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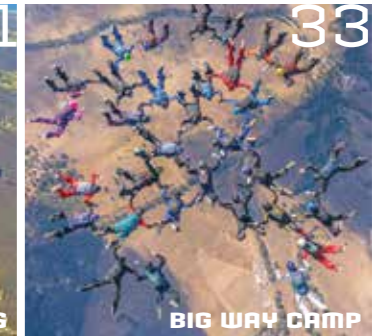
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FEATURES



EDITORIAL

WOW! The year is off to a sensational start with the news of Australia winning the bid to host the 2018 World Parachuting Championships. This is huge news! Well done to all concerned in bringing this home. From all accounts it was quite a mission, with much planning and even more lobbying.

What does this mean for us as a nation, our sport, members, competitors and operators? A lot! What does it mean for publicity, exposure and retention rates? According to a very energised Rob Libeau, it's a "gold mine"!

There's talk of making the next Queensland State Championships a test event to help find and iron out the bugs before the main event. Stay tuned for more information on this one, as competitors from all States and Territories, even abroad, will be welcome.

If you are wanting to be involved but not as a competitor, the APF is going to need a LOT of Volunteers. Put your hand up and get into this super fun, historical event!

This issue has a thought-provoking article on Page 50, "The Elephant in the Room", authored by Jed Smith and Jana Fitzpatrick, plus all the usual aerial awesomeness that members get up to. Send in your articles, snap shots, profiles, thoughts and ideas for the next issue(s) – ASM WANTS YOU – don't be shy here, as I know you are not shy in the sky.

Susie EDITOR

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 Photographer: ??????

BACK COVER



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[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 Production and mailing takes a total of five weeks, so some information may be out of date or superseded.

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[Next Deadlines]

Issue 85
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 Mag Out 4th May, 2017

Issue 86
 Deadline 10th June, 2017
 Mag Out 10th July, 2017

Issue 87
 Deadline 25th Aug, 2017
 Mag Out 29th Sept, 2017

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COMPETITION - 21-25 MARCH

CP QUALIFYING - 21 & 22 MARCH

CP COMPETITION - 23-25 MARCH

WEATHER DAY - 26 MARCH

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2018 WORLD PARACHUTING CHAMPIONSHIPS
GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIA WAS WELL PAST DUE TO HOST A WORLD PARACHUTING CHAMPIONSHIPS!

And when an opportunity was presented to the APF, from a reasonably reliable source, that there were no other bids for 2018, in true Aussie fashion, we threw ourselves into a bid. Little did we know though, Russia had the same idea.

Moving forward to several weeks later, Australia's bid was sent in and all dues paid! With the bid in, bringing the 2018 World Parachuting Championships to Australia, was underway!

With the APF Boards' backing and an organising committee appointed, the team began in Chicago at the 2016 Worlds. CEO Brad Turner, Board Member Mike Dyer and Hall of Famer - Graeme Windsor, along with myself and our own Aussie Director of Judges - Gail Bradley, were at the meet, and we lobbied hard!

The Aussie team, when not competing, also lobbied hard and with passion; within their own disciplines and, this really paid off.

Of course, we were confident when we returned home but, never 100% sure. So, we began preparing for the International Parachuting Commission (IPC) AGM, held in Portugal.



The IPC AGM is where rules are made and more importantly, where bidders are allowed to present one last time to the world's voting nations. Our Delegate, Gail Bradley, was given the honour to present our bid and, what a show she put on! Brilliant! Her presentation was talked about long after the day was over.

But, the vote on who would host the

2018 World Parachuting Championships was still three days away. It was a long three days but then again - an opportunity for us to continue to sell, sell and sell! Gail, Mark "Stretch" Szulmayer and I were like social butterflies; getting around to delegates, in their ear about the Gold Coast and calming any fears delegates might have had.

The work behind the scenes in those three days, done by Gail and Stretch put us beyond doubt! We hoped - nothing is ever a sure bet though!

However, a vote of 38 Australia to 9 votes Russia; well, I guess the work paid off!

The 2018 World Parachuting Championships Gold Coast, Queensland will be held from 7 - 14 October at the Runaway Bay Sports Super Centre. APF partners include Tourism and Events Queensland and Gold Coast Events. Special thanks also to the Southport Flying Club and the Runaway Bay Cricket Club.

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Warm up camp

Winter Froth

By Tracy Scott

WHEN WE WERE ASKED TO HOST THE QLD STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT INNISFAIL IN 2016, WE JUMPED AT THE CHANCE, PUTTING TOGETHER A PLAN FOR A PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINING CAMP, WHICH QUITE QUICKLY TURNED INTO THE MOST EFFERVESCENT OF ALL BOOGIES!

The organising of the event began only five to six months before the Boogie start date. A mad flurry of advertising on social media, emails to sponsors, and a solid team effort preparing the drop zone for the onslaught of frothy fun jumpers ensued.

The Aussie Dream Team and Innisfail favourites, Keith Grealy and Jill Grantham, were joined by the face of iFLY himself, Matt Boag coaching FreeFly. Bringing their school of Wingsuit to FNQ for the first time was Woody and Scotty-P with resident Wingsuit tutor, Greg Puttick. Mikey Howell provided canopy coaching and Alan Deadman returned, this time as a coach, joined by local Val Schmied for RW.

The Boogie began to take shape and with free camping and only a \$20 registration fee, was quite probably the cheapest Boogie in the country.

Almost 100 jumpers rocked up to take advantage of the warm weather, quality coaching, and one of the fastest planes in the country.

The inspiration behind the name Winter Froth came from Marina Beck who frothed so hard at Funny Farm that Woody gifted her a bib for the overflow. We all frothed in your honour, Marina.

Lex Stanley setup her Chute First tent, stocked up with her kickass gear (cheers for the undies Lex). Marcel and Dianna set up their Gravitator Rigging tent close by and ran daily competitions with prizes throughout the event.

The week-long Froth-Fest began with beautiful weather and the delicious whiff of breakfast being cooked by Fry

who brought his amazing culinary skills to the drop zone; providing easily the best Boogie food I have ever tasted! Armed with the best-tasting breakfast smoothie in the world, manifest was open for business with the first of many loads in the air by 8am.

One of the first Tunnel/AFF students, Katie Klein, came to help with some ground stuff and to complete her B-Rel's. She nailed through her B-Rel's in no time, managing to smash out 20+ points in one of her 4-ways. I am not sure exactly how many; I lost count at 20! Always a smile on her face and one of the most helpful humans I have the pleasure to know. Well done Katie and thanks heaps for your help!

The buzz on the drop zone throughout each day was contagious, we, in manifest, felt as if we had won the fun jumper lottery. We had somehow managed to attract an awesome crew, and let's be honest, the crew are what makes a Boogie successful!

Each day after jumping, everyone would assemble in the packing shed for the sponsor prizes and day-tapes provided by the one and only Paddy Dunne. I think everyone attending this event would agree with me when I say that Paddy truly was the backbone of the Boogie. So, Paddy's day job until a few months ago was just taking Tandem/AFF bookings in our office in Cairns and editing Tandem videos. He recently showed an aptitude for advertising and marketing and was promoted into a role to suit this. When I asked for his help MC-ing the event, I had no idea that Paddy would take on the role and absolutely nail it! Bearing in mind he was doing day tapes as well as entertaining the

Winter Froth



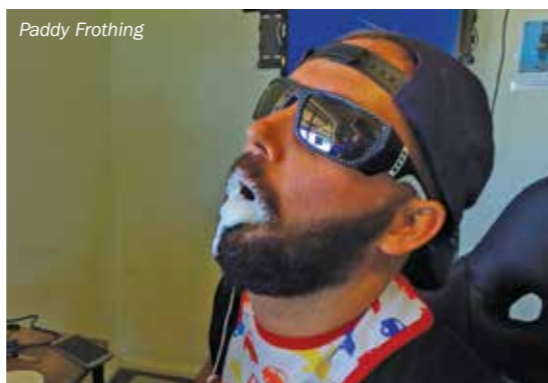
Crusher, Chris & Lex



Sam & Ozzie



Woody & Rauno



Paddy Frothing



Paddy & Boagsy



Sonja Gelman

crowd at night, he did an amazing job; we might just have another Irish on our hands – is the world big enough?! There were plenty of skits, sexual position advice – hilarious; and each night the Biggest Frother of the day was crowned, or more accurately, bibbed.

Some of the biggest Frothers were Ozzie Turgut, Andrew Grego, Lance Deal, Flopper turned Frother Nathan Potter. The Ultimate Frothers, crowned and prized by Matt Boag and iFLY, were Paddy Dunne and Alicia Moisel.

Erica Tadokoro organised a warm-up camp for the chicks Vertical record during the event. They managed a total of ten jumps over two days, which worked out perfectly.

From start to finish, every day, something was happening. With some epic jumps, Paddy's entertainment, Boagsy fingering out where fruit comes from, and ridiculous amounts of froth, this event has been easily the most successful one I have organised. We had a couple of average weather days, not once did I hear anyone grumble about not getting the jumps in, etc. Chris Brook from NZ Aerosports took the opportunity to pull out some demo canopies and let people kite them on the landing area, Froth mascot Bohdi the Eclectus Parrot kept everyone entertained with his witty remarks, calling Outface 'arsehole' and having everyone think that his owner and manifestor, Brigitte, had Tourette's as he 'meowed' like a cat during day tapes.

Quiet nights at the coaches' house apparently resulted in some sort of Greek glass smashing contest, as Phil discovered, when he came home to no glassware a few weeks later. After creating too much froth (yes there is such a thing as too much) in the hot-tub, the boys eventually

fingering it out and coaches' hot tub after-parties became customary.

On the last day of the Boogie, I managed to sneak on the last load of the day to do what I thought would be a solo, only to be joined in freefall unexpectedly by Keith and Boagsy who decided to ninja my jump! Paddy finished off his week by donning his mankini and going for a wingsuit rodeo with the boys and Jill.

