

Australian

**FREE POSTER!**

# skidiver

magazine

**Winners are GRINNERS**  
Nationals showdown

**Get FLOCKED**  
Wingsuiter soars past Christ  
Chicks break world record

**DIAMONDS**  
Not just a girls best friend  
Canopy Formation Record

**Sexy SKYSISTERS**  
break boundaries  
100 female skydivers go hard

**Safety MATTERS**  
Incidents and  
Accidents revealed

ISSN 1444-2256



04

ISSUE 36  
Volume 3/2007  
AUST \$7.95 inc GST

9 771444 225007

**ASM AUSTRALIAN SKYDIVER MAGAZINE**  
FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION



# TOTAL SkydiveGear CONTROL

The "ONLINE GEAR SPECIALIST"  
Most orders ship same  
day from stock!



OPTIMA

SAVELIN  
Odyssey

Performance  
Designs Inc.



The WORLD'S BEST  
Manufacturers under one Roof



Australia's LARGEST Free  
online gear classifieds!

Vigil and Cypres always on our shelves and GREAT prices..

Fastest possible Cypres servicing at the best price!

Try shopping online with Total Control and SAVE!

# www.totalcontrol.com.au

enquiries@totalcontrol.com.au

Ph: (08) 9444 4699

Photo by Mathias Lundblad  
Graphics by Gravity Angel



Team Trubble in action - cameraflyer Susie Mc docking on skysurfer teammate Cecilia Morton during the Skysisters Symposium at Ramblers Drop Zone, Toogoolawah, QLD.  
**Photographer: Wendy Smith**  
[www.wendysmithaerial.com](http://www.wendysmithaerial.com)



Spectacular visuals for Mark Bainton's 1,000th jump. A Mr. Bill tandem on the right, with TM Drew Lipinski and Mark falling off the tandem at 8,500ft. Meanwhile, Michael Vaughan is performing an intentional cutaway on the right (Michael had 3 canopies rigged up). Mark and Michael went back into freefall and met up for a quick dock.  
**Photographer: Jimmy Smith**

- p>4 Skysisters
- p>13 National Championships
- p>23 APF Conference
- p>29 Style & Accuracy  
Nationals
- p>33 Royal Thai Sky Festival
- p>34 CRW National Record
- p>40 Interview - Chris Gay
- p>42 Meet the Flockers
- p>45 4-way Evolution Part 2
- p>50 On The Air
- p>52 POPS
- p>54 Asiania
- p>57 Safety Matters
- p>61 Drop Zone Dayz
- p>68 Ring the Bell
- p>70 Parapenalia
- p>72 Directors Direction
- p>73 Calendar
- p>74 DZ Directory

## BABY ON BOARD

Literally! On the front cover shot there's three of us!

Only a couple of issues ago Kim Hardwick compiled a feature article about pregnancy and skydiving. The horrified reactions from some male readers was humorous, but I read with much interest as I was planning on falling pregnant this year and hoping to continue jumping for many months into my pregnancy. My rationale was that the little one would be safe while so small, confirmed by my mid wife that any early stage miscarriage would be from natural causes. Also I would be current, that jumping is part of normal life (ie. nothing new to the system) and I would surely have many great jumping plans in place.

Proudly, we conceived first go during the Nationals - how fitting for 2 devoted skydivers! Straight away I "felt" like I was pregnant and so was happy jumping, quite liking the idea that my baby had skydiving in its blood. Within 4 weeks, including competing at the Nationals and going hard at Skysisters, we had made about 50 jumps together. My plan was on track, until I got confirmation of the pregnancy. As soon as it became real, the tide changed and I did a complete black flip.

I tried to jump the following weekend, managing 3, but under mental anguish. Wild, negative thoughts would explode in my head mid freefall, feeling like the others on the jump were trying hard to kill me, tracking off like a bat out of hell and then anticipating painful openings and gory malfunctions, flying around under canopy feeling incredibly vague, then panicking that I was in fact very vague, that a canopy collision was probably imminent and then visualising broken legs and ambulances as I was coming in to land. Phew! There's only so much of that madness one can take. Seems I was more worried about hurting myself. That might sound selfish, but just imagine being fully pregnant with a broken leg in plaster, in summer...

So, prematurely and TEMPORARILY, I have given up jumping. NOT HAPPY JAN! I've been trying to think of the positives and opportunities of spending the next 12 months ground dwelling. I haven't yet come up with anything useful or worth mentioning yet, in fact so far I have found that spending weekends at home doing "relative work" is hard. Spending weekends at the drop zone watching everybody in a state of glee is hard. Spending every minute of every day feeling somewhat hungover and nauseated is hard. Being due on Christmas Day is hard (but sort of funny). This whole being pregnant thing is just plain HARD. It seems like it was a lot easier jumping out of planes and yahooping life away... it's going to be a long 12 months!

## PHOTOGRAPHY ALL CLASS

The photography submitted for this issue has been superb. It is a huge shame that there are so many major events to cover in this issue in that the lack of space has meant that a lot of photos didn't make it and the ones that did aren't so big. Special accolades to the master of the issue, Steve Fitchett, and also to James Stevenson and Robbie McMillan, whose photos are deserving of poster size.

It's a double edged sword having a number of shots to choose from for the covers. It's a welcomed dilemma though - not so long ago I would distress over having NO choices. Both these covers float my boat and tick almost every box in my criteria of action, adventure, a point of difference, facial expressions, colour, things that make you go "hmmm" or question what they are doing, or how they did it.

## NEXT ISSUE

Please commend your peers on their outstanding efforts of photography & literacy in this issue and get cracking on your own contributions for the next issue, in which we follow Bianca Hillier (winner of the APF/ASM \$2,000 Course) through her AFF Course including the ups & downs, challenges & rewards and what her Dad has to say about her jumping, and we check in with the members of the Canopy Piloting national team getting set for the World Champs on home turf.

Combine downhill snow skiing and parachuting and you get the heart-racing and spectacular discipline of Paraski. Jump Start is a group of down-and-out street kids who were given the opportunity of a lifetime - taught to skydive then taken to the south pole on a jumping expedition! Learn more about RSLs, a technical article by Adrian Lloyd.

## BACK ON THE NEWSTANDS!

After a successful trial run of 3 issues and with the support of APF, the ASM is now back in the newsagencies, yahoo! Thanks APF. Now even more reason for you to send in your stuff!

**Susie Mc**

## DEADLINES

**Contribution Deadlines**

30th August 2007  
12th November 2007

**On the Streets**

Early October 2007  
Mid December 2007

## Photographers

BJ Adams  
Chris Adams  
Bernie Armstrong  
Tracey Blackmur  
Willy Boeykens  
Michel Cona  
Elaine Cox  
Faye Cox  
Greg Cox  
Rob Douthat  
Rob Ellery  
Steve Fitchett  
Steven Geens  
Brad Geyson  
Joe Guerrisi  
Bart Hardie  
Kim Hedley  
Brett Higgins  
Archie Jamieson  
Isabella Lipinski  
Bruce Madge  
Fiona McEachern  
Patrick McFeeley  
Damien McGrath  
Susie McLachlan  
Wayne McLachlan  
Mitch McMartin  
Robbie McMillan  
Linn Milkkeborg  
Curtis Morton  
Patrik Nygren  
Andy Oakeley  
Lisa Perdichizzi  
Craig Ramplin  
Wendy Smith  
James Stevenson  
Stipo  
Craig Trimble  
Charlotte Vandenburg  
Megan Whitcombe  
Carly Wier  
Gabe Wuyts

## Contributors

Kirk Allison  
Bates Family  
Joel Carpenter  
Amy Chmelecki  
Mel Chrissy  
Tara Collins  
Elaine Cox  
Faye Cox  
Greg Cox  
Jon De Wet  
Issy Dore  
Mike Dyer  
Katie Fluin  
Jacob Fry  
Lesley Gale  
Chris J. Gay  
Jenny Gordon  
Jill Grantham  
Kim Hardwick  
Melissa Harvie  
Cindi Hemmila  
Brett Higgins  
Elise Hill  
Kim Hopwood  
Tabitha Hughes  
Julies McConnell  
Fiona McEachern  
Brett Newman  
Julie Nichol  
Ray Palmer  
Sven Peter  
Steve Pearce  
Andrew Preston  
Ian Robertson  
Sas  
Jack Surawski  
John Swanland  
Charlotte Vandenburg  
Craig Vaughan  
Michael Vaughan  
Graeme Windsor

## [ asm details ]

### [ Publisher ]

Susie McEvoy  
PO Box 178, Moffat Beach QLD 4551  
Ph/Fax: 07 5492 8202  
Email: [susie@skydiver.com.au](mailto:susie@skydiver.com.au)

### [ Design & Layout ]

Led Design  
Paul Sheavils  
Ph: 07 5474 2202  
[paul@ledesign.com.au](mailto:paul@ledesign.com.au)

### [ Subscriptions ]

5 issues per year  
Australia \$44 (incl. GST)  
NZ & S.E. Asia \$58 (airmail)  
All other Overseas \$75 (airmail)

### [ Printing House ]

Peninsula Colour  
Ph: 07 3633 0566

### [ Advertising ]

Advertising rates, dimension specifications and artwork details supplied on request.

### [ Distributors ]

Gordon & Gotch Ph: 02 9972 8841

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form: electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, without permission of the Editor.

The views expressed in the ASM are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Publisher or the APF.

The Editor retains the right to withdraw any advertisement, article, photo or other at her discretion and does not accept liability for delay in publication or for errors, although every care is taken to avoid mistakes.

The information in this magazine was, to the best of our ability, correct at the time of going to press. Production and mailing takes a total of 5 weeks, so some information may be out of date or superseded.

Photos submitted will be returned if supplied with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The parameters of the Australian Parachute Federation lie in sport

parachuting operations from aircraft and while the APF is aware that parachuting descents are being made from other than aircraft, APF rules do not cover these descents and the APF are not in a position to control them.

Note: The ASM may include BASE jumping, providing the APF does not appear to condone the activity. Pursuant to my contract with the APF in relation to the publication of Australian Skydiver Magazine, I am required to make a general statement about the nature of any pecuniary interest that I have in a particular brand of parachuting equipment,

service or event being promoted in ASM. I am a dealer for Sun Path Products whose equipment is advertised in ASM. I am a Director of Toogoolawah Drop Zone Pty Ltd and I am a part-time employee of Ramblers Parachute Centre which organises various events advertised in the ASM from time to time.

WAYCOOL INDUSTRIES

FREE WITH SOME ORDERS



# .....WAY MORE THAN A WEBSITE



**gatorz**  
LOADS OF GATORZ  
IN STOCK

YOUR HIGH  
VELOCITY CYPRES  
DOCTOR



# WAY COOL.....

.....STILL... OUR WEBSITE IS BEYOND COOL!

MAJOR PRIZES AT OUR OPENING/XMAS PARTY...CHECK IT OUT ON THE WEB.....

SPONSORED BY - GATORZ - MIRAGE - AERODYNE

CYPRES AND VIGIL ALWAYS ON OUR SHELVES AND HIRE UNITS

- New premises
- On site loft
- New state of the art website
- Excellent advise
- Lots of new and second hand gear
- Massive stock of all accessories



**waycool**  
INDUSTRIES

83 Main Street  
Osborne Park WA 6017  
Phone : +61 (0)8 9242 2222  
Fax : +61 (0)8 9242 2211  
Email : [enquiries@waycool.com.au](mailto:enquiries@waycool.com.au)  
Web : [www.waycool.com.au](http://www.waycool.com.au)



GET YOUR NEW RIG FROM THE EXPERTS



The first Skysisters Convention in 2005 was to be a one-off event. Words don't describe how awesome and spirited and wonderful that week was - it surpassed my every expectation. I've had males and females alike tell me it was the greatest skydiving meet they'd ever been to... ever! That's a big call, but it definitely went down in the history books.

So, with only a little encouragement needed but a lot received, I was convinced to go again. My biggest worry... how could I possibly top the last one? The answer(s) were quite clear - a stronger canopy piloting focus, a website and more education, more media attention, more sponsors and more help!

A Skysisters photo making the finals of a major Qld Government photographic competition certainly got the ball rolling - it gained us a lot of exposure and opened up new doors.

A \$25,000 boost from the Queensland Events Regional Development Program was a terrific windfall. A large portion of this grant was to be spent on promoting the event and gaining media exposure. Thanks to Claire Barry, Sonja Bruss and Kelly Graham, together we had the event listed on all sorts of calendars and websites, had articles published in a collection of newspapers and magazines and enjoyed a number of live radio interviews, all that before the event started! During the event we had a couple of major national and regional radio stations covering the event with a number of live interviews. River 94.9 brought out their big truck and dish and broadcast live from the drop zone on the first day! Newspapers and news stations were waiting for our calls about the records and quickly beamed the girls up worldwide. Channel 10's Morning Show sent lucky reporter Howie to cover the event. He promptly found himself strapped to Issy, flying in tandem and blowing kisses to the 8 Skysisters docking on him. Needless to say he did a glowing 14 minute report, viewed by an estimated 130,000 people. Totally Wild filmed an awesome segment which recently aired and RalphTV will be featuring many of our "hot chicks" on their new show, stay tuned.

The APF helped fund airfares of our fabulous international coaches and most State Parachute Councils encouraged participation by refunding ladies registrations, some even jump tickets! The diversity of skydiving industry and mainstream sponsors and the level of their support blew us all away, from impressive and FULL rego bags to over \$20,000 worth of raffle prizes and encouragement awards.

Thanks to one of our newest Skysisters, Sam Wardle, the website was up-and-running 4 months before and was packed with information about the Symposium, female national & world records and profiles on our leading ladies. The website is very much a work in progress and the aim is to build it up to be a fantastic reference source of information and educational articles, plus showcasing our gorgeous girls in action. Sam's been quite ill; so the post event stories and photos are not yet up, stay tuned. Get well soon Sam.

There are MANY people I'd like to thank and I could go on and on about all of them and the event, but I'll spare you! In short, we had an incredible line up of coaches, organisers, video pool, photographers, day tape production, packers, pilots, manifesters, entertainers, juicers and barmen etc etc, who individually and collectively helped make Skysisters2 legendary. Sonja Bruss and Claire Barry rocked my world with their enthusiasm and help. It was so wonderful to share the load and share in the successes. The 150 page Handbook a true testament to Sonja's spirit.

The men can't go unmentioned - they were outstanding. Mad Cow called it - he wanted Slave shirts instead of Staff shirts. The t-shirt sponsors, Cypres2, may have been unimpressed at first, but quickly adjusted to the Aussie humour - representative Rob proclaimed Skysisters to be the best boogie he'd ever been to and that his shirt "was going straight to the pool room" too!

It was a condition of attendance of men that they declared their support of the girls or the event in some way. You can imagine a) the backlash from those who thought that was discriminative and would never attend and b) the antics and awesome vibe from those who did attend and were willing to support hard. Belgium Steve went straight to the top as Super Slave - his mission was to take on 3 new girls

CRW Girls



Michelle Dods



Jane Mattingley 400th jump



Formation load building

### Main story by Organiser Susie Mc

Photos by Steve Fitchett, James Stevenson, Wendy Smith, Archie Jamieson, Wayne McLachlan, Greg Cox and Brett Higgins. Additional People photos by Robbie McMillan, Froggie, Charlotte Vandenburg & Tracey Blackmur



from 0 to 25 jumps in 8 days, including AFF course and B-Rels, for \$0 payment. Charlotte Vandenburg, Mel Chryss and Leonie Wald accepted his mission and the team went hard, with the collective love and support of 100 onlookers. Super trooper Leonie had a small fracture in her leg from her Stage 8 landing, nothing that a few Nurofen and G&Ts didn't fix that night, and went up for Stage 9 the next day! Mel and Charlotte continued on their mission and on the second last day of the boogie, their 22nd jump, which was their last 4-way Brel, was pirated by 4 Skysisters, making an 8-way roundie – their facial expressions in freefall were priceless!

Thanks Belgie and his team of AFF slaves - 3 new female jumpers is exactly what the sport needs.

As with every boogie there are always a couple of stand-outs, at Skysisters these were Jenny Gordon, Rhonda Bostock, Janine Whitten (back jumping after 10 years and 2 kids), Sam Hill and ??, but without a doubt, the Belle of the Boogie title was crowned to Jill Grantham for her great humour & champion attitude plus for knocking out 7 disciplines in 7 days!

Most importantly – all you ladies, chicks, women, girls and nana skydivers who attended – it was always all about you and I am so thrilled that you made the most of everything on offer – you had fun, were safe, learnt heaps, got out of your comfort zone, were challenged, motivated and simply inspirational... and totally **fabulous** doing it!

## AFF STARS

"I think doing my AFF during Skysisters was the best environment for me to learn how to skydive. It was hard work doing it all in one week, but we got so much support from everybody and especially from our coaches who were with us in this challenge, that I really wanted to make it and it didn't matter how hard I had to work for it. I remember being so scared on my first couple of jumps but every time Issy yelled at me on jump run "Go Charlotte, Go Charlotte" it made me feel so good that I wasn't scared anymore and only enjoyed jumping out and going up again, even when every part of my body was hurting. But we made it and we did our 8-way, sadly without our third teammate. I made some really good friends that week and Mel, Leonie and I are 'Skysisters forever'! Big thank you to all our coaches/slaves who taught us all for free and to all the other jumpers who are always willing to jump with me and share their experience. I've almost reached 50 jumps now and I'm certainly going to keep jumping, a lot!"

