

Australian

skydiver

magazine



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FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION





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FEATURES



EDITORIAL

COMMITMENT

I'm no competitive jumper, but I love that about other people – their intensity, competitive spirit, team work, commitment...

I'm no record-breaking jumper, but I love that other people are – their progression, group dynamics, results, commitment...

I'm no work jumper, but I love that people make a living out of it – their sharing, generosity, commitment....

Although I might dabble in competition, records and teaching from time to time, I even run a few drop zones, but my loyalty lies with boogies and jumping for fun. One would say I'm a hedonistic skydiver. My name is Susie and I am a Fun Jumper...

committed!
Congrats to all the boys and girls at the State Champs, hats off to all the ladies on the new World Record and big hell-yeahs to all the players of Flight Camp, Equinox and Sundowner Boogie. All I want for Xmas is Boogie Tickets!



Staff Christmas Party Jump In - Noosa North Shore Camp Grounds, with Richard Menard. Photo: Darren Harvey

Susie EDITOR

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FRONT COVER



The last point of an 8-way Freely Sequential jump during Flight Camp at Byron Bay, NSW.

Photographer: Danny Helmy

BACK COVER



Returning to the skies with a Super Selfie during the Equinox Boogie at Toogoolawah, QLD.

Photographer: Martin Hutchinson

WANTED FOR NEXT ISSUES!

- Profile of yourself, your mate, your hero or a 10,000 Jump Pig
- No Shit There I Was stories
- Ouch photos • Happy Snaps
- Wild New GoPro Angles

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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 Production and mailing takes a total of five weeks, so some information may be out of date or superseded.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 Director of Toogoolawah Drop Zone Pty Ltd and I am a part-time employee of Ramblers Parachute Centre which organises various events and is a dealer for various equipment, some of which companies advertise in the ASM from time to time.

[Next Deadlines]

Issue 74
Deadline 15th Jan, 2015
Mag Out 19th Feb, 2015

Issue 75
Deadline 30th Mar, 2015
Mag Out 4th May, 2015

Issue 76
Deadline 10th June, 2015
Mag Out 10th July, 2015



COMPETITION

Another on year for competition has finished, with Australia posting great results in all disciplines! Personal Bests, new records, Gold and Silver medals at World Meets, the list goes on...

Special mentions to Ookoonono, who achieved another Silver Medal at the World Meet in Bosnia, and a massive Woohoo to Keven "Professor Kapow" Walters achieving Australias first World Meet Gold Medal in 14 years at the Canopy Piloting World Championships in Florida! Keiran "Kitsch" Baldwin from NZ backed him up by taking the Silver in the same Zone Accuracy Event, leaving all of the Southern Hemisphere feeling especially proud.

Two of the APF's stated objectives for 2012-2017 are:
• Sustained participation in all parachuting disciplines.
• Consistent participation in all disciplines at Category One events.

We're achieving these aims. This year saw Aussie competitors at every World Meet, in nearly every discipline.

At the APF, we're pleased to see that our supporting efforts for all our Aussie competitors seem to be helping our elite athletes achieve their best ever results. But, taking our lead from our top athletes, we're not content to sit around either.

2 Way Artistic Wingsuiting is now in the Sporting Code, and gets its first run as an official competition at Nagambie in January.

An Intermediate 2Way Canopy Formations event is now under development, and will be run as a test event at the 2015 Nationals.

This off year sees more new initiatives being started to promote competition. The APF is getting behind our top competitors, and offering them support to establish some new teams in their events. This should see new people getting their first look at competition while getting some great coaching from our best performers. We're hoping that this will flow on through to next year, seeing new teams competing in the 2016 on year when our top players go back to their usual search for World Domination.

See you at the Nats in January!

Craig 'Crash' Bennett
APF Direction Competition



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It wasn't a Boogie, it was a Camp.
IT WAS FLIGHT CAMP 2014.
Byron Bay Stylz

By Kellie Morrissey Photos by Danny Helmy

Organised by Georgia Cosgrove with the help of Danny Helmy. From the location to the accommodation to the night venue, nothing disappointed. Freeflyers came from all around the country to beautiful Byron Bay, to jump, have fun, and most importantly, to learn. Drop zone days and Byron Bay nights.

Byron Bay Skydive finished the Tandem passengers down early and it was full steam ahead. It was great to see the drop zone full of fun jumpers. It was a brilliant atmosphere, and yes of course, the camaraderie was there as always. Everyone was so pumped to be in this beautiful location.

There were some of Australia's best coaches as well as a couple of internationals. It was great to see some of the coaches from IFLY Downunder there and it was good for everyone to get to know them.

The progression at Flight Camp was phenomenal. The jumpers were jumping in smaller groups and were jumping at the level they should be at, not pushing too hard to keep up with people who they weren't ready to fly with. The jumpers stayed all day with their same group and it worked. There were a lot of smiling faces. The different groups worked on Head Down, Head Up, Angles and all the fun combos.





The nights were almost as fun as the days. Dinner, nightly prizes and seminars were held at the Byron Bay Brewery where we had a private room set-up with tables and a projector. cheap beer and two-for-one dinners – never in my life have I been at a skydiving event eating pork Belly on a bed of sweet potato mash with Asian greens, that’s for sure. The food was impressive, as was the beer.

The nightly seminars were really informative and everyone enjoyed them. It’s good to refresh the memory on how to

do things right, look at things that have gone wrong for others and learn not to make those same mistakes. As for the prizes, well who doesn’t love prizes?

Our last night aka Party Night was held at the Byron Bay Beach Pub. They put the past week’s jumps up on the big screen and everyone was happy and feeling accomplished. It was a fun night and we were genuinely sad that it had to end. So Flight Camp, when you come back around again, WE WILL BE THERE. Save us some slots.

For non skydivers reading this:

Boogie: Skydiving events where a lot of skydivers go to jump, camp out, learn, progress and have fun.

Drop Zone: The area just under where the plane drops skydivers and their landing spot.

Ifly Downunder: A wind Tunnel. Where you go to fly in a windy tube. Be aware, it can be addictive.

Party Night: You need to be a skydiver to understand this one.



Coaches: Chris “Crikey” Cosgrove, Mason Corby, Ryan “Joorj” Mair,

Adam “Longy” Long, Frazer Smith, Jonathan De Wet, Rob Delaney

Camera: Danny Helmy





Focus: Safety and Progression

By Georgia Cosgrove

How

The coach:student ratio is what makes Flight Camp So special. Your day consists of being allocated a small, level dependent group, and issued a dedicated coach that is yours for the day. Jumps are briefed and debriefed, and the coaches make any changes amongst the groups at the end of each day in preparation for the next. It effectively combines safety and progression at this intermediate/ advanced level, and we couldn't have financed it without the support of the APF, SQPC and Skydive Byron Bay.

Who

Anyone able to do group Freefly jumps! There were no one-on-one coaching opportunities, hence there was a minimum level required to participate. Coaches came from far and wide and formed an epic pool of varying coaching styles and dive plans. There were a lot of "firsts" and "wow... I cant believe we did that" jumps over the four days; largely due to the ability to jump with the same crew all day and progress.

Where

Byron Bay... a stunning backdrop and clear blue skies. What more could we ask for? A brewery I hear you say? Well, the brewery housed our seminars, cheap dinner deals and great local brews. Conveniently located stumbling distance (next door) to the Arts Factory where most people stayed bunkhouse style or camping. The premiere of the camp Day Tape was aired on Friday night at the Beach Hotel in the main street of Byron Bay. This beachfront location is an all-time venue to kick-off an end of camp party and gork at ourselves on the big screen. Thanks to ninja Helmy who did backflips to help us run the event and provide amazing shots and video evidence of the jumps and good times.

Highlights

Seminars! "Gear" – Erica's Vigil fire on a jump in Europe earlier that month certainly made for some interesting viewing and conversation! Bretto of Downward Trend talked us through the slow motion footage and asked all the right questions.

"Tunnel to Sky & Sky to Tunnel" hosted by Mason and Frazer – two coaches who each progressed differently. What to be aware of and how to make smooth transitions.

"Freefall Safety", and in particular collisions, was a group, forum-style seminar lead by Ryan "Joorj" Mair with contributions from all the coaches. They discussed their view on the progression of Freeflying, the risks involved in freefall collisions, our individual responsibilities, and why we need to be cautious and conservative to maintain safe skies.

The prize pool was a little bit mega, with LVN gear, Skydive Byron Bay jump tickets and gear, iFly Downunder, Byron Bay Brewery, Cookie, Boogieman, UPT and Downward Trend vouchers, as well as a brand new surfboard all up for grabs!

Hats off to everyone who came, took the knowledge on offer, jumped their butts off, partied like a boss, filled the drop zone with laughter and smiles.... And walked away smashed and with a post-Boogie glow.



"Flight Camp provided a very well organised and Safety First atmosphere for intermediate and advanced fliers to progress under the direction of well-experienced coaches. The agenda was simple and clear, presented to all attending skydivers by the organising staff, and run effortlessly smooth by the hosting drop zone, Skydive Byron Bay. The format for Flight Camp could be easily applied to all disciplines in our sport, and held annually, would surely connect and keep jumpers updated on the trends and seriousness of our sport, whilst encouraging learning and fun." – Rob Delaney



"At the beginning of Flight Camp we all agreed to try some really weird shit, all in the name of innovation. This was well executed by all involved. It was an absolute blast jumping with old friends and new. The structure of the camp was awesome – small groups with a new coach everyday. The willingness to learn and try new things came from all groups – and it really paid off. I've never been to a camp where the progression, both individual and team, was so fast.

Everything from first Head Down docks on a screaming strong Base, to flying pieces over the top of each other, to multiple move/formation blocks. This camp had it all! Thanks to Georgia and Crikes for putting in so much time to get it moving. Thanks to the coaches for their enthusiasm and persistence (and those rad end-of-day coach loads), and especially to the participants who came along with an open mind and left with a new way of flying. What an awesome trip! Let's do it again next year!" –

Jon De Wet

Incident free and progression beyond our expectations = Winning!





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By Rob Libeau

THE WIAS PROGRAM AIMS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR **WOMEN IN SKYDIVING** AND TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION AND RETENTION.

With the launching of the Women in Adventure Sport program (WIAS), I took the opportunity to attend the Asia-Pacific and Women in Sport Forum. The event gave me some real insights into how women participate in sport.

It did surprise me though, that a common theme throughout all presenters, was that women perceive other women as potential threats.

I thought to myself, "Wow, how lucky are we in skydiving?"

There was one particular quote from one of the presenters that stuck in my mind, and with the WIAS program offering mentor/mentee relationships, I thought I would share it...

From an Australian representative Rower and Cyclist:

"When I was a young athlete, I used to trash-talk my opponents until one day, a very special mentor of mine made me realise... If I trash-talk and lose, I look like an even bigger loser. But, if I respect my opponent and give them the credit they deserve, and then I win; I will have beaten someone that the world thinks that I believe is a great athlete... and that makes me look great!"

Mentoring available now!

The Women in Adventure Sport Program is now ready to offer mentoring to ladies who are new to skydiving. We have recruited a great group of female mentors from all over Australia, with a wealth of experience in all areas of skydiving to partner with you. Ideal for A, B and C certificate holders who would like some guidance and support with goal setting and progress in skydiving.

For more information and to register, go to the APF website at: www.apf.asn.au/APF-Zone/WIAS/WIAS-Mentor-Program or contact the APF Development Manager, Rob Libeau on development@apf.com.au

WOMEN IN ADVENTURE SPORT

Absolutely

By Melanie Curtis

So I've been in skydiving a while... not saying I'm old or anything, just saying that I've been through a bunch of years in this badass sport of ours and it seems to me that more and more women are joining and staying. Awesome, right? Totally! As such, it begs the question... how come? When skydiving used to be gratuitously male-dominated, why now, recently, has the number and longevity of women in skydiving begun to rise? The truth is, I'm not even basing this assessment on any statistical evidence. There might be fewer women in the sport based on the actual, literal numbers, but the energy amongst the ladies lately is notably building. Not that it's not awesome to hang with, fly with, fun with all the awesome guys in our sport too, of course it is! There's just something special about when we women come together.



So let's take this opportunity that's upon us, and simply get more good juju from our skydiving experience by enjoying a little more girl time on the ground and in the sky. Why not, right? Right. A little creativity and willingness to explore and participate is all it takes. Plan a special day of jumps with your girls. Go to the next APF Women in Adventure Sport event on the calendar. Sign up to be a mentor for the younger sky sisters coming up after you. Sign up to be mentored yourself. Plan a funny jump where you all wear tutu's just cause it's hilarious, get some pics, and help support the growth of the group. So many options for increased awesomeness by simply deciding to do something new and cool for yourself with your ladies. Whatever it is, go for it. Enjoy it. Embrace it. And watch your experience in the sport take on new facets of fun.

And that's the thing, huh? Fun. Doesn't really matter what we're doing, or whom we're doing it with, as long as we're keeping it safe, and having a blast with our people, that's what really counts. What's awesome is that we all have the power to create something new from nothing for the sake of that fun, flying, and togetherness. And that's what the APF is doing now with the Women in Adventure Sport group... facilitating a new path to fun for the ladies out there who like-a da freefall. Hahaha f*ck yeah.. I like-a da freefall too. Hahaha awesome.

Enjoy, my sky sisters, hopefully I'll be able to come down and play with you all again soon! In the meantime, anything I can do to help from here, please don't hesitate to drop me a line anytime.

Mel MelanieCurtis.com

**Note to all the awesome sky dudes: Don't worry, growing groups of happy, inspired sky chicks is always a great thing for you too. ;)

Bree Laughlin

LEARN TO FLY

Bree Laughlin is a woman of many talents. Possessing a Bachelor of Business –

Accounting degree, Bree has also represented Australia in golf and has her Grade 8 in Classical Ballet with the Royal Academy of Dance, England. With a diverse set of skills and a grounded country upbringing, she continues to focus on what is truly important in her life – friends, family, career and a healthy lifestyle.

After completing her degree Bree worked with prominent accounting firm, Pitcher Partners. Her love of thoroughbred racing then led her to a position with Racing Victoria as Finance Manager for the Murray Region and as the Country Racing Victoria Ambassador.

Moving on from finance Bree found her true passion for hosting and presenting. Throughout the 2010 Spring Racing Carnival she was a welcome addition to TVN's popular program, Two Cups and a Plate, and travelled the state hosting various Fashions on the Field events.

Selected as the Face of Caulfield in 2011, Bree was able to showcase nationally her zest for life. During the past 12 months Bree has appeared on Postcards on Channel Nine, attended NIDA's TV Presenters Residency, hosted various fashion events, was the Official Host of Melbourne Spring Fashion Week 2012 and more recently, delivered Australian Open Golf TV from Royal Sydney.

With a polite everyday nature and a professional, fresh presenting style Bree is always looking forward to the next challenge that lies ahead... this time it was SKYDIVING!



Maddy Cross

SIXTEEN AND SKYDIVING

I completed my first Tandem skydive at the young age of ten, and I have been hooked ever since. In the years leading up to my sixteenth birthday, I had accomplished several Tandem skydives, most of them with my dad, Don, and some with other friendly instructors.

Fast forward six years, it was my time to shine. I breezed through my AFF, not failing a stage – until my first B-Rel. My instructor was none other than Don Cross, and a word to wise: never jump with family members who are also the CI of the drop zone.

I clocked up around 100 jumps in three months, jumping whenever I had the chance. There was a constant battle between doing homework or jumping – the latter always won.



Many memories have been created since I started jumping, such as earning the nickname Miley for diving head first through a formation; my awesome 100th where I "jumped for Jesus"; placing third at the VTPC State Championships with other members of Touched by Tothill; and having my first chop on my 22nd jump.

I want to turn my hobby into my career, just as my parents did. For now, I want to have fun in the sky and learn as much as possible so I can become an instructor when I am eighteen.

There are no words to describe the feeling of true freedom, but skydiving definitely lets you experience it.



On a crisp Saturday morning, with beanie on, I headed north of Melbourne to Skydive Nagambie to participate in the AFF First Jump Course.

On arrival, I grabbed a coffee and a delicious bacon and egg roll from their café to wake up the brain; then we launched into it! Day 1 was spent in the classroom learning drills and processes in preparation for jumping the following day. Prior to the day, I hadn't given a great deal of thought to how in-depth skydiving would be. Working through the detail was an eye opener. Fortunately, we also had some experienced jumpers observing the class so they were able to get involved and help out. From 8am to 6pm we drilled and drilled and drilled... a long day? Yes. Did I feel comfortable and confident for the jump day to come? Absolutely!

Once we wrapped-up for Saturday, we had dinner at the complex and a vino or two. What I did love about the weekend was that it wasn't just about the jumping, which we will get too. It was also about the people you meet and the stories you share. So many laughs and great characters to enjoy the night with!

Day 2, Sunday, was jump day! At 8am, fresh as a daisy, the first jumpers worked through the jump procedure under the observation of jumpmasters and other experienced jumpers. You might think this would be intimidating but it isn't at all. Everyone is so friendly and there to assist and support; it really does have a great vibe!

Students were then introduced to their two jumpmasters and worked through the complete jump together. They also took us through our gear again, as revision from the classroom, and to get you suited up! Admittedly, this was when the nerves started to set-in for me. Once you have everything on it becomes real!

We piled into the plane and then the nerves settled. I was able to sit back and enjoy the view as we flew to 15,000ft. Many may think it strange that I was more anxious when my feet were on the ground, but once in the air I had resigned myself to the fact that there was only one way out of the aircraft! The feeling of freefall really is like nothing else; and while it lasts for one entire minute, it allows you to consume the moment. For me, my two jumpmasters and I had a smooth exit and my parachute deployed beautifully. Once on the ground all I wanted to do was get on the next load and go again!

However, following the jump you sit down with your jump masters to review footage and record your performance in your very own logbook. For me, this logbook symbolized the beginning of a new-found interest, and one I hope to share with my girlfriends in time to come!