It was a hectic week and it ended on a high note with the introduction of the QLD State Championships and an awesome day-tape. Party night... Fingering!

Massive thanks to Phil Onis, the Australian Parachute Federation and North Queensland Parachute Council; these events could not take place without the generosity and financial support from you. Keeping costs down and offering quality coaching is what it's all about.

Also, massive thanks to everyone who helped make the event happen, and all of our generous sponsors – in no particular order: Coaches Keith Grealy, Matt Boag, Jill Grantham, Woody, Scott Paterson, Greg Puttick, Mikey Howell, Alan Deadman and Valerie Schmied. Paddy Dunne (MC and Day Tape legend), Brigitte Jones and Jess Scarlett (manifesting awesome-ness). Adam Davies and the Tandem Cairns crew, James 'Fry' Allen (chef extraordinaire). Sonya Gelman, Tim Kolln, Erica Tadokoro, Firthy, Rauno and Marii, Katie Klein, Zoe Cavanagh, Matty Lynam (daytime DJ). Sponsors iFLY Downunder, NZ Aerosports, Lex and Chute First, Deem Flywear, Cypres, Para-Gear, Gravitator Rigging, Downward Trend, United Parachute Technologies, Cookie, Alti-2 and Aerodyne.



Warmup Camp

Winter Froth



Wade Atkinson with Woody doing outside camera



Flock



Michael Crush



Firthy



Boagsy Frothing



Rodeo



Mariska Folley, Tish Dingle, Alan Deadman & Rob Thomson



Chris Brook



Keith Grealy



Paddy flare

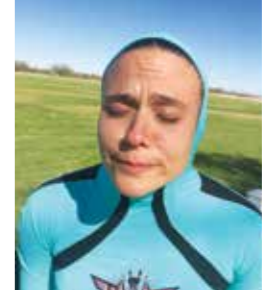


Maclain, Potter & Costa



Ozzie biggest frother

65-WAY FEMALE VERTICAL



R
T
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C
A

WORLD RECORD SKYDIVE ARIZONA

By Jenny 'Special J' Hopwood

Photos by Norman Kent, Erica Tadokoro and Kim Hopwood

At 18,500ft –green light, I open the Otter door and wonder why I dropped my Oxygen tube so early. Then I smile internally to myself, as I know it's because I'm both excited and nervous. It was the first record attempt and I'm feeling glad I'd received some good pointers from both Steve Curtis and Erica Tadokoro about this Front Float slot. As I exit the aircraft I remember to myself that all I must do is fly to my slot, which is First Stinger on a bridge.

As I patiently wait for the first pod to build, I watch Donna Jones ninja that pod closer slot. Now is my chance. I start to approach and I notice in my peripheral that the second stinger grip where I'm supposed to dock is far in. I certainly don't want to be the one stopping my bridge from building, so I'd better give it a go. I'm sure that I'm holding my breath as I do this odd reach into the burble to get that grip. I end up somehow finding a shoulder, then wiggling my hand down to pull that grip out a bit more so it's easier for me to fly. Meanwhile, I'm doing a terrible job at presenting my other arm to my bridge closer. I've got *heaps* on right now so when I hear my audible for track-off, I'm already thinking of how I can do my slot better. So, it begins – jump one of the world record journey.

The first moment I decided I wanted to be on a Vertical world record was at Summerfest of 2009. James Evered, Adam Long and Kim Hopwood had made it onto the 108-way in Chicago. That was when I realised I needed to learn this thing all the cool kids were doing: Head-down.

Fast forward to 2016 – two world records later. Little did I know this next 65-way Female world record was going to be the hardest and most rewarding I've ever done. Eighty percent of the ladies had never been on a world record before. The challenge certainly presented itself – so we stepped up to it.

The record jumps started out as 70+ ways and just like all records, it was a matter of working through the issues. It was becoming apparent though that we were running out of days. We had planned for fifteen record jumps and by the end of the last day we had done fourteen; it was getting down to the wire. The organisers made a call to use the weather day for the final attempts. We were getting so close with only one or two ladies off.

There was no mistaking this 65-way Female Vertical world record. The record must have flown for at least four seconds. All 65 ladies were doing their jobs at exactly the right time. The atmosphere when we landed was electric! Ladies were screaming, jumping, laughing and crying.

65-WAY

R
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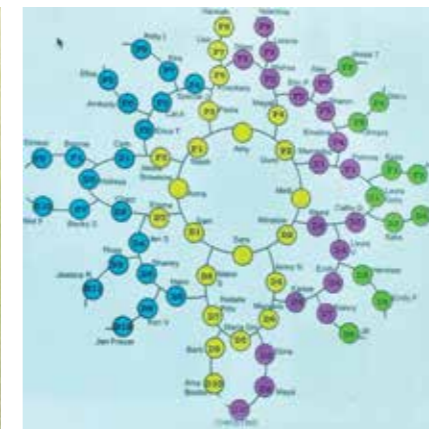


Of course, we still had to get confirmation from the judges. Which certainly didn't take long.

The cherry-on-top of all of this was the Aussie contingent. We had six Aussies on the record; need I mention that's almost ten percent! My WoMan of the Match goes to Barbara Meister for rock-staring her slot. Special mention goes to Jill Grantham who was next to my opposite over the other side of the formation. Nice flying Jill, you nailed it! Of course, the usual suspects also pulled out their ninja skills to get on the record: Cath Comyns, Emma Merritt and Erica Tadokoro.

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks

- Record Organisers. You're all so passionate and it's nothing but inspiring. Amy Chmelecki, Sara Curtis, Domi Kiger, Anna Moxnes, Sharon Har-noy Pilcher and Melissa Lowe.
- Sponsors who supported the Fundraiser and our Ladies: SQPC, UPT/Vector, NZ Aerosports, Aerodyne, CYPRES, Cookie Composites, Boogiemansuits, and L-and-B. Your support is invaluable.
- Tal Teerosh from Sydney Skydivers and the whole team there. Your efforts to sell the Fundraiser tickets helped so many.
- Tommy Sierra and Marius Østensen Sotberg for supporting all the Aussie ladies and making us lunches.
- Skydive Arizona. You make it seem like you eat Formation loads for breakfast.
- Petter Mazzetta and Micah Couch on the daily live feed. Good job guys, I saw many a lady giggle.
- All the people in the Bent Prop at Eloy that bought the rest of the raffle tickets off of Erica.
- Last but not least, my amazing husband, Kim Hopwood. Your own achievements are always inspiring me while your support through journeys such as these help me in ways I cannot describe.



Got Questions?
Get Answers!



2017
'THE YEAR OF NIGHT JUMPS'

- 6-10 March, 2017 (Full Moon on 13th)
- 8-12 May, 2017 (Full Moon on 11th)
- 3-7 July, 2017 (Full Moon on 9th)
- 4-8 September, 2017 (Full Moon on 6th)
- 27th November – 1st December, 2017 (Full Moon on 4th)

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STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

W.A. CHAMPS Skydive York 4-6 November 2016 *By Debbie Murphy*

THE FIRST WEEKEND IN NOVEMBER SAW A VERY EXCITING AND COMPETITIVE MEET FOR W.A. HOSTED BY SKYDIVE YORK, THE W.A. 2016 STATE MEET WAS A WEEKEND LIKE NO OTHER. COMPRISED OF FIVE 4-WAY FS INTERMEDIATE TEAMS, THREE 8-WAY FS INTERMEDIATE TEAMS, TWO 2-WAY VFS TEAMS AND TWO 4-WAY VFS ADVANCED TEAMS; PROVING TO BE MUCH BIGGER AND WITH MORE COMPETITIVE COMPETITION THAN IN RECENT YEARS. THIS INCREASED INTEREST IN COMPETITION IS THE RESULT OF MANY FACTORS, SUCH AS THE CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FROM COACHES, EXISTING TEAMS, LOAD ORGANISERS AND DROP ZONES.

The 4-way FS Intermediate competition was an absolute cracker. It was neck-and-neck for all six rounds. Big T, Subtafuge and The Screaming Eagles battled amongst one another for the top three positions. Big T finally took the lead in the last round to claim the title. First time competitors, The Gentleman's Club took out the Lee Irvin plaque; and the Belly Bashers took out cameraman of the year award, well done Chris Slade!

The 8-way FS Intermediate competition saw team Tin Squires win in all rounds to takeout the competition. They were followed closely by Magnificent 7 in second place. Team Airbags added an inflatable shark to the competition to claim third place. Great competition with heaps of fun.

2-Way VFS Intermediate was won by team KB after two rounds of competition. Final score for team KB was thirteen; for team RJS, ten. Amazing jumps with great improvement within the discipline.

4-way VFS Advanced looked like heaps of fun with teams Flounder Pounders and Skyrunner's doing VFS in style. Five rounds finished with the Flounder Pounders in front with final scores sixteen to eight. Well done, boys.

Paul "Spud" Tait celebrated his 1,500th jump with a 16-way sunset Formation dive. Some of the jumpers on the load had even been on his first. Great way to end the day and start the partying. Many cartons were bought and bells rang, that's when the shenanigans began and where the story ends.

The WAPC would like to thank Skydive York and their staff for hosting and supporting this event at their drop zone. Thank you to the APF, the judges, and to the people in the background who make everything possible. Finally, a big thank you to the competitors for their participation and making this event competitive and heaps of fun. Great input from everyone. Let's make State Meet 2017 even bigger and better.