**Charlotte van den Burg**

"I left my home in Burleigh Heads for the long, lonely drive to the inevitable 1st jump experience, when for the 1st time I saw clouds through different eyes and aeroplane altitudes with a keener interest. Ramblers DZ was a place I had already begun to love thanks to my beau Justin, but now it was my turn! And didn't I LOVE IT! How there aren't more skydivers is beyond me. There's the edge of seat anticipation and exhilaration but it's the people that complete the whole experience - from my fantastic instructors of Belgium Steve, Justin De Waard, Pete Agnew and Wayne McLachlan to the infinite support, advice and laughter from all the Skysisters and their Slaves. My week was such a mix of emotions. Our first 3 days we pushed 4 jumps a day to finish the AFF. I didn't know if I was nervous, scared, excited, exhausted or all of the above, but I knew I loved the jumps and hated the anticipation (and 31 jumps later I still do). The flight is the hardest part of the jump for me. We all experienced our fears at different times so we were able to help each other. I was so upset for Leoni but so proud of her for sticking with us and manifesting with Jack. Leoni cheered Charlotte and I on every jump and every landing no matter how nasty they were (and there were a few!) I can't wait till the 3 of us jump together and complete our Skysisters challenge. I would like to thank everyone who helped us, especially the pirates, you know who you are. You completed our 1st boogie with memories I'll never forget. Thank you Charlotte and Leonie - you girls ROCK!"

**Mel Chryss**



# 7 DISCIPLINES IN 7 DAYS



The last week of April Ramblers DZ was the place to be, there the air was filled with rainbow tie-dye and oestrogen. There was a smorgasbord of world class coaches, slaves, cool chicks and more pink jumpsuits than I've ever seen before. There was conjecture surrounding timing and attendance of boys, but everyone who attended was there wholeheartedly and being so close after Nats was great because there was NO temptation to train.

With all the coaches and support available in every discipline you could think of, it wasn't a matter of whether you could do it, but rather

when to fit it all in. Faced with this dilemma what was a girl to do? The answer - EVERYTHING!

Each day we started off with an early morning yoga session, followed by Shano's awesome juices, then faced the tough decision of what to do... so many jumps, so little time.

Flatflying with Fiona and Elise, with whom you could frequently hear "toughen up princess" and who have taken it to a new level and developed a clothing line in honour of the phrase said to so many rel babes that week.

CRW dawgs Jules and Higgo started a club of girls who could find their pilot chutes and reassured us of CRW by saying "if you get to terminal punch out your reserve or your canopy will explode". Got no idea why anyone took them up.

Freeflyers continued a club of girls who were still looking for their pilot chutes and banged out some mad VRW jumps. American coaches Amy and Melissa shared their knowledge and skills, introducing us to Tunnel Envy, there is now a little tunnel crack hoe in each of us.

The Flockers were welcoming new chicks in the family, with first flight courses running every day and big-ways going off. Greg and Elaine even let some dodos give flying a burl.

Naoms and Dingo limbered up some ladies for Freestyle, with some stand out candidates. Naoms was also very generous with her clothing that week and it was seen on some unlikely skydivers, usually once the bar had opened.

Cecilia masterfully multi tasked, as only a woman can do, between massaging and skysurfing, providing footage for the after portion of a before and after shot of skysurfing and not laughing too hard when her pupils provided the before shot.

Noone escaped unscathed that week with almost everyone seen saying the F-word at the bar as they handed over the carton cash and I was no exception with my not-so-subtle attempts to make the day tapes.

Skysisters07 was more than skydives and beers. There was a resounding vibe that really made the boogie what it was, everyone who was there added something whether it was coaching and jumping support or cocktails, skin care and music at the end of the day.

When I first saw the colours of Skysisters I thought the hippies in QLD had gone crazy. But now I will wear my shirt with pride, because to me it now means new friendships, conquering fears, sisterhood, rockin' skydives and a boogie with an awesome vibe. Bring on SS3.

**By Jill Grantham "Belle of the Boogie"**



Doug Stewart flag jumps



World Record Lady Birds



Froydis hanging off a hybrid



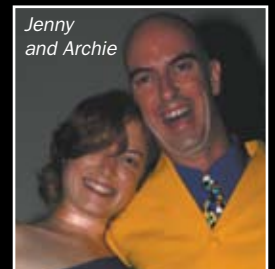
Rhonda and Janine



Lesley



Wendy



Jenny and Archie



Lilo Winter & Celeste Hill



Charlotte & Issy



Channel 10 Howie & TM Issy

*"The best thing about SkySistas for me is the tremendous vibe that happens at a womens event where the focus is heavily on teaching, nurturing and learning! It's just a brilliant place to be surrounded by chicks who are unafraid to step out and try something new and maybe jump over boundaries that they would normally be to uncomfortable to hurdle. The seminars were great, the jumping was great, the social scene was great and it was a pleasure to attend such a well organised and slick event where everything, even fresh fruit juices, yoga classes, arvo cocktails and wine and cheese platters were just part of the everyday program."* **Issy Dore**

SKYSISTERS07



Shano & Buddha



Tank & Timmy



Lesley & Stikkos

"The theme of Skysisters 2007 was 'get out of the box', ie. try something new and every conceivable type of new skydiving experience was on offer. I could not believe how much was on offer. Every Skysister received a bag stuffed full with goodies including five coaching tickets, so each could choose their desired area for personal tuition.

Each day you saw people flushed and glowing with the excitement of new achievements. By offering top level female coaches for traditionally male-dominated activities such as canopy piloting, Ramblers drop zone coaxed Skysisters participants to give everything a try – the reward was that almost everyone went home with the added confidence of new accomplishments. One girl said to me that she'd been thinking of giving up jumping as she wasn't very confident but Skysisters had completely changed that!

An original aim had been to break the existing Australian female national record 47-way with a 50-way or even 60-way. It was a great shame there simply were not enough chicks, as everything else was in place including top class organisers (she says modestly!), line-up of three Caravans and another one if we needed it, with first rate pilots and a drop zone set up with all the facilities.

It actually worked out well for those who were there because they received more personal coaching than we'd have been able to give if we'd been going for a biggie. For me, it was very rewarding as a little tuition goes a long way where chicks are concerned. Females are fabulous to work with, you tell them what to do and they do it (unlike guys who often think they have a better idea!)

Ramblers is a wonderful drop zone, with a fantastic chilled vibe, great facilities, lovely layout, professional staff and very safely run. Guys as well as girls were welcome, it was female-friendly rather than exclusive and the mix was perfect. This was an event run for the good of the sisters (and brothers). All the firsts, triumphant faces and beaming smiles spoke for themselves. Roll on the next Skysisters! This time we want to build that female record - there's a slot there with your name on it - come on down!" **Lesley Gale, UK**



POPS record building



Yukari



Shona, Wendy & Issy



Herman & Ben



Lilo Winter



Tracey S & Bart



Norgies Froydis & Linn

"In a sport dominated by men, Skysisters was a breath of fresh air. It was a surreal experience where the normal 5 to 1 ratio of men to women was turned upside down. Now, I am not complaining. As a full time skydiver living, working and playing at a drop zone, it is nice always being surrounded by studly men. However, waking up to a packing mat of women doing yoga, then drinking fresh juice and conversation about how having children has effected their skydiving, was a welcomed change to my every day routine. There was also the midday break to get a Brazilian waxing. You don't see that everyday at the local DZ! The women at Skysisters were so eager to learn as much as they possibly could. They were so attentive to all the info I had to offer. There was a serious vibe and thirst for knowledge surrounding the boogie. OK, it was not all serious. Coming from an American woman, Aussies are off the hook when it comes to cutting lose and having a good time. Shameless I tell you! Do you guys party like that all the time? Let me just say that it would be impossible to get American men frocked up like that. I really look forward to watching this boogie grow. It is a great idea and a great time." **Amy Chmelecki**



Freefly coaches



Macca taking the glory slot between Melissa Nelson & Amy Chmelecki



Susan



Connie



Tom



Tracey and Cecilia



Legless and Brad



# FEMALE FLOCKERS FLY A FIRST

On the second day of Skysisters, I jumped with Lorraine "Quiche" Duff on her first wingsuit flight. She had just over 200 skydives - the minimum number of jumps recommended to attend a First Flight Course & make a jump under instruction. The next day she was on all female 8-way Wing Suit formation... a world first! This was the essence of Skysisters 2. Everything was on offer and anything was possible! The "have a go" attitude, the willingness to learn and the application to be the best you can be was inspirational! The girls not only flocked, they rocked!

Our stock of Birdman Firebird demo suits and Phoenix Fly Prodigy suits were rarely on the ground as 15 Skysisters made their first flight intros with Greg and myself during the course of the week. Most of whom went on to make multiple 2, 3 & 4-way flocks and some even attempted 9 & 10-way flocks! All the First Flight Course girls were impressive but special mention must go to Quiche, Lilo Winter, Celeste Hill, Helen Bigland and Cecilia Morton for their outstanding performances.

With Skysisters being synonymous with records it was my goal to encourage the girls, active and new, to try to achieve the largest all female flock formation to date and put female flockers on the map! Whilst there are "accepted" types of WS flocks there is as yet, no formalised regulation as to what constitutes a formation and therefore the claim of any record is arbitrary. That being said my research disclosed that the yardstick for the largest existing female WS formation was a 7-way made in the UK 2 years previously, although it is unclear whether it was slot specific or just random flight. My goal was to improve upon this and attempt an all female, slot specific 8-way. The "record" was achieved on our first attempt which was meant to be a practice jump. The formation was designed to depict the Skysisters logo and as such was aptly named "The Skysisters" formation, resembling a stretched out arrow.

The diamond base consisted of myself, Tanya Cale (40 WS jumps), Lorraine Duff (3 WS jumps) and Cath Comyns (15 WS jumps) with Linn Mikkelborg (17 WS jumps) and Cecilia Morton (4 WS jumps) on the wings and Susie McEvoy (5 WS jumps) and Conny Van Setten (15 WS jumps) as the tail. After an extensive brief we made the jump - the base flew really tight, the overall formation a little looser but the formation was visible, each girl was in her slot and they turned it on for the first attempt which coincidentally happened to be on the day of my 18 year anniversary in the sport - they couldn't have given me a better gift!

The media jumped all over it and for a short time 8 of us were shot to fame as far away as Norway, Romania and Beijing! Male WS forum posters on dropzone.com had their say, initially damning, until video courtesy of SkyNews was posted. Responses included "definitely swallowing my previous words. That was some mighty fine flying and definitely worth an International mention! There aren't many formations flown with everyone in their slot and the formation clearly visible and recognisable... and getting this done with a team who probably didn't jump together that much before this event". Another posted "It is special because there were actually 8 women in one place flying wingsuits in the same flock. Even at F&D or Stupino, I do not think there were that many women who were flying wingsuits, let alone on the same load. I think it's great!"

Well we thought it was great too! The standard and consistency all week was impressive. Formations also included diamonds and wedges. On our 9 & 10-way attempts we consistently equalled the 8-way but were unable to increase it! Something to aim for next time! Just to put this in context - the largest all gender Australian WS record to date is an 11-way but hopefully with the flock of WS flyers growing this won't be for long!

A very special thank you to Jari Kuosma and Birdman for supporting the event with very cool birdbabe T shirts which were awarded to each girl on the 8-way flock and each girl making her first flight. Also for the sponsored prize draw for a 50% off a Birdman Wingsuit won by an ecstatic Lilo Winter from Austria. Thanks also to Phoenix-Fly for supplying us with two Prodigy demo suits which offered the more cautious jumper a chance to fly (see Scatty's review next issue).

A very big thank you to Susie for inviting me to coach at Skysisters, for being on the 8-way and flying like a bird with camera and with only 4 WS jumps (and in tandem too!). Also to Greg for his constant support and tuition throughout the week and to all you girls for the positive vibes, the laughs, the fun and the awesome wingsuit flying.

By Elaine Cox, BMI, PFI



**Birdbabes** – Tanya Cale, Susie McEvoy, Connie Van Setten, Linn Mikkelborg, Jenny Gordon, Elise Vale, Quiche, Cecilia Morton, Cassie Dale, Helen Bigland, Celeste Hill, Lilo Winter, Zyra McCauliffe, Cherie Bullen, Jane Mattingly, Pixie, Sonja Bruss, Sam Hill, Lea Rickwood, Val Trajanovska



9-Way attempt



Before the World Record flock



Zyra McCauliffe



Froggie



Cherie Bullen

SKYSISTERS 07

# CANOPY FUN @ SKYSISTERS

Chicks under canopy rocked at Skysisters! Everyone flew really safely and learnt a lot about their canopy control during the week. It was so great to see that CRW and canopy piloting were so popular, in fact we couldn't fit in all the requests for one-on-ones (sorry to all you girls who missed out). We'll just have to get more coaches next time!

Eight girls did their first CRW jump ever, some got hooked and did multiple jumps and 2 of these women were on the Aussie record! It only took 3 attempts to get the 5 girls together into a plane-stack formation (for 2 of them it was their 5th CRW jump ever!). We had more women capable of making a bigger formation, but the clouds rolled in. We'll just have to go bigger at next Skysisters!

**Aussie Women's CRW Record participants: Jules McConnel, Jill Grantham, Jenny Gordon, Shani Darling and Kim Hedley**

There were also over 20 one-on-one canopy piloting jumps, where girls flew their own parachute alongside their tutor, learning how all their controls work and getting a better understanding of their wing. The reactions from girls coming down from a canopy jump was so awesome - like coming down from their first jump again - it really opened up their eyes to a whole new side of skydiving. Funny thing is, we do it on every jump, ie. fly our parachutes every jump!

Nightly debriefs of the day's landings were really helpful for all to watch and learn from themselves and others landing in different conditions throughout the day. Thanks to the awesome slaves for footage (Shano, JD, Robbie and Harvey) and to Issy for helping me with debriefing. Also, special thanks to other CRW and CP slaves - Higgo, Robbie, Doyley and Sarge - for help with coaching and organising, and to Archie and his ugly stepsister for his/her camera work." **Jules McConnel**



National Record holders



Kelly Graham



The record!



Holly Godwin  
jump for Matrix  
hair products



Robbie McMillan



Melissa filming Naomi Adam



Kylie Cowling from punk  
band "Legless"



Rob from Cypres



Maybritt

Someone said the end of your life should be reached with a body worn out from good food, wine and living yelling "woohoo what a ride". Well Skysisters was just that and more. Not that it represented the end of life, more like a total body battery recharge and the rekindling of enthusiasm on a grand scale!

It wasn't as busy as the last one, mostly because there were more organisers and that also meant we organisers got to take some time out and go on each other's jumps, learning different techniques and ways of teaching and doing some new fun jumps.

As the attendees got further into the week and became current, they became more daring and the cross-pollination of flat, free, birdman and canopy stuff bore astonishing fruit with girls and guys trying new things and becoming confident in lots of different areas.

There is sheer delight at being in the air with someone who makes a life altering discovery about fall rate or where to stop so you can dock easily and even moreso when you have been part of teaching that discovery.

In the flat flying area, the first part of the week was taken up with getting current and getting Star Crests for those from smaller drop zones who had not previously had the opportunity. It is wonderful that so many experienced jumpers took the time to come on these jumps and help the new Star Cresters. I've always held the belief that you can't sit back and wait for new jumpers to come up to standard, you have to help them and many people did that over the week.

We also did some seriously challenging jumps at the top end of the spectrum, with formation loads, advanced centres, movement of large pieces or just nice 8-ways. One of the highlights was beating Cookie in the Donut 540 turns at the start of a day following a rather large night! I'm still not sure how that happened...

We also built a new female POP's 17-way on the last day, beating the previous record by one. Michelle Dodds, as one of the newest POPs, was part of the record and celebrated her 40th birthday on the day.

Thanks go to Steve Fitchett, Archie, Ange, Wendy and Wayne for some wonderful video and stills and also to James Stevenson for some excellent stills and the nightly slideshow, Elad and his team for the energetic day tapes, and to Susie for putting on the whole show and inviting us in the first place. We are definitely looking forward to the next one.

**By Fiona McEachern & Elise Hill**



Elise



Fiona

"Skysisters provided a fantastic opportunity for G Force to offer two-on-two coaching to 4-way enthusiasts. As a "team for a day" new team mates adopted our training approach, communication and flying disciplines as they completed a series of jumps. Each jump was designed to give insight into the broad range of personal and team flying skills required for successful 4-way. Each jump built on the one before, evolving our control and communication to the point where tricky blocks and competition sequences could be carried out smoothly.

In particular, congratulations to Suzanne Bourke, Tracey Blackmur, Maybritt Prah and Tracey Sgroi, not only for the considerable skills that they displayed but also for extending their dedication to the morning stretching session! Special thanks also to Mad Cow for his generosity and excellent camera work." **Melissa Harvie**



Jaz & Justin



Shauna & Emma



Mossy



Lisa



Anton



Gdore & Crikey



Jules



Keiko Iijima



Shazza & Shazza



Suzy & Shani



Belgíe, Cow & Chops



Piri Czismadia



Sonja Bruss & Bec Scantlebury



Peta Grainger & Quiche (Ralph)



Elad



Louise



Celeste Hill



Bec & Harvey



Cookie & Narelle



Jack



Rhonda & Monkey



Jnr



Mel & Justin



Steve & Anthony



Gary



Melissa



Georgia & Charlotte



Jules

Special thanks to the following sponsors:



# SLAVES TO FREEDOM



**NEW**

**ROK HELMET**

See website for details



Liquid Lens



Belly Mount



Blackbox HC3



Liquid Flatlock



**NEW**

**LIQUID2**

Liquid2 X 0.25 Extreme Wide Angle Lens

Quality helmets, lenses and camera accessories plus complete customised systems available online.

Fast worldwide delivery.

Check out our new website!  
[www.cookiecomposites.com](http://www.cookiecomposites.com)

**Cookie**



# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

in FS, CF and Artistics

**Main Story by Cindi Hemmila**  
**Extras compiled by Susie Mc**  
**Ground photos by Chris Adams,**  
**Bruce Madge and Susie Mc**



## SYDNEY SKYDIVERS, PICTON 2 - 9TH APRIL, 2007

**T**he weeks leading up to the launch of the 2007 Nationals saw several teams working very hard with solid commitment to team training camps. The DZ was a hive of activity and there was a distinct feeling of excitement and anticipation in the air.