THE NEW SEQUENTIAL WORLD RECORD

The Women's Way

By Pam Riggs

Photos by Norman Kent www.normankent.com

THERE IS A REASON THEY SAY IF WORLD RECORDS WERE EASY WE'D DO THEM ALL THE TIME. JUST GETTING ENOUGH PEOPLE TOGETHER TO MAKE THEM HAPPEN ISN'T EASY.

THE ORIGINAL PLAN TO BREAK THE 181-WAY WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD SET IN 2009 HAD TO BE CHANGED FOR THAT VERY REASON, AND A NEW GOAL WAS MADE TO SET A **WOMEN'S RECORD FOR A LARGEST SEQUENTIAL RECORD**. SINCE THE EXISTING OPEN LARGE FORMATION SEQUENTIAL RECORD WAS CURRENTLY A 2-POINT 110-WAY, WE MIGHT AS WELL BREAK THAT ONE WHILE WE WERE AT IT. ELEVEN LADIES SET OFF FROM AUSSIE (AND OTHER) SHORES TO JOIN 120 LADIES FROM 24 COUNTRIES AT SKYDIVE PERRIS, CALIFORNIA ON THIS INTERNATIONAL JOURNEY TO SET TWO WORLD RECORDS IN OCTOBER 2014.

A few of us decided to start out the event with a colour 5km run in Riverside, California on the day before the record event, you know, to help get over jet lag or maybe it was to have an excuse to drink champagne at 6am on a Saturday! A total of twelve gals from the record did the run, five from our group. It wasn't without a price, though, as Heather ended up with a nice hobble for the rest of the event after a stress fracture in her foot. But a little more champagne, a lot of tape and ibuprofen during the event, plus some Perris Valley arranged golf cart shuttles to the dirt dives, and from the landing area, kept her right in the game.

The early days of world record attempts are typically for practice, not records. The Base works to give the outside something to dock on; and the outside works on seeing the pictures needed to build the outside quickly for the first point, and learning to anticipate the key to sequence to the second point. Some sectors were cruising nicely, others were struggling, and some of us were getting shuffled around trying to help fix issues or fill a gap. Not all jumps are the same slot time and time again, as most people are led to believe. Tracey, Helen, Heather and Pam each had a day in slot A5 – a rear floating slot off the far left trail plane. This was a diverse group, divided between very highly experienced Big-way record flyers, world champion formation flyers, and up-and-coming flyers in both disciplines; some with just over 500 or 600 jumps. There was a plane or sector captain for

every nine girls to help mentor these younger ones; also, to help us all understand each other. There is a lot of translating to be done with so many countries represented!

Did we mention these are expensive ordeals as well? Mentally, physically and monetarily. We all wonder if we are up to challenge. Am I good enough? Can I do this? Will the pressure get to me? Can I perform? Can I afford this?! There were more than a couple of injuries and illnesses: stress fracture, sprained ankle, sinus infection, bruised ribs, bum, shoulder. Some resulting in trips to the clinic for scans and medications and missed jumps during the event, leaving at least one of us wondering if we might miss being on the record. And then there's the budget. Yikes! With the Aussie record coming up, which pretty much all of us are planning to do, 4-way teams, 8-way teams, World Meets just completed, not to mention annual leaves to ask for (again) – most of us could not have made this event without the huge support of friends, family, raffle ticket sales, local councils and the APF's Fi Fund, which provided a Sports Development Grant to assist with coaching expenses for those of us residing here in Australia.

But enough of that, back to the jumping! Day 3, Tuesday, saw us go to the big 120-ways, but not everyone had permission to dock so they weren't official record attempts. We used these jumps to see the pictures and focus on the first point. The official record attempts that started on Wednesday were a real roller coaster ride. Every good jump would be followed by what we considered a disastrous one



– a person low, right off the door, or a sector not building due to level issues, singularly caused by a lack of lead on one or two women trying to dock. Most days saw four jumps with late starts caused by morning fog clearing by 10 or 11am. A bit frustrating, and the week seemed to be closing in on us. On Thursday evening, though, the last jump of the day was an absolute beauty! Smooth, slow builds in all the sectors, and the sequence to the second point was translated through to the back of the skydive nicely. It wasn't quite complete, but it was oh, so close! Everyone was sent home to visualise perfection and arrive on Friday morning with that picture clear in their mind, ready to go. We were all buzzing.

Friday morning arrived with the usual foggy start. This gave us time to lay down the dive on creepers one section at a time and move in to our docks for Point one, then sequence to Point two in real time. Yes, you CAN use creepers for Big-way! By 10:30am the sun was quickly making its way through the mist. Most mornings, they sent the "boys load" up to check the clearing for us gals, and we backed them up on a 40 minute call if all had fined up by then. Not today. We needed every minute of daylight today. The axe had fallen on Thursday and ringers had been brought in overnight to fill slots. We were 117 strong and the organisers wanted the record today. We all knew it. Twenty minute call. Gear on. Game on. This was going to be a busy day.

Jump one was sweet. It felt good. Smooth. We all waited for the debrief. The judges were out of the judging room before the captains were out of theirs. Not a good sign. The pressure was obviously going to be high today. Kate Cooper-Jensen, our intrepid leader, runs a good debrief. Sometimes all business, usually a bit funny, always direct. We were probably on a short call, so no surprise the tape was already cued up near the first point build. Kate started the video. Silence. Building... yup... Kate pauses the video – holds up one finger – Point 1. Whew. OK. We can do this. She starts the video again – pauses the video – turns to the room – holds up Two Fingers! Point Two! There is almost a gasp before the room erupts into screams. We had done it! On the first jump of the day, with people in new slots, new girls on the team, injured gals back on. Finally two good jumps in a row, two world records – all before lunch! Fantastic!

We didn't get anything more done that day in terms of records anyway – though we did try. A not-so-brilliant effort at a 3-pointer followed by a quick airplane trip down the runway for an aborted third jump, thanks to a broken Skyvan, led us to a farewell meeting and champagne all around. The well deserved epic poolside party that night closed out a hugely successful effort.



Participants

MELISSA HARVIE - P3 Sector Captain, PAM RIGGS - Team Organiser, TRACEY BASMAN, HEATHER LITTLE, YUKARI "SHAZZA" HASHIMOTO LAURENCE GARCEAU, SHIRLEY COWCHER, HELEN MAHONEY, RISS ANDERSON, MILDRED SPINOZA, ALISON BAWDEN,

From Heather:

It was my second Women's World Record and there really is no other event of this type with the same kind of atmosphere. The vibe with 120 women around was so positive and welcoming. I was carrying a previous foot injury from running and the ladies were trying to look after me with Shirley picking up my gear after packing, Melanie organising lifts for me so I didn't have to walk too far and practising door jams in mock ups close to my boarding point. I had offers of help from all corners. I was very touched.

The whole week was just really good fun, a little frustrating at times as all record attempts can be but ultimately highly rewarding. I got to fly a couple of slots as the organisers worked out who would be best placed where. In the end I was rear float, complete with radio for exit timing (which is always cool fun) on the A plane which gave me great pictures of the building formation on approach.

We had potentially six days of full attempts to get the record but in the end we only needed five. **The noise when Kate announced that we had the two points was phenomenal. The excitement and the relief was evident. Record attempts are physically and mentally draining and I was tired!**

Two World Records and loads of smiles, laughter and a few glasses of bubbly stuff! Awesome!

From Riss:

What a fan-schnabulously awesome event to be able to participate in. Best opportunity ever to meet and hang with a bunch of totally rockin' chicks from around the globe. **Flying side-by-side with international rockstar World Champions, 5ft nothing Mexican Tandem Mistresses with 10,000 jumps, 'carton-able offence' gals with only a few hundred jumps who got their 100-way wings during the event, old friends, new friends, rah rah rah! Yah for an influx of INSPIRATION.**

The event ran super smoothly with the usual abundance of planes (they seem to reproduce with every re-fuel in California), heaps of altitude to play with, beautiful big clear blue Californian skies (after the morning fog burned off), organisational genius from all the usual suspects and the smiles, skill and enthusiasm of a s*#t-load of chicks dominating the DZ (and ya's should have SEEN the pillow fights in the bunk room;).

Personally, I had a HEAP of support from folks back home in getting me there - a massive thanks to all those who bought raffle tickets and sent me on my way with such encouragement - and an even bigger thank you for not lynching me on my return for breaking my promise to you that you would ALL win the grand prize. Bonus of the trip - I get to go in the Guinness Book of Records without having to bake a 26m giant pie or push a golfball for over a mile with my nose or sit in a bath of maggots for two hours. Ahhh, bless this skydiving gig and all of it's splendiferously spectacular opportunities!



From Tracey:

When arriving at Perris drop zone I was completely blown away with the calibre of women skydivers at this event, recognising most from previous world record attempts, invitational big way events and the most recent Skydiving World Meet Championships. Wow, this was serious stuff with so much talent invested!

However, I could not help ponder if our aim to break the current overall world record sequential event of a 106-way was a little too ambitious. Many world record attempts had passed and failed. One grip off here; one person out there. These large sequential formations are damn not easy. Could a bunch of women skydivers really achieve this? Well, as it turned out, YES WE COULD!

The P3 organising team never cease to amaze me in how they orchestrate such events, including this new plan of gathering sector groups away from the formation, with 'sector leaders' guiding their groups into the formation on their group radials. Women were shuffled around the formation to where they would fly at their best for the team. Sector captains, including our very own Melissa Harvie, played an important role in ensuring their sectors successfully built with their designated players. For best outcomes, relevant instruction and guidance was filtered from the P3 team, through sector captains, to the players. The overall plan worked and we secured two world records of a 117-way two-point formation!

A big thank you to the APF, and the NSWPC that supported the NSW gals. It was such a fun event and a real bonus to bring home two World Records!



From Pam:

I never grow tired of an excuse to jump on a women's record. The vibe on the DZ is always completely indescribable, and different from anything else. I was overwhelmed by the new faces on this one, I really felt like an old gray mare! But there were lots of familiar faces from around the world too, and it was great to reconnect with so many of my other "old" gals. This event was one of the toughest personally I have been involved in, and the pressure was high. We knew a lot of eyes were on us because we were really going after it - trying to hit a high bar with a team of all women. This was big not just for skydiving, but something not really done in sport. We had a big job to do. The cool thing was, you wouldn't have known it just hanging around the DZ. The ladies were focused, working hard, it was hot, but wow, there was a lot of fun being had all around the place! People learning bits of Russian or Spanish or Portugese. I think fifty people must have worn Yukari's kimono on the Friday night. **It doesn't take long to remember that we all smile in the same language, and laughter and celebration sound the same all over the world.** Especially after two world records.

I have to give a big shout out to the SQPC for supporting me and to the APF Fi Fund for the Sport Development Grant that helped the nine of us Australian residents on the team get there to share in the love and joy. I especially enjoyed sharing it with these cool chicks, and seeing some new world record holders come home to Australia. I just love this stuff!



GETTING BACK *on the Horse*

By Shirley Cowcher



I was asked what it was like being part of the two-point 117-way Sequential World Record. My immediate reaction was, "Wow – not only a Women's World Record but an Open World Record!" I hadn't even thought of that when I decided to participate, so that was a bonus.

After further consideration my reaction is relief. That might seem strange; I should be delighted, over-joyed and proud. At various times I have felt all of those emotions, but for me the overarching emotion is that of relief. Why? Because this was an achievement that I would have shared with my best friend; only in losing her I felt that I had lost my courage.

My journey to this achievement started in 2006 when I attended a P3 Big-way camp. I didn't particularly have a desire to become a Big-way jumper but I did want to achieve a triple digit jump in a safe environment. Three Aussie girls shared a house with two Canadians and a Texan and had a great time and learnt lots. I managed to be part of a 50-way at that event. I was hooked; although I think most of the enthusiasm came from my friend who decided that we were both going to be a part of the Women's World Record in 2009. That goal was achieved and was followed by the Australian Large FS Records in 2010 and I was being drawn into being part of the planned 500-way. I had even received my invitation to the 253-way in Dubai.

Then it happened. In a matter of seven months two wonderful women were lost to the sport. Both were good friends; and one of them was my best friend. I was jumping with her, overseas at the time. I'm a strong person and I did what had to be done to get on with life. We all know that this sport is dangerous – it says so on our parachutes – and so I supported those who needed it, cried many tears, and after a month put my rig on my back and jumped. I was coping very well, mentoring novices, encouraging those who had doubts to come jumping, and accepting that sometimes bad things happen.

Eight months after I had lost my best friend I was back at that very drop zone doing the thing that she loved – Big-ways – The California State Record 200-way to be exact. That event was a successful event; the 200-way was achieved, but for me it was a disaster. My heart and head were somewhere else and my flying was terrible.

I was moved into different slots, being given every opportunity to get my act together, but each time I got in the plane and tried to visualise the jump during the

climb to height, all I could think of was the loss of my friend. I persisted for several days watching myself on the video debriefs and knowing that I was not flying well and almost hoping that I would get the tap on the shoulder from the sector captain. Eventually, on day three of the four-day event, after exiting the plane and realising I hadn't fastened my helmet; I approached the sector captain and told them that I couldn't do it anymore. I had lost my nerve.

The captain, not a person I knew very well, was very understanding and indicated that they thought I was just having a bad event. My response – If I had been the captain and watched how I had been flying I would have stood me down on the second day! So I stood down from the event. The captain made one request of me. To go up and do a solo jump at last light and remember the wonderful things and people that had brought me into the sport and kept me there. I adhered to the request and was grateful that he had suggested it.

Having performed so poorly on this event I knew that my slot on the 253-way was under review. I received the inevitable email from the 500-way organisers. It indicated that my position on the 253-way was still there but I had to bring my "A" game to the event. I knew I had some soul searching to do – could I continue? I decided I wanted to go to Dubai and try my best, but that wasn't to be. The event was cancelled and so the opportunity to face my demons was lost.

In 2012 an Aussie contingent went to Perris. A POPs record and a large sequential record were achieved and I was part of that, but the events of 2011 still haunted me.

Then came the moment that Kate Cooper-Jensen announced that there was to be another attempt at a Women's World Record and a Californian State Record. There was excitement throughout the female Big-way community. I had only been a part of the 2009 event but the atmosphere was something to be remembered. I had shared that with my very dear friend who was no longer with us and I couldn't face not having her there to share the experience. I thought long and hard and decided I had lost my nerve for good and politely declined any invitations I received to the event. I tried to explain my loss of nerve but I'm not sure you can understand it if you have never experienced it. I really was torn. My head told me that I didn't have to face my demons and that there was no logical reason why I should subject myself to such emotional turmoil; but my heart kept drawing my attention to the joy I felt on the last jump I had done with my friend (a 4 point 40-way) and the solo last-light jump I had done after stepping down from the 2011 event. My head very nearly won the battle. I was prepared to allow myself to be

disappointed at not being a part of this event and had justified it to myself many times; I'm too busy at work, I can't afford it, I can't let my staff down by going away, I've already been a part of a women's event I don't need to be a part of another, and I don't need to put myself outside of my comfort zone again. The last excuse being the closest to the truth.

So what eventually made me decide to be a part of the two-point 117-way? A number of personal circumstances that made me face that classic cliché, "You only have one life to live", as well as a couple of very persistent and supportive friends who, without being pushy, kept me informed of what was happening with the event and offered their support if I decided to attend.

When I made the request to attend the event I knew that I wasn't that current with Big-ways and that concerned me. I was fortunate to have participated in a W.A. 50-way record attempt at Jurien Bay in June, which had resulted in me doing four formation jumps made up of 30-ways and 50-ways. The rest of the time I had been organising Star Crests – 8 to 10-ways with me as the Base. What was I thinking?!

Just to try to calm my nerves, I agreed to participate in a 5km colour run on the morning before the event started. It would help deal with jetlag. Having never done a 5km road run before, I focused my attention on being capable of doing the run and not shaming myself. Seems very logical; don't look at, or talk about, the elephant in the room.

On the day I flew out of Australia, the dive plan and slots were posted. The Aussie ladies were scattered throughout the formation. I was in the Base 30, first row of divers out of the lead Skyvan, middle of a line of four with the sector stinger docking between me and the person to my left. The organisers were looking after me. This was a slot that needed strength, to stop any tension being passed into the Base, but was one I was easily capable of. This was now real. I was on my way and my name was on slot C9. No backing out. Options available to me; perform and succeed or admit that I'd really lost my nerve.

At registration and throughout the event I got to catch up with lots of old friends but I also got to meet lots of new ones. It appeared to me that whilst there was strength in this group of women, there were also a lot of women who had limited

Big-way experience. In fact, there were many who achieved their triple digit dive patch during this event. Some of these lovely ladies were strong 4-way and 8-way jumpers, but had not done a lot of Big-way jumping. They were hungry to achieve (that is their competitive nature) but not used to Big-way methods. You can feel very exposed when you make a mistake and there are fifty or more sets of eyes watching you on the video debrief. It was during a discussion about this that I realised that whilst I was facing my demons, there were many others that were facing theirs. We were all in this together.

Let the games begin. Throughout the event my role was pretty much the same whether we were doing 60-ways, 120-ways or the final 117-way. I exited from the Skyvan as an early diver, just off the Base, built the 4-way line, held strong as the sector docked behind me, held on tightly to the right-hand line anchor as the first pull-out was lifted from her grip and then held hands with my tracking team for a thousand feet before separation and deployment. Each jump was obviously different; I was taken out on one of the practice jumps and ended up low on the formation unable to get back up. We all witnessed the frustration of two "horror slots" that resulted in people constantly going low no matter who was slotted into the positions, and a sector being unable to dock as a result. I was dismayed to hear of people who were injured and may not, or could not, participate further in the event, and was saddened to hear of people who were stood down because of inconsistency in their flying.

We achieved our objective on the sixth day – jump twenty. Wow, how great was that! Was I pleased to be part of it? Yes. Have I faced my demons? Yes. Would I do it again? I've already registered for the Aussie Record event in May 2015. How did I feel? Glad that I attended, happy to have done my job, pleased to have provided support to others, eager to improve my skills, but more than anything, relieved to have gotten back on the horse.

Thanks to the APF Fi Fund for supporting the Aussie women.



