

FLIGHT LINES

GLIDING CLUB OF VICTORIA

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GLIDINGCLUB.ORG.AU



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TRIVIA NIGHT

BENALLA
GLIDING CLUB OF VICTORIA
EST. 1929

This Saturday

LOCATION: GLIDING CLUB OF VICTORIA
TIME: 6:00PM
DATE: 22ND NOVEMBER 2025

REGISTER FOR DINNER VIA THE GLIDE APP



Fond memories from past members: Ted Desmond

Photo Description:

Oakes' Crew - Benalla 1951

First Row: Jim Dawson, Max Alexander, Bruce Northeast, Eddy Burke, John Tribe, Les Oakes, Jack Edmonds, Ted Desmond, Jim Barton and Noel Hardy.

Back Row: Nick O'Keefe, Ken Davies, Lin Beck and Club Jeep.

Julia Churches, daughter of former club member Ted (Edward) Desmond, visited the gliding club as a way to reconnect with her father's deep passion for flying. As she walked through the clubhouse, she paused at the old photo boards, carefully searching for pictures of her dad among the pilots.

Meeting her was a real pleasure, and her visit served as a powerful reminder of the club's significance within the community and the value of preserving its legacy.

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AUSTRALIAN WOMEN PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

2026 SCHOLARSHIPS NOW OPEN!

To find out more or to apply visit:
www.awpa.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Trivia night - Clubhouse**
November 22 6PM

Get ready for a fun evening of friendly competition and good company

- * **Annual General Meeting**
November 29 7PM

Join us for the Annual General Meeting.

- * **Flying Further course**
December 8-12

The focus of this course is to support members to achieve their Glider Pilot Certificate (GPC)

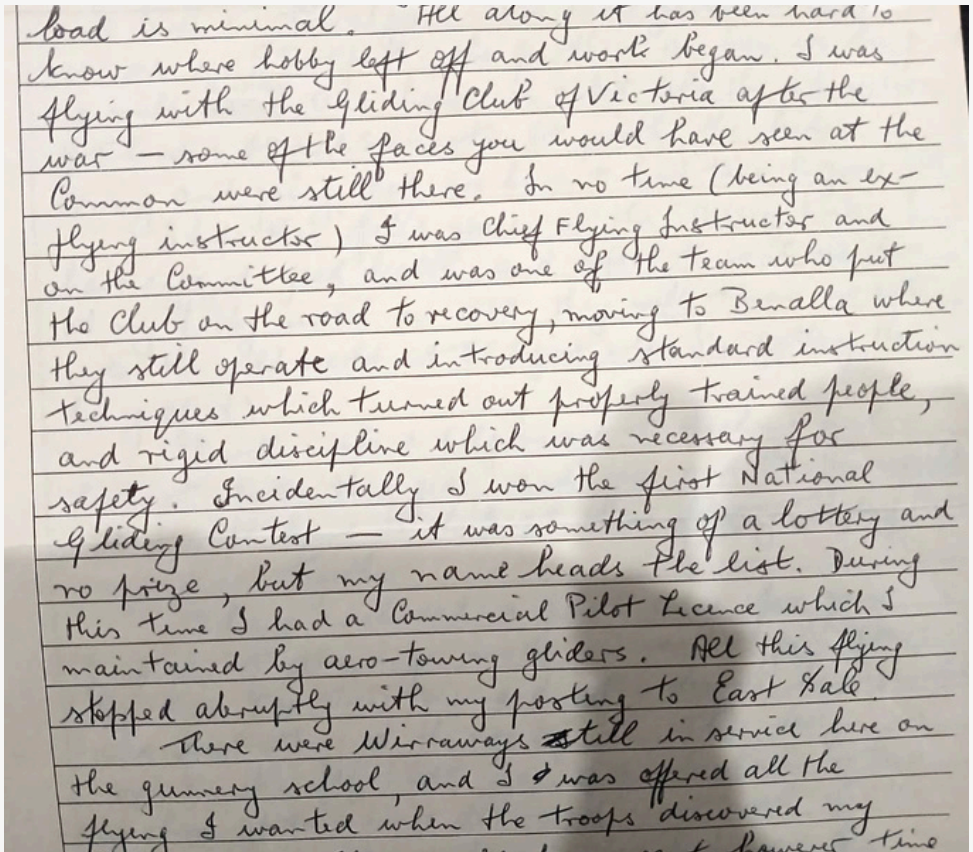


Julia Churches next to her father's photo in the clubhouse – November 2025

(Continue from page 1)
**Fond memories from past members:
 Ted Desmond**

After her visit to the gliding club, we kept in touch. She spoke with her sister Marion in hopes of finding additional photos, and during their search they came across a letter (originally written by her dad to his friend John Bohan, who eventually returned the letters to the family) that referenced the club. She generously shared a portion of that letter with us.