TERMINAL SPORTS

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Paul "Spud" Tait's 1500th skydive

4way FS Intermediate							
TEAM	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	RD 6	TOTAL
Big T	4	4	4	4	4	6	26
Subtufuge	3	6	5	3	4	4	25
The Screaming Eagles	5	4	3	3	3	4	22
Belly Bashers	0	2	0	2	2	3	9
Gentleman's Collection	0	2	0	0	0	1	3

8way FS Intermediate							
TEAM	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	JO	TOTAL
Tin Squires	2	1	3	3			9
Magnificent 7	1	1	3	0			5
Air Bags	0	0	1	0			1

2way VFS Intermediate							
TEAM	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	JO	TOTAL
KB	6	7					13
RJS	3	7					10

4way VFS Advanced							
TEAM	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	JO	TOTAL
Flounder Pounders	4	1	2	4	5		16
Skyrunners	1	2	0	4	1		8



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VICTORIA CHAMPIONSHIPS *By Bill Bleazard*

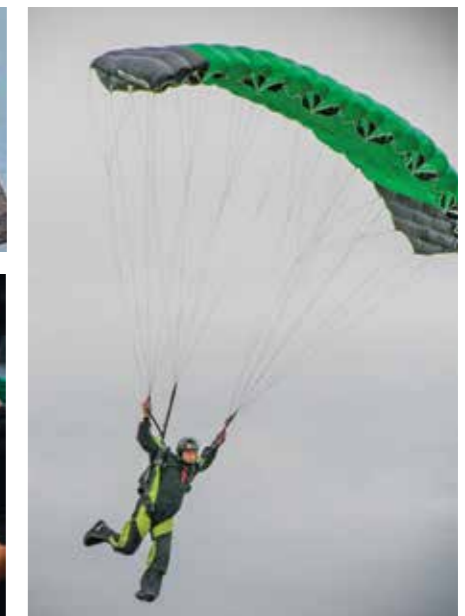
A CHANGE OF VENUE SAW A REINVIGORATED VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER 2016 AT TOORADIN AIRFIELD; AND WITH COMMANDO SKYDIVERS ELECTING NOT TO IMPOSE A REGISTRATION FEE, THE NUMBER OF JUMPERS WANTING TO COMPETE CLIMBED ACCORDINGLY. SOME INCLEMENT WEATHER MEANT THE COMPETITION WAS SPREAD OVER TWO WEEKENDS, THOUGH THAT DIDN'T DAMPEN SPIRITS.

Good friends and rivals Dave Boulter and Janine Hayes locked horns in Classic Accuracy, with Janine eventually prevailing and taking out gold. South Australian, Keith Perrot was a close third, claiming bronze.

Several locals tried Sports Accuracy for the first time, and while all had a good time, they proved no match for stalwart Justin de Waard, the clear gold medallist.

Five teams fought it out in the 4-way Intermediate category, with Unloaded showing the way to claim the gold medal, ahead of Kaotic in second place, and Freeloaded grabbing bronze.

Commando Skydivers would like to thank Gail Bradley, Jim Moir, Ray Williams and Jenni Plumridge for their efforts judging across the two weekends, and also meet director and DZSO, Justin de Waard.



FS Competitors and Crew



Classic and Sports Accuracy Competitors





Team FREELOADED 3rd Place 4way FS inter



Team K40TIC 2nd Place 4 way FS inter



Judges



Classic Accuracy medal winners



Sports accuracy medal winners



Team UNLOADED 1st Place 4 Way FS Inter



Team QUADRANT 4th Place 4 Way FS inter



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SKYDIVE OZ HOSTED THE N.S.W. AND A.C.T. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW, AND IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BIGGER AND BETTER! OVER 75 COMPETITORS REGISTERED IN EIGHT DIFFERENT EVENTS WITH LOTS OF PEOPLE DOUBLING UP TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE WEEKEND.

We had our biggest representation ever in FS: Fourteen 2-way Novice teams, eight 4-way Intermediate and four 4-way Open teams! We originally had eleven Intermediate teams and only one Open team registered, however Rus Blackman came up with the idea of doing the Open event using the AA draw to entice some of the Intermediate teams to step up into Open and make a decent competition in both events. It was a great idea, and well done to everyone who took on the challenge! The number of teams and quality of results was directly influenced by the iFLY tunnel in Sydney and the coaching during competition from Australian team Rotor Out's Steve Smith.

We only had two VFS teams this year, however most of these competitors doubled up in our first ever Freestyle event which gave coach, Sonnica van Zijl, a fun challenge.

There was a lot of interest in Canopy Formation this year with four teams in 2-way Sequential and two teams registered for 4-way Rotations. Many of the CRW dogs were doubled up in Freefall events but still managed to complete one round of 2-way before sunset knowing the weather wasn't favourable for the following day. That being said, I don't think team Stinger Defence could blame the weather for nearly landing in the river!

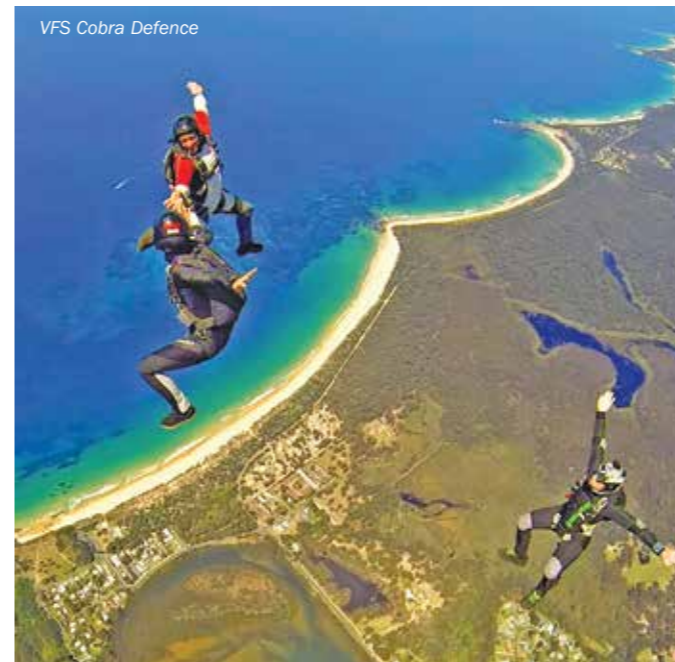
The 4-way Rotations and Sport Accuracy events were scheduled for Monday, but unfortunately the weather was



It's Ze Rushins

not on their side, so they'll just have to keep training for next year!

A big thank you to N.S.W. Parachute Council for supporting these Championships. It ran smoothly thanks to the help of Dean, Fergs and Leanne for judging; Pete Franklin for technical support; Aidan and Kyle for video dubbing; Spot for awesome footage and stills we used for media; Timm for refuelling; Shana for keeping everyone safe with her DZSO cap on all weekend; Kylie for keeping us all fed with her amazing culinary delights; Skydive Australia for the use of the caravan; and mostly, all the competitors for coming to make it the best State Championships yet!



VFS Cobra Defence



Cal Dempsey



Team Golgotha



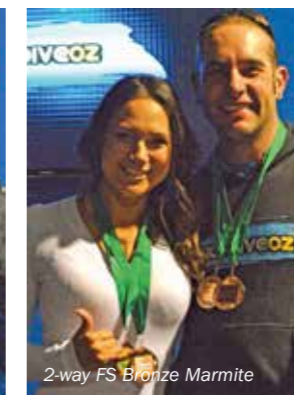
2-way CF Bronze Hook it and Wing Dock Defence



4-way Open Bronze - Toight and Frothy



4-way Inter Bronze Rushin Defence



2-way FS Bronze Marmite



VFS Silver Unfocused



Accuracy Medalists - Frank Conway, Mike Dyer & Graeme Windsor



4-way Open Silver - Terminal Velodaptor

PLACE	TEAM NAME	TEAM MEMBERS	AVG SCORE
2-way Novice Formation Skydiving (FS)			
1	I'll Have a Drink Tonight and Think About It	Troy Crotty, Rob Treier, Mitchell Symes (camera)	14.2
2	Inter Racial	Andrew 'Ravo2' Ravenscroft, Diego Kevedo, Patrick Wylie (camera)	14
3	Marmite	Jesse James, Phielix Huebert, Paul Barker (camera)	13.8
4-way Intermediate FS			
1	4 Play	Mary Nguyen, Mark Szulmayer, David Kelly, Rebecca Dengate, Patrick Wylie (camera)	6.2
2	Jigsaw	Peter Franklin, Amanda Levis, Diego Quevedo, Nigel Ackroyd, Mitchell Symes (camera)	6.0
3	Rushin Defence	Richard Phillips, Ariel White, Cameron Wise, Steve Johnson, Paul Barker and Aaron Peapell (camera)	1.8
4-way Open FS			
1	Megasaurus Rex	Russell Blackman, Andrea Boerkamp, Jack Baker, Troy Crotty, Adrian Lloyd (camera)	11
2	Terminal Velociraptor	Holly Godwin, Stephen Baker, Trudy Keys, Calum Dempsey, Gerard Vejrych (camera)	4.5
3	Toight and Frothy	Will Rosner, Nathan 'Ravo' Ravenscroft, Matt 'Kiwi' Scott, George Sheather, Spencer Barnes and Tony Murray (camera)	
2-way VFS			
1	Cobra Defence	Holly Godwin, Blake Hooper, Calum Hunter (camera)	3
2	Unfocussed	Cal Dempsey, Gerard Vejrych, Jesse James (camera)	1
2-way Canopy Formation			
1	Stinger Defence	Michael Bailey, Simon Kube, Steve Tonson (camera)	2
2	Task Force Blunt Defence	Sam Mehan, Stephen 'Bax' Baker, Rod White (camera)	1
3	Hook It	Nathan 'Ravo' Ravenscroft, George Sheather, Matt 'Kiwi' Scott (camera)	
3	Wing Dock Defence	Richard Phillips, Travi Stevens, Paul Barker (camera)	
Freestyle			
1	Busted Ballerina	Jesse James, Cal Dempsey (camera)	4.1
2	Ballistic Artistic	Holly Godwin, Gerard Vejrych (camera)	3.4
3	Fly 4 Effect	Trudy Keys, Stephen Baker (camera)	2



Freestyle Silver Ballistic Artistic



VFS Gold Cobra Defence



4-way Inter Gold 4 Play



2-way FS Gold I'll Have a Drink Tonight and Think About It



2-way FS Silver Inter Racial

CLASSIC ACCURACY

Despite marginal weather, almost ten rounds were completed, after two days of practice. I have no idea when the last N.S.W. State Accuracy championships were, but suspect it was back in the 80's when Ian Handley was still a keen accuracy jumper.