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- ANGRY'S DISTANCE RECORD

By Ronnie Perry Photos by Sharney Perrow and Jim Harris

A VERY STRONG AUSSIE CP TEAM PACKED THEIR BAGS AND HEADED OFF TO ZEPHRYHILL'S 'SKYDIVE CITY', FLORIDA FOR THE FIFTH FAI WORLD CANOPY PILOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE CP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN HELD IN THE STATES AND THEY DID AN ARRRSOME JOB OF IT.

One hundred and two of the world's best Swoopers took part in the nine Round competition consisting of Speed, Distance and Zone Accuracy. The competition was completed in record time thanks to the lift capacity of multiple Twin Otters available and a determined Meet Director.

The Aussie team had a very constructive training camp, which was filled with purpose, structure and direction. The team had a day off to go to the Space Centre, watch a satellite launch and have an amazing tour of the facility.

As usual a great privilege to be part of the CP Team and it was all made so much easier with Sharney Perrow, our amazing Team Manager! This was my first time as Head of Delegation - yes, bought the beer - and it doesn't matter how many trips you do with the team, you never stop learning. The Aussie contingent was the most cohesive and best-dressed team, with admiral performances and moments from everyone.

Huge thanks to the staff at Z-Hills, especially TK and the Manifest girls. Thanks to Rob at the APF and all the State Councils who supported their competitors to get them to the World Meet. Finally, big thanks to all the Judges, Course Officials, Meet Director and the pilots.



Mark Edwards



Ben Lewis



Darren Griggs



BEN LEWIS

"In my fourth year on the Aussie CP Team and second World Championships, I had set goals higher than in previous years – to not just score, but score highly, and push for top ten results. Just about met those goals, with just zero in Distance keeping me out of an overall top ten. An eighth in Speed though showed me that I actually can fly these beasts and compete with the top guys in the world – as could all the guys on the team; such an awesome performance by everyone. So proud of all the boys, especially Kev for smashing it for a gold biscuit and Aussie Speed record, Angry and his new Aussie Distance record, and all of the personal bests by everybody.

Our on-site support team was invaluable; Sharney and Ronnie made our jobs a hell of a lot easier and more comfortable. Support from the APF Performance Based Funding got us trained up to this level, and the gear support from NZ Aerosports, Cookie Composites and GLH Systems has been great. Thanks everyone."



Ben Lewis



ROBBIE MCMILLAN

"It is always an honour and a privilege to represent Australia at the World Championships. It is awesome that a place such as Skydive City at Z-Hills decided to host the meet as they have such a great history of sport jumping, not just in the U.S.A. but the entire World. Whilst I didn't pull off any personal bests or medals, I was stoked to be a part of such a fun, strong Team. Hats off to Kevvy Kapow and Angry for their Aussie Records and especially Kevvy's Gold Medal. Thanks heaps to Sharney and Ronnie for an outstanding Job. Also a huge thanks to the APF Performance Based Funding, without which we simply would not be the strong team that we are today."



GLENN FARRELL

"Congratulations to Keven Walters on getting a Gold Medal in Zone Accuracy and setting a new Australian Speed Record of 2.255 seconds! Congratulations also to Andrew Woolf for setting a new Australian Distance Record of 161.39 meters!

I had a great competition and I was extremely happy with the way that I was flying, although the score in Zone Accuracy does not reflect this. The highlight for me was when I smashed one of my personal goals of setting a triple-digit score in Distance during competition by getting 120.05 meters and flying further than many of the competitors on that Round (29th out of 104).

I would like to thank all of the Competitors, Officials, Judges and Skydive City for an amazing event. Thank you to my sister-in-law Fiona Smith, and my parents Sid and Julie Farrell for travelling to Bathurst to help my beautiful wife Rosemary with our two amazing boys and making life significantly easier for us while I am away chasing my dreams. You are all amazing and I cannot thank you enough.

Thank you Sharney Perrow and Ronnie Perry for your tireless efforts in supporting and looking after not only the Aussie CP Team, but a significant number of our adopted CP family including our Cuzzies from Across the Ditch, UAE, UK and many more. You Guys Rock!!"



Angry Wolf



ANDREW 'ANGRY' WOOLF

"This is my fourth year running on the team now and I'm loving it. This year I felt the best I ever have with my turn and training. The first day was an awesome one with a new personal best in Speed of 2.348 seconds and another Aussie Distance record of 161.39 meters. The second day wasn't as good, starting with a chop. From there I made mistake after mistake. I ended up with my worst overall placing to date.

Mentally I wasn't myself, but this year's Team is the best team I have ever had the pleasure of competing with. All of the guys helped me pick my head up and focus on the next day. I can't thank them all enough. Means a lot. I have learned a lot this Meet and these mistakes can only make me stronger for times ahead.

Thank you to all my family and friends who have helped me get where I am today. Also a massive thanks to Sharney, Super Coach Ronnie Perry, the APF, NQPC, NZ Aerosports, Sun Path Products, Cookie Composites, HD-Xposure, GLH Systems and Scody Australia. Without you all, it would be a lot harder. Thank you."



Angry Wolf



Kevin Walters



Kev Walters



Glen Farrell



DARREN GRIGGS

"It was fantastic to make it to a World Meet and to meet up and compete with the best pilots in the world. It was an amazing experience to share with a great bunch of people. Many thanks go to everyone who made it possible, from the competitors to Sharney and Super Coach. Big thanks to the APF, whose support meant that in addition to being one of the best turned-out teams, all of the guys had great increases in performance."





MARK EDWARDS

"I feel privileged to be a part of the Aussie CP Team. It's good to get involved in a new discipline and I am very happy with my scores and general flying throughout the event. It was also great to be competing at Z-Hills for a World Meet – a great competition and well run, but with challenging conditions throughout. Thanks to the APF, NZ Aerosports and all the Team. See ya'll at the bar!"



Robbie catching Brad's freebag



BRAD 'FATBOY' JONES

"It has been a goal of mine for a while to make the Aussie CP Team for a World Championship – after making two World Cups I was stoked just in making the team. My only goals for the actual competition were to break my personal bests in Speed and Distance, and have fun and hopefully do some nice swoops. During the first Round of competition I managed to get through the course in 2.47 seconds, which was the sixth fastest time of the Round and smashed of my previous best time in Speed. It took until the second Round of Distance to get a new personal best there after nearly stalling out on my rear risers in Round 1.

With personal bests achieved, it was on to Accuracy, which was the event I was most worried about as I was still adjusting to the extra power and carry of my Petra, but it ended up being my best event. I was a little unhappy with my ability to back up decent scores consistently, but in the end it was my consistency to put nine scores on the board with a few decent scores that lifted me to a career best of fifteenth overall, which was way more than I expected. But the best thing about this competition was to see Kev rock it in Accuracy to win the Gold medal as well as Kev and Angry break the Aussie records in Speed and Distance respectively. Thanks to my teammates, Sharney, Ronwah and the APF for their support and everything else they did to make it such a fantastic and memorable event. Time to set some new goals I think."



Glen Farrell



Robbie



Kev Walters



KEVEN "KAPOW" WALTERS

"Being there at Fifth World Championships of Canopy Piloting with a great crew has been one of the most memorable. With Angry smashing his own Distance record, all the boys doing personnel bests, Ben cracking the top ten in Speed, having an amazing manager Sharney Perrow and Ronwah coaching and helping keep us all in a good mental state. I'm super proud of these guys.

I am still finding it hard to believe that I pulled a rabbit out of the hat and got to stand up on the world stage to receive a Gold medal alongside Kieran "Kitsch" Baldwin and the world champion Curt Bartholomew.

Thanks to the APF for all their support, W.A. State Council, Skydive the Beach and Beyond for the awesome pond to play on, Aerodyne and Performance Designs. Finally, thanks to my biggest supporter, my hot girl Allana Tyler, love you."

"My goals where to keep everyone out of jail, make sure no one got pregnant and that the boys showed up on time for competition. Success!

Truly, though I am honored to be a part of this team and represent Australia, especially

considering I'm Sepo born (shhh, don't tell anyone)! Big thanks to the APF for allowing me to be there for the team. The positive effect from the federation's support is very obvious when we see the results and team moral Australia projects when competing. I received numerous comments from other competitors and judges about how much people love the Aussies and are impressed with our consistent results! Many thanks to "coach" Ronwah for being awesome! You coach and I'll manage ok?! Most importantly, much love to the boys for having me back again after Dubai and the appreciation they express."



TEAM MANAGER SHARNEY PERROW



Angry Wolf



Brad Jones



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CRW weekends

Nagambie 18th - 19th October 2014 By Martin Letch Photo by Dan Todhill

“Don't get low and behind.”

These words will resonate in my mind for the rest of my CRW life. Thanks Jules!

TRAVELLING TO NAGAMBIE FROM ADELAIDE TO ATTEND THE CRW WEEKEND, AFTER ONLY A HANDFUL OF CRW JUMPS WAS AN EXCITING IDEA, BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING TO ACHIEVE WHAT WE DID IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THE WEEKEND, HOSTED BY JULES, CRASH, AND SHARKEY, WAS AN EXCITING CHALLENGE FOR A CREW PUP. I TOOK AWAY A NUMBER OF NEW CANOPY CONTROL SKILLS AND MADE A NUMBER OF NEW FRIENDS.

On Saturday, the fun began with Jules going through the techniques we should be aiming to effectively use by the end of the weekend. Saturday also saw us breaking into groups of three and four to focusing on centre and wing docks, applying trim, breaking apart and re-building formations, run-backs, and working towards creating Wedges and Diamonds by the end of the day. Each jump having a valuable dirt dive to assist those who are memory-impaired (myself) to remember our slots in the formation (somehow I still managed to forget once or twice where I was meant to be). We then debriefed after every jump to understand where further or less input and/or a better position could or should have been used in order to successfully and cleanly make the dock and formation.

Sunday saw the fun continue with some more 4-way Diamonds, again focusing on the techniques from the day before, as well as introducing cross-controls and toggle/riser slapping. This then led to the group's first 9-way Diamond attempt, which was successfully achieved by around 7,000ft, which gave enough time for us to “starburst” apart, runback, and rebuild. The rebuild achieved a 7-way, and this may or may not (it did) have led to Crash getting a close inspection of the sole of my foot and a rope burn on the back of my leg – sorry Crash!

This then led to the final jump of the weekend, another 9-way attempt, in more turbulent conditions, where we created yet another 9-way Diamond, which we again



attempted to break down and recreate. Key take-outs for the weekend

- Sharp use of the toggles can pop you up (just don't do it directly under someone).
- Double fronts to drive you in.
- Slap the toggles/risers if you want to kill the performance.

- Make sure you are appropriately set-up before attempting to make the dock.
- Find and keep your holding pattern in preparation to making your dock.
- Use cross-controls to warp the canopy and slow you down without changing your height too much.
- Clearly communicate to all members of the formation at all times.
- Break the formation down, bottom to top, out to in.
- Remember your slot.
- Crash is a good sport, even after getting kicked in head (or close to it) and almost being wrapped; AND,
- “Don't get low and behind!”

Most importantly though, the key take-out for me was that Jules, Crash and Sharkey are not only great CRW dogs to learn from, but great people to know and chat to.

Big thanks go to the VTPC, Skydive Nagambie and APF Fi Fund for supporting the event. And thanks to everyone involved – thanks for helping us get our CRW Crests too!

CRW weekends

Elderslie 13th - 14th September 2014 Article and photos by Andrew Wright

WE GATHERED FOR JULES' BRIEFING AT NEWCASTLE SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB, IN A STRUCTURE RESEMBLING A MEAT LOCKER – INSIDE IT WAS COLD AND WHITE – BUT WITHIN THE FRESH MEAT WAS US. WHILST A FEW OF US HAD CRW EXPERIENCE, MOSTLY EVERYONE THERE WAS A NEWBIE TO THE DISCIPLINE – A SCARED AND SHIVERING LAMB, IN THE MEAT HOUSE OF CRW. THE IDEA OF FLYING PARACHUTES INTO EACH OTHER WAS STILL TRYING TO BE GRAPPLED WITH, BUT THE TRANSFORMATION OF US INTO CRW-PUPS HAD ALREADY BEGUN.



Julia Beck and Jules McConnel over NSPC



4 way over NSPC

I mean really, why would you do it? It is just a scary thing to do. Normally we're taught to fly away from other parachutes, not straight at them. Wilfully flying your parachute into someone else's body just does not seem correct. But as I'd found recently at my first CRW weekend, at Moruya in May, it's also a bucket load of fun.

For this reason I'd jumped on the opportunity for another CRW weekend, to have some serious fun and also to practise what I had learnt. As many may be aware, in 2015 there will be an attempt at a record setting 50-way Australian canopy formation. To me this sounds really cool, and the way I look at it, the more CRW I can do between now and then, the better chance I'll have of being a part of it. Jules had told us newbies that being on the record jump is totally achievable, but after my first jumps I had a paradoxical revelation – CRW is easy but also a lot harder than it looks.

There were about thirteen of us on the course, the majority of which had no CRW experience. Our coaches for the weekend were Jules McConnel, Brett Higgins and Michael Vaughan. With thousands of CRW jumps between them, we had a solid three-volume CRW encyclopaedia to consult for advice. The course began with Jules' briefing; where the plan was outlined, and the scary stuff discussed; then we

were loaded onto the Caravan to commence the weekend's adventures.

Thanks to Phil Thamm at the Australian Army we had gained access to the army's stash of PD Lightning CRW rigs. Jumping began with one-on-one jumps, introducing everyone to the basic docking manoeuvres. Most were a little tentative at first, getting used to the handling of the Lightning canopies, but it was incredible how quickly the first docks were made, and how quickly we all progressed. Jumping with communication-equipped helmets helped to supplement regular hollering and vigorous gesticulation under canopy as live coaching. Finally, it was a great help being able to talk to your coach during a skydive! The one-on-ones continued with everyone getting more and more confident – within one or two jumps everyone had made a few successful docks, and bigger achievements were on the way.

“Saturday offered amazing visuals over Elderslie, with an abundance of big puffy clouds creeping slowly across the sky. Being able to fly through little wisps of cloud is one of the things I love about skydiving, and if that is your thing, I have to say that CRW offers more bang for your buck than any other discipline.”

10 happy CRWdogs



The first bigger attempt - almost an 8-way!



Having a good ten minutes of flying around the sky really makes the most of your jump ticket, even if your hands and arms are burning from yanking on risers and toggles constantly.

Sunday started with thick and low cloud preventing jumping for much of the morning. The order of the day was 3 and 4-way stacks, with us all practising to dock on formations. Jules and Higgo provided invaluable de-briefing on all of these jumps; outlining further aspects of formation flying – how to keep it flying and help your teammates all keep it together. Of course, not all of our formations stayed together and there were at least a couple of instances where canopies began to degenerate rapidly into malformed hanging masses of fabric, but fortunately no people ended up on the inside of them – which I reckon is a pretty good effort.

Once jumpers were used to flying in slightly larger formations, and had our heads wrapped around it all (pun not intended), the real game began with an 8 and 9-way jump – both of which were almost completed. By this point we had already achieved more than we had thought possible, but we had one more opportunity to jump so everyone who was left gathered together and we decided to go for a 10-way – which we achieved! A sunset load with several of us earning our CRW Crests was an amazing end to a great weekend. What's even more awesome is that three of the jumpers on the sunset load had only done their first CRW jumps the day before. As Jules had mentioned at the start of the weekend, making the record next year is totally achievable, even for a complete newbie.

So, I for one am looking forward to the next CRW event. For more information about the planned Australian canopy formation record attempt in 2015 contact Jules McConnel or Michael Vaughan, and in the meantime get your Ookoonono on and get CRWing.

Extra special thanks go to the Australian Parachute Federation for providing new communication units, Newcastle Sport Parachute Club for assisting with coaching fees and hosting the event, and Jules, Vaughany and Higgo for showing us all how to have a ton of fun.

Tracey Sgroi and Jules McConnel CRWing in the clouds



The hungry CRWdogs



10-way sunset load over NSPC

CRW weekends

Moruya 27th - 28th September 2014 *Article and photos by Simon Kube*

A CLEAR BLUE SKY GREETED THE GROUP OF SKYDIVERS WHO ASSEMBLED AT SKYDIVE OZ. THEIR PURPOSE; TO PARTICIPATE IN A CRW WORKSHOP DESIGNED TO BOTH INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS TO THE DISCIPLINE, WHILST ALSO ALLOWING MORE EXPERIENCED MEMBERS TO PRACTICE THEIR SKILLS IN THE LEAD UP TO THE AUSTRALIAN RECORD ATTEMPT NEXT YEAR. THE TERM CRW STANDS FOR CONTROLLED RADICAL WRAPPING, ALSO OCCASIONALLY KNOWN AS CANOPY RELATIVE WORK.

After splitting into experience-based groups, the coaches Jules McConnel, Michael Vaughan and Richie Dronow briefed their respective groups and so the jumping began. Within the first few loads, Michael Vaughan's victory yell, "diamonds in the sky!" indicated early success.

“ As the weekend progressed and everyone's line kicking confidence began to grow, larger formations could be seen floating their way across the sky above the drop zone with an attempt at a 9 way diamond! ”

Overall it was a fantastic weekend with each participant gaining a lot of valuable skills and experience. Even the infamous Derek Murphy managed to land neither in the ocean or under a reserve!

A big thanks to the NSW Parachute Council for subsidising the coaching fees and the APF Development Fiona McEachern Fund for supplying the communications equipment. Lastly, thanks to Skydive Oz and the coaches for a ripper few days!



