



Gliding Vic Tas

VSA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY, 2026

HORSHAM COACHING WEEK

& HORSHAM COMPETITION WEEK 2026



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



Open Class Champion
Craig Vinall - 4441 pts

Second Place
Mike Durrant - 4232 pts

Third Place
Richard Traill - 4076 pts



Club Class Champion
Jack Hart - 4462 pts

Second Place
Steve Jinks - 4168 pts

Third Place
George Schuit - 3582 pts



Congratulations to Leonie Furze for being awarded the Max Hedt Trophy which is awarded to a person attending Horsham Week as a pilot, crew member, organiser or volunteer. The awardee is recognised for their contribution to the week as a whole, being friendly and welcoming, willing to get stuck in and lend a hand and bringing an enthusiasm to their fellow pilots, crew, organisers and volunteers.



And the Gliding Club of Victoria Turkey Award (but it was the "Golden Cockie" Award(?!) was presented to Garry Stevenson for Garry's little stuff on initially taking the wrong trailer on a retrieve for Leonie Furze flying GZW. Garry mistakenly hooked up Keith Willis's ZAW. It has to be admitted that there is a bit of a difference between a trailer for a PW5 and a Discus!

For the back story to this little gem, click the [LINK!](#)



And a BIG THANK YOU to the kitchen team, Lorelle, Sue and Steve, for feeding the masses and to all the volunteers who made this another successful Coaching and Competition event.

Victorian Soaring Association

Junior Funding Applications NOW OPEN!

Want to accelerate your training? Want to gain that GPC? Want to advance your competition goals? Ready to Go Further?

The Victorian Soaring Association (VSA) is offering funding support to help Junior pilots take the next step – whether that's cross-country milestones, competition flying, advanced training or skill development.

If you've got the drive, we've got your back.

Don't let cost hold you on the ground. Apply for VSA funding and turn your soaring ambitions into achievements.

The Victorian Soaring Association (VSA) is committed to backing the next generation of glider pilots – and that could be you. Whether you're aiming to:

- ✓ Achieve your Cross Country Endorsement
- ✓ Complete your first 300km flight
- ✓ Train for State or National competitions or even the JWGC at Lake Keepit in 2029!
- ✓ Upgrade your qualifications
- ✓ Or take the next big step in your gliding journey

VSA funding is here to help turn ambition into altitude.

Because the sky isn't the limit... it's just the beginning.

Check out the [What Gliding Means](#) video and if this is you, [Apply Now!](#)



Credit: Delebel Gliding Channel

Victorian Junior Racing Program

A new initiative is being started to aid those who wish to improve their cross-country racing capabilities. **The Victorian Junior Racing Program** will be led by some of the finest coaches in the state who are ready to help juniors reach their cross-country goals whether that be working towards the World Championships, or simply becoming more confident in their cross-country abilities. The program aims to bring juniors together and provide some of the most comprehensive coaching we've seen to date!

Further information on the program can be found in the following application form, which will close EOD 1st March 2026.

<https://forms.gle/7LBDrHUqzRFfxDU47>

Amber Davison
Program Coordinator

Avalon Airshow Vouchers

Do you have members of the public who have an Avalon Airshow flight voucher?

The airshow vouchers have a face value of \$250. These were promoted at the Avalon Airshow at a cost of \$150 to the purchaser and the VSA will add \$100. All purchasers were informed about the promotion that VSA would chip in \$100.

After providing a \$250 minimum value experience, please claim the full \$250 simply by filling out the [VSA Expense form](#) and noting **“Avalon Airshow Voucher”, the voucher number and details of the person who flew, the date flown and the club’s payment options to:-**

secretary@victas.glidingaustralia.org and treasurer@victas.glidingaustralia.org

Good luck in attracting a possible new member or just someone who will tell plenty of friends!

PUSHING IT: SLOWER IS SAFER AND FASTER IN THE LONG RUN

Reprinted from Gliding Australia 3rd February, 2026

Getting the Paperwork Right. Are you???

Paperwork isn't the glamorous part of gliding. It doesn't thermal, it doesn't climb, and it never gets a mention in post-flying hangar review. Yet reviews repeatedly show that when paperwork slips, legal protections slip with it.

Let's start with AEF flights. The AEF form must be completed before the flight, not afterwards and not “when we get time”. This is not optional. It is a regulatory, insurance, and duty-of-care requirement.



Credit: imgflp.com

If the form isn't completed correctly, the flight should not proceed.

Tow pilots are no different. A valid flight crew license, completion of the applicable syllabus, and formal approval by the EMO are required before towing operations commence. Until the paperwork is complete, the privileges are not valid.

Medical status is another recurring issue. All flight crew must have a current medical recorded in JustGo. If a pilot does not yet meet the requirements to be Pilot in Command, they may use a Not PIC medical, but they cannot fly solo until a valid medical is in place. No medical, no solo - simple.

Make sure that Maintenance Releases are filled out correctly. Check for any maintenance that must be completed on the glider before flight.

One common theme is documentation being uploaded incorrectly or not at all into JustGo. The instructions are clear, but they are often not read. It is lucky that reading instructions is not a test for pilots - but following instructions is still required.

None of this exists to create bureaucracy. These processes protect your friends and pilots, instructors, clubs and Gliding Australia itself. They ensure flights are legal, insured and defensible when things go wrong. They ensure your and your friends' interests are met.

