

NARROGIN GLIDING CLUB

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AB INITIO GLIDING COURSE BRIEF

Narrogin Airfield, 2194 Clayton Road, Narrogin WA



Get ready for some fun...

Ab Initio Gliding Course Overview

Two regular courses per year, one at Easter, the other in Spring, plus others on demand

Gliding is ultimately all about 'soaring', which is about being able to extract enough energy from the air so you and half a tonne of fibreglass or carbon fibre (your sailplane), can go wherever you want to go and come back again, safely and efficiently.

There is nothing more exciting than sitting in your glider near cloud base, 100km from home, planning a final glide back to the airfield at 200kph.

This course will introduce you to soaring, but it is focused primarily on helping you start your gliding journey. Ab initio is latin for 'from the beginning' and our training is designed to provide a trainee with little or no flying experience, with the skills to fly a sailplane, and perhaps to even fly solo.

A course is definitely the best way to do this, so you've already made a great start to your flying career. It gives you a concentrated burst of flying and theory with dedicated instructors and priority access to the gliders and tug planes. This ensures that you can make the best use of your time on the airfield.

1

AEF

Typical Intro to gliding is a brief "Air Experience Flight".

2

AB INITIO

Introduction to soaring and flying training with the aim of going solo.

3

SOLO

Going solo and then learning navigation and cross country flying.



OUR FLEET

A range of gliders to use based on your flying experience.



GETTING SKYWARD

Two tug aircraft & a winch for launching.



FACILITIES

Great clubhouse & accommodation to complete your experience.



We are known as a friendly club welcoming people of all ages & experience. We know how to have fun!

Of course, if you already have some aviation experience, all the better. We'll progress you at whatever rate is required to keep you challenged but not overloaded.

Development of soaring skills, gliding related weather appreciation skills, an endorsement to fly passengers, cross country flying skills and competition flying are all further steps after solo and the focus of other Club advanced courses.

However, you may not have done anything like this before. The following outlines the exciting program and flying that you can expect.

Please note:

- The upper weight limit for a glider pilot is 110kg;
- All instructors hold *Working with Children* cards; and
- The minimum age for a solo pilot is 15 years, however younger pilots can be trained and considered 'solo ready' prior to their 15th birthday.

Program - The course runs for 5 days.

To ensure an early start we ask people, who can, to arrive at the gliding club and get settled in on the afternoon / evening before the course begins. If you can't do this, don't worry, but it would be good if you could because it gives us a chance to all meet each other, have a kick-off briefing and orientation session on the first evening.

The gliding club normally operates on weekends and public holidays. However, because we will be there with an active tug plane, some members may choose to come along during the week for some flying.

GROUND SCHOOL TOPICS:

- Ground Handling
- Checks – pre-takeoff, pre-landing, pre-aerobatic
- Controls – how they work, what they do, how to use them
- Turning – coordination, speed control, thermalling
- Aero-tow Launching
- Stalls, Spins
- Circuit, Approach, Landing
- Gliding goals and opportunities

Suggested pre reading:

- Combined Pilot Training Guides 1-26 Solo.
- GPC Theory Lessons (up to and including Unit 26)

These documents are available free, from the Narrogin Gliding Club's or Gliding Australia's website.



This is good; it will give you a chance to mix with other pilots during your training.

Of course, as a club member you will be welcome to turn up on any weekend or public holiday after the course to enjoy some more flying if you want to. In fact we really hope that you do.

Typical Daily Program

0700 – 0800	Breakfast
0800 – 0830	Domestics (clean up, etc.)
0830 – 0930	Prepare gliders for the day
0930 – 1000	Pre-flight briefing (weather, what we will be doing etc.)
1000 – 1100	Ground School
1100 – 1800	Flying (with breaks for lunch etc.)



After you have mastered basic aircraft control and handling, flying will concentrate on polishing your upper air work skills, take-off and landing skills, and how to handle emergencies.

We will keep flights down to 20 – 30 minutes most of the time. Experience has shown that this is the most effective for developing skills as quickly as possible.

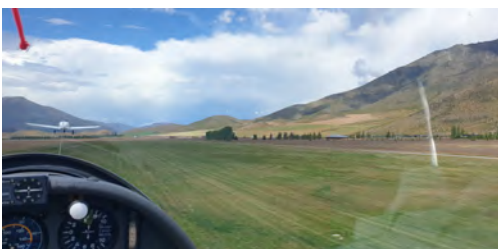
We don't guarantee you will go solo during the course because, although a course is the most efficient way to learn, it all depends on how you progress.

