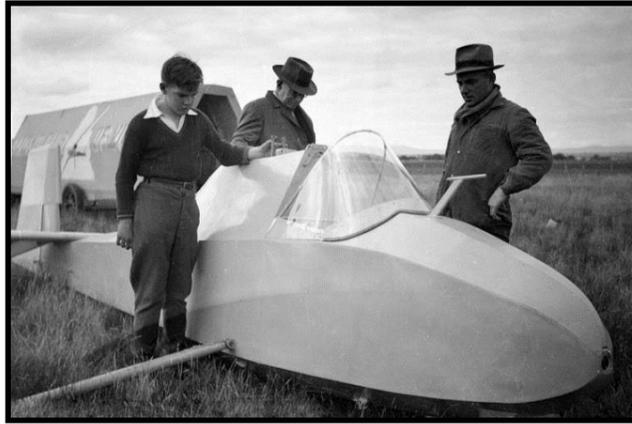




Cat. No. 0029

## Australian Sailplanes' Grunau Baby 2B, c. 1946



[Norm Hyde (in overalls on right) rigging the glider when new; photo – R. N. Duckworth collection]



[Gliding Club of Victoria members with Blue Grunau on return from the Yarram camp, December 1946; photo – R.N. Duckworth collection]



[Blue Grunau Syndicate – Rob Dowling, Ted Desmond, Norm Hyde (in cockpit), Dick Duckworth, Leo Dowling, c 1948; photo – R.N. Duckworth collection]

The Australian Sailplanes' Grunau Baby 2B sailplane, often referred to by those who are familiar with it, as the "Blue Grunau", was built in 1946 and acquired by a syndicate consisting of Norm Hyde, Rob Dowling, Leo Dowling, Dick Duckworth and Ted Desmond of the Gliding Club of Victoria. Piloted by syndicate members and other GCV members the glider performed well in soaring and cross country flights at the various sites used by the GCV in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

The glider went to Sydney for a while and then returned to be operated by another syndicate at the GCV. Pat Bourke and Bob McAlicee bought the glider in the 1950s and then sold it to Keith, Jack and Bruce Hearn of Melbourne.

In 1957 the Blue Grunau moved to Western Australia and was added to the Glider Register as VH-GLC. There were a series of owners. The glider has come to the Australian Gliding Museum via the RAAFA (WA) Division.

The glider suffered damage in a number of flying accidents: in particular from accidents on 4 November 1967 and 17 September 1975. It appears that, in the course of the major repairs that occurred, modifications were made to the airframe including fitting of spoilers to the wings and changing the profile of the fuselage nose. Also, at some stage, the cockpit was enclosed with a Schneider Kingfisher type Perspex canopy.

The Museum has undertaken considerable restoration work on the airframe, including amongst other things, the partial reinstatement the original fuselage nose shape.



[Blue Grunau airframe, at the Museum, 2012: photo – B. Duckworth]



[Blue Grunau in March 2013 after restoration work; photo – B. Duckworth]



[Jack, Bruce, Bruce (Jnr), and Keith Hearn with Blue Grunau, c 1955: photo – Geoff Hearn]