

## **CLUB HISTORY. Colin Douglas.**

Whilst rummaging through a box of old family photos some time ago, I came across this photo of DH-60X Gypsy Moth VH-UPU. Taken on the family property west of Bendigo at Woodstock, sometime in 1930.

I have not been able to ascertain who was flying the aircraft at the time of this photograph. I eventually made some enquiries to Allan Howard who happened to have a book containing the register and history of both Gypsy and Tiger Moths. It seems that VH-UPU was on loan to Bendigo Flying Club in 1930.



### **The following is a brief history of this aircraft:**

545 DH 60X manufactured by DHE with Cirrus II engine # 231. Exported to DHA with C/A, issued **14/04/28**. Issued to RAAF and designated A7-4. Issued to CAB and registration **VH-UPU 02/04/31**. C/R423 and C/A 375.

### **Placed on loan 05/05/30 to the Bendigo Aero Club.**

Accident 14/12/34 at Deniliquin Aerodrome, NSW, pilot C Shaw, hit fence while undershooting on landing approach. The undercarriage was torn off and the aircraft badly damaged. Gypsy one engine # 811 installed 01 05/3/35. Registration transferred 16/08/37 to **Royal Victorian Aero Club, Essendon.**

Forced landing 17/3/38 at Bacchus Marsh. Pilot JW Bennett, stripped full speed wheel in magneto. Accident 18/04/38 at Ballarat, Pilot J Wastell, engine cut out over city, made steep turned towards showground, collided with boundary fence. Aircraft wrecked, water found in carburettor. Total flying time, approximately 2800 hours.

## **De Havilland Gypsy Moth**

Some aircraft are forever linked with an activity and a particular period. The Gypsy Moth, although designed as a trainer and for touring, was a dependable and affordable machine for some of the pioneering trailblazers and record breakers of the period between the two World Wars.

The Gypsy Moth not only heralded the era of light plane design, which continues to this day but provided the affordable basis for a major expansion of light-aeroplane clubs. The aircraft illustrates the Royal Air Force's ability to take up a successful civilian design and adapt it for its own duties.

### **What makes this a milestone aircraft?**

The Gypsy Moth proclaimed the start of a golden age of British light aircraft design and production. It was one of the first affordable and simple to operate aircraft which sustained private flying and military training in the inter-war period.