

Dave Darbyshire



Dave Darbyshire, our foundation Vice President, started gliding in the mid 1940's and was a very active member and former President of the Gliding Club of Victoria, helping to lay the foundations for the development of the most active gliding club in Australia. He was a driving force in the establishment of the club at Benalla.

Whilst business interests prevented him from actively participating in day to day Club activities during recent years he always maintained a close, active interest in the many aspects of aviation. He built a number of light aircraft, operated several aviation enterprises, and played a most active role in the early development of the Museum. At the time of his demise he was actively restoring the Museum's Olympia sailplane to flying standard. He had a major involvement in the rebuilding of this machine 50 years ago when it was imported from the UK in a very sad state.

Bill Riley



Bill Riley is well known to members of the Gliding Federation of Australia. He created "Sportavia" at Tocumwal and he might also be called "Mr Blanik" as he was instrumental in

bringing this important two-seater to Australia in large numbers. Later he introduced another important two-seater, the IS 28 to Australia. Bill collected a lot of damaged gliders over the years saving them from club bonfires and the local rubbish dumps. Some of these gliders are the only examples of the type; the museum's first restoration, the Club two-seater is one of these. The Olympia mentioned above is another.

Bruce Brockhoff



Bruce recently donated a brand new large hangar at the Bacchus Marsh Airfield (known as the Bruce Brockhoff Annex to the [Australian Gliding Museum](#)), built to house many a donated vintage glider including Bill Riley's collection. Bill was Bruce's most influential and strongest mentor during Bruce's glider racing career. They did many an informative and fruitful overseas trip to nearly all the glider factories of Europe, Eastern Europe and the UK as well as the major gliding airfields of Germany, France and Italy and England. The Romanians were particularly friendly and generous with home made wines and grappa.

[more.....](#)

Graeme & Jim Barton



After long and distinguished careers as leading executive members of the Gliding Club of Victoria, where Jim spent many years as President, the brothers joined with others to found the Australian Gliding Museum over twenty years ago. At the time of the fibreglass revolution and ever increasing developments in gliding. Australia's gliding history had been sidelined. There was a real risk that it would become derelict, almost beyond recovery. Jim and Graeme, with others, recognised this and took on the passion of saving, preserving and displaying the rich history in Australian Gliding. The Barton brothers never altered from total commitment to that passion.

Both were still found regularly working one or two days a week at Museum, organising a wide variety of tasks, whilst still physically able. Jim's onsite management skills have lead to the great progress in infrastructure and a large and competent volunteer workforce restoring gliders and providing training. Graeme as Secretary/Treasurer provided a professional standard of management in compliance and oversight to ensure the Museum is properly developed and soundly based for the future. Both also put in many hours per week off site with many related tasks. Under their leadership the Australian Gliding Museum Inc has grown to the extent that 66 historic gliders are in care, the many visitors highly enthusiastic with their praise.