Competitors came from N.S.W./A.C.T. (Dale Wirtanen and myself), Qld (Mike Dyer and Jason Colless) and N.Z. (Frank Conway and Ken Ralston), with two apologies from Victoria due to a wedding and a funeral.

There was quite a bit of interest created with possible newcomers, and local instructor, Chris Garcia, went so far as making two or three jumps on a Parafoil 252 onto the tuffet. Dale Wirtanen had his first ever Accuracy canopy jump on Round one, and demonstrated good potential during the meet, landing on the pad twice.

With talk of coordinating quarterly accuracy meets around Australia (at least in the eastern states), it seems Classic Accuracy is on the way to a more popular future.

Thanks to Rob Libeau for sending down the wind meter and providing support. The N.S.W. Council for making the Phil Hindley Memorial tuffet and electronic scoring equipment available, providing medals, and the efforts of the judging team of Dean Brook-Rerecich, Leanne Connor and Neil Fergie; to State Coach, Adrian Lloyd, who provided support, and to Skydive Oz for the wonderful facilities at Moruya and a can-do approach. Finally, thanks to all those who came, particularly our friends from across the ditch, Frank Conway and Ken Ralston.

Results (over nine Rounds)

- 1st:** Mike Dyer – 41cm
- 2nd:** Graeme Windsor – 45cm
- 3rd:** Frank Conway (NZ) – 60cm
- 4th:** Jason Colless – 91cm
- 5th:** Dale Wirtanen – 124cm
- 6th:** Ken Ralston (NZ) – 144cm

"The N.S.W./A.C.T State championships saw a huge representation from the Australian Defence Force Parachute Associations. This year there were about nine defence teams competing in 4FS, Crew, 2FS and 2VFS. It was a great competition and all competitors not only had a great time but took the opportunity to utilise the coaches who were there to help out and impart their knowledge." – **Holly Godwin, VFS & Freestyle competitor**

"Terminal Velociraptors again going outside their usual hunting ground of intermediate and coming home with a silver! Many thanks to Skydive Oz for putting on another banger of a competition, and an amazing drop zone. More amazing people." – **Stephen 'Bax' Baker, 4-way Intermediate competitor**

"Being new to the sport and entering my first competition I found the weekend to be a great experience. A well organised event with the only hiccup being the weather. Seeing the competitive side of skydiving was really interesting and the opportunity to receive world class coaching was extremely beneficial. It was a huge success and can't wait for the next one!" – **Gordon Broome, 2-way FS competitor**

"The N.S.W./A.C.T titles looked very different on camera than it did for spectators on the ground. There were some tricky winds at ground level which made landings interesting. However as judge's assistants we were privy to see some fantastic displays of aerial acrobatics and calm, carefully planned routines. Thanks to all the camera-people who did a great job to make some difficult manoeuvres look aesthetically pleasing. This also made the judges' task easier, and the teams could get the scores they had earned. A great, well organised competition all round." – **Aidan Ruja, ground support**



4-way Inter Silver Jigsaw



Freestyle Gold Busted Ballerina



Freestyle Bronze Fly 4 Effect



2-way CF Gold Stinger Defence



2-way CF Silver Task Force Blunt Defence



4-way Open Gold Megasaurus Rex

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Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld BIG-WAY CAMP

NAGAMBIE, 3 DECEMBER 2016

By Janine Hayes

The invitation went out to the Aussie skydiving community and 102 replied to the call. One week skydiving in sunny Victoria with loads of talented coaches and a bigwig from the U.S., Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld (<http://danbrodsky-chenfeld.com>), whose reputation came before him and who duly lived up to his credentials. Mind you, tight and bright is not his thing but more on that later. You can read his book, *Above all Else*, which takes you on an amazing journey through a skydiving career of 26,000 plus jumps, and finishes with some great coaching tips for anyone who wants to improve their skydiving, whether in a small team or in Big-ways.

We gathered in the hangar at Skydive Nagambie on the evening of Saturday, 3 December with great expectations and an air of anticipation as to what the week would bring.

The invitation also went out to a myriad of sponsors and an enormous number answered the call.

The event was generously sponsored by the Australian Parachute Federation (APF), N.S.W. Parachute Council, Vic/Tas Parachute Council, S.A. Parachute Council, W.A. Parachute Council, Sth Qld Parachute Council, Cookie Helmets, iFLY Downunder, P3 Skydiving, Cypres, Sunpath, Manufactory, Terminal Sports, Square One, Performance Design, Para Gear and Skydive Nagambie who hosted the event for their work before, during and after the event, without which any amount of anticipation was not going to matter one iota. This eminent list of organisations underpinned the fabric of the event.

Tracey Basman, Aussie Big-way Coordinator, Captain Greg Jack, Aussie Big-ways visionary (and garner of all things sponsored for the raffle), and Operations guru Scott Clark,

gave us a rundown of procedures including the coaches who would assist.

Thanks to Andrew Barker, David Loncasty, Greg Jack, LJ Wobker – all the way from the U.S., Melissa Harvie and Stretch.

Dan BC then spoke about the program for the week, the P3 philosophy, and the impending journey from rabble of experienced or newly skilled skydivers to the challenge and prospect at the end of the week to participate in an Aussie Sequential record. Dan was animated about his previous experience with Aussie skydivers, including the records at Perris in 2010 and 2015, and highlighted that this event was an opportunity to learn from everyone and begin the journey toward the 2019, 150-Aussie Big-way record attempt.

After a dinner sponsored by Rob Denny and the team, a catch-up with old friends, introductions to new people, and the prospect of hiding away from the world for a week the enthusiasm was garnered, and it was off for a reasonably early night for the participants while the coaches beavered away organising teams and slots.

DAY 1: SUNDAY, 4 DECEMBER

The day dawned bright with some cloud coming in. We commenced with briefings, dirt diving and more dirt diving with 16-ways from two aircraft. Each team of sixteen tested their skills trying different slots from different aircraft; with the emphasis on nailing the exits and getting to the formation via the quadrant, radial, and stopped in their slot with the proviso that they could extend their comfort zone without the wrath of the coaches or their fellow skydivers.





While the skydivers were tested, there were some interesting formation flying from the pilots, and while the winds threatened to halt proceedings, all went well with most people completing three jumps for the day.

- My note from Dave Loncasty: Too many to count, too many laughs, but all with a subtle message that packed a punch.

The wrap-up was positive with Dan assuring us that we could be more positive and not so tentative, and that tomorrow there was time to get there.

DAY 2: MONDAY, 5 DECEMBER

Teams were swapped and coaches traded with much expectation as to the day ahead. A similar format was followed with 16-ways from two aircraft, each aircraft having two halves of each team on board.

While weather was forecast for rain, the day commenced with a fine morning with many underestimating the lack of wind. Beer infringements were a-plenty with Don spruiking his yellow and red cards with all the glee of an umpire with total control over the proceedings. No arguments, just pay up at the bar!

The pilots appeared much more comfortable, and the aircraft were switched with Poo taking the lead (that's the blue caravan) and Jock following in tight formation in the trail aircraft (that's the white caravan).

With an emphasis on tracking groups to be more disciplined, and the opportunity to pick-up the pace and get to your slot, the quality of jumps was evident with many formations completed notably with a couple of points. Five jumps for the day were done.

- My note from LJ Wobker: 1. Stay Safe, 2. One jump is sixteen hours and \$800 worth of fire 3. Be respectful.

DAY 3: TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER

Late start due to cloud, which finally cleared.

Today, we graduated to 16-ways from one aircraft with the usual morning gather around the white board to check out teams, coaches and slots.

There were some great jumps and plenty of completions, which enabled the build-up for the Wednesday. Even with a later start we had five jumps in for the day.

- My note from Melissa Harvie: Take care of yourself, do your best and look after your buddy.

The wrap-up was positive and decisive. The weather outlook for Thursday was not so good so rather than have the scheduled day off, we would convene in the morning. This would enable us to have a crack at 32-ways and to utilise

the opportunity for those who had not jumped with oxygen to get in some practice from 15,000ft.

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER

The day dawned bright and clear and although Scott assisted by Adrian Ferguson (thanks Fergs and others) had toiled until 1.30am in the morning to prepare the oxygen system, alas it was not to be. Encountering Scott at 6.00am, I assured him I would pass a message to Tracey and he headed off to Shepparton to secure the necessary parts to complete the job. Never stand in the way of a determined bald man, who cannot jump through no fault of his own, who has volunteered his services to get the job done. One word: Legend.

The illusion of oxygen and the extra height was enough to convince everyone that they could build 32-ways regardless, and after a warmer day and clear skies, and five jumps for everyone, some very solid skydives were completed.

The wrap-up at the end of the day was significantly positive with Dan convincing everyone that they had the capability of reaching the dizzy heights of Perris and completing an Aussie Record in 2019.

DAY 5: THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER

Don't you love it when you, the powers that be, get the forecast right? Don't you hate cold, wind, rain, horizontal rain, vertical rain, more wind and more torrential rain?