We awoke to blue skies and calm air at Picton on the morning of the first day of competition. Jon McWilliam Meet Director and Phil Onis Meet Organiser trialled a unique concept this year in that each event had it's own specific start date, which gave a bit of flexibility to individual team members and lessened the often prolonged waiting around which sometimes is unavoidable at these big events.

The first events to launch the comp were the Canopy Formation (CF) 2-way Sequential and the Formation Skydiving (FS) 4-ways. There were 4 x CF teams competing this year and the rounds kicked off early and proceeded very smoothly. We sailed through the CF comp without a hitch.

There were 11 x 4-way Open FS teams and 5 x intermediate teams. The near perfect weather continued through the next day too and all 10 rounds were completed with surprisingly few restrictions from Air Traffic Control (ATC).

The two XL aircraft were going non-stop, thanks to our legend pilots Michael (chick magnet) Sill, Terry from Nagambie, Nigel Wood and Roger (great hair!) Spinks. The loads were well coordinated in that those few people who had entered both the open and intermediate events were able to give their best to both (despite their own personal headspace nightmares that come when one makes a commitment such as this!).

Tuesday night was big! Along with the presentations by our wonderful judging panel for the event winners from the previous two days, all the 8-way FS teams rocked up in preparation for the start of their competition on the Wednesday morning. Artistic entrants also were to kick off on Wednesday... so the crowd had gathered.

A few 8-way teams eventuated by the merging of 4-way teams, to get in on more of the action. We ended up with 3 x 8-way Open FS teams and 4 x 8-way Inter FS teams. The Freefly competitors slotted in smoothly with the 8-ways for their rounds. We were however, not so fortunate with weather conditions over the next couple of days and a few more imposing restrictions from ATC proved difficult at times. We continued through though, managing to complete several rounds of the Freefly and 4 rounds of the 8-ways, winding up these events on Friday morning.

Next on the agenda was the 10-way Speed Stars on Easter Friday. Four teams entered for this fun challenge. There was a degree of pressure with the "no show exit" from the Skyvan, but it was great to relax and have some fun with nothing to brain lock on! There were some laughs at judging time when one of the teams was given a

score for a 9-way star... until the final result came up with (9) after the score. So close, nearly had 'em!

Fierce competition followed the next day with the 16-way event. Two teams rivalled this one out, head to head, so close the tension was palpable. Eventually we had to concede that the team with the effort and points won over the team with the effort and no points. Never let it be said that we didn't have fun trying!

Life went on all through the competition rounds with tandems, students and fun jumpers. Our fabulous, amazing packers Eileen, Des and co. not only kept up relentlessly with their usual work, but with the endless team packs too. Hats off to you guys!

When the teams and packers got a bit of an enforced breather due to weather or ATC restrictions, the crowds would flock to Elise's Ground Rush Cafe. No breather for Elise! Skydivers NEED coffee and it was in hot demand. Ground Rush did a booming trade not only with coffee, but T-shirts and other skydiving and general paraphernalia that was always readily available to meet the demands. How we ever managed before Ground Rush opened I don't know...

Dorothy and her canteen crew were to thank for feeding the hungry hords during the day. What would we do without Dorothy? Thanks also to the Picton Social Club who put on a free feed one night and to Terry Wingate who never ceases to surprise us with his (fast becoming legendary) cooking skills around the campfire.

An event of this magnitude would never be possible without the countless help and support from those people at and behind the scenes. Thanks to Annie and Flipper, who once again proved invaluable with their manifesting skills and coordination. A huge thanks also to the judging panel of Gail Bradley (Chief Judge), Jenni Plumridge, Lindy Williams, Kirstie Sinclair, Craig Bennett, Ray Williams and Anders Wallander who's tireless commitment never swayed throughout the entire Meet. And thanks to the behind the scenes guru, Russell Brown, who was responsible for, along with so many other things, arranging the judges Omniskore link. To Yanni George, a trooper through and through, for his endless commitment to ground maintenance around the DZ (we miss you Yanni, come back soon!). Thanks again to Terry Wingate, this time for organising the completion of the XL mock up. It is impossible to name each and every person to be thanked for their contributions but their efforts were greatly appreciated. And finally, to Phil Onis and Jon McWilliam for their non-stop commitment, support and effort that went into making it all happen.

The trial of specified start dates for the different events seemed to work well and the venue, being Sydney, proved to be an accessible location for more competitors. Overall, a very successful and fun Nationals for 2007!

## 4-WAY OPEN



### **AIRTITE**

Gary Nemirovsky, Rob Tasic  
Simon Disciascio, Jeremy  
Langford, Darren Pearson (sub)  
Andy Oakeley (vid)



### **C4**

Craig Vaughan, George Attard  
Michael Vaughan, Alan Moss  
Patrick Nygren (vid)



### **G FORCE**

Melissa Harvie, Caitlin Collin  
Marlies Friese, Carley Young  
Nigel Johnston (vid)



### **Project R**

David Bakkers, Glenn Farrell  
Greg Maskell, Greg Hamilton  
Patrick Nygren (vid)



### **Crux**

Steve Smith, Jesse Warren  
Steve Ivin, Charlie Peace  
Sally Jarrett (vid)



### **Fournikashion**

Kyle Binning, Gerome Rich  
Grant Hassell, Steph Bensley  
Stu Gough (vid)



### **Propellor Head**

Talis Steele, Mike Williamson  
Shannon Straubinger, Troy Green  
Mitch McMartin (vid)



### **Oovy Groovy Funk Machine**

Maybit Prael, Darren Griggs  
Ove Jorgensen, Helen Mahony  
Calder Chernoff (vid)



### **The Journey**

Karen Fuller, Graham Pemberton  
Pam Pemberton, Mick Hardy  
Wade Atkinson (vid)



### **Same...Ish**

Jude Freeman, Tanya Cale  
Christian Peric, Roi Fuchs  
Kim Foster (vid)



### **Who's Ya Daddy**

Luke Oliver, Paula Hutchens  
Lea Critchley, Kim Fairclough  
Paul Tozer (vid)

## 4-WAY INTER



### **Downward Trend**

Andrew Gellatly, Rebecca Bricknell  
Will Borgland, Helen Mahony  
Calder Chernoff (vid)



### **Kaos**

Mark Szulmayer, Phil McComb  
Paul Algje, Brad Trevena  
Rachel Ward (vid)



### **Jackson 5**

Chris Adams, Sharyn Steele  
Joy Weissenfeld, Craig Robinson  
Andy Oakeley (vid)



### **Momentum**

Kate Rogers, Di Campbell  
Steve Wade, Laurence Garceau  
Evalyn Ramsay (vid)



### **Adrenalin.com.au**

Brad McDonald, Michael Vaughan  
John Balkwell, Phil Jones  
Jules McConnell (vid)

## 8-WAY OPEN



### **Nexgen**

Andy Barker, Ben Tucker  
Buddha Cooper, Carsten Boeving  
Don Cross, Kyle Binning  
Sean Walsh, Troy Marshall  
Wayne McLachlan (vid)



### **Wet - Invisible 8**

Michael Vaughan, Patrick Nygren  
Glenn Farrell, Greg Maskell  
Drew Lipinski, Gary Nemirovsky  
Simon Disciascio, Gerome Rich  
Andy Oakeley (vid)



### **Caffein 8**

Cathy Meade, Fiona McEachern  
Mark Szulmayer, Helen Mahony  
Dave O'Flynn, Darren Griggs  
Grant Hassell, Holly Atteridge  
Rob Ellery (vid)

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 8-WAY INTER



### **Stray Cats**

David Loncasty, Nicole Hannan  
Naomi Scott (nee Pitt)  
Glenn Hoyes, Glen Wilson  
Tracey Basman, Andrew Gellatly  
Darren Pearson Scott Neander (vid)



### **XonR8**

Kieren Elmes, George Attard  
Chris Samman, Willia Borglund  
Guy Taylor, Jason Berry  
Pat Sater, Travis Wood  
Evalyn Ramsey (vid)

### **Last Minute**

Gerome Rich, Tanya Cale  
Gary Nemirovsky, Steve Wade  
Laurence Garceau, Kate Rogers  
Paul Algje, Brad Trevena  
Stu Gough (vid)



### **Fallout**

Craig Vaughan, Bruce Madge  
Kim Williamson, Dan Reynolds  
Gail Pascoe, Ross Ablitt  
Alex Capovilla, Doug Mumford  
Mitch McMartin (vid)

## FREESTYLE FEMALE

### **Dingo & Nomes**



Naomi Adam, Mark McColgan (vid)

## ARTISTICS FREEFLY OPEN



### **Earth Leakage**

Stewart Kemp, Adam Long  
James Hensman (vid)



### **Vertical Logic**

Evan Georgiadis, Clint Daniel  
Warren Keogh (vid)



### **Us Three**

Naomi Adam, Mark McColgan  
Sven Peter (vid)

## FREEFLY INTER



### **Narcolepsy**

Cathryn Kelly, Jill Grantham  
Susie McLachlan (vid)



### **Upstyle Down**

Cecilia Morton, Susie McLachlan  
Sven Peter (vid)

## SKYSURF INTER



### **Team Trubble**

Cecilia Morton  
Susie McLachlan (vid)

## CANOPY FORMATION



### **Ookoonono**

Jules McConnel, Michael Vaughan  
Craig Bennett (vid)



### **Half Speed**

Archie Jamieson, Brett Higgins  
Wayne McLachlan (vid)



### **Two For Crew**

Rob McMillan, Andrew Preston  
Mitch McMartin (vid)



### **Jim vs Joe**

Dan Cocker, James Pearce  
Max Motzo (vid)

## 10-WAY SPEED STARS



### **Spectrum Fast**

David Loncasty, Igor Flack  
Adrian Lloyd, Phil Onis  
Dave Ruckert, Paul Borlase  
Cindi Hemmilla, Mitch Miller  
George Attard, Ove Jorgensen  
Chris Dykstra (vid)



### **Spectrum Furious**

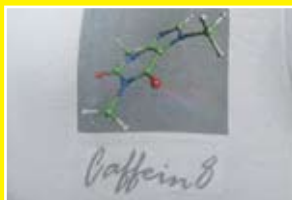
Glenn Hoyes, Santy Bruwer  
Calder Chernoff, Nicole Hannan  
Guy Taylor, Brian Edgerton  
Steve Pandelus, Tracey Basman  
Michelle Dodds, Jenny Gordon  
Mike Ray (vid)

### **Hobbits & Bobbits**

Fiona McEachern, Neil Fergie  
Andrew Barker, Kate Rogers  
Laurence Garceau  
Michelle Waller, Terry Wingate  
Graeme Windsor, Maybritt Prah  
Chris Samman, Stu Gough (vid)

### **Smash 'n Grab**

Michael Vaughan, Gary Laing  
Travis Wood, Dale Ward  
John Balkwell, Dave O'Flynn  
Holly Atteridge, Glenn Farrell  
Doug Mumford, Stephen Wade  
Jules McConnel (vid)





Super dubber  
Karla Buxton TDM  
with Roger Spinks. Photo Rob Ellery



Pilots



Meet Director

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## AIRTITE



Photo: Andy Oakeley

"After a 6 month break from each other the lads were keen to get together and punch out some jumps. We had planned a 70 jump training camp in the lead up to competition but individual work commitments restricted us to 4 days. Some ordinary weather reduced that to 30 jumps. Those 30 jumps were fantastic and we walked into competition feeling as ready as we had ever been.



Day 1 had great weather and was full of solid jumps for us with one burner on Round 4. We managed a 22 on that jump, giving us a 16.2 average for the day and a commanding lead. Day 2 saw the slower half of the draw, but with Day 1's solid performance the team was quietly confident. Good consistent jumping left us requiring a 16 on Round 10 to achieve a long-held target of 16 average. Round 10 was not the fastest of jumps.

With no close competitors we had nothing to lose, so we threw everything at it. The jump felt rough and we all thought maybe a 14. Noone was more surprised or excited than us when that magic 16 appeared on Omniskore.

Airtite would like to thank all who have supported us including Icarus (canopies), Aerodyne (rigs), Airtec GmbH (Cypres 2s) and especially Phil and Jon at Sydney Skydivers for continuously supporting training teams.

This is Airtite's 4th National Title but by far the most satisfying."

Sas

## C4

"We got together a couple of days before the Nats with new member Alan (I'm so gay) Moss, taking the tail slot. After an extensive training regime of 10 jumps on Friday, George made the call that we were trained and good to go! We came out of the blocks firing on Round 1 with a score of 15, 1 behind Airtite. And that was about it. Michael divided his time between us, CF and his Inter 4-way team. This left us engineering our dives as a 3-way. When Michael landed from his Inter team we quickly showed him the engineering, rolled it, then got on the plane! Michael warned us to remind him to wear 8kg as he had 6kg for CF, 12kg for the Inter team and 8kg for us. Coming in on jump run for Round 7, the 1 minute light on, I heard a voice behind me "Damn, I've got 12 kgs on!" Much to the horror of Mossy was Michael and I trying to unload 4kgs out from underneath his jumpsuit like a Colombian drug mule that was being busted by the cops! George was still sleeping.

Round 10 was interesting, George, Michael and Mossy wanted to go naked but I convinced them that seeing Mossy naked is something noone should have to see! So we decided on some funky engineering, much to my protest (I lost the argument 3-1). Unfortunately we were pipped at the post by Airtite by 28 points in the comp. We all had a great time and we're happy with our performance. Definitely something to work on and hoping to have a big year training."

Craig Vaughan



Photo: Patrik Nygren

## DOWNWARD TREND

Named after Brett Newman's rigging business in Qld? No, I don't think so. This is a somewhat scratch team, only making 12 jumps together before the Nationals. They impressed everyone with their solid jumps especially as one of their inter members has only 215 jumps.



"We would like to thank Darren Pearson and Fiona McEachern for their excellent coaching. Team tshirts are available for \$25!"



2-Way canopy formators

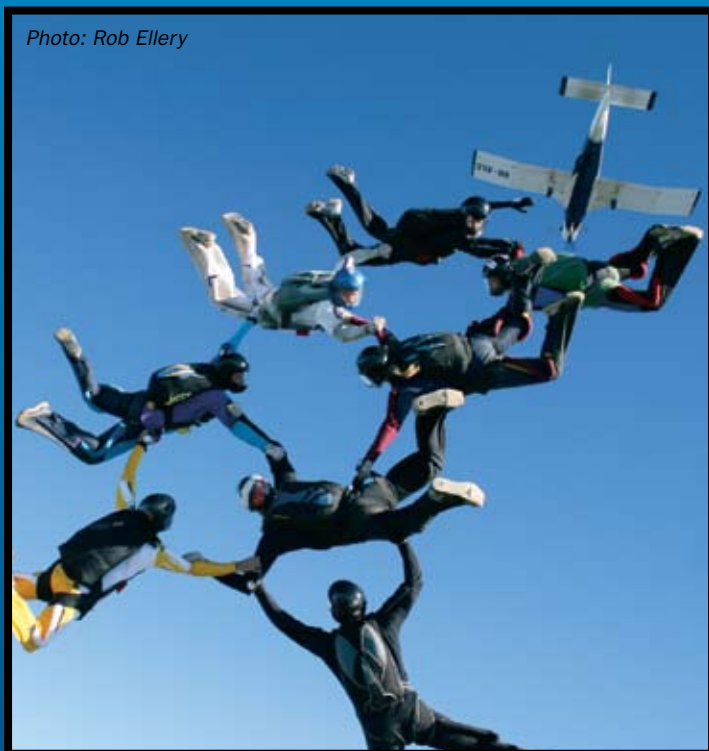


Judging team



## STRAY CATS

Photo: Rob Ellery



They matched the Aussie record with 13 points on Round 2 and excitement paramount as Round 3 was to be "a burner". With the whole drop zone behind them, Stray Cats battled weather and ATC holds, gearing up and coming down countless times, to come through and nail a 15 pointer to claim a new Aussie Record. Congratulations!

*"FLY TO YOUR SLOT - STOP - AND DOCK is our motto. Coming off a 10 point average at the NSW State Meet, we have added three new members. We have made about 100 jumps together and bonded as a team since January 2007. Support for our Inter team has been fabulous and the learning curve is steep. We feel we are the Open jumpers of tomorrow. AG says "yeah". Stray Cats would also like to thank Sydney Skydivers for all their support."*

### Stray Cats

Photo: Patrik Nygren



## PROJECT R

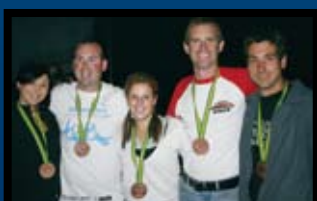
This is a new team - a mixed bay from Picton. Dave Bakkers is ex Nexgen and ex Whoosh. Glenn Farrel was in Flash last year and this year his first Open team. Dave O'Flynn was in the winning Inter 4-way team Pulse that won last years Nats. Greg Maskell "knows a thing or two" previously in National 8-way teams Octane and Deton8.

## CRUX

This new team from Picton, sponsored by Terminal Sports, is aiming for next years Nationals, this year being their first comp in 4-way Open. Steve Smith has 1,000 jumps, Jesse Warren has less than 1,000, Charlie Peace won 4-way Inter a couple of years ago with team Rockin' and Steve Ivan came third in Inter last year with team Flash. These guys all have fairly low jump numbers, are the young guns taking on Open and doing great. Watch out for them next year!

## JACKSON 5

*"Joy had only 80 jumps when she started in the team and had never done rel work and has been an awesome rear float. Also with very little rel work and more Freefly is Craig Robinson with only 250 jumps. We have a 2 year plan, to go Open, compete in next years VIC State Champs and travel to WA for their State Champs. We'd love to thank Sas for his patience and extremely long balls."*



# G FORCE

"The Picton Xmas Boogie saw GForce re-group after a well-earned rest from the World Meet. We welcomed our new camera flier, Nigel Johnston, and coached ourselves over 4 days. Speed drills were a-plenty and we all felt that our time at the boogie gave us a good starting point for our 2007 Nationals campaign.