The message is straightforward: paperwork is part of safety. Getting it right enables flying. Getting it wrong stops it.

- ✓ Take the time.
- ✓ Read the instructions.
- ✓ Upload the documents.
- ✓ Fly knowing everything is in order - in the air and on the ground.

AROUND THE CLUBS!

HOW'S YOUR ADVERTISING GOING?

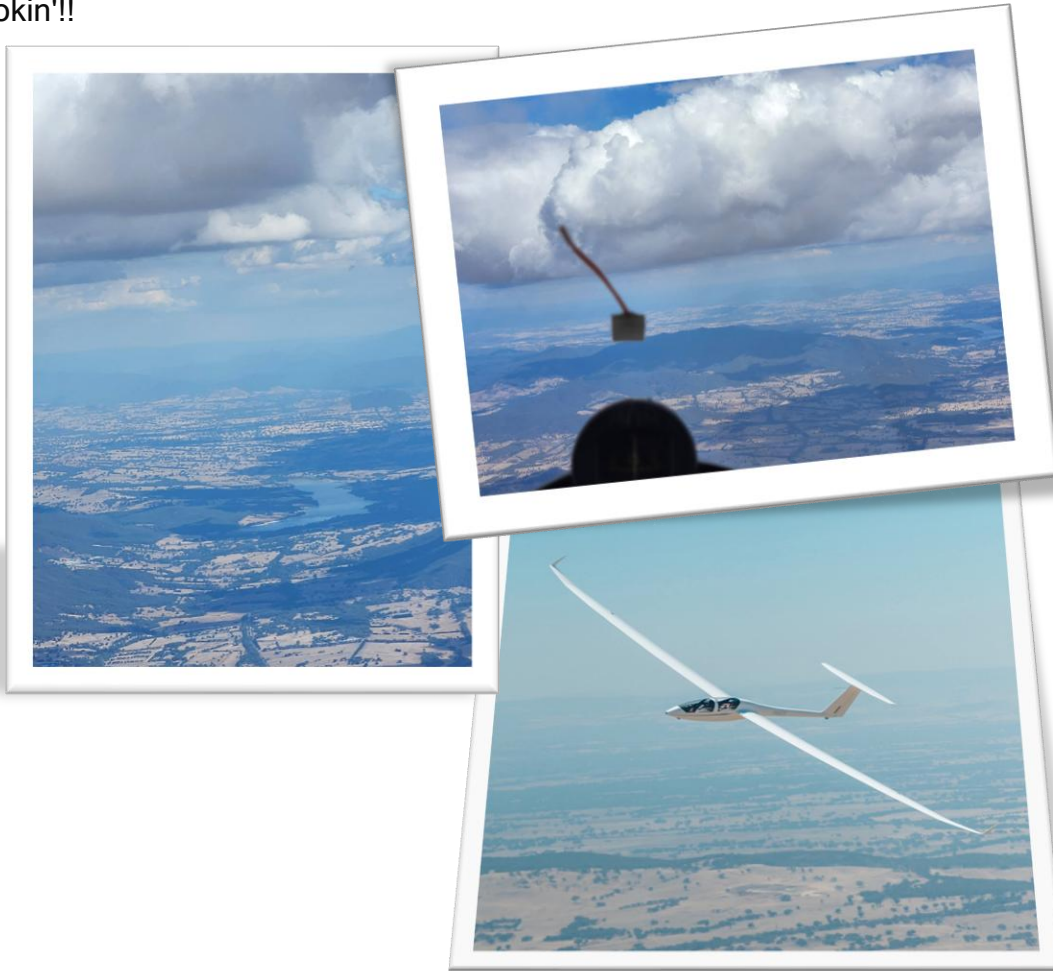
Grampians Soaring Club have been smashing out the advertising and they look like they are having a great time doing it! Check out their [Facebook page](#) for some good ideas....



IT'S BEEN A CRACKING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. HOW DID YOUR CLUB GO?

GLIDING CLUB OF VICTORIA

Cracking day on 16th February with heights to 9000ft. And it was still working nicely at 18.30! Smokin'!!



SUNRAYSLIA GLIDING CLUB



The "Come and Get It Cup"

Leonard Freitag from the Melbourne Gliding Club set himself the task of flying from their Christmas Camp with Bendigo up to Sunraysia to steal the Come and Get It Cup - that has been resting in our trophy cabinet for the last 5 years! There was a little scratching along the way but the smile at the end says it all. Well done Leonard!

Hmmmm... So, where do we steal it from now? Raywood or Bacchus Marsh? Conundrum!

SOUTH GIPPSLAND GLIDING CLUB

Meet at the hangar at 10!



SOMETHING A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT!

The Art of Flight Festival and the “Light Up the Night” Balloon Glow!



the **ART OF FLIGHT FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS**

"Across a week of unforgettable moments, enjoy the magic of the **Balloon Glow**, the thrill of the **International Balloon Championship** including **Fly with the Fleet** passenger flights.

Join us at Benalla Airport for the balloon & aircraft **Fly-In**, book a **Glider Flight**, and experience the fascinating **Benalla Aviation Museum**."



Scan for more
Festival information



the **ART OF FLIGHT FESTIVAL**

Invites you to experience the wonder of aviation in a spectacular celebration
where the Sky Becomes Art

6 – 12 April 2026
Benalla & surrounding
region, Victoria.
art-of-flight.com

