



Gliding Vic Tas

VSA NEWSLETTER MAY, 2026

BUMPER ISSUE!

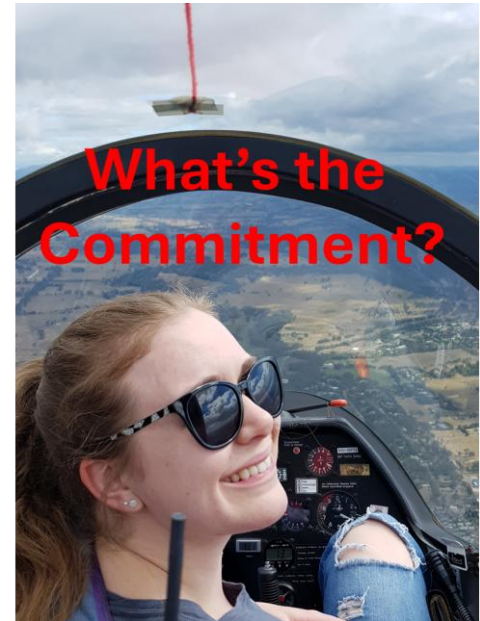
“Gliding takes over your life!”

Does it really? Does it have to?

For some pilots, gliding is a big commitment - and that's exactly the appeal.

But for many others, it's something they fit in when they can.

- If you're not fussed about flying solo, then a few flights a year - or a weekend now and then - with an instructor may be enough to slake your thirst for flight.
- Even just a morning, or an afternoon, if that's all you can spare around family, caring responsibilities, work, or whatever else is on your plate.
- Helping out at the club or just enjoying the flying.



Yes, if you want to compete at a reasonable level, or even internationally as part of the GAus team, then it really does require commitment. But high-level competition isn't everyone's cup of tea.

Gliding isn't one fixed lifestyle.

It flexes to match the time you want to give it. ... because we all have many other commitments competing for our time and attention. It's all about making best use of that time whilst you're at the airfield - and clubs will do their best to help you achieve that balance.

The beauty of gliding is that many people describe it as a real ESCAPE from the demands of life.

When flying, you must be "in the moment", so it can help your brain to slow down all the thoughts racing around.

What's your experience - all-in, or something more occasional?

*credit: K Teagle
British Gliding Association*

REMINDER***REMINDER****VSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 – GET IT IN THE DIARY!**

The VSA State Championships are again being held at Corowa, dates are 6 - 12 December 2026, with a practice period being 3rd - 6th December.

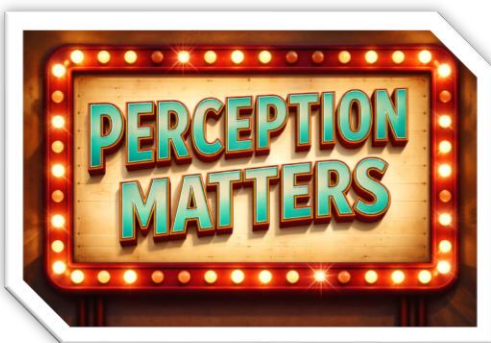
Registration is now open at <https://dustdevil.cloud/geelong-gliding-club/2026-victorian-state-championships>.

The competition is a week later than last year and sits between the NSW State Championships and Joeyglide with a travel day between each event.

We will ensure that the runway surface will be swept clean of stones and the edges mown prior to the comp commencing. Keith again will be making us welcome at the SoarCorowa facility.

Get your glider ready to be part of this exciting event and SPREAD THE WORD! Info is also on the [Gliding VicTas website](#).

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. For further information, contact David Meredith - jantardave@gmail.com



PERCEPTION MATTERS - TARGET AUDIENCES FOR RECRUITING PROSPECTIVE GLIDER PILOTS

A list of audiences is useful, but on its own it won't shift participation. The difference comes from prioritization, tailored messaging, and consistent follow-through.

It was recently, said lightly, by an AEF passenger at a Victorian gliding club, with a smile and no malice intended: "Well, this is a bit of a men's shed!" Looking around the airfield that day, it was easy to see how that impression might form; ten men, busy with gliders, equipment, and conversation, and not a woman in sight.

But that snapshot doesn't tell the full story of our sport.

Gliding has a proud and growing history of participation by women – as pilots, instructors, engineers, administrators, and leaders. Across our clubs and events, women contribute skill, professionalism, and perspective that strengthen both our operations and our community.