In mid-March, we flew our Perris coach, Pat McGowan, over for a week long camp. Team Project R picked up some days with Pat also. We were very focused and progressed well with our random work and 'opportunity' blocks. A few gals and one guy took up the opportunity to do 1-on-1's with Pat during our camp. GForce would like to thank those who made the effort to come and join us for our week of training and we hope that you got as much from Pat's coaching as we did. Pat's enthusiasm and energy never faded and GForce was now well prepared for Nationals. We felt that this camp was our most successful to date.

One week after our training camp, we were back at Picton and ready to take on the rest of Australia. With a video message from Pat, we focused on doing our best and hopefully being on that podium. After 2 days of consistent performances in competition, GForce got our FIRST nationals medal as a team, coming third in Open 4way FS. We were very happy to grab the Bronze and hope that next year we can bring our competition performances to a new level. We would like to thank all our sponsors (including Deepseed, Cookie and Sydney Skydivers) and supporters (friends, family and fellow jumpers) for contributing to our successful 2007 Nationals campaign. See you at a DZ soon!" **GForce Chicks (and Nigel)**



Photo: Mitch McMartin

## FALLOUT

With Craig Vaughan as coach, this team had only 1 day of training as a complete team, other than that they did 30 to 35 jumps with fill ins. This team, all from VIC except for 1 Taswegian, are all new to 8-way. Gail Pascoe says, "Craig has the patience of a saint."



## NARCOLEPSY

Jill has 400 jumps, Cat has 600 jumps and Susie Mc just a ring-in cameraflyer for the Nats. "Our Inter Freely team started off 2 years ago as "I Wet My Fish". We've done 370 jumps together. We are just friends who jump together, we're 'besties'. We formed the team finding it easier for skill improvement, jumping with someone consistently."



**Narcolepsy**

### FORMATION SKYDIVING 4-WAY

4-WAY OPEN	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	TOTAL	PLACE
Airtite	16	15	13	22	15	19	16	12	16	16	160	1
C4	15	12	11	15	14	16	11	11	16	11	132	2
G Force	12	12	11	15	13	13	11	11	14	9	121	3
Project R	10	12	10	16	11	11	11	9	12	11	113	4
Crux	12	8	10	11	11	9	10	7	14	11	103	5
Fournikashion	11	11	10	12	8	12	10	7	11	10	102	6
Propellor Head	10	9	7	6	8	11	7	8	8	-	74	7
Oovy Groovy	6	10	6	9	7	10	8	7	10	-	73	8
The Journey	5	10	7	9	8	2	8	8	11	-	68	9
Sameish	6	7	7	10	8	8	8	8	4	-	66	
Who's Ya Daddy	7	7	6	6	6	7	7	5	-	-	51	11

4-WAY INTER	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	TOTAL	PLACE
Downward Trend	10	4	7	9	8	11	10	7	9	8	83	1
Kaos	7	7	7	4	8	9	9	6	9	8	74	2
Jackson 5	10	4	6	4	6	8	7	4	7	6	62	3
Momentum	7	3	5	6	2	9	7	5	6	6	56	4
Adrenalin.com.au	8	5	6	5	3	6	5	4	6	4	52	5

### 10-WAY SPEED STARS

	R1 # In	R1 Time	R2 # In	R2 Time	R3 # In	R3 Time	# of 10-way Stars	Time	PLACE
Spectrum Fast	10	18.30	10	21.21	10	21.15	3	60.66	1
Spectrum Furious	10	19.79	10	19.88	9	25.00	2	64.67	2
Hobbits & Bobbits	10	21.57	10	23.69	0	25.00	2	70.26	3
Smash & Grab	0	25.00	0	25.00	10	24.73	1	74.73	4

### ARTISTICS

FREEFLY OPEN	R1	R2/c	R3	SUB	R4	R5/c	SUB	R6	R7	TOTAL	PLACE
Earth Leakage	4.6	6.3	4.6	15.5	5.3	6.8	27.6	5.2	5.3	38.1	1
Vertical Logic	3.1	0.8	3.2	7.1	2.8	3.5	13.4	3.4	3.1	19.9	2
Us Three	2.6	0.0	3.0	5.6	1.9	0.0	7.5	3.6	w/d	11.1	3

FREEFLY INTER	R1/F	R2/CB	R3/F	SUB	R4/F	R5/S	SUB	R6/F	R7/F	TOTAL
Narcolepsy	1.1	1.5	0.8	3.4	1.1	2.4	6.9	1.4		8.3
Upstyle Down	0.7	1.1	1.3	3.1	1.9		5.0			5.0

The rules state that 2 teams don't make a competition. Fortunately the Meet Director agreed to allow the teams to compete and the judges agreed to judge the rounds completed. Medals were not awarded. Those at the Artistics Competitors Meeting agreed that the rules should change to reflect that only 2 teams should constitute a competition and that they be judged and awarded medals. This was passed at the recent APF Board Meeting.

### FORMATION SKYDIVING 8-WAY

8-WAY OPEN	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	TOTAL	PLACE
Nexgen	8	10	8	7							33	1
Invisible 8	6	10	7	6							29	2
Caffeine 8	4	8	5	7							24	3

8-WAY INTER	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	TOTAL	PLACE
Stray Cats	9	13	15*								46	1
XonR8	6	7	7	10							30	2
Last Minute	1	6	7	8							22	3
Fallout	1	0	3								6	4

\* New Australian Record

Unfortunately due to weather and ATC constraints, time ran out for many 8-way members and rounds were not completed.

### CANOPY FORMATION

2-WAY SEQ	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	TOTAL	PLACE
Ookoonono	5	6	6	4	6	5	5	4	37	1
Half Speed	3	4	5	2	6	5	5	4	32	2
2 For CRW	3	2	3	4	4	4	5	4	27	3
Jim vs Joe	5	2	2	4	3	3	4	5	26	4

### 16-WAY

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL
Red Bull	1	4		5
Vicious Vortex	0			0

According to the rules, 2 teams don't constitute a competition and as such the names of 16-way team members were not recorded by the judges. Fortunately the Meet Director agreed to allow the teams to jump and the judges agreed to judge the rounds. Unfortunately the weather and ATC were not helpful plus time and enthusiasm of competitors ran out.

### SKYSURF & FREESTYLE

Skysurf Inter team "Team Trubble" and Women's Freestyle team "Naomi & Dingo" both registered for their respective events. Both teams also entered the Freely Inter and Open events respectively, started those competitions first then ran out of time and patience with weather and ATC holds, unfortunately no rounds of their intended events were completed.

# TALON

FS

FOR YOUR

**THE TALON FS IS THE  
ULTIMATE IN EXTREME...**

**Formation Skydiving**  
**Freely Skydiving**  
**Free Style**

Sponsored by [www.parachutesaustralia.com](http://www.parachutesaustralia.com)



Wrap-a-round  
bridle protection  
system

Secure upward  
closing main  
pin cover



Body contoured  
horizontal webbing  
for unsurpassed form,  
fit & comfort



Contoured shoulder  
and chest harness  
shaping. Maximum  
riser and housing  
containment.

Standard features  
of stainless steel  
harness rings



New "Flat" Stainless  
Steel Multiflex harness  
rings to eliminate  
harness distortion.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

[www.parachutesaustralia.com](http://www.parachutesaustralia.com)



22 BOSCI ROAD, INGLEBURN NSW 2565

EMAIL: [SALES@PARACHUTESAUSTRALIA.COM](mailto:SALES@PARACHUTESAUSTRALIA.COM)

PH: +61 2 9829 5355 FAX: +61 2 9829 1900

WEB: [WWW.PARACHUTESAUSTRALIA.COM](http://WWW.PARACHUTESAUSTRALIA.COM)

EXTREME NEEDS

LCD Display protected by Saphir Glass  
New Flat Controller  
New Housing, Extra Thin

Ergonomic Design  
New Inox Cutter  
Waterproof - Multimode

Double Battery, Minimum 2000 Jumps...

**VIGIL**

Photo: Tommy Mangin



**Downward Trend**

Email: [newmansinoz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newmansinoz@optusnet.com.au)

Phone 0400 011 331



**Vigil II**  
Your New Guardian Angel...

[www.vigil.aero](http://www.vigil.aero) - [info@vigil.aero](mailto:info@vigil.aero)

# BIG SALE

**25% - 30% OFF All Javelins & Microns**

## **We can do:**

- General repairs • Any reserve repack • Relines • Canopy repairs
- Manufacture components • You name it we'll give it a go!

## **We supply:**

- Tandem and Sport Bands (Mil spec) • VERT handcam glove
- Camera sox • Tandem drogues • Cypres Services
- Fast and professional service • Free advice

**Proud sponsors of TEAM OFF-TRACK**

Dealers For:



**Downward Trend**  
PARACHUTE RIGGING SERVICES

Call for rigging rates and prices

**Downward Trend**

Brett & Sheralee Newman

Email: [newmansinoz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newmansinoz@optusnet.com.au)

Phone 0400 011 331 or 07 3480 5925

Coming soon... [www.downwardtrend.com.au](http://www.downwardtrend.com.au)

# BOOGIE in batchelor 2007

Boogie formerly known as REL Week

## DARWIN PARACHUTE CLUB

invites you to Boogie on in Batchelor

**28 July - 4 August 2007**

[www.skydiveterritory.com.au](http://www.skydiveterritory.com.au)

More than just a BOOGIE!!

Deepseed

waycool

Cookie



Darwin Races

Icarus



ALTRONICS

BirdMan

AIRSHOTS

haderian



# ONE STOP SKYDIVE & RIGGING STORE

## FEATURED ITEMS

Para Gear Exclusive!

★ **NEW!**



**VISO**  
VISUAL ALTIMETER  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #110505



**120+ CLOTHING**  
MEN'S & WOMEN'S TEES  
\$ VISIT ONLINE Many Styles & Colors to Choose from



**CAPTAIN HOOK KNIVES**  
NYLON SAFETY KNIVES  
ORANGE, BLACK, OLIVE OR BLUE  
Comes with Sheath  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #PK15550



BONEHEAD  
**ECHO**  
PARAGEAR

**PARAGEAR ECHO**  
HEADGEAR BY BONEHEAD  
BH Styled open-face headgear.  
Composite fiberglass construction  
Available in Black or White  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #L5138

## CANOPIES & CONTAINERS

Performance Designs  
Icarus Canopies  
Precision Aerodynamics  
Aerodyne  
Strong  
NA Aerodynamics  
Flight Concepts

Javelin • Sunpath  
Vector 3 • Relative Workshop  
Mirage G4 • Mirage Systems  
Icon • Aerodyne  
Wings • Sunrise Rigging  
Voodoo/Talon • Rigging Innovations  
Quasar • Strong  
Infinity • Velocity Sports

## VIDEO : DVD : BOOKS

MORE VIDEOS, VHS, AND DVDS AVAILABLE ONLINE



**TRACE 102**  
BARI FLOR FREELY GOES FREEFLYING  
PAL DVD NTSC DVD  
#V90500P #V90500N  
\$ VISIT ONLINE



**TRACE 101**  
BARI FLOR FREELY STRIKES AGAIN!  
PAL DVD NTSC DVD  
#V90495P #V90495N  
\$ VISIT ONLINE



**CONTINUUM II**  
THE FOLLOW-UP TO CONTINUUM  
\$ VISIT ONLINE NTSC DVD #V90180



**SURVIVAL SERIES**  
A TRAINER SERIES  
PAL DVD NTSC DVD  
#V90170P #V90170N  
\$ VISIT ONLINE



**SKYDIVING ADVENTURES**  
THE BEST OF THE EXTREME  
\$ VISIT ONLINE NTSC DVD #V90650



**HOOKIN' IT**  
THE WORLD SWOOPING MEET - BONUS FOOTAGE  
19% TO PRESENT  
\$ VISIT ONLINE NTSC DVD #V90515



**PARABATIX**  
SPECTACULAR HDSD  
\$ VISIT ONLINE NTSC DVD #V90610



**GRAVITY PILOTS**  
THE ULTIMATE SWOOP MOVIE  
\$ VISIT ONLINE NTSC DVD #V90930



**PARACHUTE RIGGERS HANDBOOK**  
BY ACADEMY OF PARACHUTE RIGGING  
Every Rigger needs this book!  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #B2007



**THE PARACHUTE & ITS PILOT**  
BY BRIAN GERMAIN  
In-Depth look at modern canopy flight  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #B1930

## UPGRADE YOUR WARDROBE



See these and all the new apparel from Jumper, Go Wear and More!

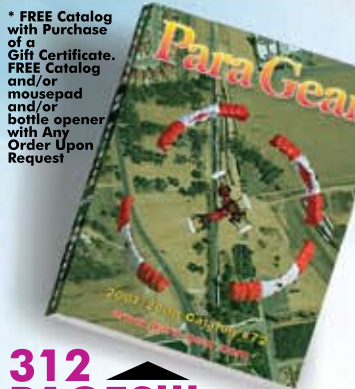
## Gift Certificates



Gift Certificates Available for All Occasions!

## Gear Catalog\*

\* FREE Catalog with Purchase of a Gift Certificate. FREE Catalog and/or mousepad and/or bottle opener with Any Order Upon Request



**312 PAGES!!!**

## HEADGEAR

ParaGear has the largest selection of headgear & accessories IN STOCK!



**OXYGEN A3**  
FULL-FACE HEADGEAR  
Various Colors Available  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #L4315



**BH MAMBA**  
FULL-FACE HEADGEAR  
Flip-Up lens - Shock Design  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #L5163



**BH ZEUS**  
CAMERA HEADGEAR  
Various Colors Available  
Cam Eye II Not Included  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #L5140



**MINDWARP**  
FREELY HEADGEAR  
Various Colors Available  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #L5125



**ALL-SPORT**  
FREELY HEADGEAR  
Various Colors Available  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #L5128

## INSTRUMENTS

ParaGear has the latest Instruments from all manufacturers. Accessories too!



**PRO-TRACK**  
AUDIBLE ALTIMETER & FREEFALL COMPUTER  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #L11440



**SOLO**  
AUDIBLE ALTIMETER  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #110520



**OPTIMA**  
AUDIBLE ALTIMETER  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #110500



**NEPTUNE**  
AUDIBLE ALTIMETER & FREEFALL COMPUTER  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #11405



**ALTITRACK**  
VISUAL ALTIMETER & FREEFALL COMPUTER  
Digital Accuracy with an Analog face.  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #110510



**ALTIMASTER III GALAXY**  
VISUAL ALTIMETER  
Blue, Black, Purple, Red, Yellow, Orange, Turquoise  
Neon Green, Green and Silver Casing Colors.  
\$ VISIT ONLINE #111915

Secure Online Ordering >>> 1000s of Products >>> We Make It Easy!

[www.ParaGear.com](http://www.ParaGear.com) ★

Serving the World for Over 46 Years.

[www.ParaGear.com](http://www.ParaGear.com)



All Major Credit Cards Accepted.

PHONE: 847-679-5905 • FAX: 847-679-8644



**ParaGear**

Serving the World for Over 46 Years.

**EQUIPMENT COMPANY**

3839 West Oakton Street - Skokie, Illinois 60076 USA



# APF Conference and Board Meeting

## “SKYDIVING GENERATIONS”

*The 2007 APF Annual Conference was held in the Australian Capital Territory at the National University in Canberra. The Conference gave an opportunity to explore Canberra's many national attractions which hold and share the treasures of our nation including our own APF House.*

### CONFERENCE - DAY 1

Chairman of the APF Board, **Trevor Collins (TC)**, welcomed members and introduced **Senator Kate Lundy**, shadow Minister for Sport and former APF member, to officially open the Conference. Members were then treated to an informative seminar on **Wing Suit Flying by Greg Cox**, followed by a presentation “**Are You Covered**” by **Neil Fergie**, the APF insurance broker. Before lunch **APF Director of Rigging Jo Chitty**, gave his presentation.

In tune with the theme of this year's conference, “Skydiving Generations”, we were fortunate to have key note speaker, **Rex Pemberton**, the youngest Aussie to climb Mt Everest. Rex gave a fantastic motivational talk, painting the picture well of the challenges he faced, not just on the actual climb but also on the lead up to making the climb actually happen on a business and corporate sponsorship level. He made a lot of reference to his great climbing achievements, (he's the youngest man to climb the highest peak of every continent!) including breathtaking and inspirational video footage and photos. Rex is one of our younger APF members, having just achieved his 'D' Licence.

**Retention** is always playing on the APF's mind and so this year **membership growth and retention expert, Kevin Calahane**, was employed by the APF to research our membership growth patterns and to devise tools for use by clubs in improving membership figures. Kevin outlined his movements to date.

In the afternoon 3 workgroups broke out with a **Chief Instructors and Drop Zone Operators Forum chaired by Terry Riddle and Dave McEvoy**; the **Director of Safety and Area Safety Officers** got together and the **Director of Instructors/IPC, Mike Carre**, held a session.

The Uni Bar rocked till all hours, the jumpers eating and drinking them out of stock while catching up with each other.

### CONFERENCE - DAY 2

Kicked off with an **Instructors presentation by Mike Carre**, nothing new, just some statistics. **Fiona McEachern** talked of the **Emergence of the Freefly VRW discipline** and showed some footage from the recent US Nationals where 10 teams competed. The discipline looks set to be included as a test event at the next Australian Nationals and globally it is anticipated that it be introduced as an event of the 2010 World Championships. It opened a few minds to this new phase of the sport.

**APF Technical Officer, Kim Hardwick**, gave a statistical presentation of the **Current Safety Issues** in our sport nationally. Kim also presented the global statistics derived from surveys conducted by the Technical and Safety Committee of the FAI International Parachuting Commission.

**Ian Robertson, World Top POP**, had the opportunity to talk of winning the bid for Australia to host the next **World POPS Championships**, which is scheduled for April 2008 meet at Toogoolawah. Robbo said that the POPS fraternity is growing in Australia and was seeking support from APF and its members for POPS and the upcoming World Championships.