The weather provided the opportunity for a morning, or the whole day off. We hit the wineries, shops, or went for a leisurely coffee. For others, it was the chance to chin-wag with Dan BC in the Coach the Coach session. Lots of great content and contribution from those in attendance with the following summary take-out notes:

- Being a coach is more than being a skydiver.
- You need to remember what it was like to be a beginner.
- Your role is to enthuse younger jumpers.
- An AFF student is on the edge of quitting. On this edge, the coach is the connection to the sport and reason for the student to stay in in the sport.

Dan spoke for another eighteen pages of notes, and rather than me ramble on I suggest you read his book. He did emphasise the 4 C's: Calm, Communication, Control and Confidence. Happy Reading.

In the afternoon, we captured some great photos, many of which adorn these pages – with helmets, rigs, blades, shirts and planes. Camera flyers are worth their weight in gold on the ground and in the air. Without their skills, no record can be recorded.

SEMINARS

Over the course of the event between weather holds, and in the afternoon or evenings, we listened to quality seminars from a range of people:

- Melissa Harvie gave a great run down on the progression charts that have been developed by herself and produced in poster form by the APF. These will be distributed to all drop zones. Check out the Aussie Big-ways website for specific information. www.aussiebigways.com. Check out Melissa's Supercharge program to update and strengthen your skills.
- Steve Smith provided an insight on all things 4-ways.
- Russell Blackman provided an insight on all things 8-ways and his upcoming program.
- Steve Fitch talked through camera flying: What you need to know and what you can learn from others' mistakes.
- Take-out note: Think twice about wearing a GoPro. Who or why there is one on the load; how it is mounted and what skill does the wearer have; have you thought about all the safety concerns? It might be small and compact, but it is a deadly addition if not respected.
- Stretch (Mark Sulzmayer) gave the ins and outs of exits. If you can't take on board the lessons from someone his size on getting out of a plane, then you aren't really trying.

DAY 6: FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER

We had an encouraging morning pep talk from Dan BC and company.

Dan shared his thoughts on the discussions the night before with the coaches regarding the Aussie Sequential record planned for today. Dan had anticipated that it would be the cream of the crop creating a Sequential record, then attempting more points while the rest of us played 32-ways.

The Aussie Big-way coaches thoughts were: Many People, Many Records, Swap Slots. What could possibly go wrong? Not a lot.

The day continued with oxygen hose distribution, briefings from Scott, Tracey, Dan BC, comments from Greg Jack, and it was up and away.

- Day 1: Load 1 = Record 1
- Day 1: Load 4 = Record 2
- Day 1: Load 7 = Record 3
- Day 1: Load 10 = Record 4

The in-between loads were 32-ways, all attempting to create the same Formation Sequential record. In the end, there were ten loads for the day and four successful completions; with some near tree landings, and tangles with sheep and the big hill on the first load. Subsequent adjustments to the spot saw everyone make it home for the rest of the day.

DAY 7: SATURDAY, 10 DECEMBER

Another great jumping day with teams of 16-ways having fun and putting all their new skills into practice without the pressure. Three loads were completed for most teams.

The end of the day saw the tight and bright idea of Catherine Bennetts-Cash come to life in a way I don't think Catherine could have ever imagined. Never has a women's toilet been frequented by so many cross-dressing males and females.

TUESDAY AND SATURDAY RAFFLE NIGHTS

Thanks to raffle Queen, Sandy Nieuwenhoven, and Guy Taylor's efforts selling tickets, the wonderful sponsored prizes were greatly received and the adage, winners are grinners, was never truer with many skydivers collecting more than their share of prizes.

WHAT'S THE VALUE IN HOSTING AN EVENT LIKE THIS? PLENTY!

The organising of any attempt such as this event is a logistical nightmare. It is a credit to those who, spearheaded by Dan BC, had the arduous task of sieving through the experience level and performances to allocate slots, and create a daily plan including engineering the dives and allocating camera, etc.

The fact that this culminated in a dedicated day for the sole purpose of creating an Aussie Sequential record was a master feat. In the end, the Sequential record was claimed by 74 people, but it was not without drama.

It is also a credit to those generous sponsors who supported the event such as the APF for facilitating the opportunity for such a high calibre coach like Dan BC to come to Australia.

LAST JUMP OF THE DAY: LOAD 10, RECORD 4

Last jump on the last day of the Sequential record attempt, David Loncasty in the Base was waiting for one pod to close at six o'clock. Stretch opposite Dave was thinking it was time to go and began to kick just a little and stopped. No one else left.



In the 6 o'clock pod, I had already changed grips and re-docked, and was willing and assisting (well I thought I was) Brendan Swain to make-up the distance between Tom Fletcher and Amanda Lavis, of which the real estate seemed vast.

Tom was willing and assisting Amanda to come forward and take up her grip. Tom and Brendan flew in and took up their grips. Amanda looked concerned and was doing her utmost to get back up to the formation, close the gap and take that grip. Finally, in what seemed like an eternity, our pod closed with Amanda latching onto it with a pincer grip.

Now Dave was kicking and dytters had hit their limit. Got the afterburners on and tracked like crazy. Did we get it? I was not sure, but thought so. From what I could see out of the corner of my eye it looked complete. I hoped so. Once on the ground, the picture was clear and we had in Dan's words completed another amazing Aussie record. Just. Only just, but just was enough.

Not everyone made the Sequential record jumps, but everyone who came contributed to the making of the Sequential record, and the success of the event overall.

This event has set the scene for the Aussie Big-way Record in 2019. It confirmed in Dan BC's eyes that Aussie

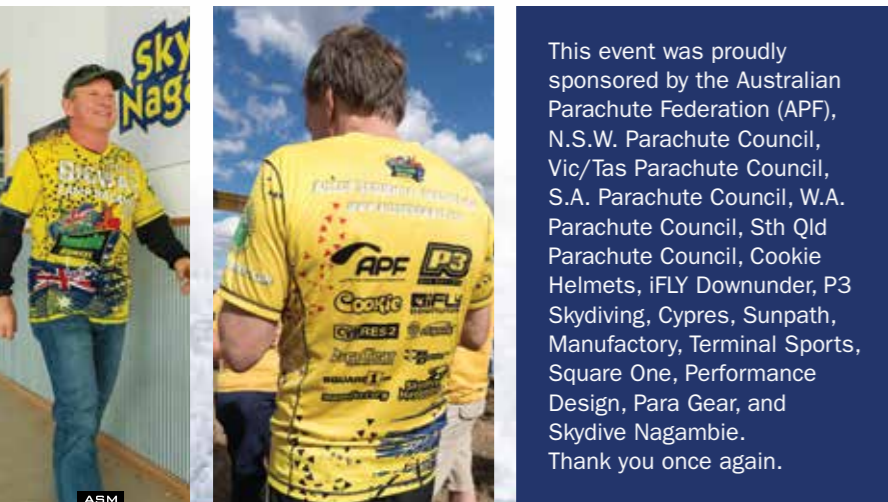
skydivers are tenacious and will never give up. We fix the bar high and we sincerely care about an individual within the whole; a reflection of our egalitarian culture.

It is important to acknowledge that no one individual could make this event happen. Therefore, thanks to the work of Tracey Basman, Greg Jack, Scott Clark, the coaches – Dan BC, David Loncasty, Andrew Baker, Melissa Harvie, Greg Jack, Stretch and LJ Wobker. Also, the State mentors – Ben Nordkamp, Sandy Nieuwenhoven, Shirley Cowcher, Calder Chernoff and J9. The aircraft owners Bowie and Ralph, and the pilots Poo (Paul Smith) and Jock (Folan). The drop zone owners (Don & Louise Cross, and staff Tom and Maddie). The amazing camera crew: Spot Tonson (lead cameraman), Steve Fitch, Shaunn Segon, Calder Chernoff and Dan Rossi. The ground staff, the catering staff Rob Denny and crew, and coffee guru Ginny and her crew. All the fabulous Sponsors. The Judges (Peta, Jock, Jenny, Ray and Gail). Shirley for coordination, Kelly Brennan for media coordination, and Joe Clark and Mary Nguyen for social media updates. Crash for rigging and all the packers. Did I mention the fantastic sponsors? But, most of all, thanks to my fellow skydivers who turned up to do what they do best – get airborne and have a great time producing quality skydives.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total loads:** 146 (making for long days and short nights)
- **Total jumps:** 2,600
- **Tunnel Time:** 88 people with time from 10 minutes to a few with over 100 hours, and everything in between
- **Number of collective jumps:** 234,490
- **Age in collective years:** 4,527
 - **Youngest:** Will Rosner
 - **Oldest:** Jim Czerwinski
- **Participants:** N.S.W. – 40; Queensland – 13; Victoria – 28; S.A. – 6; N.T. – 1; W.A.9; International– 4 and 1 Kiwi
- **Beer infringements:** One landing in the bus stop, one landing on the strip, plenty of over runs, and lots of laughs.
- **Cartons bought:** Hundreds
- **Malfunctions:** 3
- **Injuries:** 1 sprained ankle. Trent, lucky it wasn't the fence.
- **Games:** Rock, Paper, Scissors can be played between aircraft.
- **Social enrichment:** Many new friendships and relationships formed. (Well, I am not sure about the last one but I expect so. I am happy for you to text me for clarification.)
- **Expletives:** Greg Jack did not swear to the press in any interview, but made up for it in his Captain's Chats, as well as a few other expletives during the event wrap-ups.
- **Double rainbow:** Spectacular
- **Raffles:** Loads of great prizes, and many happy winners thanks to Guy and Sandy's ticket selling prowess.
- **Tight and Bright party:** Thanks Catherine
- **Mankini's:** On anyone, especially Graeme, Mark and Al, are best left to the imagination.
- **Who knew:** 100 mile-an-hour tape can be used as a hat or even a mankini, Go Al. That a six foot, six man, and a five foot nothing girl could fit into the same suit, along with a few others in between – well done Marty and Skye.
- **Power Ranges:** They come in all sizes.
- **Sharing is caring:** LJ knows how to party in other people's clothes – other people know how to party in LJ's clothes.
- **Congratulations:** Dave Girvan's 1000th jump. Dave Gough's 700th jump.
- **Happy Birthday:** To Mary and Stretch, whose birthdays bookended the event.
- **Hypoxia:** John Winkler – severe hypoxia – great recovery.
- **Victoria:** You will always need a jacket





This event was proudly sponsored by the Australian Parachute Federation (APF), N.S.W. Parachute Council, Vic/Tas Parachute Council, S.A. Parachute Council, W.A. Parachute Council, Sth Qld Parachute Council, Cookie Helmets, iFLY Downunder, P3 Skydiving, Cypres, Sunpath, Manufactory, Terminal Sports, Square One, Performance Design, Para Gear, and Skydive Nagambie. Thank you once again.