On the right, you'll see the original portion of the letter accompanied by a full transcription.



...Load is minimal. All along it has been hard to know where hobby left off and work began. I was flying with the Gliding Club of Victoria after the war – some of the faces you would have seen at the Common were still there. In no time (being an ex-flying instructor) I was Chief Flying Instructor and on the Committee, and was one of the team who put the Club on the road to recovery, moving to Benalla where they still operate and introducing standard instruction techniques which turned out properly trained people, and rigid discipline which was necessary for safety. Incidentally I won the first National Gliding Contest – it was something of a lottery and no prize, but my name heads the list. During this time I had a Commercial Pilot Licence which I maintained by aero-towing gliders. All this flying stopped abruptly with my posting to East Sale. There were Wirraways still in service here on the gunnery school, and I was offered all the flying I wanted when the troops discovered my

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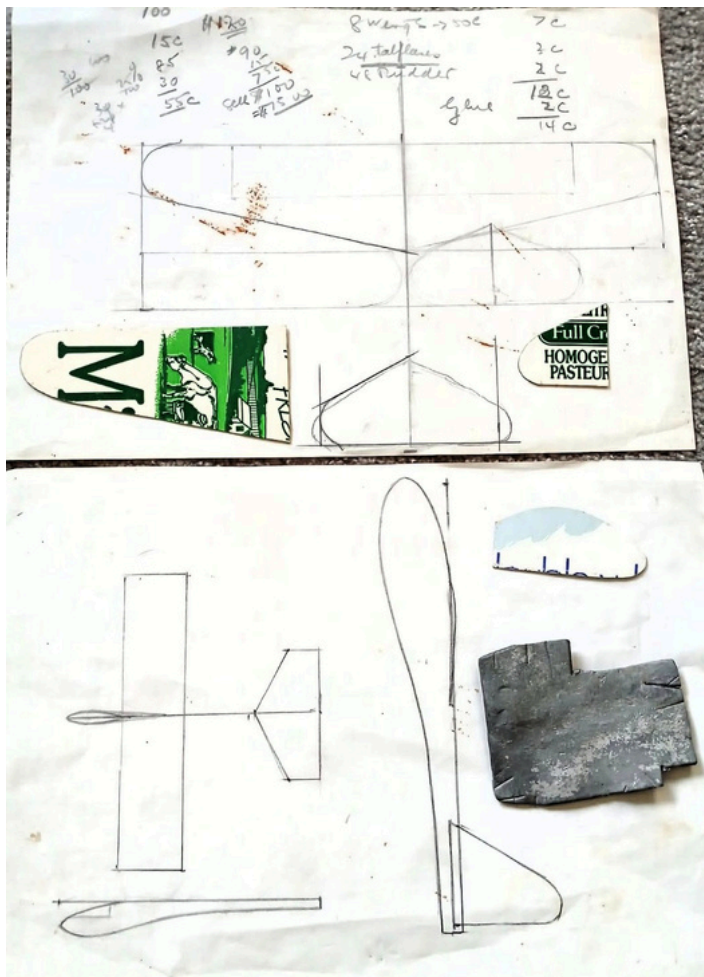


Benalla 27/12/1951

Left to Right
 Dave Hughes, Ted Desmond, Jack Edmonds (cockpit), Lin Beck, Ken Davies, Dave Dalbyshire, Lew Yardley

Foreground
 Greg Gruman

Background
 Blue Gruman



As I continued exchanging messages with Julia, I learned more and more about Ted. He had been the Chief Flying Instructor in his day and a member of the committee at GCV. Locally, he was a well-known meteorologist, trusted by firefighters, fishermen, and school camps for his remarkably accurate weather forecasts.

He served in the RAAF, His favourite aircrafts in the RAAF were the Roulettes, particularly during the Macchi era, and upon his retirement the pilots presented him with two one-off framed photographs of the Macchis. He also delivered lectures for the Department of Forests and Lands around 1989, having complied a meteorology course.