After lunch, **Kai Korner from Airtec**, the German company which manufactures the Cypres2 Automatic Opening Device, gave an informative seminar on their product, how it operates, the new features, the servicing, reliability and it's advantages and benefits. He noted that there are now over 30,000 Cypres units in the field and that there have been 400 reported Cypres saves in the 12 years.

**Darren Peters** from the **Australian Paralympic Committee** gave an interesting presentation which he aptly named “**Generations in Sport**”. His seminar looked at the demographics and target markets for of sports participants & volunteers and covered the changes & challenges we are facing with the X and Y Generations.

**Dr. David G. Newman**, a Consultant in Aviation Medicine was sponsored by CASA to attend and educate us about **Spatial Orientation**. We'd been given a seminar on this topic at a recent conference so wasn't expecting anything new, Dr Newman was a fabulous speaker and kept us entertained with practical examples plus short videos and photos showcasing situations of spatial disorientation and the relationship to air safety.

**Fiona McEachern** and **Lindy Williams** reported on **Competitions and Judging**, showcasing those who achieved records and APF Achievement Awards. **Sven Peter** spoke to his proposed **2-way Freefly Competition** which he was encouraged to develop some more and hopefully introduce at State Championships as was wingsuit enthusiast **Andy Weal**, who proposed a **wingsuit competition**.

The **Awards Night** was held at the War Museum, a sight to behold with the decorated tables amidst a unique setting of old war bombers and ambient lighting. APF Achievement Awards were presented to Michael Vaughan for his medal winning performance at the World Canopy Piloting Championships held in Vienna and to the members of Australia's Largest Canopy Formation, 25-way Diamond, built over Toogoolawah. Claude Gillard set the crowd alight with his singing, the rock band unsure as to whether they were good enough to follow him. We then witnessed a stunning re-creation of a night operation over Berlin in 1943, showcasing the famous Lancaster bomber. The exhibition vividly conveyed the exploits and experiences of the people from both sides, who lived through the bombing offensive.

### CONFERENCE - DAY 3

The **APF Annual General Meeting** kicked off at 9am with the **Presidents Report from Tony Edwards**. The APF Annual Report is a lengthy document reporting on the facts and figures encompassing a) the APF's external relations (ie. Airservices Australia, Aust. Sports Commission, Aust. Sports Foundation and CASA), b) Partnerships with the APF (ie. Aust. Sport Aviation Confederation, ASM, the APF Lawyers, Parachuting Protection Company, PIA and the Team Advancement Trust), c) National Safety & Operations (ie. Compliance, Standards, Safety Promotion, Service Functions, Displays Conducted, No of Ratings & Endorsements, Chief Instructor Approvals, Manuals and Handbooks and summaries of the Incident Reports & Fatalities), d) Sport and Competition (ie. National and World Championships, Officiating, Financial Assistance and Discipline Development) and e) Summaries of the various Financial Reports.



It's a very interesting read giving much scope into the workings of our Federation. The Report is available on request at the APF Office.

**Director of Aircraft Operations, Grahame Hill**, spoke to the current aircraft issues, followed by a session by **Lt Col Jim Ryan** who conducted an informative presentation on the **Australian Army** and the structures within their **Parachute Training School** at Nowra, NSW. He spoke about their training which is to jump out of the plane, usually low altitude, equipped with backpacks and guns etc, get stable and land at a foreign drop zone which could be under fire. He spoke of the need to use the static line method as that they need to exit hundreds of troops at a time and come down quickly. He spoke of the need to update their equipment and that they are also developing a simulator to assimilate canopy flight and landing patterns.

**Geoff Munday of New Zealand Skydiving School** presented a report outlining the success of the **Diploma in Commercial Skydiving Course**, which is producing up to 30 trained personnel each year who each end up with 200 jumps plus skills in packing, dubbing, manifesting, ground control, videoing etc. and are educated in all aspects of drop zone procedures. Geoff feels the graduates are suitable for various positions at commercial drop zones. The problem they are facing is the general lack of work jumpers available world wide, certainly in Australia and New Zealand, and that their institution can't train enough to feed the demand domestically.

**Al Gray** presented a report on the **Board of Review** and **Disciplinary Committee** and the procedures that are followed. This presentation was probably the only session that got a little controversial and emotional as Robbie McMillan was pushing for some answers and an apology to some friends who he feels were dealt with incorrectly. Al pointed out that the Constitution and Discipline Procedure Handbook provided all the information and procedures for dealing with the matters raised and that the session was not the time or place for the discussion.

After lunch, **Brad Turner** talked about **National Development**, particularly about the APF's archaic database system and the movement to update this and bring more in line with modern technology.

A few options are being looked at including using web based technology for entering the pink card and member systems, which will in turn allow drop zones to easily collect information about their own members for marketing purposes.

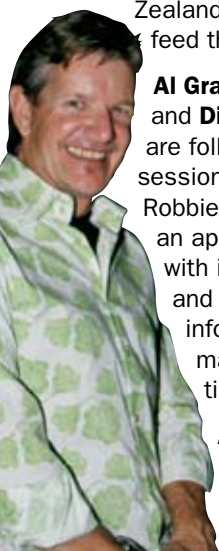
**APF Chairman, Trevor Collins**, presented updates to the **APF Strategic Plan** and identified which areas have been addressed and how we are working towards addressing others. The workgroup identified that some issues deemed as Important needed to be stepped up to being Critical.

In the afternoon, each Technical Director gave a summary of their recommendations from the Conference that will be taken to the Board. The podium was then open for member **Show and Tell**.

**Dave McEvoy of Ramblers** showed his annual **Bloopers videos**, **Steve Edwards of Byron Bay DZ** also showed a couple of incidents & candid jumps and **Corey Harrison** showed his inside footage of flying into a willy willy. On a previous day of the conference there was some objection to the airing of these videos, particularly if CASA officials viewing. There was also reference to the name, suggesting that "bloopers" is too light-hearted and may look like we're making fun of the incidents. Dave apologised for ever showing the videos in front of officials, that that certainly was not his intention. Discussion followed as to the great training tool that these videos are for new and experienced jumpers alike and a name change to "Safety Training Videos" was suggested. More drop zones are encouraged to keep their videos and also bring along to annual conference for viewing.

**Susie Mc** aired a more light-hearted video, the Channel 10 Morning Show coverage from **Skysisters** and spoke generally of the **media coverage** received before, during and after the event. **Dean Brook-Rerecich** showed his daughters tandem video. **Luke McWilliam** spoke about the **Conference format** and how he, with the support of the NSW Parachute Council, would like to change the existing format next year, to include more hands on time and training seminars at an actual drop zone.

The Conference was declared a success, thanks extended to **Terry Riddle and the ACT Parachute Council** for organising. A mass of people departed, others staying on for the Board Meeting met up for dinner and the first game of the State of Origin where **QLD ran rings around NSW!**







# Board Meeting...

## Minutes compiled by Graeme Windsor

This is an abridged version of the Board minutes, prepared as information for members' purposes only. It records most, if not all the decisions that were reached. Further background on each item should be available from your local Board delegate or Club. Any decision that involves a change to Operational regulations must go through the Statutes Committee process and then obtain CASA approval before it can be implemented.

The meeting commenced on 24 May 2007 at Canberra and went for the best part of two days. In attendance were 15 APF Board Reps & Delegates including the Chairman & President, 5 APF Technical Directors, 4 APF Office Staff and 10 onlookers.

### Pink card (temporary membership) system

With the introduction of a new IT system at the APF office, Councils will be provided with monthly membership reports. In addition, clubs will be able to access membership data relevant to their operation, which can be used to facilitate membership retention initiatives.

## REPORTS

The Board accepted all recommendations from reports. These include:

### Audit KPI's

Measurable KPIs are to be adopted for the number of audits of APF training organisations. A safety audit figure of 81% was presented in the report. He advised that the ideal aim was for a KPI of 100% audit coverage per year, but people and distance hampered the exercise. CEO advised that CASA had advised that the coverage figures reported to date were acceptable.

### Aircraft Operations

Director of Aircraft Operations, Grahame Hill, is working with RAPAC committees so that Cloud Jumping agenda items were more on the "no objection" principle, rather than seeking approval. Progress reports on current applications for approval of cloud jumping manuals were delivered. Clubs were to be encouraged to continue to submit cloud manual procedures manuals to avoid breaching rules by jumping through cloud.

A workgroup was put together to look at how the APF may become involved in jump pilot certification.

### Competitions

Recommendations by the Director of Competitions, Fiona McEachern, are detailed in Directors Direction.

### Instructors

The Director of Instructors, Mike Carre, discussed the quality assessments of Instructors. The implications of overseas groups obtaining Australian Instructor ratings was discussed, in the context of an Indian Military group that visited the country. The Diploma Course in NZ was discussed and was found to be of high standard. The DI will continue to review the instructor exam and rating system. Only one Instructor B reported not to have met the Level 2 Coaching Accreditation requirement of the APF this year.

### Judges

Director of Judges, Lindy Williams, extended congratulations to Debra Somers who recently completed her Judges rating. Special thanks also were extended to Ray Williams for encouraging judges. More than 10 judges attended the last Canopy Piloting National Championships. More details in next issue's CJX. Omniskore hire for future Nationals will be included in the Judges budget.

### Riggers

Jo Chitty, Director of Riggers, reported on the Parachute Industry Symposium in 2007 and a proposal to hold one in Europe in 2008.

### National Development

The Director of National Development, Brad Turner, reported on the three membership retention workshops held during the year and that more specific workshops will be scheduled. Brad advised that he is staying closely involved with the implementation of the APF's new IT/Membership system. Brad also discussed the overlapping of the current marketing, strategic planning, IT and branding items with what is currently in place.

### Australian Sport Aviation Confederation

ASAC Delegate, Tony Edwards, reported on CASA funding for self administering air sport bodies and gave an update on ASAC promotion of all the aviation sports in general. New draft regulations affecting parachuting have been posted on the CASA website and are open for comment.



## Asiania

The Asiania Parachute Federation delegate, Faye Cox, discussed the Australian team's progress and their placing at recent Asiania events. Asiania is now an FAI affiliate member.

## Parachute Industry Association

Dave Smith reported on his role as the PIA delegate and stated that riggers should be encouraged to attend PIA Symposiums.

## Chief Judge Report – Nationals – FS, AE, CF at Picton

The Chief Judge requested that the wind meter be replaced. APF to acquire new IPC standard 2cm disc. The CJ to ensure testing is done 2 days prior to any competition on equipment sent from the APF.

## National Championships Organiser

The Board thanked Sydney Skydivers for a job well done, except for the ablution blocks not being completed. Accommodation provided for judges were not acceptable to the CJ. Phil Onis to make sure that the accommodation for the World Cup in November is prepared to an acceptable standard for the World Meet.

## NOMINATIONS FOR RECORDS AND AWARDS

Record to be ratified is the 5-way women's Canopy Formation as a National Record submitted by DJ.

## ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Almost all positions were again filled by the same people. HBoM member Grahame Hill declined his nomination and his position was filled by Shirley Cowcher.

## ACCEPTED NATIONAL COMPETITION BIDS

### 2008 S&A Champs – Aerial Skydives, VIC

Jump prices \$24 for Accuracy and \$35 for Style. Registration stays the same. Dates changed to 8 to 12 March 2008, so as not to conflict with Picton Nationals.

### 2008 FS, CRW and AE and 16-way Champs - Sydney Skydivers, NSW

Sydney Skydivers do not propose to charge registration for camera persons in FS, CF and AE. Dates 15 to 24 March, 2008 (Easter).

### CP Champs - Sydney Skydivers, NSW

Registration prices \$10 more per person. Dates: 20 to 26 February, 2008

### POPS World Champs

Kelly Graham agreed to work with Chair of POPS to refine his request for assistance and present it to the HBoM. Susie Mc gave background on media provision proposed for POPS.

2008 Competitions – 4 comps within weeks of each other questions the availability of judges. DJ to provide a report to check availability of judges and the qualification of more judges.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HBoM

### Strategic Plan Discussions

The Chair gave the Board feedback from the Conference discussions on the Strategic Plan.

### The Conference had recommended:

- PREF2 Team Funding to be moved from Preferred to Important.
- IMP1 - to be moved to Critical 6 - all stakeholders need to be clearly defined.
- IMP3 - Target market is existing members. Director National Development and NSWC rep to work with Marketing Contractor on this. New IT system and APF database will assist drop zones to establish the target market and the info to retain membership.

- IMP4 - Garner Council support.
- NQC rep suggested just one Board member from each Council and that the HBoM portfolios be amalgamated back into the Board as a whole. To be reviewed at the Board meeting in November.
- IMP5 - Standardised Customer Service Plan. Accreditation is being covered by Marketing Consultant in conjunction with Director Nat Dev.
- PREF1 - move this item to a broader arena of ASAC. President to handle and give feedback.
- PREF2 - Team Funding. Move to IMP6.
- Remuneration to Volunteers be moved to IMP – to be revisited in November as part of the new 3 year plan.

### Streamline the acceptance of international ratings

Review license system for international parity. The intention is to work towards the FAI licensing system. IPC Delegate and DI to investigate systems used by the USA and other skydiving bodies.

### APF Office Review

The Board agreed to a proposal by the Chair to engage a consultant to review the workings of the APF Office.

### Marketing Strategy

Sally Cooke from Mendelson Communication gave a presentation on a possible APF Marketing Strategy, including rebranding.

### Project Funding

The Board accepted the HBoM sport funding proposal and agreed to budget an amount of \$10,000 for Level 1 funding and \$20,000 for the level 2 funding and to consider Level 3 funding applications as they arise. More details next issue.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONFERENCE

The Board adopted all recommendations from the Conference. These include:

### Safety Workgroup

Develop definitions of reportable incidents. Standardise and rationalise terminology in documentation. Education in the no-blame Incident Reporting system. Establish an incident investigation procedure. Formalise a central training course for ASOs. Change Council Reg 7.1 to allow for 2 year appointment of ASO, 1 year for deputy ASOs.

### Rotational System for Conferences

The Board adopted a rotational system for future annual Conferences/Board Meetings. The following schedule was devised and agreed to, commencing with NSW in 2008, SQ in 2009, WA in 2010, SA in 2011, NQ in 2012, VIC in 2013 and ACT in 2014.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### Marketing Proposal - ASM

Brad Turner outlined some proposals received from the magazine editor in relation to placing the magazine on news stands. Following his recommendation, the proposal to fund \$5,000 per issue towards the \$12,000 cost of printing and distributing ASM to news stands for 12 months was agreed.

Other proposals under consideration include a National Video Comp & National Video Festival plus a compilation DVD to go with the magazine.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Scheduled for 22 and 23 November 2007 in Canberra.

# CYPRES 2



**ZUVERLÄSSIGKEIT**  
Reliability made in Germany

## PEACE OF MIND



“CYPRES reliability  
giving us Peace of Mind  
since 1998.”

**AIRTEC**  
Mittelstrasse 69  
D-33181 Wünnenberg

Tel +49 2953 9899 0  
Fax +49 2953 1293  
[www.cypres.cc](http://www.cypres.cc)

Photo: BaByLoN



# SKYSYSTEMS LTD



## VERTIGO-X

### THE "ULTIMATE OPEN FACED" CAMERA HELMET

- Unmatched, undistorted peripheral vision.
- Anatomically shaped for the human head.
- Sky-Dial™ tightening system for stability
- Comfortable fit and styling.
- Dual protected external audible ports. (Fits all)
- Custom finish designs and custom colors.
- Also available in PLATINUM™ finish.
- Line-Of-Sight Aiming make it easy to use.
- Flat left and top for mounting both Digital Video and still cameras.



Pro-Dyter and Pro-Track audible altimeters, sunglasses and cameras not included.



## SURRICANE™

### THE ULTIMATE FREELY OPEN-FACE HELMET.

- Anatomically shaped for the human head.
- Sky-Dial™ tightening system.
- Sound channel for audible warning sounds.
- Tri-Composite construction- Flexible rigid shell.
- Comfortable fit and styling.
- E-Z access protected DUAL audible ports. (fits all)
- Custom finish designs and custom colors.
- Also available in PLATINUM™ finish.
- Compatible with X-JAKET™ camera mount.

AVAILABLE AT:



best above the earth<sup>SM</sup>

22 Bosc Rd, Ingleburn NSW 2565 Australia Phone: 02 9829 5355 Fax: 02 9829 1300  
Email: sales@parachutesaustralia.com Web: www.parachutesaustralia.com

# 46TH AUSTRALIAN STYLE AND ACCURACY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 12TH TO 15TH, 2007 CALOUNDRA / CABOOLTURE  
By Mike Dyer Photos by: Megan Whitcombe & Fiona McEachem

It's not unusual to have your annual championships coincide with some poor weather as we had brought home to us once again. The three days of the training camp were plagued with gusty winds and the weather forecast was for rain over the weekend. The previous weekend was perfect as well as the weekend following the comp! Fortunately we are a flexible bunch and when it was rained out in Caloundra for all of day one, we just picked up the next morning and moved to Caboolture, 30 minutes down the road. The winds were still not ideal, but we managed to complete all rounds of the Accuracy and a couple of the Style.

Being an Off Year, it was mostly a Queensland crew with the only interstateers being Janine Hayes and Michael Vaughan. Michael is highly experienced in most other skydiving disciplines, but a newbie to Accuracy.

Andy Pike

**Meet Director: Jim Cox**  
**Chief Judge: Faye Cox**  
**Assisting and Trainee Judges:**  
**Debbie Robertson & Janine Hayes (Style)**

SPONSORS:

Cypres, Alti 2, Larsen & Brusgaard, PD, NAA, Jumpshack, Downward Trend, RMW Jumpsuits, Sunshine Coast Skydivers.



