

Max Clear celebrates half a century



Max Clear

Listen here Jack. I reckon we could fly this thing between the two of us." Max Clear (front) and Jack Bindon reacquaint themselves with a Piper Super Cub.



Four Waikato Aero Club aviators from the period when Max Clear was being trained by CFI Ken Fenwick and his assistant Jack Bindon. From left: Mike Feeney, Lee Marshall, Ron Hemmiker and Jack Bindon.

On 26 October, Micro Aviation founder Max Clear retired his first instructor, Ken Fenwick and Jack Bindon, to join a large group of friends to celebrate the 50 years since Ken sent him off solo at Rukuhia aerodrome, Hamilton.

Back then Jack was a relatively new instructor and Ken was CFI of the Waikato Aero Club and a former WW2 RNZAF Catalina pilot and flight instructor. It was considered by



Max Clear, Ken Fenwick and Jack Bindon laugh together over events from 50 years ago when Ken and Jack were teaching Max and Ken sent him solo.



Judy Cosello (nee Knight) and Max Clear were good chums when both were flying at Waikato Aero Club in the late 1950s. Judy and husband Ray regularly fly to Max's Te Kowhai airstrip from Humea in their Tecnam Golf.

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by Mike Feeney

all present a great occasion and truly wonderful that both men could be present, as Ken is now into his 90s and still pretty sharp in the head department — if not quite so nimble in the undercarriage assembly.


Many flew in for the luncheon to make it a gala aviation gathering with old friends meeting again after some years. Several crews returning north from the Tiger Moth Club's 40th anniversary, Taumarunui fly-in also dropped in to see Max and Ken and Jack.

Some fine aviating added to the jolly atmosphere with a brace of Yaks forming and some evocative Tiger Moth aerobically bringing back memories to the older visitors. The incredible low-level handling skills of the radio-control flyers also proved popular.

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