

Gordon Harold Scholes

26/11/1931 to 30/09/2020

A dairy farmers Aviation life



Gordie passed away quietly at his home in Tauranga on the 30th September 2020, in his 88th year. From the lounge where he overlooked the city and Aerodrome he loved so much. Surrounded by his family, wife Cath and children Ali, Ross and Yvonne (Linley in Australia and Beth much remembered), in Yvonne's care.

Born and raised in the Hutt Valley. He married Catherine Stern in 1954 and they went dairy farm share milking in Foxton. In 1960 they moved to Omokoroa, Tauranga and then to Ohauti in 1963, having been 50/50 sharemilkers on these farms. In 1969 they were able to buy their own present dairy farm on Ohauti Rd, Tauranga. All this time Cath helped extensively on the farm while raising their children.

Gordon, in his life before the Bay of Plenty was a passionate Rugby player in the Manawatu. At the age of 32 retiring from Rugby, he looked for another pastime. He took up power flying, learning from Wally Christopherson in a Bolkow 208. In 1965 he entered a gliding scholarship from the Tauranga Gliding Club, coming 3rd and took up Gliding. He went on to be cleared solo by Clarrie Marshall on 17th April 1966 in a Ka7. In 1968 he got a glider tow rating from Wally in the Tiger Moth ZK-BCO.



Wally Christopherson, Gordon and unknown with BCO

He had his first wave flight in October 1967, as an instructor, in a Ka 13 GFB.

These two-flying activities (towing and gliding) became his passion until his 80th year.

Gordie was a consummate Gliding Instructor, always cheerful and encouraging. “a welcoming giant” on any airfield, where he loved to teach young people to fly and share the sky with him.

He first started to teach Air Training Cadets (ATC) in Kawerau in March 1971. From 1987-1999 he was the CFI at weeklong training camps of 16-20 children at Hobsonville and later Matamata until 2007 for the ATC.

ATC Hobsonville 1987



From Tauranga 2nd from left Bill Salt, Noelene & John Borman John Phillips, Cath & Gordon Scholes

He would arrive with two training gliders from the Tauranga Gliding Club and the PA18A Piper Super cub tow plane, often with his close friend John Borman as the Tow Pilot. Each instructor took four cadets with Gordon often having three of his four fly solo in a glider at the end of a weeks’ training.



K7 Cadets 1999, “Pink Panther” at RNZAF Base, Hobsonville. Gordon, Michael McGregor (Dunedin) solo, Katrina Valentine (Twizel) solo, Heath Cron (Dunedin) solo and Tim Tittson (Auckland).

Gordon was the CFI of the Tauranga Gliding Club at Belk Road from 1971 to 1990 and again in 1993-4. The club had moved to Tauranga Airport in 1982.

When the club had bought two new Janus in 1983, Gordon later aerotowed, with the Cub, the Janus B (GNN) to Omarama for a club trip in the southern Alps. In April 1991 Gordie and Cath went to the Avon Soaring Centre, for Barry Meeks, in England, where he spent the summer as Glider Training CFI. By the time they came back to New Zealand in October, he had completed 706 training glider flights and 317 hours in the air. He went back for another summer in 1992.

In 1995 Gordon was the chief tug master at the World Gliding Championships, at Omarama (NZ). He was in charge of 14 tow planes, launching 91 Glider pilots in under an hour each contest day.

Gordon shared ownership of several single seat gliders, from a KA6cr to a DG400, competing in summer competitions, flying for himself and at other times being a contest director or Tug Master, at NZ competitions.

In 2000 Gordon was awarded the Angus Rose Bowl trophy for "Outstanding Services to the sport of Gliding in New Zealand".

Gordon introduced several members of his family to Gliding, his Granddaughter Tayler, grandson Carl to solo and his son Ross to Solo and onwards. Ross is now a Tow Pilot, Gliding Instructor, Youth Glide Mentor and New Zealand Domestic airline Captain.



In 2009, age challenged, at 78, Gordie stopped instructing and Power flying, a sad time for him. He continued to fly with other club members until 2012. His last logbook entered gliding flight was with John Roberts in a Puchacz GPZ.

An exceptional voluntary career, having sent 540 pilots to solo in various gliders. (see trophy photo)

Gordie was a great family man, so loved for his outgoing infectious warmth and his generosity of time with others. He and Cath's home always open, welcoming family, friends and guests.

NOTES
GLIDERS TOWN:

K7	BOLAN
K13	COOK A BOROUGH
BLANIK	A SW 15
TWIN ASTER	LIBELLE.
JANUS	SKYLARKE.
PUCHACZ.	GROB 109.
CARST	PWS
JANTER 28, 19, METRE.	JANTER 16' MTR
SK 27	DAVE TEACOCK <small>NOVA HOUST</small>
CIRIUS	MSW 20
SINGLE ASTER	ASH 25
MOTOR MOUSE	PIKATULS.
DC 400	PW 6.
U6	TOM KRAUFFS DISCUS
DS 101	*PICCOLO (Ray Russell)
LS4	Duo DISCUS
LS3.	

DTOW	105
T MOTA	1558
DR 400	200
RALLYE	450
FLETCHER	37
AIRTRUCK	55
CESNA	80
PAUNEE	2950
PA 18A	15635
	<u>21070</u>

Gordons' list of the gliders he has flown, 7924 hours

Gordon's record in his power log book of the number of Glider tows he had done in various Tow planes. Power 3074 hours



Gordon and Ben Stimpson with BOF at Kawarau. Ben had put a tow hook on his FU24



CWX Airtruk PL12, great for double tows. 1983

His family are holding a private memorial service on the 26th of November 2020 (it would have been his 89th Birthday). Gordon and Cath, with their immediate family, Xmas 2008.



Inset much loved and remembered daughter Beth.

Back row: Gordon, Cath, granddaughter Tayler, son Ross, son-in-law's Michael and Stuart and daughter Yvonne.

Front row: Son in law Tony(deceased), daughters Alison and Linley



Gordon with Piper Super Cub PA18A, BKJ (his favourite tow plane), Tauranga Gliding Club

Written and compiled by John and Sandy Griffin