's good, or a practice forced landing and I do end up at 500ft where I should be, but I haven't really worked out what I like best, it's still a discovery like at 9000ft and looking at the places I sailed the Boat, wonderful."