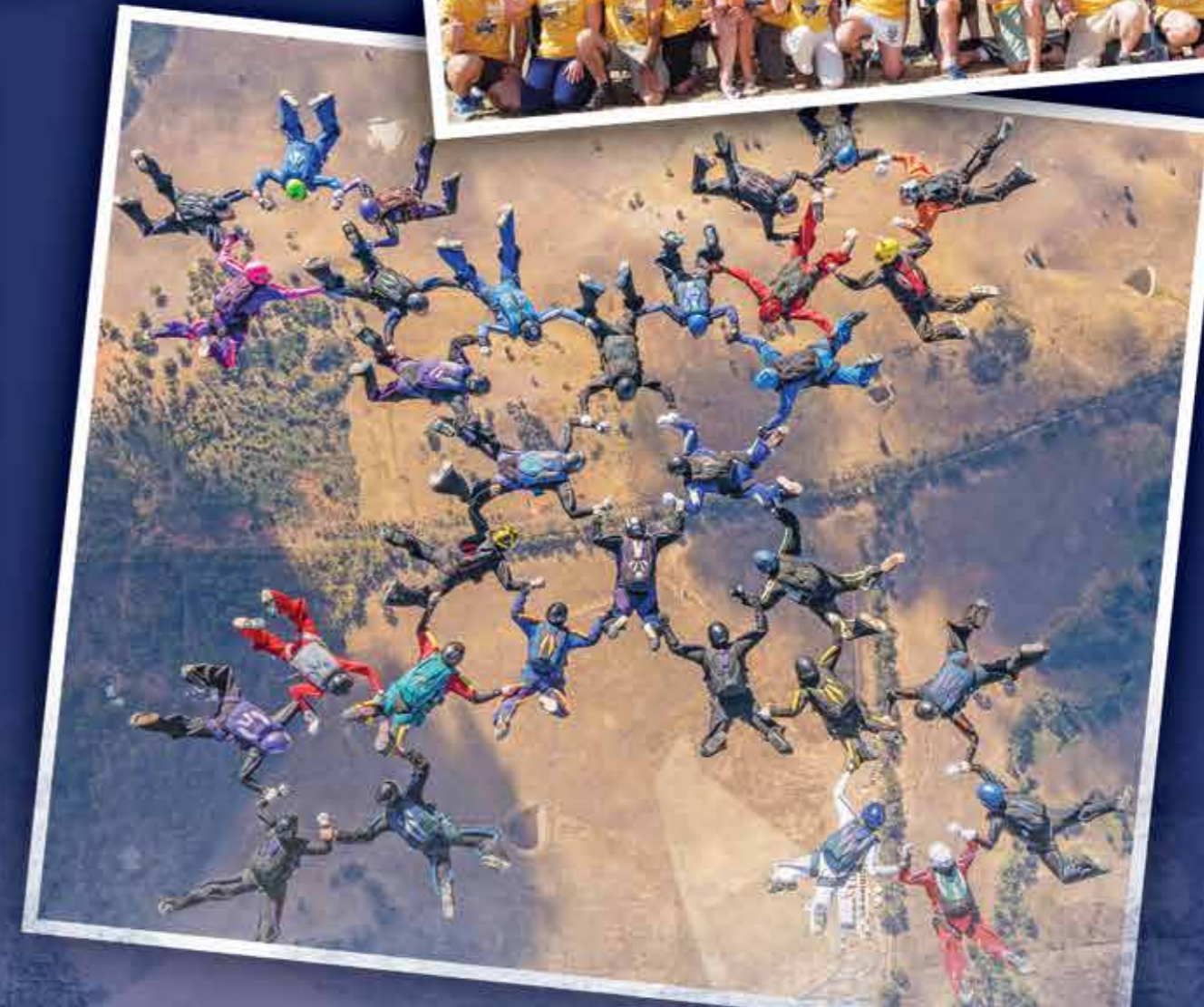
"I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome and fantastic week in Australia. Even the tight and bright party was the perfect end to a perfect week. (After showing my son the photos I was glad I wasn't able to find anything to wear!) I have a special bond with the Aussie skydiving community and truly feel honoured to have shared so many wonderful times with you. At the briefing before the camp, I spoke about the unbelievable, no less than epic, events we had done together at Skydive Perris. Three record breaking jumps in a row in 2010. In 2015, setting a record on the very last jump after only being able to do half the planned skydives the week prior. Last week in Nagambie lived up to my highest expectations, and after the prior events those expectations were pretty high. After five days of the camp, watching all of you learn so much every day, we went up and repeated a 32-way Aussie Sequential record on four consecutive jumps with 74 different skydivers! I've never even heard of such a thing. It could only be conceived and executed by the Aussie jumpers and your crazy leaders. Of all the skydiving events I've done in my life, I will forever treasure these three Aussie events.

The 2019 Aussie Record 150-way event is going to be the biggest and baddest of them all. A 150-way is an enormous goal. I meant what I said when I told you that each and every one of you could definitely be on the record. You can! There is no question about it. But we'll all need to keep working at it. Do all the Aussie Big-way events you can. Do Melissa Harvie's Supercharge tunnel camp. Come to the P3 events (www.p3skydiving.com). Organise jumps at your home drop zone and practice what you've learned, even if it's a 4-way.

Keep up the good work and the 2019 event will be the best Aussie event ever. I'm already excited about it. And after we set that record, you may even get me to dress up in a tight pink leotard! (But no manikini.)

Hope to see you all of you soon on both sides of the Pacific."

Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld



**R
E
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D

1**



RECORDED
#3



RECORDED
#2



RECORD #4



THE NEXT AUSSIE BIG-WAY'S

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

By Tracey Basman, Aussie Big-ways' National Mentor and Events Coordinator

The Australian Big-way community has a habit of pulling rabbits out of hats. In 2010, it was breaking three national records in one day, the last being a 112-way. In 2015, under difficult conditions, we broke another national record on the very last day, very last jump, to build a 119-way. In December 2016, another rabbit was pulled with the setting of new Australian Sequential records on home soil with four 2-point 32-way formations. We didn't just make the sequential record once, we did it four times in a row, rotating through 74 different Skydivers! It wasn't about turning and burning through sequential record points, it was about the Aussie Big-way Team. This team often has a mind of its own!

Such feats as those in 2010 and 2016 have never been achieved in the Big-way community internationally. Aussie Big-ways just seem to make these Mission Impossible a reality! We are setting new benchmarks for other countries to follow!

WHAT IS AUSSIE BIG-WAYS NEXT MAJOR MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

To break the 119-way record set in 2015, by achieving a new Australian largest Formation record of a 150-way! The event is set for May 2019 at Perris Valley, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

Are you up for the challenge? Do you want excitement, maybe some elements of surprise, fun, adventure, and a huge sense of accomplishment in your life? Look no further as this Aussie Big-way's Mission Impossible challenge has all of the above!

WHO IS AUSSIE BIG-WAYS AND HOW DO THEY ACCOMPLISH SUCH FEATS?

Aussie Big-ways is a team of individual Big-way enthusiasts who just love jumping Big-ways and are passionate about making and breaking Big-way records. These individuals embrace such challenges with the required focus; support one another to achieve goals, whether it is completing a 12-way or a 150-way!



Vision Statement

To develop Formation skydiving skills nationwide, achieve safe and successful Big-way skydives, and set national FS Big-way records.

Mission Statement

To inspire and nurture enthusiasm for Big-way skydiving, and develop the skills needed to be successful through best practice coaching, State and national events and community support.





WHO ARE THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF AUSSIE BIG-WAYS?

Our world is run by volunteers. What world isn't, so no surprises there! We would like to introduce ourselves as a point of contact for any questions you have about skill development, events, or the goal of the 150-way record attempts in 2019.

Team Captain: Greg Jack

Event Organiser of the national record events in Perris Valley, U.S.A. Working closely with the Perris Big-way Coaching team since 2007 to bring these record opportunities to Australians and our international Big-way supporters.

National Events Coordinator and Mentor: Tracey Basman
Coordination and liaison between State mentors. Promotes and organises quality Big-way training and sequential record events within Australia.

Skills Development: Melissa Harvie

Establish and maintain education and training best practice for the Aussie Big-way team. Provide thought, leadership, strategy and guidance to the mentors and Big-way coaches.

Big-way Consultant: David Loncasty

Guidance and support of the Aussie Big-way mentors and team to ensure best practice coaching at Aussie Big-way events.

Event Ground Logistics: Scott Clark

Ground logistics coordinator of oxygen systems and the smooth running of our major events.

State Mentors:

W.A. Shirley Cowcher
VIC Janine Hayes & Christian Peric
S.A. Sandy Nieuwenhoven
QLD Ben Nordkamp & Alan Moss (Mossy)
N.S.W. Calder Chernoff & Deb Hobbs

These awesome people have a large role to play in the bigger picture of Aussie Big-ways. These are our people

on the ground being proactive in identifying, nurturing and guiding anyone showing interest in the next Aussie record event in Perris in 2019. They provide training platforms such as 4-way, 8-way, Star Crest, and Big-way events. These are the go-to guys in your State!

