



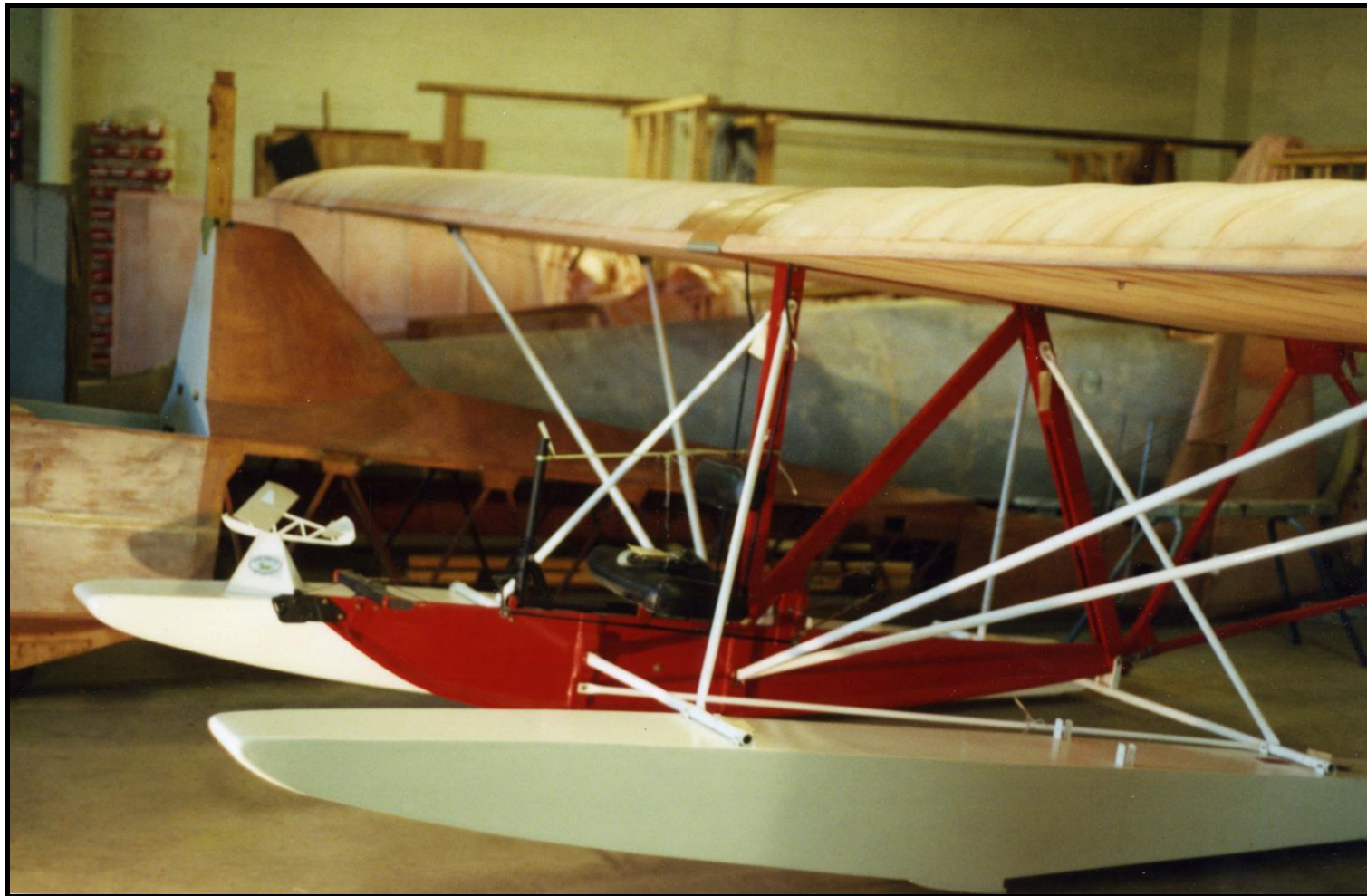
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Hain (Jack) Friswell's "Rhon Ranger" primary glider

The history of the Australian Gliding Museum's Friswell Rhon Ranger prior to 1970 is scant. It is understood that it was flown at Melbourne in the 1950s and probably not since then until the 1970s. The excellent structural condition of the glider suggests that it has had very little use.

In 1970, or thereabouts, the glider was purchased by the Hearn family from Melbourne who equipped it with floats so that it could be launched by power boat tow at Lake Eildon in central Victoria.

In March 2001 the glider was donated by Bruce Hearn to the Australian Gliding Museum.



[The Hearn modified Friswell Rhon Ranger in the AGM workshop; photo from AGM album]

[Wing structure detail as revealed during AGM restoration of the Friswell Rhon Ranger: photo from G. Barton - AGM album]



This "Rhon Ranger" glider was built by Hain (Jack) Friswell in 1948.

The "Rhon Ranger" is a type of primary glider (or Zogling variant), designed in Europe, for which plans were published in America in the 1930s. It is understood that in America it is also called the "Mead" primary glider after the Chicago firm that marketed Rhon Ranger kits and plans there – for example see advertisement Popular Science July 1931 page 124. A "Mead Rhone Ranger" replica is held by the New England Air Museum, USA; see photograph at www.neam.org. A short video may also be viewed of another example under construction at the Owls Head Transportation Museum near Rockland, Maine, USA on www.youtube.com/1930_mead_primary_glider_restoration.



[A more historically typical Rhon Ranger type primary glider, at Mt Fraser, Victoria, c 1935; photo – R.N Duckworth collection]