The skies we fly in are open to everyone, and increasingly, they reflect a more diverse group of people choosing to take part.

That said, moments like this are worth reflecting on. Perception matters.

For someone visiting for the first time, what they see on the flightline can shape what they believe is possible for themselves. If we want to present gliding as the exciting, inclusive, and forward-looking activity that it truly is, we must continue to ensure that our environment visibly welcomes and encourages participation from all.

That means supporting initiatives that introduce more women and young people to gliding, highlighting the achievements of our female members, and being mindful, both in our actions and in our presence, of the message we send to those looking on.

Because while we may occasionally resemble a “men’s shed”, at a glance, the reality is far richer. Gliding is for everyone and the more clearly that we show that, the stronger our future will be.

SO, PERCEPTION MATTERS! Let’s dig deeper!

A list of audiences is useful, but on its own it won’t shift participation. The difference comes from prioritization, tailored messaging, and consistent follow-through.

If you don’t have a focused **Outreach and Marketing Plan** that turns those audiences into action, make use of the one in the [LINK](#) and start to rejuvenate your journey! We live in a tough economic time, so planning and implementation are the keys.

ANNND, just for starters, do you have colourful images and banners or signs welcoming women and young people to the field? Don’t forget - VSA provides \$500 for [club signage](#)!

If You Can’t See It, You Can’t Be It.

AROUND THE CLUBS

Southern Riverina Gliding Club - First Nations Aviation Day!

The Southern Riverina Gliding Club hosted the first ever introduction to aviation day for indigenous students. It was enjoyed by all, especially the students from Shepparton. SRGC will welcome them back at any time and hope this experience opened some new doors into the future for employment opportunities or an amazing sport that really brings you close to nature. The VSA provided the mobile simulator, which was a big hit.

Along with the presentation, a glider was on display for the requisite “selfie” and a tour of the airfield and Tocumwal Aviation Museum. A big thanks to all our helpers on the day and to the Lions Club for providing morning tea and lunch! SRGC also especially thank the students and teachers who came and participated.



Gliding Club of Victoria / Soaring Club of Tasmania

Vale - Dave Ruscoe

Dave Ruscoe passed away on 23rd May, 2026.

Dave joined the GCV in the early 1970s and became an Instructor at Benalla. He was a keen cyclist and swimmer. He married the GCV Manager in 1970s, Ed McKeough's daughter, Margaret, and they had a son, James.

Dave moved to Tasmania where he continued to instruct with the Soaring Club of Tasmania. He met and married Tanya, and they had a daughter Betsy.

Our condolences to Tanya, Betsy and James.

The funeral will be held at Le Pine Funerals, 741 High Street, East Kew on Tuesday 2nd June at 2.00 pm. A live stream will be available for those who cannot attend, and details will be provided shortly.

Fly high, fly fast, Dave.



NEWSLETTERS ARE ON THE WEBSITE



If you are trying to locate information from recent newsletters, all the VSA newsletters are located on the Gliding VicTas website under [Publications/Newsletters](#).

VOLUNTEERING



Sport and Recreation Victoria

Have a look and see what other sports are doing to engage their volunteers and recruitment. Click on the link and scroll through and see what may work with your club - [Workforce and volunteers | Sport and Recreation Victoria](#)

The volunteer capacity of community sports clubs to support women and girls in sport

We have a small contingent of women and girls in Victoria and Tasmania who glide.

Research into the experiences of women and girls in traditionally male-dominated sports shows that creating a supportive club culture and strong volunteer backing is still needed for true gender inclusion.

The research aimed to explore how community sports clubs can manage, keep, and recruit volunteers to encourage more women and girls to take part and get involved in community sports.

Key Findings - Click on [Link](#)

Research was conducted by the Physical Activity and Sport Insights research group, a collaboration between Victoria University and Federation University, funded through the Change Our Game Research Grants Program. It was released in October 2023.



OPERATIONS - AEF Flights and What You Need to Know

Operations Directive OD 01/2026 has been released. The OD can be found on the glidingaustralia.org website in Documents->Operations-> Operations Directives. ([Link](#)). The body of the OD is below.

AEF Terms and Conditions Process

Situation:

Gliding Australia (GAus) allows Air Experience Flights (AEF). These flights are an introductory flight for someone new to gliding. AEFs are used to attract new club members and trainee glider pilots. AEFs are conducted by Air Experience Instructors (AEIs), Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 instructors. These flights are training flights, even if the person being introduced does not touch the glider controls.