WHAT ARE THE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS?

- In a nutshell, Aussie Big-ways looks to provide established and successful pathways for improving your skydiving skills and experiences.
- The Aussie Big-ways 'Events Calendar' on our website aussiebigways.com is full of events that we support to provide improvement and progression. We encourage everyone to join us in our end goal of a new national record of a 150-way, however it isn't just about that. It is about the journey, meeting new friends and old, and enjoying what the sport has to offer in the here and now. Come and join us!
- Visit our website: aussiebigways.com. Our website is jam-packed full of information with more to come. Why not browse our past record achievement pages and watch some videos; click on 'Skills Development' for a wealth of technical information, or maybe catch up on the monthly 'Pro Tips' written by Melissa Harvie. Our 'News & Updates' section contains a monthly brief from the Captain, national and State mentors. You might find yourself in some news story with possibly a picture or two.
- Visit and follow our Aussie Big-ways' Facebook sports page with our latest news and events.
- Read up on the Aussie Big-ways skills and event guide posters at your drop zone, which highlight known pathways to improve your success in jumping Big-ways at all levels.

Note: Please let us know if you require posters at your drop zone. Write to nationalmentor@aussiebigways.com.



WHAT'S ON FOR 2017?

There is a raft of awesome events scheduled for 2017. Visit our events calendar for more details. If you haven't already, you might like to sign up for our Events and Monthly Newsletter mailings to not miss out. Go to our website to sign up!

Our next national event with international Big-way coach, Doug Forth, is set for November 2017 at Skydive Oz, Moruya N.S.W. This will be followed by another event in early December at Skydive the Beach, York W.A.

At Moruya, we are aiming for the same successful format as our 2016 event, starting with a Big-way camp to build team skills, followed by Sequential record attempts.

In York, it will be a 4-day training camp to build skills in Western Australia with 16-32-ways. Come to one or both events!

Exciting times are upon us here in Australia over the next few years. Lots going on, don't miss out!

With incredible support from the APF and the State Parachute Councils, we have been able to bring quality Aussie Big-way events to you in Australia. Take advantage of what we have to offer, whether you are in for just the ride or the end goal of a 150-way Australian record. Come along to our events for focused learning. This is an investment in your personal skydiving improvement. Come meet-up with new and old friends. Let's unite as Big-way jumpers in Australia to make and break national records. Giddy up Australia!





DARWIN PARACHUTE CLUB PRESENTS...

2ND - 9TH SEPTEMBER

BACHELOR, NT

REL WEEK BOOGIE 2017

FAST CARAVAN FLYING LOADS ALL WEEK;

FREEFLY COACHES - **MASON CORBY**

WITH **RED FERGUSON**

"AUSSIE BIGWAYS" COACHES - **DAVID LONGCASTY**
& **TRACEY BASMAN**

& WINGSUIT COACH - **TRAVIS NAUGHTON**

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF FUN: **STAR CRESTS,**
WINGSUIT FIRST FLIGHT, MASSIVE WINGSUIT FLOCKS,
BIGWAY FORMATIONS, FREEFLY, ANGLES & MORE!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR **REGISTRATION PRICES & PACKAGES**

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The Elephant in the Room

By Jed Smith and Jana Fitzpatrick

Tandems...

Like it or not, they are the lifeblood of the sport. Skydiving's heyday throughout the 70s, 80s and into the 90s is over, drop zones no longer run on hopes and dreams. In our litigious society with a paperwork obsession, there are insurance premiums to be funded, safety management protocols to be written and adhered to, as well as accountant's wages to be paid. Not a weekend goes by that some young jumper who has been bumped from a load has to be reminded that tandems make the world go round. They pay for the million dollar facilities we use and fund the wages of someone organising a boogie. They pay for the utilities at the DZ, the Council rates, the cleaners wage, overall rent and are ultimately what give the drop zone a profit. It is no argument that without Tandems, there would be no million dollar planes to jump out of, no manicured grass to land on and no new packing carpet to pack on. And mostly certainly no me writing this article. Tandems are literally used to subsidise the world of sports skydiving, and there must be a fundamental change in the overall skydiving culture to accept this. We must see the forest for the trees, and the reality that the absence of the 'Full Service DZ' is increasingly becoming the rule rather than the exception.

There have been three generations of drop zones over the past 30 or so years. The first generation are your Corowas, **Elderslies**, Batchelors, Ramblers, Hillman Farms etc. These are your DZs that worked to pioneer the sport early on with a distinct focus on development and training, and are what gave Australian skydiving its characteristic flavour today, its 'escape your reality' culture. The second generation saw the tide changing and have adapted accordingly. These are your Jurien Bays and Skydive Ozs, they have flourished well and are offering a beach tandem product whilst keeping the dream alive through training and fun jumping. Then, you have your third generation of pop up, stand alone DZs. The last ten years has seen a huge surge of Tandem-Only DZs pop up all over the country, both large and small scale. These DZs are focusing on providing a Tandem Only product to the growing market, and subsequently enabling large economies of scale. An economy of scale allows each aspect of the company to be run at its maximum efficiency, whether it be purchasing merchandise, maintaining equipment, servicing aircraft or streamlining advertisements. As a business, it is all about efficiency. Sure, at times fun jumping is accepted to fill slots not taken by tandems, but Tandem only DZs ultimately avoid

training and/or development of up-and-coming jumpers for many logical reasons. This is not a statement to lump all DZs into one basket, but rather a general trend that has been observed over the previous decade.

The rising popularity of Tandems has been a good thing overall. It has allowed sports skydiving to survive into the 21st century, providing full service DZs an income in order to fund their overall sustainability in a world of ever-increasing overheads.

Rising insurances, higher property fees and multiple layers of regulation and mandatory compliance, to name but a few, all have contributed to the Full Service DZs reliance on Tandems to finance day-to-day operations. Fun Jumping slots merely cover the plane ride up and all these additional financial obligations need to come from somewhere else. Hence, a consequential (and inevitable) development of this changing economical ecosystem has been the rise of the Tandem only DZ. It's a business; and you can't blame a business owner for running a good business. It makes sense. Provide the customer with what they want (an amazing experience) and reduce the risk as much as possible, for the highest potential yield. Fun Jumpers and Students are a (documented) high risk for very little (documented) return. Ultimately, they are a liability. Appendix 1 shows that AFF and Static Line Students (who make up around 0.569% of first time jumpers) accounted for 36% of the total serious injuries amongst first time jumpers. Fun Jumpers made up almost half (49%) of all injuries reported to the APF (Appendix 2). One look at the statistics will clearly show you that if you want to decrease your risk, lose students and fun jumpers.

Granted, not all drop zones are capable of running training operations, and can be restricted by display requirements and/or beach landing sites. The Beach Skydive / Display location is a gimmick. But it's a gimmick that works and the general public love it. In a generation of bucket lists, #YOLO and social media, getting the ultimate selfie photo of that once in a lifetime experience has become the newest must have. Beach/display drop zones have encompassed and leveraged this to great success, as can be seen by increasing student memberships year after year. Take a look at Appendix 3 to see the dominance of Tandem Skydiving over the past decade.

TM Eric Van Staden & passenger
Raelle Kelly over Airlie Beach
Photo by Marco DeBoni



This is undeniably good for skydiving as a whole. More memberships equal more exposure for the sport. More exposure means more growth. But, what does this growth and exposure mean? Imagine for a second you are a member of the general public showing up to a Tandem Only DZ. Unless your instructor (or upper management) goes out of their way to explain the world of skydiving to you, all you see in the world of skydiving are highly experienced Instructors and nervous as hell students. Where does that leave your 20 something Tradie with a fist full of 50s in his hand? Going out on the town is where. The APF and particular Tandem Only DZs already have some great initiatives in place to convert Tandem Students to AFF Students, but how can we push harder to follow up and convert these students to future instructors?

This is a problem as we head into a world where demand for Tandem Skydives begins to outstrip the supply of qualified, passionate and home grown Tandem Masters. Just ask any CI at any DZ how they are going for staff and you will find they are lacking. This gap is pretty much left up to full service DZs to resource, but with some companies already employing international Tandem Masters on 457 Visas to meet the deficit, it is clear this isn't happening fast enough or in the right quantity (Appendix 4).

It has been observed that each year over 50% of new ratings holders in Australia are overseas conversions. Instructors don't grow on trees. It takes immense time, effort, money not to mention risk from both the individual AND the training organisation to produce an instructor of high calibre. It takes a lot of close calls, shitty decisions and CI grey hairs to get a candidate to the point of professional talent and safety. Now if we lose that progression from a 100 jump wonder to fully fledged Instructor, where will that leave us as a skydiving community? Where do we want to see Australian skydiving progress to? Will we end up in a similar position as New Zealand, whereby overseas Instructors in conjunction with one or two major training organisations fill the ever increasing demand for Instructors?

To be fair, fun jumpers often shit where they eat. Not seeing a drop zone for the business it must now be, they instead use it purely as an avenue for their own personal enjoyment. They do not realise that their future now lies in the understanding of a member of the public being able to arrive at a drop zone/business and be treated in a professional, safe and comfortable environment. One sour experience, a beer bottle left in the packing shed, a foul mouth in front of a child, does not help a business cater to its most important customer; the Tandem Student. Not surprisingly, fun jumping is not often regarded as great for business. Sure, its accepted at some Tandem Only DZs in order to fill those ever important slots and keep props spinning, but ultimately it isn't actively encouraged, embraced or sought after by upper management. This is where we must encourage a grass roots movement, and educate fun jumpers of their responsibility to preserve and ultimately grow their drop zone, to understand and see their role in an ever changing drop zone dynamic. It is possible and it is happening.

