

# A Guide to



*"When once you have tasted flight,  
you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward,  
for there you have been,  
and there you will always long to return."*

-- Leonardo da Vinci

## **Welcome to the Southern Tablelands Gliding Club**

The Club is a not-for-profit organisation affiliated with the Gliding Federation of Australia, and was established to provide cost effective glider flying for its members. It is one of the few clubs offering winch launches, and has a small fleet of single and twin seater gliders for hire. The Club flies from a privately owned grass airstrip approximately 15km NE of Goulburn. The surrounding area is grazing country and cross-country flying is possible. We fly Saturdays, some Sundays and Wednesdays, weather permitting. Gliding has operated at this location since 1971.

### **Visitors**

We welcome visitors, either as pilots from other clubs, new students or for Joy Flights. We also cater for groups who may want a flying day exclusively for themselves.

Visitors to the Club should contact one of the Contact Officers listed on the last page prior to attending the airfield (see page 3 for directions).

After entering the airfield gate, please go to the winch (if it is parked under the trees on the left) or follow the track to the parked gliders. If there are no Club members visible, follow the road parallel to the railway until you reach the hangar. Please leave the gates as you find them.

### **Joy Flights**

Joy flights are available to visitors at a cost of \$200. Gift vouchers are also available for these flights. These make an ideal gift for someone who would like to experience something different and exciting.

Your joy flight will last approximately 20 minutes, and you may be able to fly the glider if your instructor considers it is safe for you to do so. You should allow yourself about an hour for your briefing and flight, but you are welcome to spend as much of the day observing the club's operations as you wish (See Flying Day Routine below). You will be given a briefing before your flight, and you will have the opportunity to discuss details of the flight with the instructor afterwards.

Additional flights within nine days of your joy flight are charged at Visiting Pilot rates (see below).

## Training

The Club has several Instructors, one of whom is in charge of flying operations on the day. The Club's Chief Flying Instructor oversees all aspects of training at the Club, and ensures that all training meets national standards. All instructors are volunteers.

For Club members, we provide flying instruction through to solo stage in our two-seat gliders, followed by conversion on to the Club's single seat aircraft. Members can then participate in cross country flying in both the twin and single seat gliders.

Training is provided in all aspects of in-flight and ground operations including glider care and maintenance, daily and pre-flight safety inspections, radio operations, basic meteorology, navigation, gliding theory, launch and landing procedures.

## What to bring

- ✓ Comfortable clothes and hardy shoes
- ✓ Sun protection (hat and sunscreen)
- ✓ Food and drink for the day
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Friends and family!

## Flight Day Preparation

Assuming that you have discussed the details with one of our contact people in the days before your intended flight, you should make a final check on the morning of your flight to ensure that the weather is suitable for flying. To do this, you can either phone the contact person or check our website after 7:30 on the morning of your flight.

To check if we are flying next go to our website at <http://www.stgc.org.au> and click on this <http://www.stgc.org.au/glide/prod/VisitorInfo1.php> which is in the right hand panel of the home page.

## Conditions

### Age

There are no age requirements to be a passenger in a glider. To fly solo, you must be at least 15 years of age.

### Weight

The weight of each person in a glider must fall within certain limits for the safe operation of the aircraft. You will need to disclose your weight to the instructor before your flight so that they can ensure that your individual and combined weights are within the safe range for that aircraft. The maximum individual weight limit for our training and joy flight aircraft is 110kg.

### Medical

Some medical conditions may make it unsafe or uncomfortable for you to fly. Please advise the contact officer and flying instructor if you have any concerns. As a general rule, if you can drive a car you can fly a glider.

### Membership

It is a legal requirement in Australia that you must be a member of both a gliding club and the Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA) in order to learn to fly a glider. The fee for your joy flight (\$200) covers these fees for a nine day period.

### COVID Policy

We abide by NSW Government Health Rules and operate under the Club Covid Safety and Flying Operations Plan

([http://www.stgc.org.au/glide/prod/files/Operating\\_Procedures/STGC\\_Covid-19\\_Safety\\_and\\_Flying\\_Operations\\_Plan\\_February\\_2022.pdf](http://www.stgc.org.au/glide/prod/files/Operating_Procedures/STGC_Covid-19_Safety_and_Flying_Operations_Plan_February_2022.pdf)).

## **Flying Day Routine**

7:00 The rostered Duty Instructor reviews the Goulburn aviation weather forecast, and makes a decision about whether the conditions are suitable for flying.