Jules McConnel, Yijun Huang and Ian Hard



Michael Vaughn, Sandra Northey, Rod White and Andrew Wright



Michael Vaughan (Top), Yijun Huang (Left), Ian Hard (Right) and Gerard Vejrjch (Bottom)



Jules McConnel (Left) and Yijun Huang (Right)



Michael Vaughan, Craig Bennett and Gerard Vejrjch

OZ
canopy formation record

50-way Diamond
October 2015

Organisers:
Jules McConnel, Tom Begic & Chris Gay (USA)

Seeking expressions of interest:
Contact Jules - juliamcconnel@yahoo.com
Join www.facebook.com/OzCRW

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20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF EQUINOX

skydive ramblers

EQUINOX BOOGIE 2014

SKYDIVING MUSIC FESTIVAL

Aerial photos by Steve Fitchett & Ben Nordkamp Ground photos by Sonja Bruss and Alison Raynor

FLOCKERS



“What an amazing week it's been at the Equinox Boogie! Daily koalas, roos on the runway, new friends, brilliant jumps and watching everyone progress in their flying. Topped off by a party till sunrise Saturday and tasting the infamous “blue waterfall” at the Pub on my last night! ‘Straya! Thank you to everyone who made this a special trip, and especially to Roger Hugelshofer for being an awesome organizing partner and coach.”

Taya Weiss, USA



“Absolutely great Boogie, it's nice to see wingsuiters from all over Australia plus overseas jumpers. The weather is beautiful, great hospitality at Ramblers, a great event.”

Roger Hugelshofer

A new **Queensland Wingsuit Record** was set with Taya Weiss leading an 8-way flock. Well done Frank Klaus, Roger Hugelshofer, Jasmine Melville, Bruno Reis, Russel Blacklock, Bobby McEntee, Dion Giblin and Fenix Searle. It was broken the next day with a 10-way flock!



BIG WAYS



“I go all over the world to Boogies organising Big Ways – to France for food, Italy for the fashion and Ramblers for the great weather, skydives and people.”

Dave Morris, UK





“What a great weekend of technical skydives with talented friends and such a high calibre coach.”
Michael Vaughan

“What a great concept! A boogie sub-event targeted at a more experienced group, with challenging but achievable dives that made everyone work!”
Lisa Perdichizzi



“It's nice to be organised by the best.” **Belgium Steve**



Scott Perkins celebrating his 200th jump, with Ben Nordkamp.



Certificate B
Joshua Watson
Danielle Jaros Lees

Certificate C
Gus Mitchinson - Certificate B & C & 100th
Ryan Caulfield - Certificate C & 100th
Ben Druery - Certificate C & 100th

Certificate D
Cameron Faust - Certificate D & 200th
Anthony Worrall - Certificate D & 200th
Scott Perkins - Certificate D & 200th

Star Crest, Freely Crest, Wingsuit Crest

Alexander Battye - Star Crest
Louis Potvin - Star Crest & 100th
Keith O'Connor - Star Crest
Scott Pepper - Star Crest
Joseph Clarke - Star Crest & 200th
Blake Ashwell - Star Crest
Royce Wilson - Star Crest & Wingsuit Crest
Jasmine Melville - Wingsuit Crest
Russel Blacklock - Wingsuit Crest
Ben Garnsey - Freely Crest

General Display
Jason Colless
Thomas Kruyssen-Mitchell

Milestones
Samy Black - 100th
Mike Choi - 400th
David Schlatter - 400th
Ben Moreton - 1000th



ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

AFTERNOON ACOUSTIC SESSIONS BY THE POOL 8PM PAIRLY WITH **ROBERT CARL BLANK**

MONDAY 6TH 8PM JAZZ BOOGIE **FLUFFY**

★ EQUINOX BOOGIE 2014

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ROBERT CARL BLANK **DIVIL DEMOLITION 4 1:1:1** SAT 11TH OCT



“ I always try and explain to people how amazing this place is, but you have to be there to experience it yourself.”
Herman the German



“ Everyone was wonderful and the positive vibes emanating from the event was infectious. Great friendly staff, and to be part of a group of people from around the world sharing ideas to advance the sport in a selfless offering to the skydiving Gods was exhilarating.”
Bud Beckett



“ We had a diverse mix of amazing talent for this 'Nox... Every night was different. For the first time we combined music with comedy as well as burlesque, with great results. Punk Rock still smashed it! The return of Legless, playing all old favourites was glorious at the fancy dress ball. Newcomers, Ipswich band 1:1:1 had the place absolutely pumping, plus they were totally charged after their jumps in the afternoon. The party didn't stop after the bands either. The late night/early morning sessions at The Farm where many a beat session took place was a lot of fun too.”
Kylie Cowling

NIGHT JUMPS

The equal day/equal night concept of Equinox sure did ring true this boogie with over 100 night jumps made in just three nights and a full lunar eclipse to boot! Twenty eight jumpers attained their Night Rating under Ben Nordkamp's watchful eye.



Yikes Longy



Ridin' Dave



Another Martin Selfie!





Adam Long, Danny Helmy, Ben Sirash and UK's Alex Murphy sure made a high energy load organising team!



“What a terrific Equinox to mark the 20 year anniversary of the boogie! There was so much action in the air and on the ground, during the day and definitely at night - it was hard to keep up with all the shenanigans. Everyone involved with the organising and the operations of the boogie, as well as all the jumpers who came and played, did a fantastic job and really deserve a pat on the back. Opening the boogie up to our home-grown ‘A’ Licence holders was also very rewarding. Thank you Weather Gods, it was the best yet. Another 20 years of Equinox? We’ll see...”

Dave McEvoy



Daniel Morcombe day



Love Is... Nick & Veronica



The Newlyweds



Refugees from Ripcord - Star Crest
Photo: Stephen Hawkey



Tube jump



Nox Sisters Charlotte & Charlee



Cheeky



“What an awesome bunch of guys and girls that came out to do their Star Crests. Congratulations to all and a huge thanks to the experienced crew who helped out with the base and made all the jumps soooo much fun!! I can't wait to do it all over again!”

Brody Johnson



PARTIES



The good, the bad and the rest



Macca and Burlesque Leanne



Chantel and Mai



Calypto Bar creations



Special thanks to Brendan Green, Jason Colless and Mathew (BULL) Swann for kicking off the fancy dress party and manning, or rather 'womanning' the TSC bar, all dressed as Snow White. A little bit too much breast and leg was displayed, however the 'girls' all managed to maintain their dignity!

SPONSORS

The Australian Parachute Federation is the primary event sponsor with a substantial sponsorship grant from the APF Fiona McEachern Sport Development Fund. Ramblers would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the APF for their support along with these fabulous sponsors:

EQUINOX BOOGIE 2014 - SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



LOCATION: Skydive Arizona



CANOPY PILOT: Jim Hickey



CAMERA: Niklas Daniel



REASON: Just for fun

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Flight Performance



WEST COAST SUNDOWNER

1ST - 9 NOVEMBER 2014

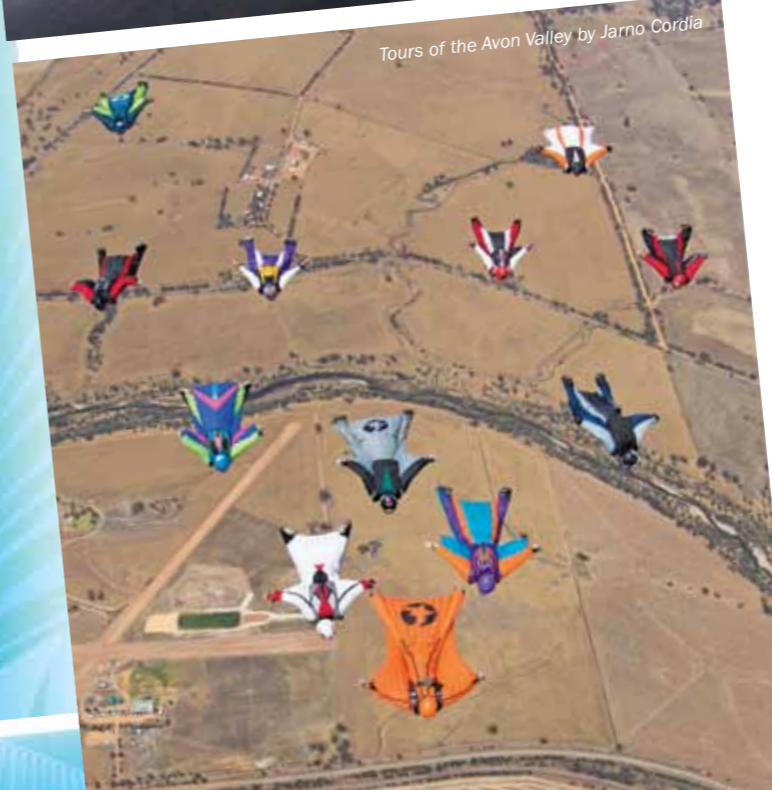
By Krishna Strickland & Courtney Butler

Photos by Willy Boeykens, Roger Mulckey, Dicey Bergic, Tom Gilmartin & Scotty Hiscoe

WEST COAST SUNDOWNER 2014 HAD A LOT TO LIVE UP TO FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE INAUGURAL SUNDOWNER IN 2013. HOW COULD WE TOP IT?



Sundowner living up to its name



Tours of the Avon Valley by Jarno Cordia

Still on a buzz from last year, the team at Skydive the Beach and Beyond in York set aside twelve months of preparation time, which included tracking down the best coaches in the business. And, of course, sourcing the best in the business meant top-notch talent for the line up! Derek Cox, Amy Chmelecki, Domi Kiger, Frazer Smith, Erica Tadokoro, Leigh McCormack and Kieren James for Freefly, Pete Allum, Thomas Hughes and Michael Vaughan for RW, Wingsuit coaches Jarno Cordia and Scott Paterson were the headliners and boy, did they have a loyal following!

To top it off we were stoked to have world-renowned camera flyer Willy Boeykens (Vigil) head over directly from the Women's World Record attempts to capture all the mid-air antics.

Local freeflyers Peds Rumbo and Chris Jones, along with wingsuiter Jai Campion, all jumped on the coaching gig throughout the event to round out the stellar line-up!

With coaches of this calibre, the jumping was going to skyrocket beyond expectations and the "gurus" were eager to get in on the Sundowner bandwagon and take their disciples to new levels.

As one jumper so eloquently put it, "How many Sky Gods can you have access to in one place?"

It was great to see everyone's efforts culminate to make Sundowner a tremendous experience for all who attended, including a turnout of 200+ experienced skydivers, loads of Tandems, AFF and B-Rels.

Over 350 plane loads were sent up during the nine days with oh-so-close to 5,000 jumps completed! We're pretty sure that we managed to fulfil our goal of a mammoth Sundowner; delivering an unforgettable nine days of skydiving action.

WEST COAST SUNDOWNER

Pilot feeling left out?



PLANES

Lift capacity was huge! Three Caravans and a 182 saw us punch out 40-60 loads a day. Day three saw the drop zone pumping with Skydive Jurien Bay's Caravan hanging around to bump it up to four turbines! The planes were there and the jumpers took advantage of it, cranking out load after load.

FS STATE RECORD ATTEMPT

When there are turbines galore and many skilled skydivers in the same place at the same time, formation loads are nearly always on the cards. Sundowner proved the perfect setting for attempting the FS State Record.

In the months leading up to Sundowner, skydivers turned up to a series of selection weekends and all vied for a place on the formation. So when it came time for the three 50-way FS State Record attempts on Monday, 3 November, the team were pumped and ready to go.

Skydive the Beach and Beyond went the extra mile and with considerable expense, equipped all three Caravans with oxygen systems, so that the participants could exit from 18,000ft, providing that little bit of extra freefall time.

Whilst the record was not broken, each jump was better than the one before and everyone had an awesome time. The sense of camaraderie from within the team was truly awe-inspiring and made us all proud to be skydivers. This added to the high spirits on the drop zone from the get go.

Special thanks to our main load organiser, Wally, for his dedication, hard work and many months of tireless effort to put this attempt together. Another big thanks to G.T. and Red, who provided much support as load organisers in our quest. Also a huge thanks to Simon, Dixie and Riss for ensuring we were all well equipped with knowledge from their HAPO courses to run these attempts from 18,000ft – a first for a major Western Australian Boogie. Thanks also to the load masters for taking on the extra duty of making sure we were all okay and not off with the fairies!

A task as huge as this takes much patience and time to coordinate and it simply wouldn't have happened without the combined effort of all involved, so thank you.

Don't forget, now is the opportunity to build on these formation skills and aim for the Aussie 120-150-way record in Perris Valley in 2015!

"THANK YOU ALL AT WEST COAST SUNDOWNER, FOR SURE THE BEST BOOGIE I'VE ATTENDED IN YEARS! GREAT SKYDIVES, WONDERFUL SETUP, FANTASTIC PEOPLE, EPIC PARTIES. CAN'T WAIT FOR NEXT YEAR!" Willy Boeykens

"EPIC. AWESOME. WOW! OUR FIRST BOOGIE, AND WAS WAY MORE THAN WE EXPECTED." Bernice Heng and Jonathan Tan from Singapore

WINGSUIT RECORD ATTEMPT

The Wingsuit crew, headed up by Jarno Cordia and Scott Paterson, were a spectacular sight as the guys and girls attempted a 24-way diamond – they came within a foot of achieving it – so close, huge effort!

The wingsuiters continued to have a kick-ass Sundowner, smashing out heaps of loads and sending drop zone vehicles scrambling with their consistent off-drop zone landings. Love you guys! Two early mornings also saw some impressive XRW work between Jarno, Scott and Stephen Arkwright manoeuvring expertly between Pete Allum and Tom Gilmartin on their Peregrines. An awesome sight to see from the ground, capped off by Jarno's clumsy/classy attempt at copying Pete and Tom's swoop of the pond afterwards. Somehow a Wingsuit just isn't that aerodynamic under canopy!

Congratulations from all of us at Sundowner to Jarno, who flew home to the nest in time to meet his beautiful new son Oliver!

NUDIE RECORD ATTEMPT

No guesses as to who was in charge of organising this... yep, the Rumbo boys, of course. And guess what, they made it – an unofficial 10-way nudie FS State Record! There was an influx of spectators watching this particular load land for some reason... probably because there was nil wind and well, we all know what damage nil wind on a nudie jump can do...

SWOOPERS

The pond continued to be a big hit although with some of the windier days it was tempting to neglect the hole in the ground – or so we thought? But nah, it seems that wakeboarding is the new activity for the pond!



Big grins from Daz



Derek feelin' the love



WEST COAST SUNDOWNER

ENTERTAINMENT

Nightly entertainment jumped into overdrive, kicking off where superb skydiving action ended for the day. Skydivers buzzed around after last light, drinking from the endless supply of cartons and chatting about the fantastic jumps of the day.

Following dinner (which was an awesome and seemingly non-stop supply of food), funny man, Irish, was back in full force as our MC each evening and we are happy to say that we can finally understand him! Keeping us on our toes with his endless supply of banter, Irish took funny and inappropriate to the next level!

We had a huge mix of nightly entertainment ranging from DJs, a killer band, dress-ups and glow parties. DJ Disko Stu had the drop zone rocking as first cab off the rank on the opening night – Sundownerites eased into the event with some cool tunes to get the party started.

Tuesday proved popular with Tequila Tuesday and Fiesta night. Margaritas pumped from the slushie machine in the Tiki bar as amigos and amigas donned their sombreros, ponchos and moustaches and pounded the piñatas – Arribaaa!

Our resident skydiver and all round gorgeous girl, DJ Dicey, mixed up a storm on the Friday night with her Rad Vibes Glow Party. Glow sticks and wicked tracks abound! Nice one, chick!

Back again after last year's Boogie, DJ Steve Hogden rocked tunes outside the hangar on the last day and then proceeded into the dungeon until the wee hours of Sunday morning for our Dungeons and Drag Queens party. Massive effort! Thanks Steve.

Special mention must go to the Rumbo boys who hijacked the last night's speeches as they burst through the hangar in fishnets and feather boas with Dave the Oompa Loompa (yes, a real life little person with a fake tan, white outfit and bobbed green hair). First time we've seen Irish lost for words!

The day tapes and entertainment all contributed to an outstanding Boogie – not sure how we'll survive without our nightly episodes of In Bed With Freddy, or the soothing lull and long luscious locks of Frederico who we met on Mexican Night and who the ladies certainly won't forget in a hurry!!

SEMINARS

Seminars play a large role in Sundowner and the content continues to impress. After the last loads of the day a range of topics catering to all experience levels were covered. These seminars were informative and well attended. With a different speaker each night, topics included Pete Allum's "REL and Big-ways Safety", Amy Chmelecki's "Flying VFS Big-ways", "Canopy Safety" with Michael Vaughan,

Jarno Cordia's "Wingsuiting Safety and Education", "How to Become a Judge" with Peta Holmes, "How to Become an Instructor and Women in the Sport" with Riss Anderson, "Skyhooks" by Brett Newman (Downward Trend) and "Competition Mindset" by Domi Kiger. Michael Vaughan even ran us through "Gear Checks and Monthly Maintenance" during the weather hold.

Thanks again to the presenters for their time and efforts in running these seminars.

SPECIAL GUESTS

We are very grateful that Rod Libeau from the APF made the effort to fly over for the second year and see what the buzz was all about!

A big shout out to Wayne and the crew from Platinum Sponsors, iFLY Downunder, for supplying Frazer as one of the first-class coaches and two hours of tunnel time to raffle off – there are four very happy little Sundownerites ready to hit the tunnel as a result!

Gracing us with her presence for the second year in a row was the lovely Shannon from N.Z. Aerosports. Rocking up with the latest demo canopies, she was in hot demand with most canopies consistently booked for the week!

Brett Newman from Downward Trend made a special appearance, setting up the portable Downward Trend shop and giving us not one, but two special in-air Skyhook demo's with a tertiary Reserve attached! We loved his Skyhook seminar too, thanks Brett.

Thanks to all of you for making the journey, we loved seeing you at the drop zone and we look forward to having you guys back again soon!

SPONSORS

Once again our event would not be complete without the support of our very generous sponsors – providing us with fantastic prizes, donations and promotional items to ensure that we can run the event and offer awesome giveaways to some very lucky winners. Special thanks to all of you – we are eternally grateful.

Platinum sponsors: the Australian Parachute Federation and the Fiona McEachern Sport Development Fund, the Western Australian State Parachute Council, Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation, and iFLY Downunder.

Silver sponsors: N.Z. Aerosports, Vigil, Cypres, Downward Trend, Parachutes Australia, Cookie Composites, The Skydive Shop, LVN, Terminal Sports, Chute First Apparel, Paragear, Chuting Star and Deepseed.

