



Cat. No. 0023

Hutter 17 “Sweetwings” from Western Australia, c. 1949



The **Hutter H17** is a small single seat glider with a wing span of 9.69 metres, designed in 1934 by Wolfgang Hutter, for flying in the Austrian Alps.

Construction of the Museum’s example “Sweetwings” (now registered as VH-GQM) commenced in Perth in 1949. It is one of two Hutter H17 gliders built in Western Australia (by N.J. Wynne and A.G. Milligan) at that time – the other “Fleetwings” (formerly VH-HDQ and since re-registered as VH-GXV) is now located at Millicent, South Australia.

Ownership of Sweetwings transferred to G.R. Reichelt of Tocumwal, New South Wales and later to D.B. Hunt of Thornbury in Melbourne and Mt Isa, Queensland. It was acquired by Bill Riley of Tocumwal who donated it to the Museum.

The Logbook held for this aircraft shows its flying record from 19 August 1972 when it was test flown by B. Perssons at Tocumwal following a rebuild and 20 year inspection. A number of notable cross country flights in the Tocumwal region of 100 kilometre or more over periods of 4 hours plus are recorded. It is assumed that these flights were by the owner at the time, namely G.R Reichelt.

In April 1973 the glider was flown by Gilbert Simkins, John Kent, Rex Teakle, Ron Muir and Allan Lattermore at Surfers Paradise Gardens on the Gold Coast, Queensland and in October 1973 at Peak Downs (Charlie Russell’s Kerras Strip), Queensland.

The Logbook indicates that it was operated in the Albury area, New South Wales, until 1977 (but no flight data is recorded). The last entry is for two flights on 25 October 1979 when an airworthy inspection was carried out at Tocumwal by G.R Reichelt. After this date, and prior to transfer to the Museum, the glider was displayed suspended in the main hangar at Tocumwal.

[Above - “Fleetwings” sister of “Sweetwings” – photograph from A. Ash Collection]

[Left – “Sweetwings” Hutter H17 fuselage in storage at AGM; photos – B. Duckworth]



The Museum also holds parts of another Hutter H17 airframe which was built in Western Australia in the 1950s and has never been completed.