

# GLIDING

## AUSTRALIA

Issue 33 December 2016 - January 2017

[www.glidingaustralia.org](http://www.glidingaustralia.org)

**WORLD GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
BENALLA - PROGRAM**

**AEROBATICS AT WARWICK  
KINGAROY MULTICLASS NATIONALS**









## 2016 SAGA COACHING WEEK AT WAIKERIE



This year's Coaching Week at Waikerie will be a great opportunity for pilots to further their flying skills during a one-week coaching clinic.

The South Australian coaching panel will hold the event between Christmas and New Year from 26 to 31 December 2016 with no course fee, due to generous funding from both the GFA and SAGA. Participants are expected to arrive on Monday 26 December and the event will close with a wind up dinner followed by a New Years Eve party on 31 December.

So far we have received enrolments from more than 20 local and interstate pilots and the services of our top coaches have already been secured. The course is also open to international visitors - everyone is very welcome!

Organizers are providing for all level of experience and even cater for pre- and early post silo pilots. Pilots who don't have access to a glider can expect to fly in one of the three ASK 21s in attendance. Short theory lectures in the morning will be followed by practical

flying in the afternoon and a debriefing session in the evening but the emphasis is on a polishing of skill and knowledge in a relaxing environment of fun.

A group of coaches will guide less experienced pilots around shorter tasks and turn points closer to the airfield. Advanced pilots will be coached around more challenging tasks. Most coaching will be conducted on a lead and follow basis but an opportunity for coaching flights in an ASH 30 Mi, Arcus and other 2-seaters also exists. In addition we will also be offering outstanding training in a touring motorglider. Regardless of whether you are just beginning your cross-country career or whether you are an experienced pilot, you will greatly benefit from this week.

Full catering is planned at the airfield and members of the Waikerie gliding club will again provide their famous evening meals for very modest costs. Of course, the club's kitchen facilities are also available for members who prefer to provide their own catering. For registration and accommodation

bookings please visit <http://sagacoaching2016.blogspot.com.au>

For further details please feel free to contact **Bernard Eckey on (08) 84492871** or e-mail: [eckey@internode.on.net](mailto:eckey@internode.on.net)

## WARWICK GLIDING CLUB CASE STUDY

BY DAVID KINLAN



### GFA MEMBERSHIP GOAL

GFA is determined to grow membership to increase the viability and affordability of our sport. Here is another case study in our series - Warwick Gliding Club.

The Warwick Gliding Club in SE Queensland was originally called the Southern Downs Gliding Club and was established in 1962. Like many clubs in the 1960s and '70s, the boom years in gliding in Australia, the club had on average 150 members with a club fleet of several gliders and 30 to 40-odd members turning out and flying each and every weekend with a strong social scene. Alas, those days are long gone!

In those early years, the club focussed primarily on training, air experience flights and limited crosscountry flying. However, like many clubs in the following decades and into the new millenium, member numbers waned and the club committee was faced with a problem. How to retain its club members and still offer what they were seeking in the sport?

### ADAPT TO MEMBERS' NEEDS

It was clear to the committee and instructor panel at the time that the club had to adapt to changes in needs

as members increasingly became interested in cross country flying. While instructing and air experience flying would still be accommodated, it would be the exception rather than the norm. The club was gradually morphing into a cross country and largely private owners' club.

Located a two-hour drive out of Brisbane, the club realised that other gliding clubs closer to the city were better placed for instructional flying, which ran parallel to the drop in instructor-rated members in the club.

The club gradually disposed of its aging fleet and decided that quality rather than quantity of the fleet was paramount. Rather than a few aged, underutilised single seater and two-seater training aircraft, members felt that maintaining one modern trainer and a single seater was the way to go. The proceeds from the sale of the fleet went back into newer aircraft, in this case a PW-6 and a Discus CS. This was well before the GFA grant system was in place - if your club is looking to update its fleet, it should seriously consider the GFA loan as the kickstarter to invest in new aircraft. New aircraft attract new members!

### CHANGE IS NOT EASY

Such a radical change is never an easy matter and there was much discussion at the time about the course the club was taking. With the club's membership relatively stable at 40 members there were enough key and core people to keep the club viable. Some clubs are operating with only half this number, but only just.

The Warwick club does not operate in a vacuum and the influx of new members is strongly influenced by other clubs in the region. This is not in itself a bad thing for the gliding community. For example, if you are not achieving your gliding goals, rather than getting frustrated within your own club, you might look to other clubs to see if what you are seeking is on offer elsewhere. This 'looking over

continued over page

## South Australian State Gliding Competition

Adelaide Soaring Club - Gawler