Finally, a shameless plug for us throwing in a full Boogie rego valued at \$1,900! Get in and show your support for these guys who were so quick to support us!

"I FELT SO PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE EVENT, WITH SO MANY COOL PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE PLANET JUMPING SAFELY AND SPECTACULARLY!" James Woods, Manifest

"AWESOME BOOGIE, RAN LIKE CLOCKWORK!" Birgit and Louis Eybers

STAFF AND CONTRACTORS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff and contractors including Tom, Andy, Roche, Robin and the aircraft crew, Harry, Sean and the kitchen team, Anthony Ritter, Jimmy and the bar crew, Rob McGrath, Freddy, Tammy, James and the manifest team, the marketing team, Adam Dyson and Robin Morris, the instructors, Scott Hiscoe, Roger Mulkey and the camera crew, DZSOs, drivers and anyone else we may have missed.

Interesting Statistics

- We consumed over 4,000 meals and drank in excess of 350 cartons of beer
- Jet A1/AVGAS used: over 31,000 litres
- Climb height reached across all aircraft: 5,393,000ft, equating to a straight-line distance of 1,650km/891nm high
- Including ferry to and from the east coast, over 9,310 miles were flown which equates to approximately 36 percent of a round-the-world pole-to-pole flight, in a ten day period.

For all of the action and to relive the Sundowner experience, check out the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/westcoastsundowner.

Sundowner 2014 was an event to remember, with unreal jumping, an awesome atmosphere and fantastic friends, old and new! We didn't want it to end!



Grumpy Cat holding paws



Meep meep! Come here often?



Father to millions



Luke's best side?



The usual suspects...



"OF ALL THE BOOGIES AROUND THE WORLD, THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST. IT'S THE COMPLETE PACKAGE, EVERYTHING WAS SPOT ON!" Jim Scott from Scotland

WEST COAST SUNDOWNER

FREEFLYERS PERSPECTIVE *By Dicey Bergic*

Vvvvvrrrrr tick tick vvvrrrrrrb (plane noises) bbb vvvvvvvvv, this makes no sense, unless you have had the pleasure of waking up to the sound of a Cessna Caravan also waking up.

For nine consecutive days this sound filled the morning air of York; I could wake up to that every day. Needless to say, I didn't get on many first loads; enjoying the fact that everyday was a skydiving holiday. Plenty of cool, dedicated cats did however, and were easily visible from camp, cruising under canopy and there to greet me and everyone else heading down to a beautifully cooked brekkie each day.

Stepping out of camp each morning filled me with excitement and anticipation as to what awesome adventures and jumps awaited. Spoilt for choice, everyday the whiteboard displayed the coolest menu I've come across. Choices included, Head Up, beginner Angles, Star Crests, Head Down, Wingsuiting, inter Angles, Big-ways (flat and vertical), experienced everything, pretty much beginner everything, stuff for in-between too, and heaps more with rad international and Aussie coaches. Then it was just a race to your coach of choice, hand over your ticket and get manifested for fun times!

It was surreal to look around the hangar and realise that pretty much everyone there was a true dinks skydiver, so many like-minded people, free spirits and larrikins. All ready to make Sundowner the experience they had worked towards, craved and envisioned. Every day opened my eyes to what makes our sport so unique and the people involved in it so special. Many new friends were made by everyone – in the skies, on the packing mat, relaxing on the beanbags under the giant (sometimes flying black spider), and of course at the dungeon.

Then there was the jumping. It's not every day that we are given the opportunity to share the skies with the world's best – who are happy to lead a mini Angle for the new kids on the block, take a newbie for a B-Rel, join a couple of passionate young freeflyers for a Head Down sunset jump or run hard with the big kids. It was encouraging and super refreshing to have such guidance and effort put in by such established and admired people in our sport, all at York, W.A., Australia, insane!

Coaching was craved by everyone, all keen to learn and improve and the coaches delivered, taking the time to answer questions and help us progress. It gave me an insight into how real and possible it is to achieve the goals we set out for ourselves, and the importance of enjoying every jump along the way.

"I'M NOT HUNGRY ANYMORE." *Trav Wade*

The nine days and nights of Sundowner were epic, simply gathering that many people together was such an awesome and intense experience. It wasn't just the jumpers that made it wicked, everyone from the kick arse manifest crew, racking up the loads like there was no tomorrow; the super efficient kitchen crew that made us all forget that we would have to cook for ourselves again; the friendly pilots and ground crew who kept the planes running and us on the right loads; the nuts MC who made everyone laugh; the wicked editing on the day tapes for making us all look like superstars; the rad bar peeps for keeping us lubricated; the wicked party nights for getting us in the mood; the local York drop zone crew that got the grass green for lazing on and the pool fresh for chilling in. Really it's not just a bunch of skydivers that make a Boogie, it's the skydiving community, it's bigger than us! The organisers and Skydive the Beach and Beyond York delivered!

Sundowner was a holiday/Boogie for me like no other – jumping, dancing, eating, sleeping, relaxing, jumping, heaps of smiling, laughing, heaps of "good mornings", more jumping/dancing. So much fun! I learnt and progressed, made memories, friends, and the nine days flew by! By surrounding yourself with good people, good things happen! Thanks everyone for the happy times and I look forward to seeing you all next year! Bring on Sundowner 2015! RAD!

"IT'S THE BEST BOOGIE I'VE EVER BEEN TO!" *Chloe O'Brien*



I said hi-five, damnit!



50 way attempt: so close!

REL PERSPECTIVE *By Pete Allum*

I imagine that when the organisers were planning the West Coast Sundowner they said "How can we entice as many Freefly, Wingsuit and FS jumpers in Australia to a Boogie 100km east of Perth?" The answer must have gone something like this:

- Pick twelve top coaches.
- Put it on a drop zone that has the facilities and aircraft to make it happen.
- Add a Dungeon, far from the bunkrooms and skydiving operation so that people can party as loud and as long as they want.

In addition to the above, Skydive the Beach and Beyond York got the operation going at 07:30 every day allowing you to jump as hard as you want with whomever you want.

Each morning on the whiteboard you could see what the coaches were up to, so you could pick anything from basic FS, Big-way skills, dynamic FS, basic Head Up/Down, Angles, Big-way Flat/Freefly, Wingsuit advanced/basic, etc.

On three separate days during the week they also flew three formation loads for each discipline. The first up was the FS jumpers who narrowly escaped building a 50-way (by only one slot!), which would have made the State Record.

Then the freeflyers had a go, learning Big-way skills in preparation for an upcoming National Record. Finally, the wingsuiters also tried for a record, coming incredibly close on the last attempt.

Although no records were broken, everyone enjoyed flying with multiple aircraft and learnt a massive amount. I have no doubt that subsequent attempts will benefit from the experience gained by these efforts.

This was my second trip to W.A. for Sundowner and the jumpers and organisers made it even more memorable than the last, thank you!



Je m'appelle Domi, ca va?



Red Bull gives you magical head-down powers

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TUNNEL MISCONCEPTIONS

By Jonathan Townsager, IBA Trainer T2, APF 'C' Certificate

RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU'VE BEEN IN A WIND TUNNEL!

Those of you sitting in coffee shops or on public transportation with your hands up may be feeling a little silly, but everyone else is missing out. Seriously, if you haven't tried indoor skydiving yet, you need to get yourself to the tunnel!

The sport of skydiving is relatively new, however, its short history is full of innovation and ingenuity. One of those innovations is the vertical wind tunnel; and it is fast becoming popular with those who want to enjoy all the fun of freefall without the little nuisances like parachutes or a fear of death.

I know, I know, you like the thrill that comes with actually jumping out of a plane and having to save your life at the end. But surely, whether you're a flatty, a freeflyer, a wingsuiter, a competition pro swooper, a turkey, a CREW flyer, a BASE jumper, or you just love Hop 'n' Pop's, it is all about that one unifying joy; falling... through... the... air! (... in a controlled manner). And what better place to hone those skills than inside the safe walls of a comfy sixteen-foot tunnel?

I often wonder why more skydivers aren't at the tunnel. Then I think about all the incorrect assumptions/tunnel lore I've heard on the packing mat since I became a skydiver. If you need convincing, just look at the top flyers in the sport and ask them how much tunnel time they've done.

Let's clear up some of the common misconceptions about the progression:

BELLY IS BORING

For skydivers who've passed their B-Rels and begun freeflying, having to go back and learn Belly in the tunnel can be extremely annoying. This, I feel, is due to a limited view of what freeflying actually is. For most, it means flying vertically in the sky with maybe a dangly Angle here and there. But in reality, freeflying is just what the name proposes. Flying free. To me that means using all the parts of your body to manipulate your flight. Not just a few. So Belly is part of freeflying. I'm not talking about the specific precision of RW. I'm talking freeflying your belly. Learning to Belly fly properly and using all the little parts, expanding your range of motion, will only make you an even stronger freeflyer. This brings us to Back fly.

BACK FLY IS FOR CHUMPS

OH MY GOSH! Fish outta water! Turtle on its back! Yes, Back fly can be extremely frustrating and disorientating, especially to a flyer who has only done Belly before. But this body position has much more to it than just being a necessary evil for learning higher-skilled Freefly manoeuvres in the tunnel such as Sit fly or Head Down. Back fly is freeflying. A bold statement maybe but what can I say, I'm a radical thinker! What I mean is, there are so many transferable skills in Back flying. Skills transfer from one orientation to another all the time. For instance, learning to

de-arch your chest to control fall rate in Belly, will be used later in outface Head Up carving and layouts. In Back fly, the position is so close to Sit fly. You can also teach leg work, torso control and arms in Back fly that will be virtually the same as when the body moves to a vertical position in sit. Do not forget Back fly! It will teach you so much. When freeflying properly, you will be moving in and out of Back fly all the time.

SIT FLY IS HARD

Kid, you ain't seen nothin' yet. Learning to Sit fly is easy if the proper tools are there from learning to Back fly. If you're struggling in Sit, play around on your back some more. Get comfortable, move your head around. When you change your visual perspective, you gain a different awareness of the wind on your body. Try back Carving, spending a little extra time in lower speeds, moving body parts and exploring range of motion will speed up the process ahead of you.

I'VE LEARNED TO SIT FLY IN STATIC FORM, NOW I AM A FREEFLYER

True, Sit fly is fun and makes you feel like you've finally progressed to something cool. However, it isn't everything. Most coaches/tunnel instructors will let you learn Head Down on the net after you've learned how to control your six points of motion (up, down, left and right turns, forward, backward) and controlled at least one Sit-to-Sit transition. But this is not the end of Sit fly. Sit fly is way more than just the basics. It's about flying the wind on your legs and back, and truly sitting on the wind. You should be exploring different leg shapes in an effort to remove your arms from supporting your weight. This way, you can take docks and learn to Stand fly. Also, you should challenge yourself to fly in odd, asymmetrical shapes to improve your balance and awareness of the wind on your body. Try Side flying, Knee flying or Head Up Daffy. This doesn't mean you shouldn't move on to Head Down if your instructor is ok with it, but just don't forget how fun the other stuff is and that having fun will make you a mega flyer!

THE TUNNEL IS JUST A TOOL

"A driving range to a golf course", is how I once likened it for someone. And yes, for most skydivers, the tunnel has one purpose: as a training tool. But I've changed my mind and I end up challenging this thought model every time a skydiver/virgin tunnel flyer shows up to fly. I was not a skydiver when I started tunnel instructing. To me, the tunnel was a huge toy, like a trampoline; it even has a trampoline in it! I challenge all skydivers to come and play! We always talk about how we are just big kids. If you can let go of preconceived notions of progress and just come have a good time, you'll find yourself learning faster than you thought. It's a mind game, a mode of thought. Play is learning.



To show how much we value your commitment, we've created the FREQUENT iFLYER programme. It helps you get more value from your tunnel time so you can train longer and stay at the top of your game. Get straight up to speed at downunder.iflyworld.com/what-is-ifly/iflyer-community

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP

FOR iFLYERS

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FREQUENT iFLYER



EVENTS CALENDAR

<http://downunder.iflyworld.com/eventscalendar>

Sunday Sessions from 6pm – on selected Sundays

Come on down to iFLY for a bit of a "sesh" and hang out. Each session we will dial it up differently to bring the party - whether it's free food, DJ or general craziness.

Scrambles

A fun fuelled night for skydivers as FLYERS of all levels are randomly

brought together in teams of 4 to compete against each other to find who has what it takes to be the best at 4-way formation flying!!

Junior iFLYER Program

iFLY Downunder has launched a Junior iFLYER program every Wednesday and Sunday which offers budding young enthusiasts the opportunity to sign up to a 10 week

term of coaching at only \$90 for 5 minutes.

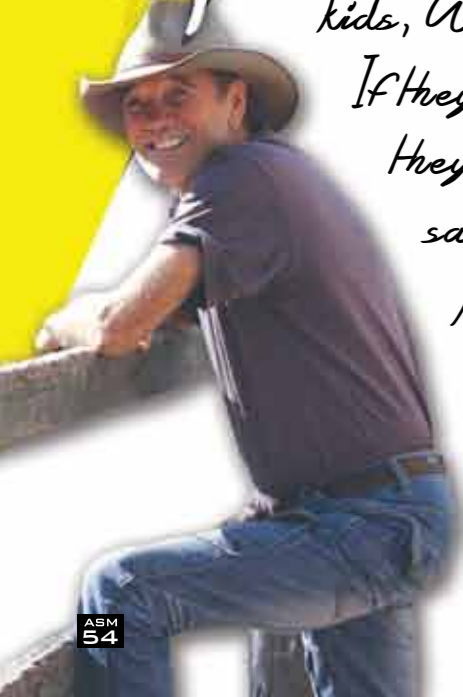
Coach Nights – every Thursday! Look out for camps with international coaches throughout the year and our experienced instructor's monthly events.

Book your tunnel time now at iflydownunder.com.au or call 1300 366 364



Skydiving Legend

Most drop zones have a lot of the same things: manifest, planes, windsock, bar, skydivers, partners, kids, Whuffos. If they're lucky, they might have a sauna, swimming pool or deck. But only one Australian drop zone has a Sooty.



Sooty Standring and Hillman Farm Skydivers

By Jo Parkinson

Brian "Sooty" Standring is, without a doubt, an Australian Skydiving legend. If you haven't met and/or partied with Sooty in the past 40 years, where have you been? He has been a constant presence at Hillman Farm Skydivers since before the old World War II runway was cleared and the Club was born in 1975. Many skydivers in Australia, and around the world, know and love Sooty and were devastated to hear of his hard landing at the Hillman Farm Mumbles Meet in July 2014 during the Accuracy competition. Sooty got a ride in a yellow chopper to Perth, some broken bits, some bleeding bits, his head was knocked about; and he scared the hell out of those who love him. He's now home at the house he built with his wife, the love of his life, and now fulltime carer, Sheryl.

Sooty jumped as a member of the Hereford Park Club in England and after his 100th jump, joined the British Army Parachute Regiment aged 21. He graduated to their "Red Devils" Freefall Team in 1969. While a member of the Red Devils, Sooty became national Style and Accuracy champion, a judge for Style and Accuracy, clocked up 300 jumps training for the World Championship in North Carolina (where he did his 1,000th jump) and competed at the Oklahoma World Meet. In six years travelling the world with the Red Devils, Sooty travelled to and jumped in France (where they nicknamed him "Le Rocket" due to his insane tracking skills), Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, The Netherlands and Australia. He also toured in North Africa and Northern Ireland (in the midst of the troubles) with the Army.

Sooty moved to Australia in the early 1970s after finishing his time in the army and hasn't looked back. He jumped with Rockingham skydivers and was part of a 4-way team with Russell Thornton and Stan and Claude Morris.

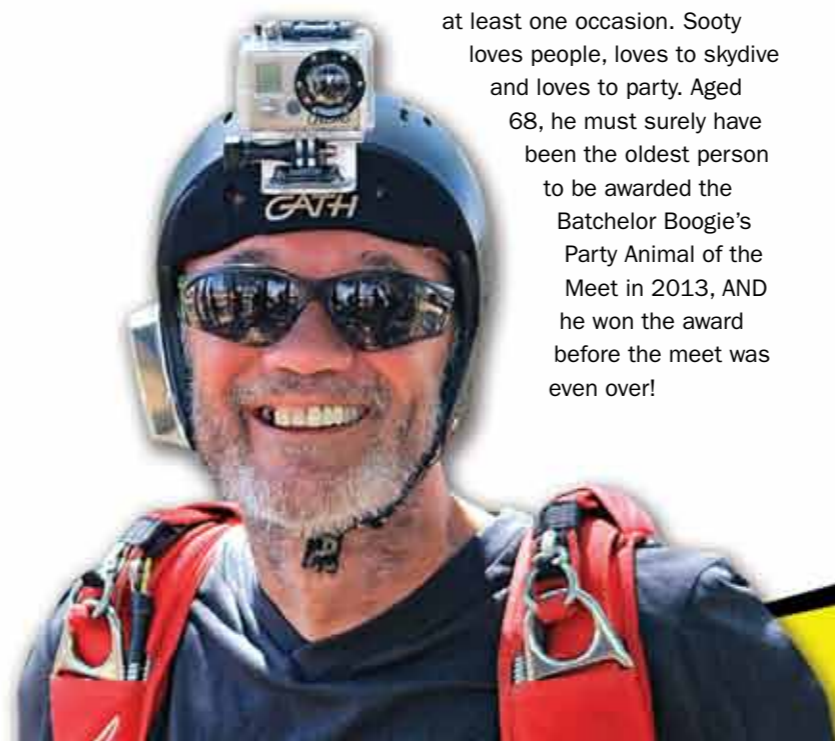
Sooty and a crew of like-minded skydivers went to Darkan in 1974 to start a new club. In the process they got into some strife with the APF for not going through the proper channels to start the club (but it wouldn't be a good Sooty story without some strife). When the Hillman Farm Skydiving Club got off the ground in 1975, Sooty, with his respected skydiving credentials, became the club's first Chief Instructor. The club bought their first plane, a 180, in 1976 for \$9,000 cash (no sponsors!), not a bad effort.