Julia still has the glider drawing patterns (picture on the left) he used to make planes for his children out of balsa wood. The piece of lead shown is a special type once used as a nose weight "back in the day."

It has been very touching to learn about a past member whose qualities, his passion for flying, his curiosity, and his desire to learn and share knowledge, can still be recognised in many of the club's current members.

Classifieds

**For sale VH-GMX Glasflugel H 401
Kestrel 17M single seat sailplane serial
No86 – \$18,000**

Price includes glider, equipment, and trailer.

Log Book: 8376 hours. Nil accidents. Original gel coat surface finish good condition.

Pilot weight min 91.0 kg, pilot weight plus cockpit load max 96.9 kg.

GFA Form 2 maintenance release valid till 24/04/2026.

Included equipment:

Lithium main battery & charger, Naviter S7 Electronic Variometer, Winter mechanical vario, X-COM Radio with dual channel function, OUDIE 2 GPS Moving Map navigation, Airspeed indicator new face, Altimeter,

Magnetic compass, Memory foam safety seat cushion, 8 kg lead seat with canvas cover, Mountain High oxygen system with large cylinder, FLARM, Parachute, Cotton covers for whole aircraft.

Accessories:

Tail dolly, Tail parachute, Ground towing drawbar, Wing walker, Spare trailer wheel, Wheel jack, Wrench, 2 adjustable tripod trestles for de-rigging, Comprehensive maintenance history aircraft log book, Flight manual.

HANGAR SPACE FOR SALE – Private allocated space at Benalla Aerodrome, \$23,000

Hangar space will be available for sale after Kestrel is sold.

Contact:

Charles Day

Phone: 0438 341 876

Email: Charles.Day@bigpond.com

Saturday Meals Menu

Saturday 22 November at 7:00pm

Adults \$25 per person (main and desert)

Mains

1. Chicken Scallopini with chat potatoes and vegetables
2. SMOKED Salmon Salad
3. Vegetarian - A Gluten free Vegetarian Lasagna (available every Saturday)

Desserts

1. Sticky Date Pudding with ice-cream
2. Fresh fruit platter

Children Only \$15 (meals and dessert)

Mains

1. Chicken Nuggets and Chips
2. Spaghetti Bolognese

Dessert

1. Ice Cream and Topping

Book through the App by 9am Friday 21st November 2025 , or in person at the 9am briefing on Saturday 22 November

Contact the office to book if you're having issues with the Glide App before 9am Friday 21st November 2025. gliding@glidingclub.org.au or 03 5762 1058

VSA state championships 2025

29 November to 6 December, 2025 - Corowa

Entries are now open for the Victorian State Championships to be held this year at Corowa from 29 November to 6 December, 2025.

Registration is at: <https://glidingcomp.au/vsa2025>

The competition will be running a separate class for those in their first or second competition to encourage newcomers to join in.

For more information, check out the [GlidingVicTas / Events Calendar](#).

Horsham Coaching Week & Horsham Competition 2026

The entry forms for both Horsham Coaching Week and the 60th Horsham Week Competition are now open.

Registration Now Open: Horsham Coaching Week 2026 running from Saturday, 31st January to Friday, 6th February 2026.

Registrations are now open for Horsham Week 2026, running from Saturday, 7th to Saturday, 14th February 2026.

For more information, check out the [GlidingVicTas / Events Calendar](#).



19 Winches on Sunday. 13 Saturday! Conversions to Phi Callander, Charlie, Ethan, Ralph and re solo for Peter White.

Trivia Night is fast approaching (This Saturday)

Kickoff 6:00PM (Bar opens at 5:30)

Date: Saturday 22 November

Location: GCV Clubhouse

There will be an intermission / break in between trivia rounds at 7:00PM

If you want to partake in dinner, Kayleen would love some advanced warning so we ask that you book through the Glide App or Office this week.

We encourage you all to come along for a weekend of Flying fun and trivia.

Weekend crew

Nov 22-23

Duty Pilot: Peter White

Instructors: Matt Woodhouse, Rob Mackenzie, Graham Adams

AEI: Paul Dealy, Shawn Driscoll

Tug Pilots: Jono McAllie, Peter Demeo, Tom Lambert

Get Involved!

Have something to share? Get in touch with us to contribute to the newsletter newsletter@glidingclub.org.au

