

# Spotter pilots his son

**SPOTTER** pilot John "Woodie" Woodward pictured below is about to take off with son Jamie, who had just completed a week's work experience with CALM before starting Year 11 at Pinjarra High School.

Jamie's leanings are towards flying and he hopes to be selected for the Royal Australian Air Force after successfully completing year 12.

Computers are another

Story and photo  
by Tammie Reid

of his interests and, again, Jamie seems to be a mirror of his father, as John has a knack with computers that is invaluable to Dwellingup district staff.

John manages to get the best use out of both soft and hardware, without losing patience with the machine or the operator.

He is the number one

pilot for the Swan region and in the past 15 years has become a symbol of reliability in the air, instilling confidence in fire crews and office staff, who wait on his reports.

His ability to interpret ground conditions from the air is impeccable.

Woodie's job as senior pilot involves scanning the forests in summer on the alert for smoke to report, drawing up rosters, training new operators and, more

recently, testing the Eagle, soon to replace the slower but ever reliable Piper Cub spotter.

He also represents the pilots on the Enterprise Bargaining Committee.

In winter, John unassumingly takes on all sorts of fiddly, technical tasks and gets results, a legacy, perhaps, of his training in industrial chemistry.

Without a doubt, John is a valued member of the Dwellingup district team.





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