Over the past 40 years, Sooty has been Chief Instructor, Club President, Maintenance Man, Barman and all round Larrikin. He's won the Club's Sherman Award (awarded for the year's biggest F... up) on at least one occasion. Sooty loves people, loves to skydive and loves to party. Aged 68, he must surely have been the oldest person to be awarded the Batchelor Boogie's Party Animal of the Meet in 2013, AND he won the award before the meet was even over!

Sooty turned 69 in 2014 and his birthday party was a great night at The Farm. Typically, he out-partied all but his best mate, Bruce Jensen, and was still holding up the bar at 7am.

Over the course of Sooty's life, he has been a skydiver, power plant worker, caravan repairer, shearer, farrier, foster parent and carer for people with disabilities. Along the way, he has mentored and inspired so many people, including skydivers, with his wisdom and tales.

At the moment, Sooty isn't able to skydive or work. The Hillman Farm Skydiving Club community are planning some celebrations in 2015 to honour his legacy, larrikinism and hard work. Stay tuned on the Hillman Farm Skydivers Facebook page for details and put July 2015 in your diaries to come to W.A. for the Club's 40th birthday celebrations. By hook or by crook, I'll bet Sooty will be there, as always, keeping the fire alight – telling stories, holding up the bar and laughing.



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Safety matters



Compiled by:
Kim Hardwick
 APF Technical
 Officer

This is the paradox of skydiving. We do something very dangerous, expose ourselves to a totally unnecessary risk, and then spend our time trying to make it safer.

The following are taken verbatim from a selection of incidents occurring from August to October 2014, as reported to the APF and are published in the interest of safety education. (Note: In general, no tandem or student incidents are included.)

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, neither the APF nor ASM make any representations about their accuracy, as information is based on incident reports as received.

Note: Any 'Actions' stated are taken verbatim direct from the Incident Reports as received.

Please use these reports to think about what actions you might take to reduce your chances of having the same type of incident and/or how you might handle a similar situation. Discuss your options with the Chief Instructor/DZSO/qualified personnel at your drop zone.

AIRCRAFT/EXIT

Certificate A, 53 jumps. 4-way Linked exit. Funnelled. Person diving over top of formation and didn't let go of my left hand, twisting and dislocating my left shoulder. Broke formation and deployed Main. Unable to turn left. Right turns for approach. Normal flare and PLR. Popped shoulder back in on the ground. **Action:** Ensure formation members let go if formation goes bad.

Certificate C, 154 jumps. 16-way Angle dive. Was fourth last out. On run out rubbed rig on roof inside aircraft and closing pin was pulled out of the closing loop. Main opened ten seconds after exit while chasing formation. Normal opening, long canopy ride. Good landing on drop zone. Closing loop was just changed and might have stretched. **Action:** Be more careful on climb out. Make sure closing loop is correct length and stays the correct length.

Certificate D x 2, 530 and 440 jumps. Wingsuit formation with some people wearing smoke flares. Two jumpers activated smoke inside aircraft during the climb-out. Plane filled up with smoke and also burned/melted some parts of the carpet on the floor. Jumpers left the aircraft. Pilot knew about smoke flares but was still fairly distressed, as he had no idea what went wrong in the back of the aircraft. On descent smoke started clearing from the cabin. Normal landing. **Action:** Tell DZSO that smoke will be used on jumps so a safe plan can be made up with everyone involved. Better more intensive training in the use of smoke. NEVER pull the smoke pin while flare is still inside aircraft.

Certificate F, 12,126 jumps. Door was not open fully. Caught Reserve pin on exit. Bent Reserve pin. Main opening non-eventful. **Action:** Ensure door is fully opened to prevent bumping on its lower part on exit.

FREEFALL

Certificate D, 303 jumps. Angle skydive. Jumper collided hard with another jumper in freefall. **Action:** From jumper: "Better look-out." From DZSO: The mentality of showing up at the aircraft with no plan at all and then just put up a big Angle dive needs to change. Too many problems have been caused at this drop zone with these types of jumps.

Instructors and Load Masters have been asked to keep a closer eye on these type of jumps. All jumpers need to be made aware of the dangers of this type of skydive.

ASM Issue71, Vol 3, 2014, Safety Matters pages published a focus on safety tips for the horizontal skydive disciplines.

If you don't have a copy and want one, contact Kim at the APF. technical@apf.com.au

Certificate D, 430 jumps. 3-way Freefly. GoPro mount broken-off after a second jumper hit it with their foot. **Action:** Ensure mount is secure.

Certificate E, 850 jumps. Instructor's GoPro camera was kicked-off by his B-Rel student during a Cat dock.

Certificate E, 1,425 jumps. Jumper lost her altimeter off her wrist in freefall. **Action:** Check better strap.

DEPLOYMENTS/MALFUNCTIONS

Certificate D, 205 jumps. First Wingsuit jump. All good. Pitched at 5,000ft, PC in tow. Waited 5-6 seconds. Nothing. Cut-away and deployed Reserve. Main released during EP. Landed good on drop zone. **Action:** The rig used was a Demo rig. PC used was too small for this rig. Was accidentally swapped with other Demo rig. All worked fine on freefall jumps but probably not enough drag to be used for Wingsuit jumps. Pilot chutes changed to the correct rig.

Certificate E, 5,326 jumps. Pilot chute in tow caused by PC twisted and tied up over kill line due to getting into the burble behind wingsuit. Tried to manually extract pin, failed. Cut away. Manually extracted and cleared Main. Opened Reserve, landed well off drop zone. Bridle is 11ft. PC is 30 inch. Container has open corners. PC handle is PVC pipe. **Action:** Gear already configured for wingsuit jumps. Will further research deployment techniques.

Certificate E, 534 jumps. Deployed stable at 3,500ft, felt no snatch force of Main/Pilot Chute. Re-checked deployment handle for lazy throw. Not present. Cutaway at 2,000ft. Skyhook deployed Reserve. Reserve open at 1,500ft. Main might just have started opening when cutaway was pulled. Main canopy was found out of deployment bag. **Action:** Throw pilot chute hard every time.

Certificate F, 4,064 jumps. Open at 2,000ft after 30-way FS. Canopy opened spinning. Stopped spin with rear riser. Started stowing slider but spin started again. Cutaway at 1,300ft. Couldn't find Reserve handle straight away because of glare through helmet visor. Found it after a few seconds and pulled it. (Vigil activated but loops weren't cut.) Under Reserve between 150-200ft. Released brakes, turned and landed on drop zone. Scared a lot of people on the ground. **Action:** Spoken to DZSO about procedures. 1. Release both brakes if Main opens in a spin with no obvious reason and still high enough. 2. Stick to minimum safe height to start EP. 3. Locate both handles before cutaway.

Certificate E, 3,900 jumps. Jumper was outside camera for a Tandem. Opening shock was much harder than normal and canopy immediately began spinning violently to the right with line twists. Altimeter displayed 4,000ft so decided to try to remedy the situation and successfully kicked out of the twists. Canopy remained in a fast turn. Noticed that left hand brake line had snapped just above the locking loop. Released opposite brake. Flew canopy

conservatively on rear risers and landed/flared using rear risers. Fell over but landing was ok. **Action:** After inspecting the gear it was deduced that the brake line had fouled on the left front riser swoop loop. The swoop loops are Javelin style from mid-2000 and have a lip just below the lower stitching that could snag a line during deployment. New risers with better designed swoop loops have been ordered.

Certificate D, 336 jumps. First CRW coached jump. Rushed exit and deployed unstable (on back). Canopy opened with line-over on the left and was slowly spinning. Managed to stop spin but canopy became very unstable and started spinning again. Throughout the whole process I was in radio contact with my CRW coach. I decided to start my EP, grabbed both handles and pulled. My risers didn't release. At this stage my coach told me over the radio that my Reserve pilot chute was out. I reached for my risers and tried to shake them off which they did. In retrospect I neglected to pull cutaway handle properly the whole way out before pulling the Reserve. When I reached up for the risers I pulled them far enough out to complete the cutaway. Under Reserve by 8,000ft. Landed at the drop zone. My coach followed my canopy and landed 5km off drop zone.

Probable causes of line twist: First time I packed a bagless rig and my unstable pull. **Action:** Practice my EP. When packing a new system, make sure it's done properly. Don't rush the throw, exit stable.

Certificate D, 794 jumps. Normal deployment at 3,500ft. Collapsed slider, stowed behind head. Attempted to unstow brakes but one would not release. Noticed one of the slider strings was caught in brake line excess. Kept canopy flying straight while trying to free the string/brake with no success. Cutaway at 1,800ft and deployed Reserve. Landed on drop zone. **Action:** Always double over brake line excess in keepers to avoid snag hazard.

UNDER CANOPY/LANDING

Certificate E, 1,183 jumps. Canopy: Velocity 90.

New jumper at drop zone. Jumper was seen flying in half brakes making it back to the landing area. (Had plenty of time to select an alternate landing zone, but chose to keep trying to make to Main landing zone.) Jumper made final turn onto landing too late. No flare. Hit feet first and attempted PLR. Sustained broken ribs. **Action:** Land in alternate landing area on other side of runway next time.

Certificate C, 145 jumps. First load of the day, wind checks on the way up were 20kts West at 2,000ft. Further wind checks up to 8,000ft indicated it dropped off to variable.

Initial spot was 0.6 West running North 0.8 short. Due to the winds dropping off at altitude, spot was changed to 0.4 West.

Upon opening under canopy the winds appeared to be stronger than indicated. Lightly loaded parachutes faced into wind and backed up to ocean.

The GCA noticed and immediately went into action for potential water landing and activated the planned emergency procedures which involved:

- Jet ski launched, ground support to the beach.
- Westpac rescue helicopter called.
- Surf life savers notified.

Jumper followed correct trained water landing procedures – landed outside the breakers, cutaway and climbed out of her equipment. A surfer reached her within 2-3 minutes, the jet ski and helicopter were at the scene within 4-5 minutes. She was taken to shore by the surfer, with the helicopter overhead, and ground support took care of her.

The jet ski retrieved her equipment. Whilst returning to the drop zone the Vigil fired (the rig was never fully submerged).

Action: In eight years this is our first water landing incident. Favouring a more westerly spot in these conditions may have prevented a water landing, however she did initially fly in the wrong direction, putting her over the water.

In future if the forecast winds are strong from the west then more experienced people only on the first load. However in this situation the forecast winds were not as strong as the actual wind.

LANDING OFF

Reprinted with permission from USPA's Parachutist October 2014. <http://parachutistonline.com/>

Almost every skydiver will have to deal with an off-field landing eventually. It might be the first jump or jump 10,000, but most of us will miss the drop zone landing area at some point in our skydiving careers. Visit almost any drop zone and you'll find jumpers with loving nicknames based on their colourful exploits while landing off: Sparky, Chevy, Tree Hugger... the list is seemingly endless.

Skydivers are much more comfortable landing in the familiar and easy-to-handle landing areas of their home drop zones than they are landing off. Even if the off-field landing area is larger than the drop zone's landing area, it can be a scary experience.

USPA's Skydiver's Information Manual Section 5-1 offers some helpful tips:

- Avoid if possible
- Decide early
- Plan the canopy descent
- Check the alternate area carefully
- Have an "out" for your alternate area
- Use proper canopy control
- Respect property and property owners

Off-field landings are almost always the result of a jumper's inattention during exit or freefall. Before you even board the plane, you should know what the winds aloft are doing, what the jump run will be and where over the ground you should expect to leave the airplane and open your parachute.

You can avoid exiting the plane much too far away from the drop zone by simply knowing how to spot and looking down before exiting. Ask for a go-around if you are too far out. Additionally, if you are part of a group and not able to personally spot before exiting, check the spot soon after you exit. If it is safe to do so, you can break off sooner and deploy higher if your group is a long distance from its intended landing area. The extra time under canopy might allow you to make it back. However, keep in mind that on some group skydives, sticking to the freefall and breakoff plan is more critical to everyone's safety than making it back to the intended landing area.

Your first task after ensuring you have a fully controllable canopy is to assess your position over the ground, select a landing area and formulate a descent plan. If you can land in the main landing area ... great! But if you are far away, you need to select an alternate area you can reach. At this point, forget about trying to get closer to the drop zone and focus on finding a safe alternate space that will work for you based on your current position and the wind direction.

Once you have selected the landing area, choose the best landing spot within it and plan your descent and the pattern you will use to land on your intended target. Your landing spot should be in an open space that will provide the

smoothest air for landing. If you land just downwind of trees or other obstacles, there is a good chance you'll experience turbulence and possibly land hard. It is better to select a spot that is free of upwind obstacles. Landing with a level wing should take priority over landing into the wind, but for best results, your pattern should allow you to face into the wind and land with a level wing.

As you continue toward your selected alternate spot, keep looking for other landing area options, and scan your selected landing area carefully. If you discover obstacles that you could not see from a higher altitude, you will need to plan a landing that avoids the obstacles or select an entirely new location. The more options you create for yourself, the better.

Braked flight and braked landings can be a valuable tool to use for off-field landings, so frequently practice flying in brakes to make the technique second-nature. By slowing down your forward speed and descent rate, you give yourself more time to set up your landing pattern, and you'll conserve altitude during turns.

Once you have landed, be respectful of the property and its owner. If you damaged any crops or property, report it to the land owner and make arrangements for repairs. Avoid landing in fields with cows or other livestock, if possible. Startling a herd could lead to an animal injuring itself (or you, for that matter)!

Off-field landings can happen at any time. Having a solid plan in place and using good judgment will help ensure you return to the drop zone in one piece and without a colourful nickname. After all, who wants to go through the rest of his skydiving career known as "Goat Slayer"?

Jim Crouch | D-16979
USPA Director of Safety & Training

Certificate A, 65 jumps. Canopy: Sabre2 170.

Unsuccessful freefall with jumper going low on the formation, canopy control was good with a good set-up and aiming for the pit. Jumper flared too high then let the toggles up whilst reaching down with one straight leg, which took the impact of the diving canopy. Sustained a fracture to top and bottom of fibular. Three days later, talked to jumper who said that as he had had an unsuccessful jump, his mind was on that and not focused on landing the canopy.

Action: Proper landing instruction to be given.

Certificate B, 81 jumps. Canopy: Hurricane 170.

Aggressive toggle turn at 1,200ft to lose some altitude. Turn caused line slack, line twist and partial collapse of the canopy. Canopy kept spinning, descent rate was increasing. No control. Cutaway at 1,000ft. Felt RSL deploying Reserve before Reserve handle pulled. Reserve fully open between 400-500ft. Landed ok at the drop zone. **Action:** Spoken to DZSO and canopy coach about canopy handling techniques. Also drop zone has run a seminar because this was the 2nd incident like this in as many years. We will run these seminars on a regular basis. We will also make this a part of the briefing when people start jumping canopies that are higher loaded than student canopies.

Certificate A, 47 jumps. Canopy: Sabre 150. Jumper was making a descent at 6.30pm with minimal light, wearing tinted goggles. This made it hard to see the wind indicator. He landed fast downwind rather than the upwind direction he thought he was going. Sustained a broken finger. **Action:** Retraining given by DZSO about the use of tinted goggles during low light conditions.

Certificate D, 270 jumps. Canopy: Sabre 150. Observed landing into wind. At 30ft canopy bumped around due to turbulence and sat up momentarily without losing height, soon after surging towards the ground. No flare was observed, base of spine impacted ground after heels of feet touching down initially. Impact was hard and Jumper remained on the ground winded. Ambulance was called. Sustained fractured L1 vertebrae and surrounding soft tissue injury.

Certificate D, 272 jumps. Canopy: Lightning 176.

Uneventful CRW jump. Broke off, did a few practice flares as I had never landed a CRW canopy before. Set-up and landing pattern were routine. On finals I was drifting to the right so during the flare I compensated with a bit of left toggle. Slid in the landing on my backside and dug the left hand into the ground while finishing the flare, resulting in a broken hand.

MISCELLANEOUS

Certificate E, 11,600 jumps. Tandem Jump. Inverted 3-ring on left hand riser. On opening, the yellow bendix cutaway cable was pulled through both the cutaway housing grommet and the riser grommet, and the riser loop was damaged. Main canopy otherwise good. TM was unable to cutaway. Tandem pair landed without incident.



CHECK YOUR GEAR

Excerpt from Skydive Mag's 'Gear Check' article by Brian Krause:

"When I am standing in the loading area, I naturally find myself scanning everyone's gear. I am looking for chest straps, RSLs and pilot chutes tucked in the spandex pockets. I look at my pins and pilot chute when I pick my rig up from the packers, as it is my responsibility to make sure that it is correct – and ultimately my life on the line. I always have someone take a look at my Main pin before I leave the aircraft.

I don't want to be too longwinded, so I will wrap it up now. Check your gear, check your friends' gear and check the young jumper's gear that is getting out solo. We can all do a better job of looking out for each other!"

CHEST STRAP ROUTING

Reprinted with permission from USPA's Parachutist October 2014. <http://parachutistonline.com/>

Pic by Rory Corrigan

A jumper caught this incorrectly routed chest strap (the end of the strap does not pass through the friction adaptor) on a friend's rig as he was about to board the aircraft for a jump. The strap almost certainly would have slipped loose in freefall, which may have allowed the jumper to fall from his harness. Incorrectly routed chest straps are one of the most common mistakes that jumpers catch during gear checks. Every jumper should perform a "check of threes" by checking the three handles (Main-deployment, cutaway and Reserve-deployment handles) and three points of attachment (chest strap and two leg straps) at least three times (before donning gear, before boarding and before exit) prior to making a skydive.





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With **Rob Libeau**, APF

Are we there yet? To the end of the year, I mean! It has been a big year... but, I am really pleased to share this final article for 2014.

From competition to fun jumping, we are now beginning to see the benefits of APF programs and Sport Development funded events.

Starting with the Fi Fund (Sport Development Fund), in the last year, skydivers around Australia benefited from 66 funding applications.

