



Cat. No. 0044

Edmund Schneider ES 49B “Kangaroo”, c. 1953 - wreckage



The **Kangaroo** is a high wing metal strutted tandem two seater sailplane, constructed mainly from wood and covered in fabric. The design evolved out of the earlier ES 49 Wallaby, but in fact was almost a new type. In appearance it was a more elegant type with better performance than its predecessor.

Edmund Schneider Ltd built two ES 49B Kangaroo sailplanes and the Museum's remains are of the second example. The first example no longer exists. The Museum's ES 49B, VH-GFL (its given registration), was sold new to the Toowoomba Gliding Club and after a number of years was sold to the newly established Leichhardt Soaring Club at Mount Isa. It was flown extensively from 1953 to 1967 at various Queensland locations until its ultimate demise at Longreach in Queensland. The wreckage was stored from 1967 to 1997 in a shed at Longreach until it was moved to Emerald in Queensland. In the year 2000 Australian Gliding Museum member Ron Geake travelled to Emerald and recovered the wreck to his property at Gympie in Queensland, and subsequently stored the airframe on behalf of the Museum until November 2011, when another Museum member Geoff Hearn travelled to Gympie and relocated the wreckage to the Bruce Brockhoff Annexe at Bacchus Marsh.



[Monochrome photos of first ES 49B, c 1953 from Harry Schneider, other photos by B. Duckworth]