



GlidingVicTas

VSA NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

AVALON AIRSHOW – THAT’S A WRAP!

From Daryl Bishop for Gliding Australia @Avalon 2025

Firstly, the gliding community's thoughts are with Glenn Collins and his family after the incident at the airshow. It was a large shock for everyone at the event. The last report indicated that he was in stable condition. We all wish him a speedy recovery. Paul Bennet Airshows have set up a fund raiser for Glenn's recovery journey through the GoFundMe website - the link is: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-airshow-pilot-glenn-collins-recovery-journey>

Summarising Avalon 2025

The Numbers:

- More than 200,000 attendances over the six days of the event.
- Around 350 aircraft were displayed in the air or on the ground.
- 902 participating exhibitor organisations from 28 nations.
- Over 250 people experienced the VSA gliding simulator and a similar number looked at and sat in the DG300.
- 34 AEF vouchers sold.
- 30+ volunteers across the three days.

Our Goals for Avalon 2025:

- Promote the brand of gliding.
- Ensure everyone leaves our display knowing that they can become a glider pilot.
- Add budding new glider pilots to our ranks.

The Avalon Gliding Team had a much better location, more foot traffic, and better engagement compared to 2023. GAus nailed it!

What We Did:

We kept it simple. We talked to people, got them into the simulator, let them sit in a glider, and were just ourselves. Talking about something we love doing comes naturally and it showed. We only sold one AEF voucher on Friday, as the day ended early. However, spearheaded by sales maestro Russell Edwards on Saturday, we ramped up and there are now 34 people who purchased vouchers and are keen to sample gliding. It didn't matter who wanted to look in a glider or jump in the simulator; everyone had personalised attention and a great experience. The team were all great ambassadors for our sport.

We Won an Award!

We won an award for the GA's most interactive stand. Feedback was received that the evaluators came around twice, and each time, no one was aware they were there. Everyone was super engaged with the public, providing an immersive and engaging experience—the evaluators were really impressed. Each and every one of the volunteers was part of this award—well done, all!

The Thanks Bit and there are lots of people and organisations to thank!

Gliding Australia, in particular Sarah Thompson who once again stepped up to help with all things marketing. There was a stack of support from Gliding Australia, including shirts, marketing merchandise, and funding to ensure we could concentrate on showcasing our sport. Thanks also to Fiona and Tanya in the office for assisting with marketing material. It was also great seeing the head of Ops, Dave Boulter, drop in to our display on the weekend to say hi and support us. Doug Flockhart, gliding Australia CEO, also rang a couple of times with a simple request “what can I do to help”. Thanks again Gliding Australia.

Victorian Soaring Association - Not only did the VSA once again provide the simulator, our big drawcard, but they also helped fund the voucher discount. In 2023 we tried a competition to win an AEF, wasn't particularly successful. VSA wanted to get involved, get more people in gliders, and support us to offer a great discount for AEF vouchers. It worked as a treat. Thanks to the VSA, in particular Phil Henderson and David Meredith. The simulator is an engineering thing of beauty. A lot of people wanted to talk to us about the simulator itself and its construction.

Geelong Gliding Club – GGC kindly lent us their DG300 for the static display. I can't emphasize enough how important it was to have people actually be able to sit in a glider. It was a real differentiator, a way we could be 'hands-on' and be all about the experience. The smile on people's faces as they had the opportunity to sit in a glider was priceless – lots of photos. Thanks to Steven McAvooy for agreeing to loan us the DG300 and David Meredith for towing, rigging, and de-rigging. It's a big effort and David was super happy to assist.

Virtual Soaring – Thanks to Andy Davidson for bringing along a display to introduce APAC Virtual Soaring, another string to our gliding bow – something for everyone even when it's raining outside with 8kts of down, we can still soar and compete virtually.

The Phil and Rod show – Thanks again to Phil Behnke and Rod Manning who flew down in their Diamond motor glider from Queensland. They were always on hand to give a hand and have been a big supporter and help to me in 2023 and this year.

AMDA—The airshow organisers ran a well-organised show; even the traffic was much improved from 2023. Big thanks to Julie and Joelle, who were on hand every day to assist with any issues.