There have been 54 Level 1 (up to \$1,500), eight Level 2 (up to \$5,000) and four Level 3 applications approved. This is a great result and a credit to all the volunteers that organise these events and to the skydivers that attend them. Fi Funds are available for events that provide coaching and benefits to skydivers all over Australia.

Not only do these events provide great opportunities for everyday skydivers to learn new skills and try new disciplines, the coaching events funded can also provide some of the best Australian and international coaches for our elite athlete's, and are a major contributor to our athletes' success overseas!

Of course, the teams and individuals need more than coaching; they need jumps, tunnel, commitment, a plan and plenty of support. The Performance Based Funding and the 50 hours tunnel purchased from iFly helps in this area and over \$200,000 was spent on our Australian Team this year (funding is allocated based on results at the Nationals). Where did it all go, I hear you ask? Great results for Australia at the Worlds, I say!

We saw a Silver Medal for Oookoonono (Michael Vaughan, Jules McConnel and Crash Bennett) and a Gold Medal in Zone Accuracy (Canopy Piloting) for Keven Walters. But, as great a result as that is, even better, we saw great movement up the world-ranking ladder with plenty of improvement from everyone on the team. Personal Bests, Aussie records, we saw it all in 2014!

It has been a great year in all other areas as well! Member numbers are strong, programs are humming and new projects are being launched. Next year we will see Classic Accuracy and Sport Accuracy included in the 2015 Australian Masters Games. So, if you have a Display Pro and are at least 30 years old, you are invited to participate.

There will be over 14,000 competitors and 1,000s of spectators too! This is good for parachuting!

The Australian Masters Games will be in Adelaide from Saturday 3 October to Saturday 10 October, 2015 – lock those dates away and book

your accommodation. Updates and registration details will be available soon at the APF competitions website or, keep an eye out for the E-News Broadcasts.

Next year will also see the Trans-Tasman E-League kick-off in February. New Zealand has already entered two teams and as there are limited teams allowed to enter, get it on and register your team. Don't forget, you can get up to \$1,000 back to pay for a coach and camera slots. Go to the APF competitions and events pages on the APF website to get all the latest news, registration forms and a look at the awesome sponsors that are providing mega prizes for the competition.



(Thanks to iFly, NZ Aerosports, Chuting Star, Terminal Sports, Deepseed, Cookie Composites, The APF and NZPF.)

Well, that about wraps up 2014. I will see you in Nagambie for the Nationals! Oh, I almost forgot, the 2015 Technical Conference will return to Penrith in 2015; a little earlier than usual due to the busy events calendar. I hope to see you there too on May 5 and 6.

Keven Walters wins GOLD at World Canopy Piloting Championships. Aussie's breaking records!

Congratulations to Keven Walters who has won a gold medal at the Fifth FAI World Canopy Piloting Championships. Keven produced a score of 277.492 in Zone Accuracy beating off New Zealand opponent, Kieran Baldwin (270.328). Keven, who had a great Meet has also smashed the Aussie Speed Record by slashing over ten seconds from the Australian Record of 2.346 seconds over the course; previously held by Ben Lewis. Keven broke the record in Round 3.

"I'm super stoked...!" said Keven. "... Conditions were in my favour and I happened to hit the turn right. Woops, sorry Ben!" the humble Keven continued.

Congratulations to Andrew Woolf who broke the Australian Open Distance record at the 5th FAI World Canopy Piloting Championships, Zephyrhills, 4th November, 2014. The new record now stands at 161.37m. The previous record, also held by Andy was a distance of 149.84m broken at the 4th DIPCC on 3rd Dec 2012.

There are also massive Congratulations to the Aussie girls that completed Double World Records set Friday morning 3rd Dec, 2014 in Perris Valley with a 2-point 117-way. This is the current Largest Sequential Formation Skydive and the Largest Female Sequential Formation Skydive! Congratulations Pam Riggs, Tracey Basman, Heather Little, Shirley Cowcher, Riss Anderson, Millie Spinoza, Helen Mahony, Laurence Garceau and Melissa Harvie









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What happens after an APF Technical Conference?

By Richard McCooley, Safety and Training Manager

AROUND 200 MEMBERS CAME UP WITH MANY NEW CONCEPTS AND SUGGESTIONS DURING THE APF CONFERENCE HELD IN SYDNEY LAST MAY. EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENS FROM THERE?

During the event, separate workshops were held to cover most disciplines within the sport. These workshops were small and gave attendees the chance to raise potential issues, make suggestions and propose changes. The workshop convenors allowed discussion then came up with a consensus representing the views of those at the workshop.

Once a conference finishes, attendees go away and often don't see much follow-up. Actually, ASO's, AIE's as well as fulltime APF staff are involved in various research, assessment and review of the outcomes.

As Safety and Training Manager, it is my job to drive this and ensure we bring each recommendation to finality – some of these changes required funding by the APF, others required regulatory change.

Here is a very brief summary of the 2014 workshop recommendations and an update of the progress on each of these issues:

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS
Static Line workshop: Sam McKay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 8 of S-L training table to be defined by Jumpmaster Exit heights to be inserted into training table as per PIM APF to consider funding an international Instructor Assisted Deployment (IAD) Examiner to train APF Instructors to trial IAD as an alternative APF student training method 	Drafted into TOM. Drafted into TOM. Canadian IAD Examiner trained Aussie instructors in November.
Tandem Workshop: Mark Gazley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive response to review of Certificate Class (A-F) vs. Display rating Review of requirement for TM emergency procedures 98% agreement to stay with 100 minimum Tandem jumps before allowed to jump with HandCam 	Compliance Manager reviewing this. Needs action. No action required.
B-Rel/RW Workshop: Gary Nemirovski <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too early to determine impact of reduction from 10 to 6 stages but generally not considered negative Need to continually improve engagement of novices Consider how tunnel time fits in to B-Rel 	Monitor. Continuing. Needs action.
Freely presentation: Issy Dore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to determine requirements to be a F.F. coach More effort, time, funding into coach mentoring/train the trainer programs 	NPRM. On-going.
Wingsuit workshop: Roger Hugelshoffer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the existing W.S. first flight (crest) jumpers – do they meet the new requirements for W.S. crest? Artistic WS has now been included in the APF Sporting Code as a full APF sanctioned Nationals event. 	Completed.
Packer 'A' presentation: Phil Thamm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a MARD repack mandatory (e.g. Skyhook) (i.e. Main Activated Reserve Deployment) Have Phil's PPT course outline adopted as a guide to a standardised APF Packer 'A' Course 	Completed.



CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS
AFF workshop: John Kinton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at an APF nation-wide system for 'monitoring' transient jumpers – those that move around (including those who are uncurrent or could be unsafe). How to advise the receiving drop zone? Opening heights raised in AFF training table. 	No immediate solution found. Drafted into TOM.
Tandem Harness Destruction presentation: Joe Chitty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under testing of passenger harnesses (6-8 years old) Main lift web failure showed 56-74% strength degradation, i.e. 1/2 to 3/4 strength reduction Student harness must go with the container for six-monthly inspection Suggestion for a student harness separate 'packing card' or log separate Consider washing harnesses regularly, particularly in harsh (sweaty and sandy) environments 	Director Rigging to action procedure to have student harness inspections six monthly. Education.
Chief Instructor Forum <p>a) Closed session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally all happy with APF CI's want more say Consider IB's to be Tandem Examiners A CI online forum page to be developed for APF website Can Councils fund CI's attendance at conference? <p>b) Open Session (APF attendance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APF to investigate legal requirements for workers acting as contractors (vs. employees) Restricted Display requirements to be reviewed CI 'instructor lookup' to include medicals for instructors 	Remaining with IA's. Needs action. Refer local Councils. CEO researching. Compliance Manager reviewing. New IT system planned for 2015.
Area Instructor Examiners Forum: Ralf Jaeger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loophole in Op Regs (7.6) on Tandem Instructor currency requirements – close by making similar to AFF currency 	NPRM.

As you can see, six months down the track and many of the recommendations have been implemented, many are being implemented and a few still require action on our part.

The recommendations that require regulatory change have been drafted by the APF Office and are undergoing the APF Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) process. This gives all members a final chance to consider the implications of a rule change and make comment via the APF website. Thereafter, the APF Board will make the final decision on regulatory changes.

The recommendations that required updates to the TOM have been drafted and inserted into the TOM and will be published once we have enough change to warrant this action.

We encourage all members to participate in technical conferences. This is the chance for members, particularly instructors, to have their say and push for change. Even just the discussions that take place in the bar or over dinner are an important part of debating issues.

2015 is likely to see the Technical Conference back in Sydney during early May. We are also planning separate local technical workshops to be held within some regions. Perth, Adelaide and Cairns have each shown interest in hosting these local events in the hope more packers, GCA's and instructors will attend a local event and have their say!



NEW POSITION - SAFETY & TRAINING MANAGER

Richard McCooley has been appointed to a new role as Safety & Training Manager based in the APF office. This new role is part of the operational plan to bring the Safety and Training responsibilities in-house, so as to add consistency to these important areas. Richard will work closely with the Director Instructors and the Director Safety during a transition period.

Richard started skydiving with Claude Gillard at Labertouche Victoria.

He is a current Static-Line, AFF and Tandem Instructor; and recently completed his Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. He was most recently Chief Instructor at Skydive the Beach Yarra Valley.

Richard was Director of Safety at National level; held the positions of ASO and examiner at area Council level; and has a Commercial Pilots Licence.

Outside of Skydiving, Richard has tertiary education in business with a major in marketing. He has held various general management positions with multinational companies both in Australia and China.



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- Camp 4: 10/08 - 14/08 Ekka
- Camp 5: 05/10 - 09/10 Labour Day
- Camp 6: 07/12 - 11/12 TSC

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Belge running a sneaky sit dock! Photo: Steve Fichett

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2014 NSW STATE MEET - MORUYA

By Julia Beck and Jules McConnel

IT'S ALWAYS A GREAT WEEKEND IN MORUYA WHEN THE CARAVAN COMES DOWN FROM WOLLONGONG, EVEN MORE SO WHEN JUMPERS TRAVELLED FROM ALL OVER N.S.W. TO ATTEND THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

NUMBERS WERE DOWN FROM LAST YEAR, BUT NEW EVENTS WERE ENTERED IN 4-WAY VFS AND SPORT ACCURACY, AND THE ATMOSPHERE WAS HIGH.

RECORDS MATCHED AND BROKEN: 4-WAY VFS TEAM 'FOCUS' EQUALLED THE AUSTRALIAN RECORD OF TWELVE POINTS IN ROUND 3 OF COMPETITION, AND 2-WAY CF TEAM 'WRAPCITY' SCORED THREE POINTS IN ONE OF THEIR ROUNDS. HERE'S HOW IT ALL PANNED OUT:

2-WAY NOVICE FS

Despite the absence of a Michael Vaughan team this year, the competition was still strong amongst the 2-way Novice FS crew. Home team favourites "Spalduo" performed strongly, closely followed by "Team Pete". Straight off his B-Rel's, Pete improved on every jump with housemate Richie by his side. By the end of the rounds, the points were so close that "Team Pete" broke the tie-breaker with "Spalduo", and took out the competition with a marvellous display of Rock Paper Scissors on the final afternoon.

4-WAY INTERMEDIATE FS

A full field of four teams presented for the ever popular 4-way Inter. event. Some teams even had the temerity to train beforehand! Crowd favourites "Disqualified" were in full pre-Nationals flight and clocked some awesome scores. Other teams were less prepared, having assembled the night before and still trying to work out what all the funny marks on the draw's diagrams meant. The competition was close at the top again but there was no competition for "Disqualified" who proved them capable of flying the N.S.W. flag come Nationals.

4-WAY OPEN FS

After some specky displays, and perhaps a funnelled exit or two, "Old Skool" showed the kids how it was done. Never letting a lack of competitive tension get to them, they consistently surprised themselves and the crowds

with respectable scores. Some would have settled for quiet smugness coming first and last at once: but not drop zone owner Paul "Poo" Smith, who declared, "It's my drop zone and I'll take my gold medal if I want to". No arguments there! Some of the 4-way kids kicked themselves for missing a guaranteed silver by switching draws – but there's always next year.

2-WAY CF

After a few CRW training camps, thanks to Jules in recent months, a fresh batch of CRW pups fronted three teams, pumped up and having no idea what they were in for. From the outset, "Wrapcity" won a reputation for not only having the most awesome team name in the whole competition, but for showing their dominance throughout. Proving that they weren't all talk, they lived up to the name in a thrilling face-to-face chat during a hectic round that made everyone in the replay room's butt tighten. The battle for silver was up to "The Hunters" and "Twister", where Twister's experience stood them in great stead and assured them the silver. N.S.W. will be cheering on "Wrapcity" when they front the Nationals – go guys!

Thanks to the N.S.W. Parachute Council and the APF for supporting the event.

Thanks Dean Brooke-Rerecich for judging the entire Meet single-handedly, with a calm demeanour and smile that never left his face – a true professional!



Caravan loading

"All I can say is, it was a great Meet. I could've been video for Disqualified and got a gold medal, however went with Rod White's scratch team; and while we came third, it was fantastic being part of it. What a great drop zone too." Ian "Robbo" Robertson (4-way Inter FS)

WINNERS

2-WAY NOVICE FS

Gold: "Team Pete" – Peta Thompson, Peter Wake, Steve Tonson (camera)

Silver: "Spalduo" – Bec Smith, Nick Bunfield, Richie Dronow (camera)

Bronze: "Sprocket" – Rod White, Clayton Crutch, Ian "Robbo" Robertson (camera)

4-WAY INTER FS

Gold: "Disqualified" – Max Glukhotsev, Jayden Lippers, Phong Nguyen, Mark Higgins, Adrian Lloyd (camera)

Silver: "NSPC" – Peta Thompson, Ivan Kljajic, Colin Parkinson, Daniel McKenna, Damien Theakstone (camera)

Bronze: "Rodness" – Rod White, Stefan "Sigi" Sigrist, Yijun Huang, Ian Robertson, Bill Harris (camera)

4-WAY OPEN FS

Gold: "Old Skool" – Paul "Poo" Smith, Gavin Telford, Dean Mustard, Steve Smith, Drew Lipinski (camera)

4-WAY OPEN VFS

Gold: "Focus" – Tina Muddle, Kieran James, Nathan Smith, Kyle Chick, Dan Smith (camera)

2-WAY CF

Gold: "Wrapcity" – Mike Watkins, Stami Donovan, Adam "Kestral" Phillips (camera)

Silver: "The Hunters" – Julia Beck, Daniel McKenna, Adam "Kestral" Phillips (camera)

Bronze: "Twister" – Stefan "Sigi" Sigrist, Gerard Vejrych, Bill Harris (camera)

SPORT ACCURACY

Gold: Chas Gutman

Silver: Yijun Huang

Bronze: Paul Munroe

"Undulating emerald green hills, gentle sea breezes (well at least on Saturday) and the turquoise waters of the Tasman, sparkling like shards of glass, made for a perfect backdrop for the State Championships at Moruya over the long weekend. Saturday's near perfect conditions saw fast climbs to height exiting from 14,000ft. The newish facilities at Skydive Oz provided shade, a cool retreat between jumps, delicious food and a well-deserved beverage at the end of the day. Sunday's weather was a little more challenging, but novices braved the conditions and some were rewarded with medals. New and old faces (especially Robbo's) competed in well-drilled or random teams, with success for some, but fun for all. Well done Poo and Jules ... another well organised and seamless event." Mark Higgins (4-way Inter FS)



Bronze CF Twister



Silver CF The Hunters



4-way Inter Silver NSPC



4-way Open Gold Old Skool

"Once you've been to one State Meet at Moruya, hosted by Skydive OZ, it becomes an annual event that you look forward to. What more could you ask for than a fun competition held at a well run, safe and friendly drop zone with spectacular coastal views and a laid back attitude." Rod White (2-way Novice FS and 4-way Inter FS)

"We kicked off the competition on the Sunday morning, with some tight competition between the top three. Unfortunately the wind blew in and we were forced on hold for the rest of the day. Bright and early next morning, we finished of the final two rounds, in perfect conditions.

At first I thought, "How hard could it be to consistently land inside a 15m circle?" Well, I got the hang of it towards the end, and only just missed out on a medal."

Matt Stevens (Sport Accuracy)



Hangar action



2-way Gold FS



CF Gold Wrapcity

2014 NSW STATE MEET - MORUYA



Gold 4-way Open Old Skool



Silver 4-way Inter FS NSPC



2-way CF The Hunters



Focus



Gold VFS 4-way Inter



2-way CF Twister



Bronze 4-way Inter Rodness



Old Skool Dirt Dive



2-way CF Wrapcity



Gold 4-way Inter Disqualified



2-way FS Sprocket

"One word to describe my first competition experience, extraordinary! Extraordinary people, in an extraordinary place, doing extraordinary things. Everyone took interest in the all the various disciplines. Encouragement everywhere. Totally awesome!"
Luke Sankey (2-way Novice FS)



2-way FS Spalduo



2-way FS Splitters



2-way FS Team Pete



Peta Thompson



Drew Lipinski reaching for beer



Sunset beer landings

"How bloody nice is the view at the moo! After driving the seven plus hours from Taree and just missing the sunset load, I looked forward to first load Friday morning. I don't think I really concentrated on my 2-way Tracking jump, I was enjoying the scenery too much to bother... anyway I was there for the 2-way CF. So, after a few training jumps everything felt good and I was curious and nervous as to what competition would be like.

It was great watching the flat and freeflyers knocking out their jumps on the Saturday before CF started on Sunday.

Round 1 out of the Cessna 185 was great, getting two points in time and almost ended the jump in a wrap. Pretty ironic start considering our team name was "Wrapcity". That was our only jump of the day once the southerly buster came roaring through so it didn't take long to retreat to the campsite with a beer in hand.

Monday began with an early 7am start so at least everyone could complete Round 1. Between the 185 and the caravan, the jumps were flying by with all three teams finishing four rounds.

It was an awesome experience competing in my first competition (yes I paid the carton). A huge thanks to Skydive Surfside for hosting the event and all the other competitors for making it a great weekend."