7:15 The Duty Instructor then updates the Club website and sends an email to the Club mailing list with the decision and the weather forecast.

9:30 Club members arrive at the airfield and start preparing the aircraft and vehicles. ALL vehicles used in the day's operations (gliders, winch, retrieve cars, etc) receive a daily inspection by a qualified club member. Any required maintenance is performed.

10:00 Briefing – the Duty Instructor briefs all attendees on the day's operations, with particular regard to weather, safety issues, airstrip and access road use, visitors, member goals, etc.

10:30-11:30 The Radio & Ops van is set up at the launch end of the strip and manned by the Duty Pilot. The winch is set up at the end of the strip, and the cable is towed to the launch point. The gliders are towed to the launch area.

11:30-12:00 Flights commence. Pilots are launched in the order in which they arrived at the airfield. Air experience flights and student flights are scheduled to best meet the needs of the visitor/student. Instructors provide pre and post flight briefings on all flights.

16:00\* The Duty Pilot determines when the last flight of the day will be launched (based on prevailing weather and light conditions). Once launches are complete, the winch is packed up and taken back to the hangar.

17:00\* When all aircraft have landed, all vehicles are packed up into the hangar.

18:00\* End of day gathering to share a drink with friends and celebrate the day's accomplishments.

## Fees and charges

	Adult	Junior (Up to 26 years old)
<b>Fees</b> (as of October 2022)		
STGC Joining Fee	\$200	Nil
STGC Annual Membership	\$160	\$80
Gliding Federation of Australia Annual Membership	\$338	\$175
<b>Member Charges</b>		
Winch Launch	\$20	\$20
Glider Hire	75 Cents/minute	75 Cents/minute
<b>Visiting Pilot Charges</b>		
Winch Launch	\$25	\$25
Glider Hire	85 Cents/minute	85 Cents/minute
<b>Instruction</b>	<b>Free !</b>	<b>Free !</b>

[The Gliding Federation of Australia](http://www.glidingaustralia.org/) provides a wealth of information about gliding and pilot training that you will find useful if you wish to train to become a glider pilot. These are the essentials:

- [Australian Gliding Knowledge](https://doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=download&alias=2548-australian-gliding-knowledge-bgk&category_slug=GPC-resources&Itemid=101)  
([https://doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&view=download&alias=2548-australian-gliding-knowledge-bgk&category\\_slug=GPC-resources&Itemid=101](https://doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=download&alias=2548-australian-gliding-knowledge-bgk&category_slug=GPC-resources&Itemid=101))
- [Glider Pilot Training](http://doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=tree&sort=title&direction=asc&slug=pilot-guides&Itemid=101&layout=table)  
([http://doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&view=tree&sort=title&direction=asc&slug=pilot-guides&Itemid=101&layout=table](http://doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=tree&sort=title&direction=asc&slug=pilot-guides&Itemid=101&layout=table))

New members will need to join the Southern Tablelands Gliding Club (membership form <http://stgc.org.au/training/Membership.pdf>) and the Gliding Federation of Australia (<https://glidingaustralia.org/membership/>). GFA GPC Training Logbooks are available for \$7.50 from the club. An application for membership of the Club must be seconded by a club member and approved by the STGC Club Committee.

Once you are signed up, as a flying or training member, we will create an account for you in our computer system and this will be used to record your flying times etc. We send out accounts about once a month. We prefer that members maintain a credit balance in their accounts. Our preferred payment method is direct deposit into our bank account. Cash is also OK. Sorry but payment by credit card or EFTPOS is not available.

Our bank account details are:

Bank: St George Bank

BSB: 112 879

Account No: 419 647 225

Account Name: Southern Tablelands Gliding Club

Please ensure that payments are identified with your name so that they can be credited to the correct account. It is a good idea to send an email notification of the payment to the Treasurer.

## Contacts

Club contact details are available on the web site at this [link](#) and reproduced below.

Club phone: 0490 064 347

Club email: [soarstgc@stgc.org.au](mailto:soarstgc@stgc.org.au)

President: [president@stgc.org.au](mailto:president@stgc.org.au)

CFI: [cfi@stgc.org.au](mailto:cfi@stgc.org.au)

Our main website is <http://stgc.org.au/index.html>.

Our Facebook page is [Southern Tablelands Gliding](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernTablelandsGliding)  
(<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernTablelandsGliding>)

The gliding field location is here  
<http://stgc.org.au/location/index.html>.