



Cat. No. 0016

Tom Proctor's "Coogee", c. 1940



[The "Coogee" at the Museum; photograph – D. Goldsmith]

The "Coogee" is a small intermediate single seat sailplane built by Tom Proctor in 1940. It was first flown at Stuart Hill near Bendigo, Victoria, in January 1941 and was maintained in flying condition until 1967 when it was damaged in a collision with a fence on landing. Coogee logged nearly 4000 flights mostly while in service with the VMFG at Berwick.

From the Log Book: *This Sailplane [VH-GFP] was designed and constructed by Mr T. Proctor (Present address Alexandra) in 1942. The machine was purchased by the Victorian Motorless Flight Group in 1945. See letter dated 21-12-44. There is no known record of flying to this date but it is believed to be about 200 flights. VMFG commenced flying operations 27-12-1947. This Log Book is opened at 1 May 1955 and commences with the Aircraft in serviceable condition, the total no. of flights and hours to date are entered in the flying record sheets. (Signed) H.G. Richardson, Tech Officer, VMFG 1-5-55.*



["Coogee"; photo by Andrew Fullarton, from Vintage Times Issue 123 July 2011, p 6.]

Ownership history

- 1940 - Built by Tom Proctor;
- 1945 - Sold to Victorian Motorless Flight Group (at the time, Berwick, Victoria);
- 14/10/1956 – Sold to Geelong Gliding Club;
- 6/10/1963 – Sold to E.J. Williams and G. Wyer (Melbourne, Victoria);
- 19/07/1966 – Sold to Campbell Curtis, F. O'Connell and R. Harris (Merigur, Victoria); Part share given by Campbell Curtis to Gerry Downs in return for completion of restoration;
- 12/05/2002 – Transfer to Australian Gliding Museum.