Everyone is different and everyone develops their skills at their own pace... there is no pressure. The course uses Gliding Australia's *Gliding Pilot Certificate* syllabus, and students can advance using this syllabus, as far as their skills, abilities and the conditions allow.

For those who go solo we'll move to more advanced soaring skills, progressing along the various steps that will develop you into a fully trained and competent soaring glider pilot.



NGC Member photo of Mount Cook NZ in the distance, from a glider at 14,500 feet, having climbed to that height from 1,100 feet from Omarama with no engine of course.



Accommodation

The gliding club has its own caravan park, with powered or unpowered caravan or tent sites and an ablution block. You are welcome to bring along your own caravan, tent, campervan or RV though basic, communal accommodation is available in the clubhouse building. Rooms have beds and mattresses but you need to bring sheets and blankets or a sleeping bag and your favourite pillow and teddy bear.

All these options are free of charge for course members.

Food

For an additional charge, the course can provide full catering so all meals including morning and afternoon tea will be supplied. We find it takes pressure off all students and staff when those simple daily tasks are no longer a consideration.

If you bring any food items with you, we suggest you put them in an esky, a plastic box or similar closed container. The club canteen sells snack size pizzas, pies, ice creams, soft drinks, chocolates etc. for those who want them. The club has ample fridge/freezer space which are at your disposal.

We also have a licensed bar with a good selection of beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks for sale plus the usual varieties of chips and nuts. We open the bar each night after flying. Prices are basically at cost plus a small margin.

Clothes

It should be reasonably warm during the day but Narrogin can be variable, so plan for cold nights as well.

- Best to stay reasonably covered up from the sun. Shorts and short sleeve shirts are fine if it's warm enough but be 'sun smart' and use sunscreen.
- Choose shirts and T shirts with collars to cover the back of your neck.
- At least one pair of long pants and a jumper. It can get cold, especially at night.

- Shoes or sneakers. No thongs or similar in the gliders, they can get loose and jam the rudder pedals.
- Hat – very important. Preferably not white or light coloured as lighter colours reflect around the inside of the canopy and may hinder vision. No wide brims for the glider because they obstruct vision and blow off on the airfield. Surfer hats with a brim all around that covers the ears and back of the neck are good. Baseball caps are not a good idea and those with the button on top are not allowed in the glider as they can hurt your head or damage the canopy should you experience an unexpected 'bump'. Some caps have very long peaks that obscure upward vision and they don't protect the ears and back of the neck. Caps with a cloth piece on back and sides to protect the ears/side of face and back of the neck are probably the best.
- Sunglasses are pretty important as it can be glary though we suggest a cheap pair, in case you sit on them.

Other

- SPF +30 sunscreen
- Insect repellent (Aerogard or similar)
- Notebook for taking notes during the day and in the Ground School
- Pencil or ball point pen
- Torch

Weather

We can't control the weather of course, but

Narrogin is usually pretty good at this time of the year.

If it rains and we can't fly, we'll catch up on Ground School or do a bit of running glider maintenance until it clears. Trust us, you won't get bored

Course Cost

Gliding would have to be the most affordable form of recreational flying.

- **\$1,850 for an adult, or \$1,626 for a student, payable to the Narrogin Gliding Club.**
 - This includes an annual membership of the Narrogin Gliding Club, being \$420 per adult or \$196 per student;
 - Up to 4 or 5 instructional flights a day (5 days) during the course. It is important to note the cost of each flight varies based upon the time the tow plane and glider are in the air. Any residual course monies are credited to your flying account for post course flying.
 - As noted, this cost includes your accommodation if you elect the Club 'under cover' accommodation comprising three partitioned 'cubicles' in the Bungalow, and two 'family rooms' each comprising two queen size beds and a single bed.
- **Estimate \$35 per day for catering if you choose Club catering.**
- **\$420 for an adult, or \$218 for people under the age of 26 years and studying, for an annual membership of Gliding Australia.**
 - This cost is payable directly (by you) to Gliding Australia. All gliding clubs in Australia operate under the direction of Gliding Australia. Gliding Australia have been delegated the responsible authority for gliding activities by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).
 - Alternatively, a 90 day adult membership of Gliding Australia is \$218. This is only available once, after which a full membership must be purchased.

CONTACT:

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w [Home - Narrogin Gliding Club](#)

We look forward to our courses and we enjoy running them. Our experience from past courses is that all the participants have a lot of fun together and develop some lasting friendships. We look forward to meeting you soon.

See our website at:

<https://www.narroginglidingclub.org.au/>

See the video 'Gliding at Narrogin' at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmI7y5dbn6g>

