



Ric New's Dunstable Kestrel, c.1939

Cat. No. 0008



The Dunstable Kestrel from Western Australia (finished in silver paint) was built in 1939 by Ric New and members of the Lake Pinjar Soaring Club. It first flew on 26 December 1939 at Lake Pinjar. The first extensive flight was on 7 January 1940 when Ric New managed to stay aloft for 30 minutes and reach a height of 3000 feet. Unfortunately the Kestrel was badly damaged the same day when another club member Jim Brabazon stalled and spun in. The Kestrel was repaired by June 1940 and flown extensively at Lake Pinjar in 1940 and 1941 until Government authorities intervened and ploughed up Lake Pinjar as a wartime measure to prevent it being used as a landing field by the enemy. The Lake Pinjar Soaring club was reformed as the Perth Gliding Club after the end of the war and was joined by Ric New with his Kestrel. The glider was later held in storage at the Gliding Club of Western Australia prior to transfer to the Australian Gliding Museum. The Deed of Gift indicates that it was formerly owned by Wally Williams. The substantially complete airframe, which is in poor condition, awaits restoration for static display.

[Above: Ric New, Pinjar Soaring Club, checking the rigging on his Kestrel, c 1941; Below left: Ric introducing Dick Duckworth from the Gliding Club of Victoria to the Kestrel at Lake Pinjar, c 1941 – Photographs from R. N. Duckworth film]



[Above: The Kestrel Fuselage (much modified over the years) in storage at the AGM, Bacchus Marsh, in 2012; photograph – B. Duckworth]

[Above at centre: Road sign to Pinjar soaring site, c 1941; Left at centre : Dick Duckworth in the Kestrel at Lake Pinjar, c 1941 – Photographs from R.N. Duckworth film]