

---

Newsletter of the Vintage Glider Association of Australia  
Editor: Allan Ash, 2 Heath Avenue, Frankston, Victoria 3199

---

## NEW H17 NOW FLYING

After more than three years of work, Harold Bradley of Adelaide has seen his latest project, a Hutter H17, take to the air at the hands of his son, Alan.

Australia now has what is probably the youngest "vintage" sailplane in the world, a flying replica of a design that first appeared about 1934 in Austria.

Harold Bradley, at 86 the oldest member of the VGA, began building the H17 in 1981 after growing bored with retirement.

His son, Alan, suggested he should build a model sailplane but Harold decided it would be more fun to build a real one.

He had the plans of a H17 (he built one during the 1950s) and began work in his garage at home.

Construction was delayed on several occasions but Harold plugged on and the sailplane was eventually finished early this year.

Test flights were made at Gawler. Alan made a couple of low straight flights by car tow and then took an aerotow to 2000 feet. His verdict was "GREAT"!

Harold was there to see it all and was naturally excited and delighted with the results of his labours. The tests were made in April. We have not heard what flying it has done since then but have no doubt that Alan will continue to make good use of it.

Hopefully, Harold and Alan will bring the H17 along to a vintage glider regatta before long and give everyone the opportunity to see it.

It is hoped that Harold's example will inspire other VGA members to undertake the construction of other sailplanes or finish those now started.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This issue of "Vintage Times" has fewer pages than past issues because of the lack of news from members.

Please let the secretary know what you are doing so the next issue will be fatter.

There are some members we haven't heard from for years. If you are doing any flying or are overhauling, repairing or rebuilding a vintage sailplane we would like to hear from you.

## FACTORY IN HUNGARY RESTORES OLD GLIDERS

A company has been established in Hungary to repair and restore old sailplanes.

The firm, Aerofa, will also undertake the construction of replicas of vintage designs if drawings are available.

It is reported in the Newsletter of the Vintage Glider Club of Great Britain that the cost of work done by Aerofa is very low compared with costs in Britain and other European countries.

The company has already built replicas of the Hungarian Vöcsök and Cimborá designs and has rebuilt a damaged Pirat and Moswey 2A.

The British newsletter says

that restored vintage machines will probably be issued with Hungarian Cs of A which would be acceptable in Britain.

## SEDMANS TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL RALLY

During their current visit to Britain and Europe, Kevin and Helen Sedgman of Adelaide expect to attend the international vintage glider rally at Amlikon, Switzerland, from 20-28 July.

It is likely that the Sedgmans will also make contact with vintage glider enthusiasts in Britain and one or two other European countries during their four-month holiday.

**Bulk Stockists and Importers of Aircraft sheet metals, special aluminium and steel alloys, tubing, bar, extrusions, angles etc. Birch Aircraft quality plywood, resorcinol glue.**

### WE WILL CUT TO ORDER

4130 Sheet .025 to .312 ■ 4130 Tubing ¼ inch x .035 to 2½ inch x .049  
■ 4130 Rod 3/16 inch Dia. to 2 inch Dia 2024T3 Sheet .016 to .0250  
■ 2040-0 Sheet (annealed) .016 to .80 7075T6 Sheet and Bar ■ Aluminium Extrusions.

Aluminium Tubing 2024T3, 5052-C etc. Aluminium Sheet 6061 and other Specs. Hardware supplied to A.N. — M.S. AND N.A.S. Standards. Bolts, Nuts, Turnbuckles, Galvanised, Stainless cable and fittings. Cotton Tapes, Fabrics etc.

Distributors for Watty! Butyrate and Nitrate finishes.

All V.P.1 and V.P.2 materials available. Cut and formed under carriages.

Flight Instruments ● Gerdes, ● Cleveland ● Azusa ● Rosenthal wheels and brakes

**MOORABBIN AIRCRAFT  
SPARES**

Telephone: (03) 90 6844  
Telex 'Airmas' 36445

Cnr. First Ave & Third St.  
Moorabbin Airport  
P.O. Box 68 Cheltenham  
Vic. 3192, Australia.



## ARTHUR HARDINGE TO VISIT DURING JULY

Arthur Hardinge is to visit Australia during July, after living in Canada for many years.

Arthur made his mark on the gliding scene in 1949 when he toured New Zealand in the Olympia "Yellow Witch". The tour had a big impact in New Zealand and played a major role in reviving the sport in that country after World War 2 ended.

The "Yellow Witch" was built in Melbourne between 1946 and 1948 by Arthur Hardinge and Ken Davies.

It was built from plans bought from the Chilton Aircraft Company in England and

was the first Olympia to fly in Australia.

Arthur, who now lives in Scarborough, Ontario, will be spending about a month in Australia, mostly visiting relatives and old gliding friends.

He is due to arrive in Brisbane on 10 July, after spending several weeks in New Zealand visiting local gliding clubs and people.

While in Melbourne, he will have the opportunity to see the "Yellow Witch" again. The present owner, Keith Nolan, says the Olympia is currently undergoing its annual C of A inspection, but he is sure he can have it at Bacchus Marsh airfield during the visit of Arthur Hardinge.

## WOODEN AIRCRAFT

*For the finest in SPRUCE and PLYWOODS contact . . .*



*Stocks of the Choicest timber in all species available to your order.  
Propellers, etc. Precision Woodworkers. Write Direct to:-*

**PERFECTUS AIRSCREW PTY. LTD.**

**175 MASON STREET, NEWPORT, 3015, VICTORIA**

Telephone: 391-2076  
Telegraphic PERSCREWS

Fully Approved by  
Department of Transport

## VINTAGE GLIDER CLUB STARTED IN HOLLAND

Growing support for the preservation and flying of vintage gliders in Holland has led to the formation of the Vereniging Historische Zweefvliegtuigen (Vintage Glider Club Netherlands).

Glider pilots in Holland have been active for many years and involved in flying and restoring vintage sailplanes. Many have been active members of the Vintage Glider Club of Great Britain and have held a number of vintage glider rallies.

The chairman of the Vintage Glider Club Netherlands, Jan van Beugen, said the formation of the club was necessary in order to negotiate with Dutch civil aviation authorities in keeping old gliders flying.

Formation of the new club in Holland emphasises the increasing interest in vintage gliders in many parts of Europe.

As well as the Netherlands,

there are active vintage glider organisations in Britain, Germany, France, Hungary, Switzerland and Belgium.

Strong interest in vintage gliders has also been evident in Norway and Denmark, though no official organisations yet exist to preserve old gliders in these countries.

## T31 IN FINAL STAGES OF MAJOR OVERHAUL

From Brisbane, Gilbert Simpkins reports that his Slingsby T31 two-seater is in the final stages of finishing after a major overhaul that has been spread over many years.

Gil bought the T31 (VH-GDW) from the RAN Gliding Association.

The overhaul has been delayed by the pressure of earning a living but all the work on the structure is now completed and final painting is being done.

Hopefully, the T31 will be back in the air before the summer season begins.

Gil also owns a Hutter H17 which he says needs major work on the wings before it is airworthy again.

Several years ago, Gil also bought the parts of two Olympias which had been started in Perth. He reports that he has not done any work on these two aircraft, seeing them as something of a long-term project.

## CELEBRATION!

To celebrate the 30th birthday of his Grunau Baby 2, VH-GDN, at Balaklava, South Australia, owner Leigh Bunting handed out free drinks in the club's bar on condition that each recipient sing "Happy Birthday" to the Grunau.