Chris Whitcombe



John Friswell



Geoff Bingham



Janine Hayes



Livia Oliver



Ian McGregor



Mike Dyer



S&A Judge  
Jim Cox



Tibor Gelsk

# 46TH AUSTRALIAN STYLE AND ACCURACY

Other newcomers, along with Michael managed to get some training jumps in preceding the competition, but gusty winds made it difficult to get anywhere near the Tuffit, so SAFE landings were the priority for those days. But the disciplines they concentrated on in those days brought rewards in the competition to follow. It was rewarding to see people new to the discipline getting excited when they eventually were landing on the Tuffit and then going up another level when they started hitting the pad itself.

Tibor Glesk was running hot this year. After setting a new Australian record of 12cms at the Queensland State Meet last year, he produced his best performance in years to set a new record of 6 cms over 10 rounds.

The conditions were tricky with wind strength varying up and down and several rejumps being given. Despite the inclement weather, a good time was had by all with a great can-do attitude from all, superb flying by Will ?? who did a brilliant job on the Style run-ins with only one go-round! Thanks to ?? Wayne who did a lot of driving.

The Auction night was a great success raising over \$2,500 which went to prize money of over \$2,000 and helped keep costs down. A big thank you to all the sponsors who made it

possible. **Alti-2, Cypres, HOP, Jumpshack, Larsen & Brusgaard, NAA, Performance Designs, RMW Jumpsuits and Total Control.**

Next year it will be the On Year and it will be in Victoria, so for both reasons we should see a much larger participation. We may also see more participation due to plans from the competitors meeting. At this meeting several steps were decided on to encourage participation in what may now be called Precision Accuracy. The main steps are:-

1. Five Parafoils have been donated to a Training Equipment Resource to be made available for use to overcome the first part of the equipment problem.
2. To overcome the second part, the suitability of most people's rigs, 5 pack extenders have been donated. These allow the use of your own harness and container to take the larger Foil canopy.
3. A training guide will be made up and sent to Councils for use with some of our leading accuracy jumpers making themselves available.
4. A competitive price is being sought on Tuffits. The target is \$2,500.



Michael Vaughan



Robbo



Faye, Debra, Jim, Janine and Fiona

“For a few years now I have wanted to give the Accuracy Nationals a go, so this year I made it happen. I borrowed a Parafoil 252 (thank you Janine Hayes) and headed up to Caboolture in South East QLD. My 8 training jumps on the Foil were a bit of a wake up call when I only managed to land on the inflatable 4 metre square tuffit once, the true goal being to touch the centre of the 35cm diameter electronic scoring disc. I was not even close! It was then that I realized that this was going to be harder than I had thought it would be.

With some coaching from Tibor Glesk, Janine Hayes, Ian McGregor, Mike Dyer and many others, I managed to improve dramatically during the competition. I was on a steep learning curve and learnt heaps about flying these types of canopies and about precision accuracy. My biggest problem was forcing myself to fly the Parafoil the way it should be flown rather than how I would normally fly a canopy. I definitely had a ton of fun being a student of canopy flight once more.

Accuracy is more addictive than I had hoped. Now I want to come back again sometime and get myself a bullseye!

Michael Vaughan”

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## ROUND-BY-ROUND SCORES

INDIVIDUAL	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	TOTAL	RANK
TIBOR GLESK	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.06	1
MIKE DYER	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.23	2
JANINE HAYES	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.14	0.01	0.05	0.09	0.45	3
ANDY PIKE	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.08	0.13	0.52	4
IAN MCGREGOR	0.16	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.16	0.16	0.05	0.00	0.16	0.75	5
JIM CZERWINSKI	0.06	0.09	0.15	0.10	0.16	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.16		0.75	6
GEOFF BINGHAM	0.06	0.05	0.16	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.10	0.16		0.75	6
JOHN FRISWELL	0.00	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.01	0.16		0.91	8
MICHAEL VAUGHAN	0.16	0.08	0.12	0.16	0.16	0.03	0.16	0.08	0.03		0.98	9
SHAUN HAGAN	0.06	0.16	0.16	0.07	0.07	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.02		1.02	10
IAN ROBERTSON	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.05	0.16	0.16	0.11	0.16			1.06	11
LIVIA DICKIE	0.16	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.06	0.16	0.12	0.16			1.08	12
CHRIS WITCOMBE	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.02	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16			1.14	13
FRANK KLAUS	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16			1.28	14



## OTHER RESULTS

**Style :** 1st Mike Dyer , 2nd Tibor Glesk, 3rd Andy Pike  
**Overall Champion:** Equal 1st Mike Dyer/ Tibor Glesk 3rd Andy Pike  
**POP's Accuracy:** 1st Mike Dyer, 2nd Ian McGregor,  
 Equal 3rd Jim Czerwinski/Geoff Bingham

**Notable comment:** John Friswells' comment to Geoff Bingham after Bing landed off the Tuffit and John promptly did the same: "Obviously, I can't learn from your mistakes!"

# VISO

THE  
DIGITAL KNOW-IT-ALL  
VISUAL ALTIMETER

*Flight Performance*<sup>SM</sup>



#### Simple Yet Powerful.

Let's face it... there's a lot to do during a skydive and you need an altimeter that's easy to read and most important... accurate. No matter if you freely, swoop, or do RW.... it's all good.

VISO is a very powerful digital altimeter. Keep track of altitude, speeds and jump data all from this little advanced piece of technology.



Larsen & Brusgaard



# ROYAL THAI SKY FESTIVAL

By James Evered. Photos by Wendy Smith



To celebrate the 80th birthday of His Royal Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, all the people of Thailand are wearing special yellow shirts over the course of the year. These beautiful shirts are embroidered with the Kings emblem over their hearts, this is how they pay respect and honour their King.

As per this sign of respect the Festival organisers wanted to follow suit and made their shirts a similar colour. Another sign of respect was to build specially designed formations with up to 100 skydivers. The 100 participants were all a part of World Team, invited along to honour the King and the people of Thailand, for all their support to the World Team over the years. They built a beautiful 96-way 'Royal Lotus Flower' on the very last load of the festival - howzat for timing! Representing Australia in the invitational formations were Grant & Julie Nichol and Geoffro Abrahams. Nice work guys it looked great!

The festival was jam packed with planes, people, food and parties! With the use of a C-130 Hercules, a Fiat G-222 and a Huey Helicopter there were 5,085 jumps made by 290 participants from 24 countries over a 9 day period. Load organisers catered for all people covering disciplines like formation skydiving, freeflying, tracking, hybrids and inflatables rafts and animals alike.

I know as skydivers we really don't need any reasons for a party but during this event we had so many to choose from. The opening and closing ceremonies of the festival were a hoot, then there were the birthdays of Wendy Smith and Bruno Brokken (and others) and then the Seafood Festival started! It was a carnival and the whole town celebrated with demonstrations in kickboxing and a type of football/volleyball - wow, those boys can jump and kick with style. Then there were the lights and rides for all the kids, but the best part was the outstanding seafood barbeque - it was 80 metres long with 47 chefs and an array of fish, squid, pipis and muscles - yum, it was delicious!

Thailand as a country has so much to offer including lots of hidden treasures. I had heard of a cave that is full with statues

of the Buddha only 4kms away from the hotel, so teamed up with friends and set out on a little adventure to find this cave. What a great surprise - walking through the entrance of the cave we saw two big golden feet, the statue is lying on it's side, taking up one wall of the cave (2 metres high and 15 metres long). The cave continued and got darker the further we moved in. I had a torch to help us out as we bumped our way through the cave. We came across another statue of Buddha lying against the wall which we could only just see. The torch wasn't much help so we took a photo using the flash to find our way a little easier but as the flash went off the cave lit up and came to life with all these other Buddhas appearing - it was amazing.

It was a fantastic event to be a part of. I won't say too much more as I would like to leave you with something to discover for yourselves on your own adventures here in Thailand.

[www.thaiskyfestival.com](http://www.thaiskyfestival.com)





# 25-way CRW Diamond

**The Adventures of Team Dipsy**  
Words: Andrew (Sarge) Preston, based on an idea by Dipsy  
Outside Photos: Steve Fitchett & Wayne McLachlan  
Inside Photos: Robbie McMillan

Australia has always had a solid body of CRW jumpers and a large pool of latent talent. During the last world record camp in 2005, Brett Higgins suggested that we trawl through the pool and put together a serious attempt to break the existing Australian canopy formation - a 21 plane - which had stood since March 1984, by building a 25 diamond.

New Aussie  
**Record**



**L**ike any other discipline of sport parachuting, CRW is equipment specific, although probably more so than any other. Aside from the obvious – gloves, hook knives and risers – the canopy is really designed for the sole purpose of effecting a dock at speed on the body of another jumper - a controlled collision on some occasions – while maintaining sufficient flying characteristics to allow the jumper under it to maintain the wing. The peculiar characteristics of CRW canopies coupled with largely uniform wing loadings are fundamental to the success of large CRW formations.

After some discussion with Higgs and Chris Gay, the organiser of the world record attempts (see interview with Chris on page ?), it was decided that the only realistic approach was for everyone to have the same canopies and comparable wing loadings. The obvious choice for a 25 diamond was the PD Lightning – the same canopy used for the world record attempts.

Over the following 9 months, Higgs and I set about putting together a database of known CRW jumpers and potential

attendees including information as to their available equipment, wing loadings and experience, and making informal inquiries of the usual suspects known to be in possession of Lightnings of various sizes as to whether they would be willing to participate and lend any available equipment to the cause. Some replied, some didn't, some said it wouldn't work, some said they'd come if others did and the rest said they'd only come if it was going to work. In light of all that, from now on, I take my hat off to anyone who organises anything bigger than a dirt dive. In the end, the result was a pool of 30 jumpers of whom 27 were able to attend. Critically, everyone had a canopy to jump. The Crimson Mist Boys brought theirs, sundry others brought theirs and Chris and I brought back 20 or so from the Lake Wales, USA camp in early March. Dipsy rang me there at 3am to remind me to bring him back a 193 sq ft. It turned out that he had to jump a 218. We ended up with a few more than were needed in the end... thanks Mitch, Tom and the rest of you.



Nothing goes off without a hitch though – I arrived 17 minutes late to my own event, although I blame the airline for losing Chris’ luggage. After shouting the obligatory cartoon, introductions were made, old acquaintances renewed and the pre-camp ritual of rigging, swapping and hooking up of equipment commenced.

By midday the next day we were airborne under a plan that Chris had put together based on peoples’ experience and wing loading. Chris is a meticulous organiser and talented dive engineer. He is permanently attached either to a rig or a computer on which seems to be recorded the dive history of every jumper and canopy on any load which he and his people have ever organised. When he says “y’all wanna do this” or “y’all wanna be doin’ that” there will be a reason for it somewhere in that computer.

We started off with 2-way stack docks and rotations. The more experienced went with the lesser experienced and everyone got to be filmed and debriefed. Some in the group questioned the logic of

from wrapping around the top jumper. Keep doing that until you have a formation 9 canopies high and you have a 25 diamond. Simple.

Armed with these skills we quickly had a 9-way base flying after a few days, while the rest of the crew continued with the skills drills and their own 9-ways. The basic theory from that point was to have a fast flying base which could accept the remaining wing docks without there being any danger of those wings flying faster than the base and coming around. Chris Gay (pilot), Mitch, Dipsy and Tom Begic made up the base diamond. Mitch and Dipsy are two of the biggest slabs of meat in skydiving and Tom isn’t far behind - Chris had to wear 90 pounds to compensate. A fast flying base was therefore not an issue, catching the bloody thing was. When we did, Robbie McMillan, Ben Nordkamp, Dale Butterworth, Phil Thamm and I made up the rest of the base. Phil and Dale packed on the kilos to stay up with us.

Late on Thursday we smacked the 9-way together and the row 4 wings of former world champs, Wendell and Arnie, neatly docked their end cells on Robbie and I, and were locked off by Archie, John McMahon and Cam Cooper and we had the first 16-way diamond flying in Australia since January 1988. I think Wendell, Arnie and I were on that one too... Dale may not have been born then. Wendell hasn’t done CRW for years but he can still fly his end cell up a bat’s arse in a windstorm.

Chris announced that he was happy with the speed and health of the 16 diamond and that we would try for our record on the next jump at sunset in the perfect late afternoon autumn air. We were ready. Unfortunately the aircraft, as arranged, weren’t. And they wouldn’t be available until late the next morning when the bumps started to come in. There can be nothing more frustrating in those circumstances however, it is a credit to the team that they were able to take this inconvenience in their stride and focus on the task at hand. In fact we managed to build the record on the second attempt. We got the 16-way humming again and I watched Michael Vaughan and Jules McConnel swoop to their set up positions and disappear as they made their approaches. The formation bumped around as the lockups zipped up the wings and rest of the formation. I looked up to see Dipsy twisting his foot, which was the signal to get light.



playing around with 2-ways. The more experienced said wait and see. From there we progressed to 2-way stair step docks and rotations with the emphasis on catching with the feet and learning to apply front riser trim to keep the bottom canopy from going round. Of course, this only works if you catch the “A” lines. Belgium Steve now knows that if you grab the “B” lines on the stabilizers and try to get your feet in the “A” lines from there, then your feet, legs, arms and head end up docked on every line on the lower canopy and both canopies spiral very rapidly towards the earth with you inside them. But hey, what’s a CRW camp without a couple of chops?

As the week progressed, so did the group’s experience. We moved on to 3-way snakes, then to diamonds and 6-way boxes. These formations all involve a pilot flying wing or stair step docks on a heading. In wing and stair step configurations, the upper jumpers take grips with their feet around the outside “A” lines of the lower canopy and maintains a heading while the lower jumpers apply whatever degree of opposite front riser to prevent their canopies





Brad Turner

# 25-way CRW Diamond

I was supposed to pass that signal down to Wendell who was then to pass it on to Jules but it was already very light on the left side and I could feel Wendell's canopy climbing up and down my right leg. I gave Dipsy the forks instead and pretended I couldn't see him after that.

As we got down to the hard deck at 4,500 feet I hadn't felt the diamond point out and fly like it does once it's built. I resisted the urge to break my arch and have a little peek. I had a belly mount camera with a cutaway on it so I knew we could get some point of view footage from inside about what was happening down there. I think we were resigned to having another go when the formation gave that familiar lurch that big diamonds give when they start to point and I had a fair idea that Bad Brad had docked to complete the record! I knew we had done it after break off when Robbie came over and docked, slid down my lines and started singing "25 cartons of beer on the wall, 25 cartons of beer..." He made the news with that song that night on Sports Tonight's prestigious Play of the Day.

We landed amid great celebration. John McMahon was anxious to get on the phone and tell big brother Gary that little brother now had his record. For the record, Gary thinks that to beat the old record we would have to build a 22 plane. Tell it to the judges, Gary. Chris Gay allowed us to celebrate for about the time it took to pack and then rallied us for another shot at a 25 so that Scotty Merrilees could have a crack at docking on the bottom and joining the team of record holders. And he did.

Two records in one day made for double the celebrations that night. Beer flowed, the foosball table copped a hammering, everyone said "look-at-me... look-at-me" and Dipsy performed his now famous wheel chair jumps and nearly ended up in one. In amongst it all, Ben had kindly made a presentation to Higgs, Chris and I of silver beer tankards to commemorate the occasion. Many thanks Ben and the Toogoolawah Skydivers Club Inc. I now need to find a silversmith to get the dents out. We tried for 27 the next morning. We got 26. Not disappoint, we had our record.

There were people on the formation who had never been in anything bigger than a 4-way. Some, like Belgium Steve and John McMahon, had never been in diamonds. Vaughny and Robbie were at a CRW camp at Maitland, USA late last year that built a single 9 stack. So far, as I know, they had never done wing docks. Robbie docked a row three wing and Jules and Vaughny docked row 5 wings. One had less than 10 CRW jumps before the camp. Only two people had been on anything bigger than a 16-way. The results speak volumes for the methodical approach taken from the start of the camp.

Where to next? The 25 camp seems to have had three main effects. First, it has re-enlivened the interest of a number of very competent Australian CRW jumpers. Secondly and more importantly, it has created significant interest among the uninitiated and a number of the attendees have been approached for basic instruction and in some cases, facilitation of seminars. I have had quite a

25-way  
Diamond Formation

**Approx. Weight 2,500kg**  
**Approx. Height 48 metres**  
**Approx. Width 15 metres**



Bretto, Chris and Sargo - Cheers!



Robbie McMillan self portrait



few inquiries about what equipment to buy to get into CRW. Thirdly, there seems to be widespread support for a serious attempt at a 36 diamond sometime within the next two years. There is no doubt in my mind that there is talent enough in Australia to do it. Whether the momentum from the camp is sustained, only time can tell.

Finally, there are some obvious parallels between canopy piloting and CRW. The establishment of an international 2-way CRW competition has made CRW more accessible to those who love to be pilots rather than passengers. In that regard, Jules, Vaughny and Robbie McMillan serve as excellent examples.

So, in the meantime, for those interested in learning this seriously exciting discipline of sport parachuting, Ramblers DZ has access to a range of Lightnings and CRW rigs to make for compatible wing loadings on any size formation up to a 9 diamond. There's also the Mist Boys, Arnie, Jules, Vaughny, Robbie and Higgs.

