



# Fifty flights award for local Angel

By **ERIC WISEMAN**

SEVERAL awards were made at the annual changeover evening of Moruya Rotary Club; most were Rotary awards, but one wasn't.

Rotary district governor nominee Phil Armstrong (a member of Moruya Club) had the privilege of presenting John Gillett with a fifty-mission certificate on behalf of Angel Flight.

John, a Moruya resident, and a past-president of Moruya Rotary Club, is the only Angel Flight pilot in this area. In a voluntary capacity, and using his own plane, he transports local people to and from Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne for medical treatment.

John joined Angel Flight as a volunteer pilot in April 2004 and conducted his first "Mission" in February the following year.

Angel Flight mission co-ordinator Geoffrey Marsh said yesterday that since then John had gone on to complete 50 such flights.

"By doing so he has given vitally needed assistance to many families dealing with the triple burden of financial hardship, illness and long distances to reach the medical care they so badly need," Geoffrey said.

"John has reached a significant mile-

stone in completing 50 Angel Flights and his efforts are greatly appreciated by his local community," he added.

Angel Flight Australia was established in April 2003 as a charity that co-ordinates non-emergency flights for financially and medically needy people.

All flights are free and assist patients or compassionate carers travelling to or from medical facilities anywhere in Australia.

Angel Flight aircraft do not carry aero medical staff or medical equipment so do not act as an alternative to the Flying Doctor or Air Ambulance in that capacity.

Angel Flight services are entirely free while pilots donate their time, their skills and the bulk of their aircraft costs for each flight.

To help offset the pilots' operating costs, Angel Flight negotiates the waiver of landing fees at airports around the country.

Airservices Australia reverses any air navigation charges. Angel Flight pays for fuel used by pilots when they conduct an Angel flight and donations received are used to fully subsidise these fuel costs.

Geographically, Angel Flight serves the medically needy Australia-wide with a network of pilots and aircraft in all



**SPECIAL:** Rotarian John Gillett received a special Angel Flight award at Moruya Rotary Club's changeover evening.

states and territories that is growing as the word spreads.

Pilot registrations are approaching 2300.

Angel Flight's toll-free phone number is 1300 726 567.