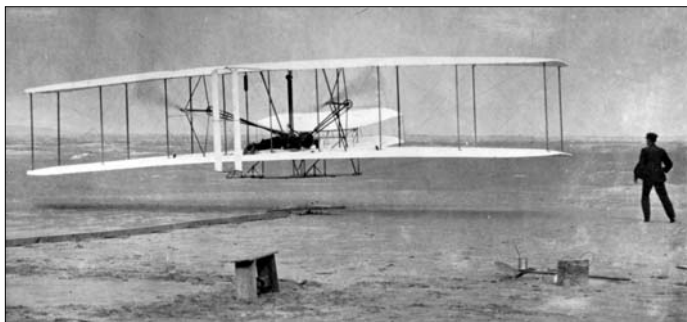


Australian Gliding Museum

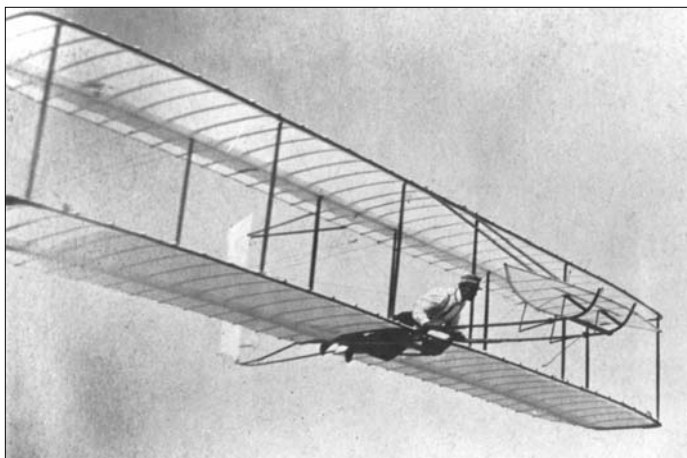
100 Years of powered flight, December 4, 2004



Famous photograph of first successful flight of Wright Flyer under power

100 + Years of gliding! It is not so well known that the Wright brothers experimented with gliders well before they made their historic first powered flight.

As late as 1911 the brothers were using gliders for experiments into automatic stability for aeroplanes.

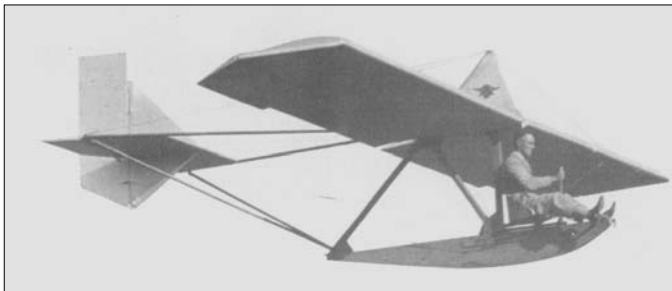


Orville Wright flying the 1902 glider

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN GLIDING MUSEUM

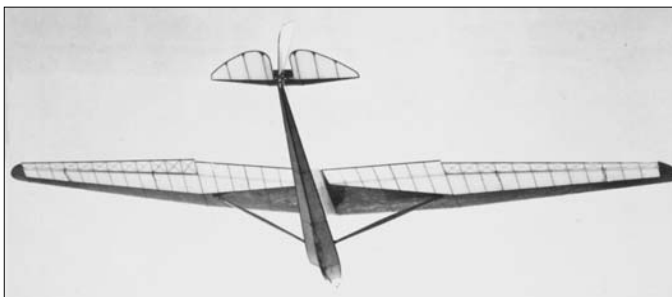
The museum was formed in 2000 to protect Australia's Gliding Heritage for the future. Gliding started in Australia around 1929, emerging in most states simultaneously. Enthusiasts constructed elementary gliders from magazine plans or designed their own. Over 1000 gliders have been registered in Australia, about 800 are in use regularly. Australian Gliding Museum will ensure that historic gliders and gliding paraphernalia is preserved and where possible gliders are restored and maintained in an airworthy condition for display to the public.

The Australian Gliding Museum Collection



Zogling (Northrup) Primary Glider

This is how the early pioneers learnt to fly. You sat on it rather than in it and whatever instruction received was given by loud hailer from the ground! Students proceeded from "Ground Slides" to "S Turns" and finally to full circuits. Primaries were launched by rubber shock cord (bungee) off the side of a hill or by towing with a car or by winching in a long cable. There are several primaries still in existence and the museum has a flyable one. Another flies regularly at Gulgong in NSW.



