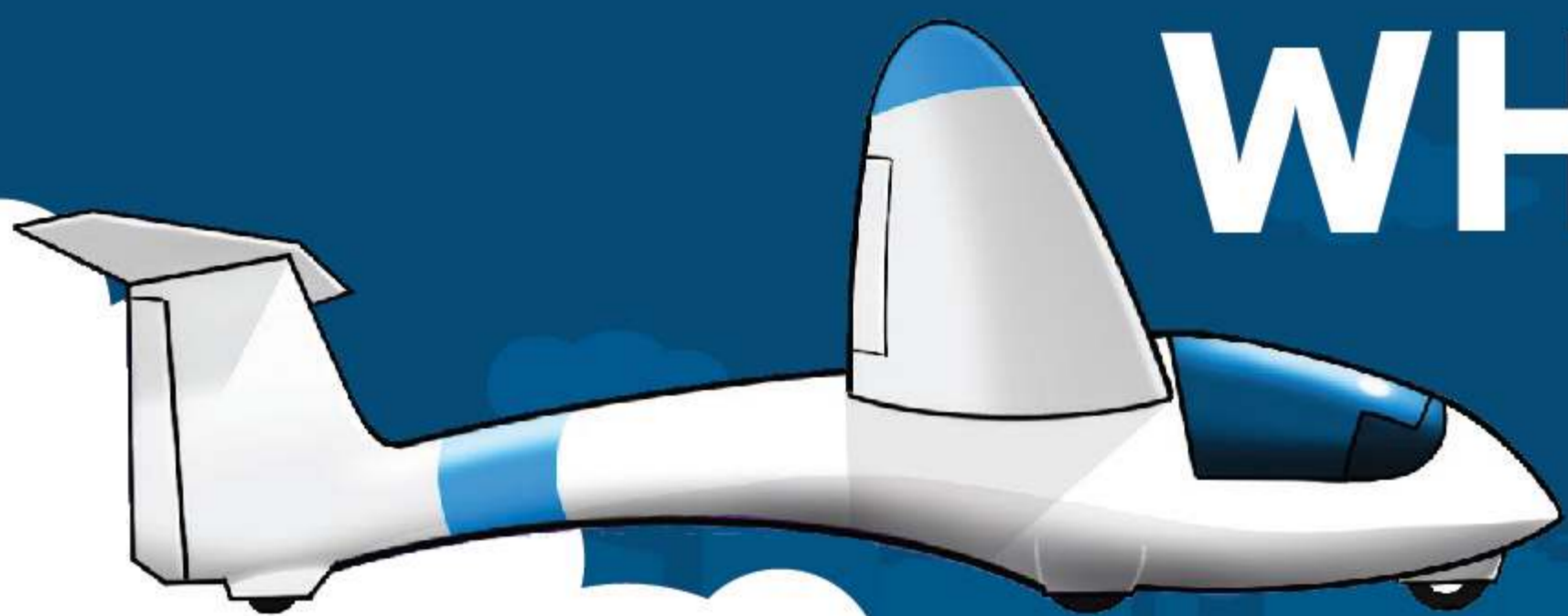


WHERE CAN I GO WITH GLIDING?



The first goal of the glider pilot should be to gain the Glider Pilot Certificate (GPC). The steps for this are as follows

GO SOLO

The initial training is focused on learning the basics of gliding and gaining the skill to safely fly a glider. Once this is achieved, your instructor will send you solo.



COMPLETE A, B, C CERTIFICATES

The A,B,C certificates provide follow training up after going solo. This includes qualifications for mutual flying (B certificate) and the carrying of private passengers and cross country flying (C certificate).



CROSS COUNTRY FLYING

Cross country gliding is the when you fly the glider out of glide range from the airfield. This is where the real challenge begins. It requires the pilot to put together many concepts such as the basic piloting of the glider, navigation, knowledge of the weather, the ability to predict the location of and find thermals, the ability to maximize the climb rate in thermals, knowledge of the terrain and crops, and knowledge of the performance characteristics of the glider. Cross country flying puts your gliding ability to the test and is great fun! You can fly on adventures with other club members distance of

50KM, 100KM, AND EVEN 1000KM

GLIDER PILOT'S CERTIFICATE (GPC)

The GPC qualification recognises the pilot's ability to carry out cross country flights in varied conditions, operate independently and safely, and be able to fly at any site in Australia. The GPC allows a pilot to enter gliding competitions.

Once you have obtained your GPC, there are many other aspects to enhance your skills and knowledge:

BECOME AN AIR EXPERIENCE INSTRUCTOR (AEI)

Achieving your Air Experience Instructor rating authorises you to fly passengers who may not be members of the Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA). This may include members of the public who come out and want to experience gliding. It allows you to help the club by assisting instructors when people wishing to go on and Air Experience Flight come to the club. It also improves your gliding skills.

LEARNING ABOUT GLIDER MAINTENANCE

Gliders require maintenance according to particular schedules, as well as an annual inspection. The club is always looking for people to assist and it is a great opportunity to increase your knowledge of how a glider works. If you enjoy helping and learning more about the maintenance side of things, there are courses available to allow you to qualify to qualify for certain ratings for glider maintenance.

BADGE FLYING

FAI badges are international standards of achievement in gliding which have been established since the beginning of cross country flight and are there to provide specific goals for glider pilots. Silver, Gold and Diamond Badges are available for various distances (50km, 300km, 500km) and flight times (1 hour, 5 hours), and height gains (1000m, 3000m, 5000m).

COMPETITION FLYING

A couple of times a year some pilots pack up their gliders or book club gliders and head to various competitions around the state and even the country. These events give pilots a great time in both flying and also socialization. Competitions need not be a scary, however pilots do need a certain amount of skill and experience level before they are allowed to fly as pilot in command. DDSC actively brings 2-seat gliders to competitions allowing less experienced pilots to fly with coaches or instructors.

BECOME AN INSTRUCTOR

Once you have completed your GPC you can look to train to become an instructor. Instructing not only improves your flying skills but allows you to help the club.

BECOME A TUG PILOT

If you have your power licence and meet the requirements for towing, you can look to become a tug pilot for the club. The club will assist you in getting endorsed on the tug planes.