Our Ambassadors – We're a community-minded, volunteer-based sport, and in true gliding fashion, our ambassadors showed up with energy and enthusiasm and nailed the goal of demonstrating that “gliding is accessible to everyone.” It really showed; we had a great turnout and were almost always busy (maybe a little quiet when the F22 launched overhead!) In true aviator spirit, when we had issues with the simulator, we simply worked the problem. We had volunteers coming from interstate, some 'Jetstar'd' in on the day and no matter where they came from or how long they were in traffic, they all arrived with a smile on their faces and got stuck in. A massive thanks to each and every one of you. A bonus is we all got to meet new people from other clubs!

Repeat Offenders – A number of volunteers came back again after being here in 2023...and the honour roll is (hopefully I don't miss anyone) Pietro, the Freitag family, Noah, Sergey and Ju Ming. Thanks, hopefully we'll see you in two-years for the three-peat. For the 2027 airshow, Daryl is aware of the “single point of reliance” syndrome, i.e. Daryl, so if someone else would like to run 2027, please let him know. He is happy to take a supporting role and assist in getting the new person up to speed and making sure 2027 is a better show than 2025. Please contact Daryl and he'll forward your details to Gliding Australia.

Finally, the final thoughts - take this experience back to your clubs, be the same person you were at the airshow, talk to people about gliding, show your enthusiasm, keep that smile on your face and let people take lots of photos. Experience rocks! Experience will get us new members.

Roll on 2027!
Daryl



Future pilots in the making! The simulator has been a hit with young and old. [#avalonairshow2025](#)

SPORTAUS “GAME PLAN”

Do you want your club to grow and thrive? SportAus has provided a fantastic platform with tools to assess your club now and for future growth. It's all in your hands!

"Game Plan is a digital, diagnostic platform designed to provide sporting clubs of all sizes with insights into their current capability and connect them with specific tools and resources to build and support ongoing development. Check out the [YouTube](#) video and other sports comments.

So, how does Game Plan work?

<https://gameplanhelp.ausport.gov.au/hc/en-au/articles/8623103005977-What-is-Game-Plan>

What is Game Plan?

Game Plan is a digital platform designed to provide sporting clubs of all sizes with insights into their current capability and connect them with specific tools and resources to build and support ongoing development. You get to track your own information and plan accordingly.

How does Game Plan work?

Game Plan works by translating a club's priorities into short, individual assessments to determine their current level of strategic and operational capability. Game Plan provides relevant information and resources to support a club to then build their capability and improve performance.

The VSA has already registered for Gameplan and encourages all VicTas clubs to do the same. SOoooo, sounds like a plan. Get to it!

VSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025



The Victorian State Championships are to be held this year at Corowa from 29 November to 6 December, 2025.

The 27th and 28th November will be available for practice, familiarisation and coaching. If this is your first competition then it would be great if you could attend these days to familiarise yourself with how it all works.

Entry fee and towing costs will be kept to a minimum and will be confirmed as soon as possible. We note that the 6 December overlaps with the NSW Competitions at Temora. Provision will be made in the rules to allow competitors to leave a day early to get to Temora in time.

The Corowa site has excellent camping right on the airfield with good bathroom facilities and 20 powered sites. There are also several motels, hotels and caravan parks 5 minutes away in town. On the airside, there are powered and watered tie down areas for those that need it along with non watered sites for the clubbies. Everything is close by and easy to access. A website to allow you to register for the event will be publicised shortly.

Information will be posted on the VSA Website - [VSA State Championships 2025](#). Contact David Meredith - jantardave@gmail.com for further information.

AROUND THE CLUBS!

GCV – EASTER REGATTA



GCV's Easter Regatta was a great opportunity to be the "test bunny" for the new DHTask software – and it's good!

The Easter Regatta was held over 7 days at Benalla. It was a small local competition as the weather was expected to be marginal. BUT, there were some unexpected great days! It also helped to iron out the bugs and was used as a trial for DHTask.

There were three women in the competition and Amber was giving a good run for the money with an average speed of 96 kph on the last flight of the comp.

BENDIGO

Bendigo Gliding Club will be hosting an LGBTIQ+ gliding event on 31/5 – 1/6 2025. If you are interested in attending, here is the registration form link: <https://forms.gle/se7QiJne7aFeCqSz6> or scan the QR code below.



A WEEKEND OF INCLUSION AND FUN!

REGISTER NOW



LGBTIQA+ GLIDING WEEKEND
BENDIGO GLIDING CLUB
123 BOROUGH RD, RAYWOOD VIC 3570

31/05/2025 & 01/06/2025
ALL WELCOME!