Even the simplest first air experience flight involves training in aspects of orientation and motion in three dimensions, basic lookout and cockpit safety. The participant is therefore treated as a student pilot for the flight and is to be signed up as an Introductory Member for the flight.

Introductory Membership is as defined in GAus [ADMIN 0012](#): Active flying member for 30 consecutive days. Flying rights limited to 10 flights &/or 5 hours. No solo flight. Not permitted to be pilot in command. No voting rights. Not required to be a club member. Available more than once in any one calendar year.

This Operations Directive:

AEIs, Level 1 through 3 instructors must ensure that the AEF terms and conditions process is completed with the person participating in the AEF **before the flight is commenced**.

The AEF terms and conditions process uses either a paper version or an electronic form. To use the electronic form, the club applies to GAus and is assigned a QR code that leads to the electronic form. Paper forms are purchased via the GAus shop or by contacting the GAus office.

The AEI or higher instructor must ensure the form is signed by the participant and witnessed by a GAus member before the flight.

These obligations must be observed by club committees and instructors.

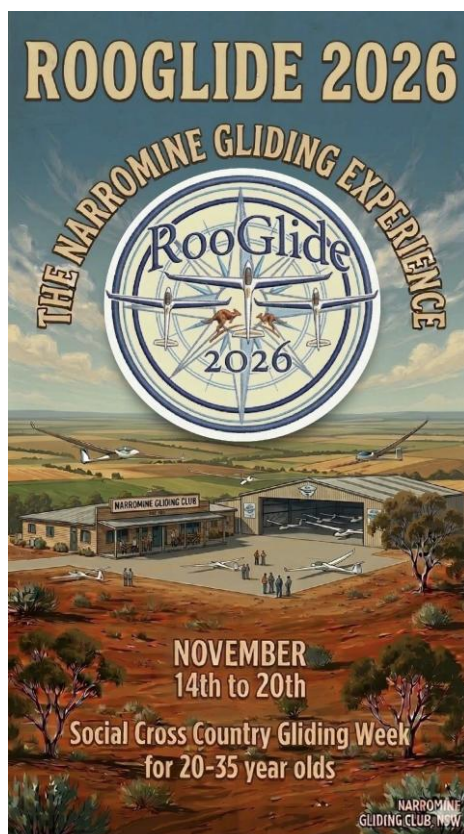
Duration

This Directive:

- Commences on 4th May 2026; and
- Will be reviewed when MOSP 2 is updated.

David Boulter
Executive Manager, Operations
(4/5/2026)

ROOGLIDE!!



20-35 year olds

Save the Date - RooGlide 2026! Narromine Gliding Club, New South Wales

RooGlide 2026 is going to be held at Narromine Gliding Club from the 14th to the 20th of November. It is a social cross-country week, targeted at 20-35 year olds, but everyone is welcome to join. RooGlide is a social week organised to create lifelong friendships for Glider pilots that have or are close to ageing out of JoeyGlide.

It provides opportunities to develop new skills and support from other glider pilots in a fun social environment. There will be optional daily tasks set if individuals would like to fly them. At the end of the day there will be a competition board, based off WeGlide results. This creates a fun optional competitive scene that simulates planning and task management for future competitions. A daily education talk will be held prior to briefing. It will be presented by individuals who have competition and maintenance skills. It will focus on their favourite topics to demonstrate the passion individuals have towards Gliding.

This event will be coordinated with a big social drive of fun daily games and themed nightly activities such as mini-Olympic Games night and BINGO cards. Themes will be organised for activities to engage in a nightly social setting to support friendship development. This week is aimed to foster friendships in Gliding that can be maintained throughout life and to support a new generation of glider pilots to stay within gliding till they are seniors. This is going to be an exciting week full of fun and a lot of laughs.

SAVE THE DATE, RALLY YOUR CREW, AND GET READY - REGISTRATIONS WILL BE OPENING SOON via GLIDING AUSTRALIA!

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT IN THE VSA - TYPO!!

Apologies. A Typo! What can we say?!



The VSA Constitution requires **40%** women on the Board. This is an opportunity for our women in gliding to shape the future of gliding going forward. So, get ready to nominate and step into a new leadership opportunity or extend your leadership knowledge. Your involvement is both valued and important.