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Grant Jarden gliding obituary

Grant Jarden spent his early childhood in Canterbury before moving to life on a dairy farm in Wairoa. Growing up he joined two organisations that had a great impact on his life.

He became active in the Wairoa Rotary Club where he met Amanda, his future wife. He also learnt to fly at the Wairoa Aero Club.

When the Jarden family moved to Hastings, Grant did not pursue Rotary but arrived at the HB&EC Aeroclub. While chatting, he noted that he had soloed in CPD which is the Gliding Club's towplane.

An invitation to have a glider flight was accepted and he was converted to unpowered flight. His training was uneventful and he did not take long to become an instructor.

He like, so many of us, was fond of recalling gliding flights with Peter Lyons which included to Omarama and return.

Grant was more of a doer than a committee man and did much unannounced tidying around the clubhouse. He had stated the gliding club was his happy place and held the role of Club Captain for many years.

Amanda's love of horses led to his attitude being appreciated by the local equestrian centre where he was very active caring for the grounds.

Grant became a very popular instructor with young people. His mother explained this by saying to him, "they like you because you've never grown up". He instructed numerous young students over the years and was very influential with Allie Thompson going solo on her 13th birthday.

The other factor was his ever-present sense of humour. This will be missed by all who knew him.