Name	Weight	Lead	Canopy	Wingloading
Chris J. Gay	79	35	193	1.299
Alex (Dipsy) Kaiserman	131		218	1.322
Mitch McMartin	136		218	1.372
Tom Begic	113	5	193	1.345
Robbie McMillan	108		176	1.350
Andrew (Sarge) Preston	109		176	1.363
Ben Nordkamp	97		160	1.334
Phill Thamm	98	8	160	1.458
Dale Butterworth	92	3	160	1.306
Greg (Arnie) Hayes	97		160	1.334
Gary Cullen	94	2	160	1.320
Archie Jamieson	88		143	1.354
Andrew (Wendell) Whitten	90	5	160	1.306
Paul Baker	98		160	1.348
John McMahan	91		143	1.400
Cameron Cooper	94		143	1.446
Jules McConnel	77		126	1.344
Michael Vaughan	71		113	1.382
Brett Higgins	78	9	143	1.338
Dean Barrowcliffe	80		126	1.397
David (Monkey) Salsbury	77		126	1.344
Roeland Vandenburg	71		113	1.382
Daniel Brauman	75	76	126	1.327
Steven (Belgy) Geens	90		143	1.385
Brad Turner	98		160	1.348
Scottie Merrillees	115		176	1.438

## Message from Brett Higgins (Higgs)

*"Just a quick note to say thank you to everyone involved in the 25-way diamond. There have been a couple of attempts made in the past and so this one was a long time coming, but worth the wait! Big thanks to Wayne McLachlan and Steve Fitchett for providing the great camera work for the week; Lindy for coming out on the day to judge for us and Crash and Kirsty for making themselves available for confirming the record remotely; Sarge for sorting out canopies and organising Chris Gay to come over for the week to engineer the dives; and Chris, we could not have done it with out you.*

*Hopefully and from what I've heard since the record, CRW is making a bit of a comeback in Australia, which can only be a good thing for the sport. It's value for money skydiving - 10 minutes + under canopy! I know of a few people buying CRW canopies to do the 2-way comp. This comp is a heap of fun and you only need a couple of people to do it.*

*There are some great canopy coaches around, so if you are interested in learning this type of discipline then get hold of a coach and get into it. There will be CRW seminars happening more regularly - so get yourself to one and give it a go!The biggest thank you goes to everyone that were on the jumps to make this happen. You know who you are. Let's make an effort to get some new blood into CRW and who knows, a 36 way could be just around the corner?"*

## On a World Scale...

*A 100-way Diamond World Record attempt is planned for November this year in the States, organised by Chris. In the meantime various selection camps are happening worldwide. Ben, Pauly and myself just returned from one in Spain where we were doing 36-way diamonds until the weather became unkind.*

*A Women's World Record attempt is scheduled for May 2008, the plan is for a 25-way with the ultimate goal to build to a 36-way. Aussie girls interested are encouraged to contact [marcie@crwdiva.org](mailto:marcie@crwdiva.org)*

Record!



Starburst



25-Way



# Crew Diamond

New Aussie Record

Photography by Steve Fitchett [www.fitchimages.com.au](http://www.fitchimages.com.au)

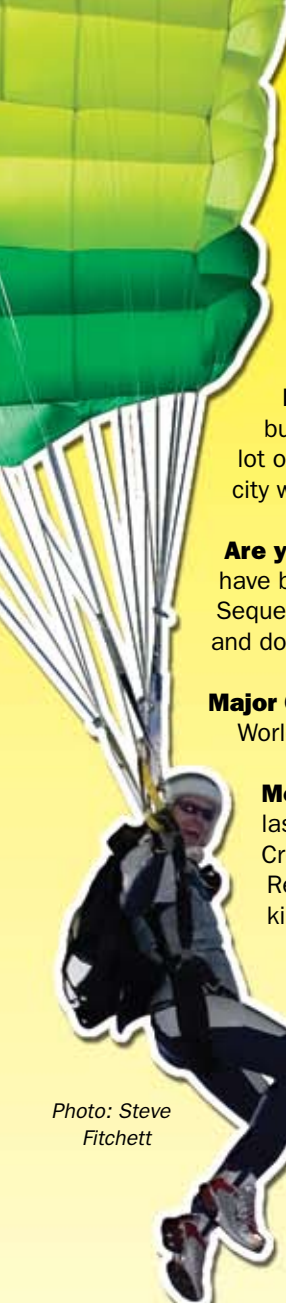


Photo: Steve Fitchett

**What does the slot of Pilot entail?**

Obviously you have to pick up the first few grips while keeping aircraft heading and then after that you really see where the formation is flying to, so you're in charge of steering the formation, small corrections and the spot.

**Do you make many recreation or work jumps?** I do a bit of AFF and some demos.

**Do you do CRW at demos?** I do everything but my focal point is canopy formation and a lot of demo teams shy away from that, ie. over city wrap is not an option!

**Are you currently in a team?** Since 1995 I have been a member of *Clean Air*, it's a 4-way Sequential team. We've combined with others and done 8-way.

**Major Competitions?** 10 x US Nationals and 4 x World Championships.

**Medals?** Multiple Nationals medals. Won last 2 World Meets in Croatia and Stupino. Croatia was really cool - we broke the World Record on Round 8 (last round) which was kinda nice. Then another record in Stupino.

**Tell us about the World Record formations you have organised.** I've organised the last couple of World Records. I started in 1994 with a 46-way, then took some time off and focused more on competing.

The main reason I started organising again in 2000 was that my team mates wanted it. I wasn't that keen because I knew the headaches involved. When team mates Mark Gregory and Dave Richardson said they wanted me to organise one I said "Yehah, I'll do it if both of you help." They said, "OK, we will assist if you will do it." And that's how the committees were formed. That started with a Florida State record, then a US Record in 2002, then the 70-way World Record in 2003.

**Does any particular record stand out as the greatest achievement?** I've done multiple records but the 2002 was most interesting. Usually we just break the record by small lots, this time with a new rule of being able to swap people in we did 5 x 50-ways in a row. That was the first time any formation that size had been repeated consecutively.

Reasons: 1) to try the bench - we wanted to get everybody in the formation, 2) our plan was to have a 4 to 5 year plan and we knew that if we wanted to have people for a 64-way in the future we needed to train them and the only way to do that was to get them to experience it. So for that same reason in 2003, when we broke the World Record, we repeated it several times with multiple 64-ways, because 2 years later we were planning for something larger, which took us to 2005. In 2005 we didn't repeat the 81-way - we knew we'd done all the training we need for the 100-way!

**It's the magic number?** Yeah, a 3 digit dive. I can still remember when we first started talking about a 100-way - back in 1994 doing the 46-way and we couldn't get a 49-way but we were dreaming about a 64-way. Nobody at that time thought a 100-way would ever be possible in our life time. The French thought that Row 7 wings were impossible so we sent 'em a photo! The reason they thought that was because they were building a pyramid shape formation, the trick was to form a diamond and not start on the next set of wings (echelon) until the diamond was complete. So in square term terms - 2 x 2, so 4 - 9 -16 - 25 - 36 - 49 - 64 - 81 and 100.

**So when is this 100-way happening?** The record is in the pipeline for November 2007. There are a number of try-out camps happening in the US and Europe in the lead up. We feel that we have all the training, but people are still going to multiple camps.

**Have you found some Aussie talent for it?** Yes, new and old. Evaluating some people.

**Wendell?** Of course. There are a number of highly talented people here. Jules, Vaughny and Robbie are 3 of the least experienced Canopy Formation pilots but are great talent. Canopy Piloting (CP) and Canopy Formation (CF) disciplines really overlap nicely. They could have a shot at it, they'd have to go to a try out camp, very good chance of qualifying. I've been happy about the progression of all the newer jumpers. The progression here has really stood out. Any time we start a camp up, I believe in looking at all the data, so the first thing is weighing up because wing loading is critical. I take notes on the experience level, jump numbers don't matter - training far overrides number of jumps without a doubt. Looking at all the stats here, my first thought was "wow" - there was a lot of experience and then some with very minimal experience. To see the group come together was terrific and to raise the experience level of the group was great. The 9-ways were good to see. The first record attempt only built to 19 and the second one went straight up and completed - that's a huge learning curve on very few jumps.

# Chris J. Gay

PROFILE

**Home Drop Zone:** Lake Wales, Florida, USA

**Your age?** I'm not a POP!

**When did you start jumping?** 1986

**And how long after did you start doing CRW?** Three years, 1989

**Jumps?** 11 to 12,000 in total, 8,000 of those have been CRW and most of those as pilot

**Interview with Susie Mc after the 25-way Diamond Aussie Record at Toogoolawah Drop Zone**



**So does Jules get the “Man of the Match” for this record?** Oh Yeah. Absolutely. Jules, Robbie and Vaughny all wing docking, great effort. And one guy, Daniel Brauman, did well with only 22 x CRW jumps.

**How about Dipsy - 1 x World Meet and 2 x Nationals and he doesn't even own a CRW canopy! That's talent.** True. I am told there is still a lot of Aussie talent out there who weren't here. Hopefully this event will do a lot for CRW in Australia.

**How do you see the future of the 2-way comp?** It's already a big shot in the arm for CRW. I think more Canopy Pilots will get into it, ie. Shannon Pilcher and Ian Bobo of the PD Factory Team are competing. I believe a few teams from this Aussie record plan on competing at your Nats.

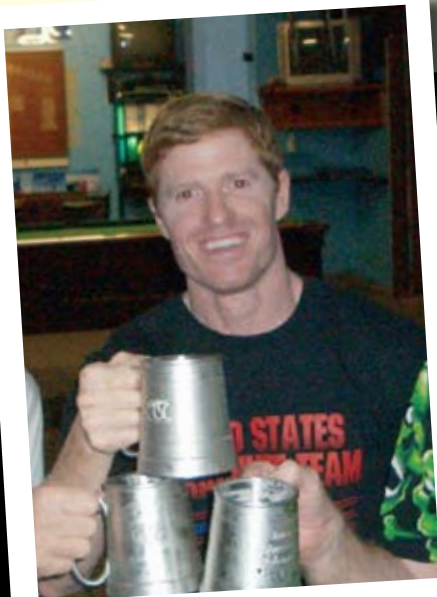
**Typically how many CRW teams compete at the US Nationals?** Normally 3 to 4 x 8-way teams, anywhere from 7 to 9 x 4-way Sequential and Rotations teams and the 2-way Sequential comp was really well attended for the first year with 16 x teams. We hope to see 20 at the next Nationals.

**So what happens after you crack the big 100? Are you going to take a break? Go freeflying?** Start running beginner type camps, bring in another grass roots foundation. This will go well with Performance Designs (PD) having a new canopy in the pipeline, a great all round CRW canopy. It has no name yet, we've been test jumping it for 4 years and now it's at the next stage of testing. This will be going on for about 1 year then another 6 months of beta testing, then they'll start releasing a few.

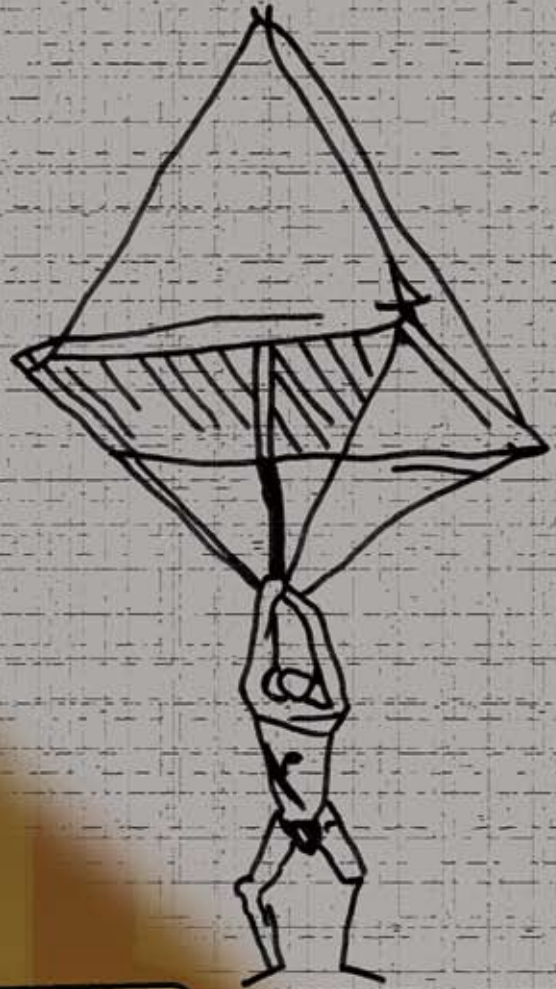
**I believe this Aussie record had all PD Lightning canopies?** Yes, as well as the last 10 x World Records, exclusively Lightnings.

**Any message to beginner CRW pups?** Hopefully there are a lot of them out there reading this. The way to get started is to do it safely. There are a lot of experienced people out there - search 'em out and learn to do it the right way. This is an aspect of our sport that is great to experience.

**And any message to experienced CRW dogs?** If everyone can get one person into it, in the next 2 years you'll have your 36-way. The best way to do this is through competition - the 2-way comp - support your Nationals and get your teams there.



Time for new gear?



**TERMINAL**  
**SPORTS**  
**.COM.AU**

Still Proudly  
Australia's Largest Skydive Gear Store

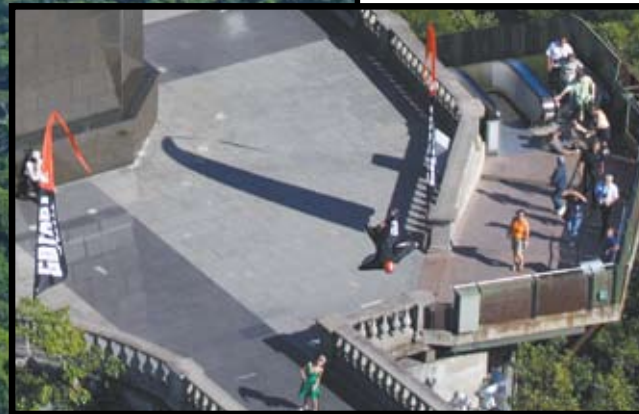
[www.TerminalSports.com.au](http://www.TerminalSports.com.au)

# MEET THE FLOCKERS

## LUIGI SOARS PAST CHRIST

**Source: Birdman Newsletter**

Residents and visitors to Rio de Janeiro witnessed something never seen before when Birdman sponsored athlete Luigi Cani flew his S6 wingsuit within two meters of 'Christ the Redeemer' atop Corcovado Mountain. "This was the most exhilarating flight I've ever experienced," said Luigi, who literally skimmed the bushes after flying past Christ. In spite of being so close to the ground, Luigi maintained flight long enough to get to a location high enough above the ground to deploy his canopy. "It was almost miraculous," he said, "I truly felt a greater power was watching over me. I am hoping that the imagery captured during this flight will convey the sense of freedom, emotion and awareness of everything around you; especially when you only have control over certain elements in life." After more than a year of planning this event, Luigi was able to fly in his S6 wingsuit past the statue, which stands 38 meters (125 feet) atop the 710 meter (2,330-foot) tall Mountain in the Tijuca Forest National Park overlooking the city and its world renown beaches. Birdman "would like to congratulate Luigi on once again making history by continually pushing the boundaries of what we can do."



Photos by Patrick McFeeley

# PROFILE

## New Birdman Instructor Hayden Galvin

**Jumps:** 750+

**Wingsuit Jumps:** 100

**Home Drop Zone:** Ripcord, Gatton, QLD

**Email:** haydengalvin@yahoo.com.au



Hayden Galvin accepting his BMI from Greg Cox BMCI.

Hello fellow flockers,

I'm 26, ☺ single and live in Brisbane. I started skydiving at Ripcord Skydivers but now jump all over the place. I first jumped a wingsuit with Greg and Elaine Cox at the Equinox Boogie which gave me such a buzz, I had to have a suit, so I bought the demo I was jumping! Since then I've never looked back, well maybe just once or twice - James you need to upgrade your suit man! Ha! Ha!

I love to fly my Birdman Firebird-R & nowadays most of my wingsuit jumps are done flying on my back so I can see all the action going on around me. I have a great crew of local wingsuit jumpers to fly with, Birdman and Phoenix flyers, every jump we do we are getting tighter and tighter. I am so looking forward to my trip to Norway this European summer and flying my suit over there. The visuals will be awesome!

Thanks Greg & Elaine for your support, I could not have done it without you.



Hayden over Hervey Bay. Photo by BJ Adams



# NOW YOU CAN LOOK THE WAY YOU FEEL



**FREE** Deepseed Cap  
With every purchase.



Online ordering is now available  
Check the website  
**DO IT TODAY!**

*(Offer ends 31st July 2007)*

[www.deepseed.com](http://www.deepseed.com)

**2** Reasons why Deepseed will make you feel unique.

- 1. INDIVIDUAL** - we put a little bit of Deepseed culture into every suit we make.
- 2. FREEDOM** - we take care of the style and quality and you take care of the jumping.



**Deepseed**  
Skydive Dedicated Hardwear

TEAM OFF TRACK



Radiator

Wraptor

Velocity

**MADE FROM T6 BILLET AIRCRAFT ALUMINIUM  
STRONGER THAN STEEL LIGHTER THAN PLASTIC**

Available from your selected skydive dealer, see more styles at  
[www.gatorz.com.au](http://www.gatorz.com.au) [www.gatorzracing.com.au](http://www.gatorzracing.com.au)

# Got Questions? Get Answers!

## 2007 LEARNING CURVE CAMPS

- 24th - 28th Sept
- 19th - 23rd Nov



**Ph:** 07 5423 1159  
**Email:** [skydive@ramblers.com.au](mailto:skydive@ramblers.com.au)  
**Web:** [www.ramblers.com.au](http://www.ramblers.com.au)



Jeremy Weekes 1st hoop jump Photo: Belgium Steve

Suzanne Bourke, Melissa Harvie, Marlies Friese, Tracey Blackmur and MadCow on video

# 4-WAY EVOLUTIONARY STEPS



By **Melissa Harvie - Team GForce**  
[melissa@mharvie.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:melissa@mharvie.freeserve.co.uk)

*Photos from the Skysisters/GForce two-on-two team coaching by Wayne McLachlan.*

## 1. YOUR FIRST 4-WAYS

**What you should think about in your first 4-ways and what makes for better dives**

1. What slot suits your skills, physique or interests? Give them all a try, talk to people you have jumped with and work out what suits you best.
2. Make sure you team up with likeminded individuals who want to approach the day's jumping in the same way.
3. Put some thought into fall rates and be prepared to wear lead if that suits the group you are jumping with. Remember that if you are wearing lead for the first time it will affect your wing loading under canopy. Seek advice to understand how this might change the flying characteristics of your parachute.
4. Is your jumpsuit suitable? If you are not wearing a suit with good grippers on both legs and arms then it will make your team mates' jobs harder and is unfair. Boosters on your jumpsuit provide extra power to your moves and it is recommended that you learn to fly with them to improve your performance.
5. What is your most effective method of remembering a dive? It is your responsibility not to brain lock so put some effort into this.
6. What altitude are you going to track at? If your group is not experienced you may wish to track at a higher altitude and give people time to move to clear air. If you are jumping with camera for the first time this is especially important.
7. What landing pattern are you going to adopt and what approaches do each of the team members tend to do? Understanding and agreeing how you will each approach your landing could save some surprises when you are all opening at the same level.
8. Do you have access to good creepers and know how to use them? If creeping is new to you or a member of your group, get someone experienced to show you how to do it efficiently.
9. What dive pool are you going to use (Open or Inter) and if none of the group are experienced in either, choose formations that best suit your skill level.
10. If you are new to the aircraft, to 4-way or your slot, get some advice on the exit and perhaps choose one or two formations to focus on for the day to give you some consistency.
11. Consider giving yourself more time in between loads than you are used to. The process of walking a jump, creeping and engineering, followed by getting ready, one final practice as a team, the actual jump and landing, then the debrief as well as packing, takes time to get used to and you will only be wasting your money and tempting fate if you rush.
12. Remember that it is not up to your team mates to pay for your own personal flying development. Your own personal flying might need some work to enable you to do your job in the team efficiently. Be willing to recognise this and take steps within your capability to fix any significant issues, e.g. you might have issues with turning on the spot, go and practice as a 2-way perhaps with another team mate or friend or get some personal coaching.

