

PLAYING IT BY EAR

Norm and Jill Bailey were ready to make a move and decided to give Temora a try.

After just two weeks, they knew they had found their new home.

For twenty years, Jill and Norm owned and operated a music shop in Nowra. They were ready for a change and started searching for a new home, one where they could pursue their passion for aviation.

"The South Coast is a lovely area, but it's becoming very packed and not very flyer friendly," Jill says. They started looking at Airparks around Australia, even visiting a few. It was just by chance, that they found themselves in Temora.

"We were in Bundaberg for an air show with some friends and were flying back to Nowra, when we made a stop in Temora.

"We had planned to leave first thing that morning, but were delayed by a rare fog," Jill remembers.

They ended up spending the whole day in Temora, talking to members of the Aero Club, including the Chief Flying Instructor at the time.

"I had been teaching people to fly back at home and he told me they were looking for someone to take over the CFI position here in Temora," Jill says.

Despite not having considered a move to Temora, they decided to trial it for six weeks. They rented an apartment in town and got to know more about the town and its people.

"We found the townspeople to be so friendly. We would walk down the main street wearing our old flying school logos and strangers would just come up to us and start talking about the Temora Aviation Museum and the Airpark," Jill describes.

After just two weeks in Temora, they both knew that they were ready to make the move.

They loved the vibrancy of the town, with its beautiful gardens and great weather.

"The weather here is great for flying and we can fly almost 300 days of the year," Jill says.

Jill started working as the CFI, while Norm worked on building their new home and hangar that they designed together. One of his biggest projects was their theatre room, which is a place of entertainment and a great excuse for Norm to showcase his organ.

"Music and aviation seems to just work so well together and there are many Airpark residents who have an interest in music too," Norm says.

Norm provides a lot of technical support to TEM FM, Temora's community radio station.

Meanwhile, Jill keeps herself busy with her role as National Operations Manager for Recreational Aviation Australia (RAA), overseeing flight training and operations across Australia. She loves having the freedom to work from her home office.

Jill and Norm encourage prospective residents to give Temora a trial, just as they did.

"Buying is a big commitment, so it's a good idea to ease into it and make sure you are happy with the community. However, I doubt anyone would be unhappy!" Jill adds.

