

## RPA Ladies Day – Pleasure, Push and Passion

by Nicky Scrivener – 31 August 2010

No... this was not anything like a sedate, dignified, quiet day where a few women get together. This was a day full of challenge and fun.



Senior Instructor Diana had organised a girl's day out so friends and acquaintances could experience a Trial Instruction Flight (TIF) in the Jabiru's.

I'd come over from WA and was staying with Diana. We were up early for breaky, grabbed the gear and obligatory cakes for the day and headed off to Murray Bridge and the airfield to set things up for the day.

Driving through the Adelaide Hills from Adelaide to Murray Bridge, the scenery was breathtaking. Mist and fog laid low in the gullies and valley at



Mt Barker – you know the look, just makes you glad to be alive and out there.

On arrival the essential had to be done – open the hanger, planes out, download the area weather briefing, check the bookings fill the urn and thankfully get the coffee machine working.



All ready and first to arrive was Ray, out for a navigation exercise and well on his way to achieving his navigation endorsement. He began by plotting his course, completing his checks and after a short briefing and chat he was away.



Meanwhile Julian arrived and was quickly up there doing some circuits after not having flown the Jabiru for a few weeks.

James arrived with milk supplies, followed by Jo and shortly after, Jim. Jo was out for a dual lesson and was itching to go after getting those pre-flight checks completed.



Jim, was out for a familiarisation flight in the J160 with James, as he is taking delivery of his shiny new J170 in a month – how exciting is that!



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The buzz around the RPA building was tangible and before long Diana and James were also up in the LSA and J160 conducting dual lessons.

Anticipating a rush of flights, I went up with James for my TIF. This began with a short briefing - peddles flaps, rudder and stick. Not so hard, makes sense really – even the science from my high school days was bought into play -basic really. So into the plane, checks done, harness secure, final checks and then...here am I at the controls taxiing the plane to the runway. I even managed takeoff with the trusty help of James (dual controls thank goodness).

Up we went then hit some pockets of turbulence – up to 3000 feet, it was serene...fabulous. I concentrated hard, as I wanted to make the most of the learning and did not want to mess up. You know it is really awesome, when you settle in the seat relaxed you feel what is needed also most intuitively. Finally time to come down. I did the approach and James put us down nice and smoothly. Hey, now I have *really* flown! My mind and body were soaring full of excitement and adrenaline. I did it without scaring the pants off either of us.



**Diana and Julia**

Late morning the ladies began to arrive. Adding to the social melee was a spontaneous visit from John and Richard in the Foxbat, just flying in to say hi and catch up.

The TIFs for the women began as Diana and James arrived back with Jo and Jim from their respective flights.

James gave all the ladies a pre-flight briefing explaining the concepts of flight and what the TIF would involve.

Some of the ladies were really nervous while others were just eager, all pushing their boundaries and excited.

First to go up was Julia with Diana and Marianna with James. Both ladies keen to get in and get going, excitement and anticipation brimming over.



**Marianna and James**

In flight, the ladies got to take control of the stick and peddles and fly the machine. Wow, what an experience, it was hard to believe they were controlling the path of the plane.



**Alicia and Diana**

Next to go up were Alicia with Diana and Agnes with James.



**Agnes and James**

The thrills and excitement continued and the amazement and joy of being in the air and in control.

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Next was Barbara. She had been the reluctant one, who said, “I am happy just being up there in the plane for a look. I don’t want to fly.” Well, that soon changed once she got in the air and James showed Barb how easy it was to control the plane. Barb began soaring like a bird and the smile on her face beaming at being able to do this herself.



James and Barbara

These women were of all ages and walks of life, and had been keen to experience something new and to fulfil their individual dreams.

There was lots of support and encouragement from each of them. As one after the other flew, the excitement built as they shared their excitement of the experience which brushed away any remaining doubts for those still to go up.

Helen, Beryl, Rosie and Dianne had also come along to join in the fun. They weren’t intending to fly, but wanted to be a part of the girl’s day out. The green room was full of bubbling chatter from both the boys and the girls.

Over lunch and snacks, there was much chit chat around the table. I overheard comments such as:

*“fantastic, awesome, euphoric, best time of my life, feel high - a feeling that keeps thrilling, truly unbelievably calming yet exciting, do it again, great to share with others, best day ever – scenery is fantastic and loved the turbulence – great fun.* So, you see there was no shortage of enthusiasm.

This day was a total buzz – busy with the TIFs, joined with the magic of hearing the tall tales of flying adventures and plans from those who are already overwhelmingly addicted. The sheer excitement was contagious and the chatter and camaraderie around the table held all there until very late in the afternoon.

After all had gone we packed up, cleaned up and put the birds away, and then it was off to the pub to finish the day with a nice hot meal and a glass of wine. All in all it was a thoroughly successful day that will be remembered no doubt by all, thanks to James and Diana or Recreational Pilots Academy YMBD. Great job both of you!



Readers... here is my suggestion – LOOK OUT for the opportunity readers, stretch YOUR wings and boundaries. Experience the sense of total freedom and awe that flying brings. It is achievable and affordable BUT BEWARE... it is

highly addictive!

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