

Aerotow pilot glides to another flying milestone

TAUPO identity Thomas Anderson has added another milestone to his gliding record.

Anderson, a stalwart of the Taupo Gliding Club, achieved the significant milestone of 10,000 glider aerotows flying the club's Piper Pawnee tow plane.

Anderson has been a glider tow pilot for 25 years and is the most senior tow pilot operating today.

His 10,000 tows represented more than one aerotow per day since the first tow flight back in July 1989, a cumulative total of more than 41 days in the cockpit.

Other pilots in New Zealand have more tows than Anderson, but few have reached the milestone in as short a time or with such dedication.

His expertise means he is in demand for national and regional gliding contests.

Anderson's commitment, and the team of volunteer instructors and pilots on hand, means the Taupo Gliding Club is the only gliding club in New Zealand to offer flying seven days a week.

The club operates from its base



MILESTONE: Taupo gliding club member Thomas Anderson pilots the club's Piper Pawnee.

at Centennial Park airfield and short-term membership for three welcomes new members, offering months for either \$160 or \$205, trial instructional flights and a depending on tow height.