The Dunstable Kestrel

The Dunstable Kestrel was designed by W. Manuel in England and is the culmination of a series of gliders known as the "Wrens". Three Kestrels were built from plans brought to Australia and all three still exist in some form. The museum Kestrel will be restored to display condition. This Kestrel was equipped with a large car headlamp for night flying! It was built and flown by P. Pratt who had an aircraft workshop on the Belmont Common Geelong. Percy Pratt started the Geelong Gliding Club in 1929 which still exists although has moved to Bacchus Marsh.

The Kestrel was flown without instruments or windshield and has an all moving tailplane and fin.

The British Gliders



The T 31 Tandem Tutor

Tuition from the ground was not very satisfactory. Two seat training gliders soon appeared. The T31 restoration to airworthy condition is almost completed.



The Gull 4

The Slingsby Gull 4 was brought to Australia shortly after WW II. It was used by Martin Warner to establish a height record of 25,000 ft. The Gull 4 restoration will require much skill and determination.

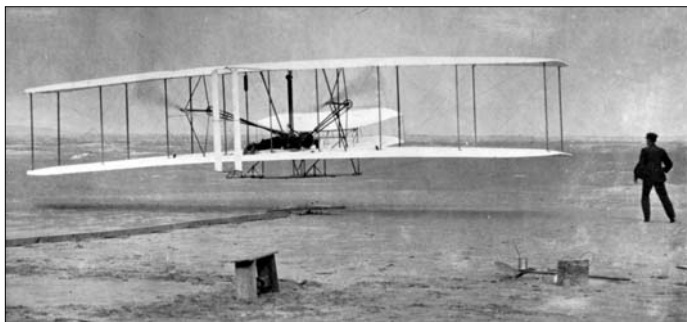


The Olympia

The Olympia, designed by famous German designer Hans Jacobs for the Olympic games. The museum Olympia was built by Elliotts of Newbury UK. Restoration was largely completed by original Australian owner D. Darbyshire before his recent passing.

Australian Gliding Museum

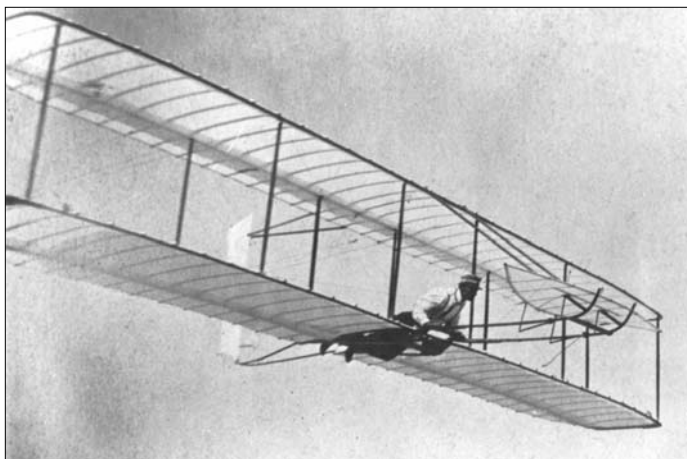
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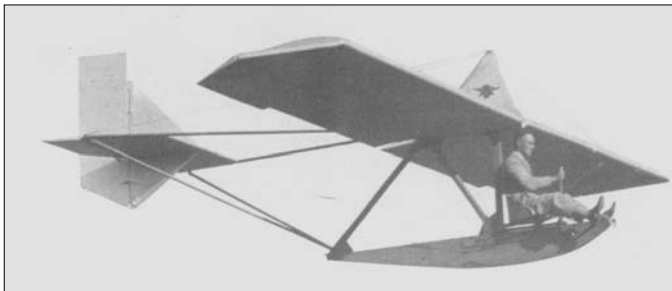


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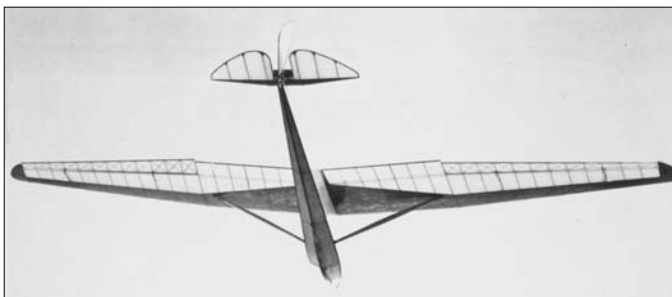
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