"This article is awesome. It covers all of the basics of 4-way and progresses into teams in a logical order. We love your systematic and analytical approach making each step an evolution of the last. We plan to use Part 2 as our bible. We are getting together next week to plan the following year. This would have been very half assed and inaccurate without "the bible". This is the exact document any new team would be lucky to have." **Team KAOS**

## 2. TEAMS - ARE YOU UP FOR A TEAM?

### *Team Dynamics (Derived from comments by Sas)*

A team of champions does not necessarily make a champion team! The best jumps and the most fun will come from a team of people who share common goals, agree on an approach to their training and can get along. The gold medal may elude you but you will be happy in your team's achievements and enjoy your time together.

The test is how to make a team out of individuals. It helps to recognise the responsibility that each team member has in the smooth running of the team. Responsibility should be divided equally amongst team members with an appreciation of where strengths lie. Jobs like manifesting, organising the coach, managing the funds, keeping track of statistics, making sure the team has camera, bringing water to the debriefing area and training camp travel logistics. As a team player each person should take their share of responsibility.

When you arrive for your training, it is important to put all unconnected distractions to the back of your mind and focus on the task at hand and the needs of the team. As team mates you each owe it to each other to do this. Believing that the team is more important than the individual and that this may require a certain amount of sacrifice on your part as an individual is all for the good of the team.

Shared responsibility and individual sacrifice bear fruit with the trust and respect that develops between team players and ultimately results in a more harmonious learning environment.

### **Some typical ground rules**

These are fairly generic and each one should be discussed by the team members together to work out what is right for that group, including the camera flyer. It works best if you are up front when the team is establishing itself so that there are as few surprises as possible.

#### **1. You will need to :**

- Agree what it is you are training for - it might be consistency, learning the dive pool, learning a new slot, for local or National competitions.
- Agree how progress towards your goals will be measured.
- Agree who you are going to approach as your camera flyer and what you expect of them in return from being part of the team. Treat these people well, respect their contribution and look after them. In competition, a good camera flyer could mean the difference between a medal and no medal and their observations on your exit and flying technique are often very useful.
- Agree what commitment you will all give in terms of effort (at training and in between), time and money. Money is one of the most common causes of

disappointment halfway through the training year. Adding up the number of jumps, coaching and other costs and coming up with a grand total which you all agree to is a bit confrontational but worthwhile in the long run.

- Agree the number of jumps you will do together and over what time period and when.
- Agree where you are going to jump.
- Agree whether you are going to get some coaching and if so from whom.
- Agree how you are going to approach your training – depending on your approach, training with a team can be quite focused. When you apply an approach to meeting up, preparation and debriefing there is often very little time left for other things in a jumping day. It is important to make sure everyone agrees on the approach you take as a team as everyone's needs differ. Some compromise might be required.
- Agree whether you are going to do any ground work away from the drop zone either as a team or individually. This might involve creeper sessions or evenings watching dvd's and learning blocks. Consider getting a coach for your ground sessions. You will benefit from this; they are not just for when you are jumping.
- Agree how you are going to deal with issues. These might be personality driven or to do with particular in air techniques or the training process. There are some good articles written about team dynamics and dealing with issues that arise.
- Recognise any specific constraints that affect the team or any individual e.g. physical capabilities or injuries, family or work commitments, financial limitations, notice required to change the training schedule etc.
- Agree how the team will respond to weather – typically when one member is unwilling to jump the whole team will stand down.
- Agree how you will behave when it comes up to competition time – many teams invest thousands of dollars only to lose a team member to injury from participation in an unrelated

Lilo Winter, Celeste Hill, Marlies Friese and Carly Young



activity or taking unnecessary risks. Agree to avoid unnecessary risks just prior to competition.

2. When you agree a training schedule, any changes affect everyone and so you should be considerate with making them and try to give plenty of notice. How will you deal with change?
3. If you are sick or tired you will not perform at your best. It is sometimes best to cancel the training or suggest that an alternate is found rather than have your team mates spend their money when you are not able to perform at your best. How will you approach this in your team?
4. If you are training at weekends you will need to make an effort to save some energy through the week and keep any work or domestic issues out of influence. If you don't they will affect your concentration and your performance and this is again unfair on your team mates.
5. Freefall does not save your life, it is your parachute that does that. With this in mind you and your team mates would benefit from developing your canopy piloting skills alongside your in air skills. Consider some coaching or seminars in this area to improve your canopy flying safety and skills both as a team and individually.

### 3. 4-WAY SKILLS – THE EVOLUTIONARY STEPS

#### *Competitive team training steps*

The next section represents a view of the skills that might combine to make a good 4-way team or team member. They have been shown in terms of building blocks where the accomplishment of the earlier skills will typically contribute to the later ones. This is not to say that a team should not try verticals before all its members can actually stop in place and synchronise their moves, rather that you are likely to be more successful at vertical moves if they can!

Many of these capabilities and skills can be learnt as an individual with friends, via formal coaching and learning curve camps rather than in a team situation. The more you know when you put yourself forward for a slot in a team, the better a prospect you will be for the other players.

#### *Personal flying*

##### **Basic building blocks**

- Able to stop in your chosen location in relation to others.
- Ability to pick up grips without momentum or creating tension in the formation.
- Ability to “fall straight down the tube” – much time is wasted in team jumping waiting for someone to come back to the centre after they have floated away having released grips when the key was given.
- Ability to fly so that your arms are able to pick up grips and present to be picked up without affecting your flying
- Learning to fly “head up” so that you can get good visibility of the action and communicate well



*Lilo Winter, Celeste Hill, Marlies Friese and Carly Young*

- Learning to maintain direct eye contact in freefall such that you can clearly communicate readiness to move to the next point

##### **Evolutionary steps**

- Stopping drills
- Speed drills
- Verticals
- Flashing
- Turning in place

#### *On the ground*

##### **Basic building blocks**

- 4-way fitness – stamina and strength to maintain your energy and focus during training. Flexibility and stretching
- Dirtdiving and preparation process
- An exit count that you all agree on
- Creeper technique
- An approach to remembering the skydive for your slot
- Understanding typically how to present on exit in your slot
- An approach to debriefing
- Knowing the names of the formations in the dive pool and what they look like
- Knowing your slot in the dive pool

##### **Evolutionary steps**

- Understanding how each exit formation should present to the wind on exit and how you can best help this in your slot
- Learning which grips to pick up and when in each block move
- Learning who / what slot gives the keys for which formations and what the “key sequence” is (who looks at who, when and how the key is “activated”)
- Visualisation and learning by watching jumps of championship teams
- Visualisation of the skydive from the viewpoint of other slots in the team
- Learning a short cut to the names of the formations (for some this means recognising the formations by their letter or number, for others they invent cut down words or visual images that symbolise the formations)
- Learning how to engineer dives
- Understanding the concept of how to fly on “the hill”, the softer air initially after exit before terminal velocity, and how that might affect the engineering of your hill moves and thus your visualisation of hill work for each block or random

## Team flying

### Basic building blocks

- Compatible fall rates with or without lead and adjustment to suits
- A synchronised exit count and movement
- The ability to work with the discipline of “stop, pick up grips, look for the key, key, move, stop, repeat” with everyone working to the same approach
- Everyone obeying the key; Stolen keys should cost beer!, the concept of “key” then “go”, anticipation of the next point and each persons move to get there.
- Eye contact with your opposite
- Grips taken only when flat and level and stopped – no reaching
- A clean break between points and clear flashing where required
- Centres build the angle for the next point, flakers complete their moves
- Randoms
- Stop drills
- “No contact” skydives
- Blocks – standard slots
- Doing a draw and establishing a level of performance as a team to measure progress against

### Evolutionary steps

- The concept of “pulsing” into the centre of a formation once the key is given, working to the centre and minimising drift of individuals or pieces
- Building to the centre, the concept of seeing a centre line between the two flakers and have the centres create the appropriate angle for the next formation to build most effectively
- For flakers, the ability to “read” where the centre will build and make their moves in anticipation of the centre being built in the right place
- Slot switches and mirrors, experimenting with continuity plans and establishing what works best for the team
- Hill work – the ability to make use of the initial seconds after exit on the “softer air”
- Taking alternative builds to make the moves to the next point faster

*“I have been skydiving for 17 years and have 13,000+ skydives and 14 years of coaching experience. The most important aspect a coach or student can focus on would be the basic fundamentals. I believe that learning occurs in a cycle and the cycle looks something like this: when learning reaches a plateau the process would be to return to the basics; become better at performing the basics, this in turn develops improved skills as you take them back to the game as a more rounded player. A great coach is just that because they recognise how to integrate basic skills for both teamwork and personal flying into everyday training.*

*4-way has its own separate suite of skills that need to be trained, these include communication, stopping, grip taking and keys. As each skill improves you can blend them together to speed up the process. So, it's not just about developing these skills once and moving on - evolution is multilayered - revisiting them time and time again will develop greater awareness in their use and ultimately then develop speed.*

*It's always about the basics.” Pat McGowan - GForce Coach*

## COACHES AND FURTHER READING

### 1. CURRENT COACHES

Current Coaches (Australia) – Note that many coaches are willing to travel if you pay their travel costs

Jason Cooke	QLD	0407 756 540
Belgum Steve	QLD	0427 029 201
Michael Vaughan	NSW	Michael_qld@yahoo.com
Darren Pearson	NSW	Darren@liquidculture.com.au
Gavin Telford	NSW	gavkath@speedlink.com.au
Craig Becchio	NSW	0414 862 260
Stretch	NSW	mszulmayer@hotmail.com
Fiona McEachern	NSW	fionam@speedlink.com.au
Melissa Harvie	NSW	melissa@mharvie.freemove.co.uk
Andrew Barker	NSW	andrebarke47@aol.com
Jeremy Langford	WA	jlangy@bigpond.com
Don Cross	VIC	jump@skydivenagambie.com
Sas (Simon DiScasio)	VIC	angela@sunet.com.au
Gary Nemirovsky	VIC	gnemirovsky@bigpond.com

### 2. TRAINING FACILITIES (Australia)

**These are drop zones that regularly have a turbine aircraft Skydive Nagambie, VIC.** [www.skydivenagambie.com](http://www.skydivenagambie.com)

Contact 03 5794 2626

**Sydney Skydivers, NSW.** [www.sydneykydivers.com.au](http://www.sydneykydivers.com.au)

Contact 1800 805 997 or 02 9791 9155

**Ramblers Dropzone, Toogoolawah, QLD.** [www.ramblers.com.au](http://www.ramblers.com.au)

Contact 07 5423 1159

**Skydive Express, York, WA.** Contact DZ 08 9641 2905 and Club 08 9444 4199.

### 3. FURTHER READING

#### **Mental Training and Sports Psychology**

- Mental Training for Skydiving and Life, John J DeRosalia. Available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- Transcending Fear, Brian Germain. Available on [www.briangermain.com](http://www.briangermain.com)

#### **Canopy Piloting**

- The Parachute and its Pilot, Brian Germain. Available on [www.briangermain.com](http://www.briangermain.com)
- Various articles from Performance designs. [www.performancedesign.com](http://www.performancedesign.com)

### 4. OTHER

- Skydive 499 Airspeed video / dvd showing a structured approach to 4-way. This was created some years ago but still provides an excellent introduction to the 4-way discipline and training approach. Available from the Airspeed website.
- The best of Airspeed video / dvd presenting the story of Airspeed. An inspiring documentary available from the Airspeed website.
- The best of Deland Majik – dvd. No team history, but it has a good section covering all the Open Blocks and Exits, Majik at the 2003 US Nationals, 2002 Malevsky cup, Training Jumps and Team Interviews.

### 5. WEBSITES

- [www.dropzone.com](http://www.dropzone.com) for up to date information on the sport plus articles and discussion forums
- [www.briangermain.com](http://www.briangermain.com)
- [www.apf.asn.au](http://www.apf.asn.au) for current information on Australian dropzones, rules and events. The latest 4 and 8-way dive pools are also available for download from this website located under the “Competitions” tab.
- [www.airspeed.org](http://www.airspeed.org)
- [www.delandmajik.com](http://www.delandmajik.com)





# SUMMER FEST 2007



## "NEXT GENERATION BOOGIE"



# skydive chicago JULY 28 - AUG 5 2007

skydive: freefly world record, rw big ways, 4-way scrambles.

Load organizers: team alchemy, lemonhead, sandy grillet, tom falzone, max meijer, tj hine, sporto johnson, david gerhfield, kyle starck, tj landgren, scott campos

after hours: bands ("kung-fu grip", "nice peter") TEXAS HOLD'EM CHALLENGE, HIT'N'CHUG OBSTACLE COURSE, FIREWORKS "UFO" JUMPS, FILM FESTIVAL, "DIRTY SANCHEZ" FORM PARTY, FIREDANCERS, "RED BULL" PARTY, AND THE FAMOUS "HELLFISH" TOGA PARTY

[skydivechicago.com](http://skydivechicago.com) 1-815-433-0000

# ON THE AIR

## EQUIPMENT CLASSIFIEDS

### RIG AND EXTRAS

Container: Vector 2, DOM 92  
Reserve: Micro Raven 150, DOM 92  
Main: Sabre 150, 200 jumps, DOM 97  
Includes: med jumpsuit with boosters, Sleeves, 2 Altimeters, 3 pairs goggles, new weight vest, Pro Dytter new cond, frap hat exc. cond.

**Price: The Lot \$2,500 ono**

Contact: 0416 259 007 or email: stshort@nsw.quik.com.au

### COMPLETE SET OF GEAR

Container: Javelin TJN (7 years old), suit sml-med build  
Main: Sabre 150 • Reserve: PD 126 • Cypres: 5 years old  
450 jumps, not jumped since 2003

**Price: Open to offers**

Contact: Email Toni at toni\_corbett@hotmail.com



**BOOGIE CALÉDONIEN**  
Épisode 2  
03 au 10 Novembre 2007

Animation : Wendy Smith PILATUS PORTER A 34 ZK- JMP  
James Evered  
Andrew « Pony » Bain  
Rob Spedding

Centre École de Parachutisme de Nouvelle - Calédonie  
www.cepnc.skydiveworld.com cepnc@lagoon.nc



### COMPLETE RIG

Container: 1996 PDF Atom Zero  
Main: Merit 150, less than 100 jumps  
Reserve: Techno 155  
Cypres 2: DOM 10/05  
Stored away for years, as new  
Incl. new wrist alti & helmet

**Price: \$4,000 firm**

Contact: Scott Ph. 03 9329 8536 Nth Melb



### COMPLETE RIG

Container: Mirage G3 M4 - all Black with purple and light red piping  
Main: Icarus Safire 2 169 - white with purple cross ports  
Reserve: PD 160 - white, 1 ride  
Cypres 1: needs 6 year service  
Entire system has only 400 jumps on it

**Price: \$5,500 ono**

Contact: Nik 0405 142 701



### COMPLETE RIG

Container: Mirage G3, black with a bit of blue & lime pin stripes, hip rings, SS hardware, immaculate cond, suit male med - lge build  
Main: Vengeance 150, blue and white, crispy new  
Reserve: PD143, 0 jumps  
Cypres: Needs 8 yr service  
Rig as new, immaculate condition, only 100 jumps

**Price: \$6,000**

Contact: Rodney 07 5423 1159



### COMPLETE SET OF GEAR

Container: Talon T5, DOM May 97, approx. 800 jumps, med - lg  
Reserve: Airforce 160, in date  
Main: Icarus Beta 168, approx. 800 jumps, other mains avail.  
AAD: Cypres, DOM 97, 8 year service done  
RSL fitted, freefly friendly, new pilot chute & bridle  
Well looked after

**Price: \$3,000, negotiable**

Contact: Jenny - 0419 497 312



### COMPLETE RIG

Container: Wings DOM 11/04, Red, black & white, Fit small/med build  
Main: Safire2 125, blue, less than 50 jumps  
Reserve: Airforce 120, 1 jump  
Cypres: just had service  
All in immaculate condition

**Price: \$6,200 ono**

Contact: Clint 0408 710 408 or

Email: clint@webculture.com.au



### TANDEM RIG

Container: Strong, Purple & Black  
Main: Set 400, Purple & Black  
Reserve: Master 420  
ADD: service due  
Tandem Spares etc incl.  
DOM 1999, 500 Jumps, VG Condition

**Price: \$9,000**

Contact: Glen 040 7593483

Email: sky.dive@bigpond.com

*Razorflex*  
Goggles



**\$25 EACH**

PACK OF 10 - \$170

OVER-GLASSES GOGGLES - \$30 EACH

ph: 0432 209 380 email: jason@razorflex.com