Stami Donovan (2-way CF)



Courtney and friends rinsing out gear after water landing



Poo landing in front of hangar



Tina and KJ



CF Team Twister

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2014 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE CHAMPS - YORK

By Ash Geneve

The teams gathered, the competition draws made and then the weather came in. Day 1 of the competition ended up being a wash-out for not only the 4-way teams but also the swoopers who were there as a pre-world cup training camp over the pond and a scrambles 2-way head-up comp organised by the Rumbo lads. As the rain continued to fall, the various teams and disciplines joined together down at the local pub to talk up their skills whilst the local bar staff delighted in our weather misfortune through our purchase of several rums and other assorted beverages. Some of the experienced jumpers also extended their mentoring to the sports betting and thanks to Red's guidance and tutoring, one of the new jumpers Matty ended up taking out a "quaddy" on his second bet ever and graciously secured some celebratory drinks accordingly. With the betting luck improving, so too did the weather forecast for Sunday so it was a "relatively" early night for most.

Sunday morning came and the weather gods finally took pity on our grounded souls and allowed some holes in the clouds and the winds to drop sufficiently for at least the 4-way and 2-way comp get underway. Competitors gathered early and the loads started running. The vibe had now increased and the competition was now on for the young and not so young.

Both open and inter 4-way teams took to the air, some targeting a prized medal with others with the goal of simply launching and holding a solid exit.

The open competition was once again going to be a fierce battle for the gold between the formidable team of Lee Speed (GT, Timbo, Krash, Riss & Jody B on camera) and



Rumbo

the multi-skilled talents of the Rumbo lads & friends (Ash, Peds, Red, Jonesy & Big Ash on camera).

Lee Speed's not-so-secret pre-competition training camp (with a total of 1 jump on the Friday!) set high performance expectations and the banter and constructive sledging commenced. Rumbo's training was more focussed on the mental pressures of competition (and we couldn't be bothered as the bar was open) however the team recognised that they would need to perform from Jump 1. Rumbo also had an invisible secret weapon, that being the creative smells generated on the climb to height. Not only would these smells outlast religion, even with the door open the wind was too scared to enter. Other teams who were exposed to such devastating odours immediately lost their jump focus to concentrate more on survival however on some occasions, even the finely tuned noses from Rumbo struggled to maintain composure.

Jump 1 for Rumbo was a great start and as Lee Speed watched on from the door as they exited, they knew it was game on. Unfortunately the competition pressure (or was it that everlasting smell) cost Lee Speed dearly as they funnelled their first exit with GT seen looking across at Riss mouthing out "Silver Medal" as their team faltered at the first hurdle knowing that valuable points were lost. Fortunately there were still several rounds to go and Lee Speed again began to claw back those lost points and showed why they have been dominant in the sport for so long. The competition remained neck and neck at each round however with one round to go, Lee Speed needed to pull off a miracle to get their nose in front. Unfortunately this wasn't to be on this occasion and the Rumbo's took

out the gold medal, with their final round including some dynamic carving after time to complete the competition in style.

This now sets the scene for an even bigger competition next year to see if Rumbo's can retain the gold or allow Lee Speed to regain what has been theirs for so long, or open the door for other teams to come and challenge this group or simply learn from them and further develop their skills.

The inter 4-way comp this year was predominantly focussed around skills development given the number of scratch teams. There was one "trained" team competing however I should highlight that this so-called "trained" team, Doctor AJ (Red, Dani, Jess, Annie & Big Ash) had a mere total of 19 team jumps before the competition with half their team having under 200 jumps. The other teams were made up of similar skills and jump numbers noting that some just getting their 'B' Licence (well done Mel) just prior to the comp ending. The open teams were more than willing to help out and share their knowledge and it was a credit to these inter teams to get in the air and give it a go. With so much experience around them what better opportunity to learn and gain some stress-free competition experience.

"Doctor AJ" dominated from the start blowing off some of the hoodoo exits encountered during their training jumps which showed another step change in their performance. Doctor AJ eventually secured the gold medal with an almost 8 average, an awesome achievement. The other teams didn't have the luxury of training together however with the help of some experience flyers ensured the competition for the lower places remained tight. The final round seeing "Wing It" (Casey, Melissa, Joseph, Don & Stu Barton, with Shirley helping out as well) securing bronze and Acid Rain (Shane, Nigel, Allison, Danielle & Jody B) taking out the silver. These teams achieved both individual and team successes from avoiding the infamous brain mals, launching and holding a solid exit to turning a block without busting or funnelling, a great achievement given the low jump numbers. I am sure they will agree what a great learning opportunity these events are.

Special mention should again go to Team "Wing It" who also took out the prestigious "Lee Irvine" Award this year for their efforts in coming together and helping continue their own FS progression and helping spread the word of just how great this sport with of course the freshly made team t-shirts!

Outside of the 4-way comp the Rumbo boys also organised a scratch 2-way head-up 3 round competition combining an experienced jumper with one fresh on their way into freefly. With teams like Rumbroham Lincoln (Steph+Piret), Rumbolism (Bevo + Timbo), Deep Vein Rumbosis (Jonesy + Ange), Rum on My Chest (Ash + Matt) and Rumbosnia (Peds + Jeremy) it was always going to be a lot of fun and it was definitely that and more during the video debriefs. The eventual unofficial winner was Rumbroham (Steph & Piret) who took the podium however the Rumbo judges were quite susceptible to the obvious bribe or two but the girls were clearly the stand-out, well done to all who "competed" and rocked the totem!

Waiting quietly in the wings were also the gaggle of swoopers as part of their pre-world cup training sessions however the weather continued to plague their airtime with unfortunately no full rounds being completed within the prescribed limits. In the end they all were winners and they celebrated accordingly, somewhat earlier than the other teams, which enabled them to hold the bar up until the rest arrived.

All in all, whilst the weather hampered the event, the success is on the scoreboard which became more blurry as the night and celebrations continued into the wee hours once again in the infamous dungeon.

Many thanks to the crew at Skydive the Beach and Beyond for hosting the event and all the efforts behind the scenes, Dixie as Comp Director for keeping us out of the pub on the weather day for as long as possible, the cameraflyers for capturing the moments, the awesome judges who continue to score in more ways than one, the pilots who survived Rumbo's creative odour productions and allowing the teams to safely get to height and do it all again plus everyone who attended, jumped, laughed and in general made another State Meet successful.

Rumbo



Acid Rain



Rumbo



Rumbo



Wing it with Shirley



Lee Speed



Wing It

TEAM PROFILE: DOCTOR AJ – 4-WAY INTER FS

By Ash Geneve

Doctor AJ came about when a couple of up-and-coming female flyers, Dani and Jess, wanted to improve their FS skills. They approached one of the more experienced flyers, Red (Ryan Ferguson) to help coach them with his idea of building an all-female 4-way team, and have them compete at the up-and-coming State Championships. Annie (our favourite local Dutch lass) quickly jumped on board but unfortunately the fourth female was hard to come by so Red had to put his panties on and become the fourth flyer (and coach). The team was not complete without a cameraflyer, for as we all know, if it's not caught on camera it didn't happen, or more importantly, cannot be scored. So, Big Ash joined with Red in an attempt to help provide some guidance, but more so to balance the gender equation; although we knew who would be running the show regardless.

The first team decision was to create a name. Doctor AJ came about after several beverages and is based on the first initials of the team – DR AJ. The team journey started with Dani, Red, Annie, Jess and Big Ash flying camera.

The training commenced with some awesome support from Skydive Jurien Bay who helped the team both in the air and on the ground. They helped us achieve our success in winning the 2014 W.A. State Meet Gold Medal through this support.

The skill level was remarkably high considering half the team had less than 200 jumps, and with only Red having competed before, it was going to be a test of mental strength and stamina to maintain the needed focus and discipline throughout the competition – all the while ensuring a smile was kept on our faces. After each jump, there was a clear progression as the pictures and moves all started to click. The excitement and enjoyment on everyone's face was visible as they recognised that "this training thing really does work". The points and blocks started to come together, the girls started to remember

the dive pool, Red continued in his attempt to manage the girls, and they were grateful for the opportunity they helped them create.

The team completed nineteen jumps together before the W.A. State Meet. This resulted in them dominating the Inter competition, but more importantly, exceeding their own goals by almost reaching an eight average.

The team has since had the opportunity to jump with, and be coached by, Mark Kirkby at Skydive Jurien Bay. Most recently with the focus now switched to competing at the Nationals.



Doctor AJ

TEAM GOALS AND STATISTICS

Short Term Goal: Win Gold at the W.A. State Championships

Long Term Goal: Support and develop other female skydivers in the sport.

Team Motto: Drinking Rum before 10:00 a.m. doesn't make you an alcoholic, it makes you a pirate!



Doctor AJ



Doctor AJ

TEAM MEMBER PROFILES

RED (Outside Centre)

- **Jumps:** 2,000+
- **Position:** Outside Centre
- **Why do you skydive?** "No better place than in the air with your mates. It's just awesome fun and you always have something to learn."
- **Reason for joining the team?** "Pillow fights are much better than those with Rumbo."
- **What have you learned when jumping with the team?** "Coaching techniques and managing team dynamics."
- **Notable team highlight (apart from the State meet win)?** "Learning again how to pack properly to avoid line twists straight from deployment."



Doctor AJ

DANI (Point)

- **Jumps:** 132
- **Position:** Point
- **Why do you skydive?** "It's awesome fun, the friends you make come from all different backgrounds, and it brings a sense of freedom. I am very passionate about the sport as it makes me happy."
- **Reason for joining the team?** "Team showers."
- **What have you learned when jumping with the team?** The importance of team morale and looking out for everyone. The sense of achievement to be gained as you get better and better."
- **Notable team highlight?** "Team showers"
- **How do you find being a female in skydiving?** "It's fun, and to be honest, it's not really gender specific. Yes guys have more strength but us chicks are smarter and are much better flyers. But, at the end of the day, we are all equal once we exit the plane to achieve together a common goal."
- **Any advice for other female skydivers just coming into the sport?** "Just get involved and ask questions. People are always willing to help, coach, and offer advice to support you."

ANNIE (Inside Centre)

- **Jumps:** 400+
- **Position:** Inside Centre
- **Why do you skydive?** "You cannot beat the feeling of flying around the sky with your friends."
- **Reason for joining the team?** "The team environment really worked and that just made the commitment to the team so much easier."
- **What have you learned when jumping with the team?** "Red has beautiful eyes, but more importantly, looking at your opposites."
- **Notable team highlight?** "Seeing how far we progressed from our first jump together – both in the air and how we work together on the ground."
- **How do you find being a female in skydiving?** "I notice some differences (seat up or seat down) but nothing that prevents me from progressing and advancing my skills."
- **Any advice for other female skydivers just coming into the sport?** "Listen to all the advice you can get (yes girls can listen), ask questions and don't sit back. Find a mentor or someone who can help you achieve whatever goals you set for yourself, and seek help along the way to help you get there faster and in the right way."

JESS (Tail)

- **Jumps:** 169
- **Position:** Tail
- **Why do you skydive?** "I grew up as a competitive gymnast and cheerleader. Since those sports ended for me, skydiving has been my new adventure. As long as I can remember I've wanted to skydive. I love freefall and being in the sky."
- **Reason for joining the team?** "Red was my AFF2 instructor. As soon as I finished my B-Rels he was talking to me about a chicks' team. Nothing happened with it for a while but finally Doctor AJ came together and we instantly clicked as a team."
- **What have you learned when jumping with the team?** "How fun it is to jump with similar-minded people."
- **Notable team highlight?** "Our first training day when we realised we could actually be somewhat decent. It was a rush to see our first few jumps together."
- **How do you find being a female in skydiving?** "Initially I was very aware that I was one of the minority. It took me a long time to find my feet in the sport, although everyone at the various drop zones have always been supportive and helpful towards me. There seems to be more and more female jumpers which is awesome."
- **Any advice for other female skydivers just coming into the sport?** "Don't be scared to ask for help. The skydiving community is incredibly warm and welcoming to any new jumper with a good attitude and a good heart."

BIG ASH (Camera)

- **Jumps:** 1,500+
- **Position:** Camera
- **Why do you skydive?** "It is a unique gift to be able to do what we do. To be able to capture some of these moments and share with others is an amazing opportunity I cannot miss."
- **Reason for joining the team?** "I wanted to see how Red could handle three girls!"
- **What have you learned when jumping with the team?** "Girls can talk the entire two-hour journey to Jurien Bay. You cannot achieve things on your own, and team showers are so much better than with Rumbo!"
- **Notable team highlight?** "How the team rallied together to support Jess after her chop just before the State Meet, and watching how the girls' confidence grew as their skills improved."

Getting a team together is one of the most fun and challenging ways in which you can improve your flying skills in any discipline; and having the mentoring and support from experience flyers is invaluable to continue with skills improvement.

WOAH, CANOPY COURSE AT COFFS, TOTALLY AWESOME!

By Steve Hill

Talk about outa this world, Jules McConnel comes to Coffs City Skydivers for three days of utter brilliance. With a huge wealth of knowledge and experience from such a humble champion, Jules imparted skills in both canopy flying and confidence to the whole club.

We organised the club into three groups - beginning, intermediate and experienced - and ran both our Coffs Harbour DZ and our ever growing Skydive School DZ in Kempsey over the three days.

The improvement of our students and novices was a testament to Jules' techniques and experience, they flew with confidence and had the most fun they have ever had under canopy chasing streamers and flying near each other for the first time ever. "This was the best jump I have ever had" said Mark Stephens on landing after snatching the streamer off his team mate in the sky. A huge call, for a jump without freefall.

The intermediates were on fire chasing each other around the sky and practicing skills under canopy. The place was a buzz as they began to learn and practice new techniques

and watch themselves transform. The footage was shared for everyone to learn and laugh.

On the Saturday Night Jules and I ran a seminar on mind set and managing fear, the skill of creating a clear and focused mind to ensure safety in the sky and beyond. Questions flew, topics of conversation were raised and an extremely informative two hours flew past as tapas were served. Thirty sky hungry people gathered around beer and information.

The final day was for the experienced jumpers on the DZ, swooping was the focus but not restricted to. We managed to get three loads in before the Sea Gods blew up a breeze topping 30+ knots and it was on the ground for us. After aimlessly praying the conditions we succumbed to were more beer'n'stories, then down to top up at our fave Italian grub spot over a bottle of red and more laughs.

Thank you to Jules for all she brings, the NSWPC for their financial support and the APF also for financial support. This weekend was amazing and there is another in the pipeline already... who wants to become a crew dog??

“Amazing to see the point of view from such as knowledgeable and humble a person as Jules, mostly on canopy flying technique, but not only! I feel a big improvement in my swoop landings and learned some very good tips that I would definitely use in the future with my students, to improve their overall canopy flying skills as well as the landings. Thanks Jules and see you back in Coffs soon.”

Andre Santos Pedro (our resident Portugasian Instructor)

“Jules rocks, the course rocked... I didn't want her to leave. I was dreaming about how wonderful it would be do a total immersion, canopy style, to cut away from life and really learn to fly. I've never dreamt that before... but Jules is like that.... inspiring ... She opens your mind to dream big and fly better... she shows you what's possible... and really that there is no limit save which we create in ourselves.”

Kelly Tudhope



Turbine Day. A dream that turned into a day boogie overnight. Coffs City Skydivers was dreaming about jumping from a turbine aircraft, and then... one appeared!

With the support of the NSWPC, and Jack Hart of Macquarie Air, our dream was realised at our new skydive school located in a sleepy little town on the north coast. Kempsey airport has become a hub of good times, turbines and learning curves.

We started with a Thursday in April. A bunch of freefalling freaks clambered together enough bodies to fill a load and it was on. With the smell of jet fuel in our nostrils and the tranquility of an airfield that rarely sees a landing we became addicted and turbine day was born. Over the months we shortened the time between drinks and have got it down to 5 weeks apart, on a Thursday, with our eye on 4, 3, 2, 1. As the word got out, turbine day grew

to include peeps from Port, Sydney, Byron, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Canada, Portugal and Germany, oh not to forget our resident Pommy.

We are excited! Our little Cessna drop zone has grown a turbine. This gives our less experienced jumpers the awesome chance to jump out of a big plane early on in their skydiving career without travelling great distances. It also gives us the ability to introduce to our skydiving community our new skydive school, which has great plans. The event is gaining momentum with 26 jumpers attending

the last one. So please join us in growing our school and this awesome little event. Another 5 or 10 people and we'll be hot loading all day long. Our huge airport drop zone has no passenger flights or control tower, which makes for easy jumping with no holds or traffic. Like we said, it's a dream!



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SCOFFS!
COFFS JUMPERS, ZAC EDWARDS AND CHARLOTTE COLLINSON, ENJOYING THEMSELVES ON A QUICK TRIP TO LODI, USA.

ZAC EDWARDS FLYING THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG OVER COFFS HARBOUR.

OOH LA LA!
NOUMÉA SKYDIVE, IN NEW CALEDONIA - IN 2009 CHRISTOPHE AND MAX BUILT THEIR SKYDIVING COMPANY, TANDEMS ONLY, ON THE BEACH, FROM A CESSNA 206. IN 2011, THEY OPENED THEIR SCHOOL, ABOUT TWO HOURS DRIVE FROM NOUMEA. NOW THEY HAVE A BRAND NEW TURBO AIRVAN AND INVITE EVERYONE TO JUMP WITH THEM!

JUMP PIG!
SHELDON MCFARLANE DOING HIS 10,000TH JUMP, IN TANDEM WITH HIS WIFE JULIA. "IT'S A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT AND A GREAT MOMENT FOR THE BIG GUY!" SAYS PHOTOGRAPHER ERIN ALLISON-MAXWELL

CRICKET WORLD CUP TROPHY GOES FOR A SKYDIVE!
TANDEM MASTER: HEATH BEEFY
TANDEM PASSENGER: MIA ANGUS
PHOTOGRAPHER: PAUL MORTON
LOCATION: SKYDIVE JURIE BAY, WA

HAPPY SNAPS

CYPRES 2
NO BATTERY CHANGE
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SYDNEY
SKYDIVERS

SYDNEY
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