There is another aspect to the decline of the 'full service drop zone'. Time. In a world that is increasingly short of it, it is no argument that a Full Service DZ takes more time to run than a Tandem Only DZ. Full stop. At a 'full service club', management's time is often split roughly along the lines of 70/20/10. That is 70% time dedicated to Tandems, 20% dedicated to AFF courses and logistics, and 10% trying to heard fun jumping cats and chickens

into some semblance of a line. Comparatively, the Tandem only drop zone is able to dedicate 100% of their time to the service that ultimately adds to the bottom line. The cream of the crop. And again, who can blame them? If you look at it objectively it is an extremely sound business decision to run a Tandem only operation. Less risk, more reward. Work smarter, not harder. Business 101.

Training a student to be a good (and safe) skydiver takes time. It takes effort and patience. It takes passion. The time to devote these qualities is often given to students at the detriment of an operations' overall efficiency and predictability. Further staffing requirements, longer briefs and de-briefs, smaller weather windows, not to mention the increased paperwork and licencing burdens to name but a few, are all factors that contribute to the increased logistics and overall inefficiency of a full service DZ compared to that of Tandem Only one. Throw in a higher risk of serious injury and the ensuing media scrutiny and you get the picture. This aspect is of only further detriment to the full service DZ that is attempting to simultaneously cater to its Tandem Students. For the upcoming generation of instant gratification, time and patience are generally of short supply. They are not accustomed to waiting, and wont tolerate it for long. This modern day reality only further cements the progression of today's DZs to Tandem Only.

In Summary, it is clear that tandems have allowed sports skydiving to survive into the 21st century. They have provided full service DZs an avenue in which to build (literally) million-dollar training facilities across the country, and the current skill and ability of Australian Skydivers is testament to this. But we must now come to terms with a consequential development that is the Tandem only DZ. It is good business. It provides the 21st century customer with what they want, whilst reducing the risk as much as possible for the highest potential yield. Higher profits with less overall logistics. In a world running increasingly short on time and low in profit margin, it is no secret that the traditional Full Service DZ is fading from the skydiving landscape with the Tandem Only DZ becoming the preferred format.

First and foremost, full service drop zones must take the responsibility for developing a grass roots movement within their own fun jumper base. Fun Jumpers must understand their role in a changing drop zone dynamic and appreciate that the future survival of their DZ relies on the coexistence of Sports and Tandem skydiving. Skydiving as Culture and Skydiving as a Business. Although it would seem these are two seemingly separate forces at play, the reality is in today's evolving world these forces can no longer be mutually exclusive, but rather they must play integral roles in each other's sustainability. You cannot sustain talent without money. You cannot make money without talent. We need to find a way to encourage interaction and communication between these two seemingly different motivations. Similarly, we all have a responsibility to make sure this culture survives. It's time to ask ourselves where are we heading, and what role will we play? We have to make sure the direction we choose next isn't just a five or ten-year plan, but rather secures the future for generations to come. Tandem Skydiving is currently booming in popularity, memberships are increasing year to year and skydiving's exposure and profile has never been higher.

How will we invest, and what type of community led action, will ultimately help support the continued development and existence of our sport and its future leaders? Skydiving is used to dealing with million dollar stakes, but this is the real million-dollar question.

The Elephant in the Room

Tables and Charts

All Tables and Charts were found in the Australian Parachutes Federations 2015 Annual Report

6.19.5 STUDENT INJURIES

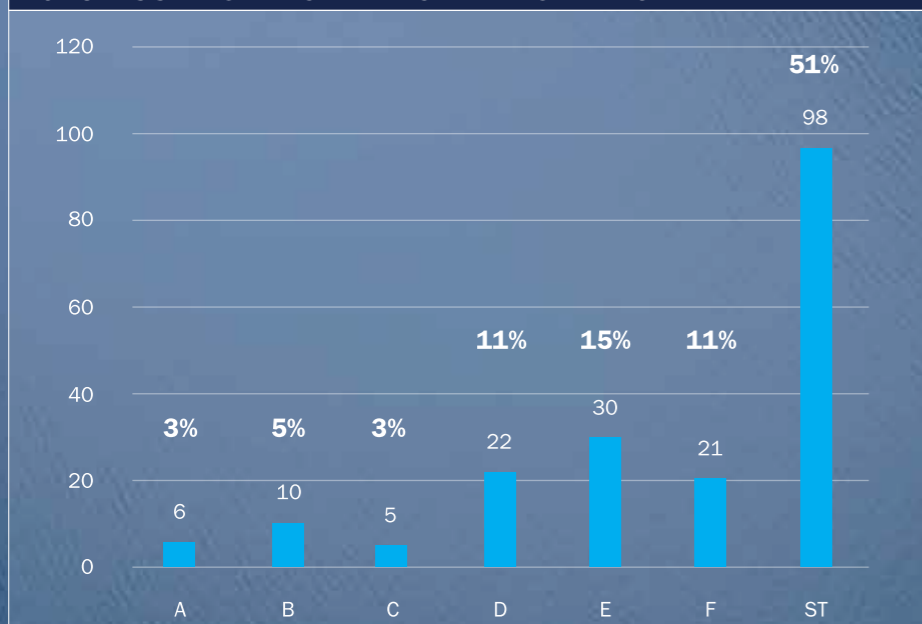
TYPE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Tandem jumps	110,412	129,405	141,209	151,468	162,233
Tandem Student Injuries (Total)	48	57	86	65	70
Serious of these above	11	21	35	22	23
Tandem jumps per injury	2300	2270	1642	2330	2318
Tandems per serious injury	10037	6162	4034	6885	7054
Total 1st jumps non tandem (AFF/SL)	1403	1391	1344	830	929
1st jump injuries (AFF/SL) (Total)	7	12	20	13	6
Serious of these above	3	3	12	6	2
1st jumps (AFF/SL) per injury	200	116	71	64	155
1st jumps (AFF/SL) per serious injury	468	464	112	138	465
>1 Jump Student Injuries	27	34	44	25	22
Serious of these above	17	18	22	13	11

6.19.6 INJURIES TO SPORTING LICENSED MEMBERS

In 2015, 38% of the injuries that occurred to Sporting Licensed members were described as Serious Injury, a 15% decrease from 2014.

TYPE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Licensed Jumpers	95	109	115	101	94
Serious injuries from these	44	42	44	54	36

2015 INJURIES BY CERTIFICATE - TOTAL 192



Appendix 2: Injuries by Certificate. Fun Jumpers make up 49% of all injuries. Note the 'ST' bar above includes both AFF, S/L and Tandem Injuries.

TM Tim Hansell with passenger, over Innisfail's beach drop zone. Photo by Mark Schafer.



Appendix 1: A table from the APFs 2015 annual report of Student Injuries. Of relevance is the total number of serious injuries per Tandem (23) and Per Non Tandem Student (13). AFF and S/L Students (who make up around 0.569% of all first jumps) accounted for 36% of the total serious injuries amongst first time jumpers.

In 2015, APF members reported 72 skydiving serious injuries out of roughly 360,131 jumps. That's roughly 2 serious injuries per 10,000 skydives. This was a drop from 2.7/10,000 jumps in 2014. These safety records stand as a testament to decades of strict safety standards, training policies and programs, as well as improvements in skydiving equipment over the years.

Skydiving involves inherent risks, but most skydiving accidents result from human error. With proper preparation and good judgment, skydivers can minimize those risks. Thanks to safer equipment, better training and the staffs at more than 70+ active APF-affiliated member organisations across the country, skydiving continues to become safer.

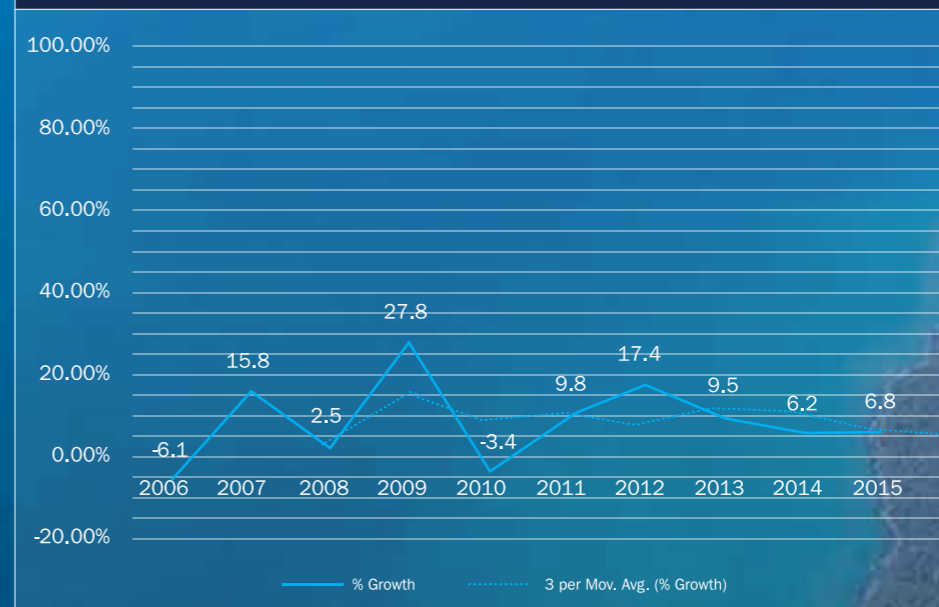
9.2.2 NEW MEMBERS FIRST JUMP TYPE AS % OF TOTAL NEW MEMBERS

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Tandem	96.9	95.6	93.9	97.3	95.6	95.7	98.2	98.3	99.1	99.1
AFF	0.6	0.9	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5
S/Line	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0
TAFF	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Unknown	2.1	3.4	4.4	1.5	3.0	2.9	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1

Appendix 3: New Members First Jump type. Shows the trend of Tandem Skydiving evolving to become the dominate form of introducing first time jumpers to Skydiving.

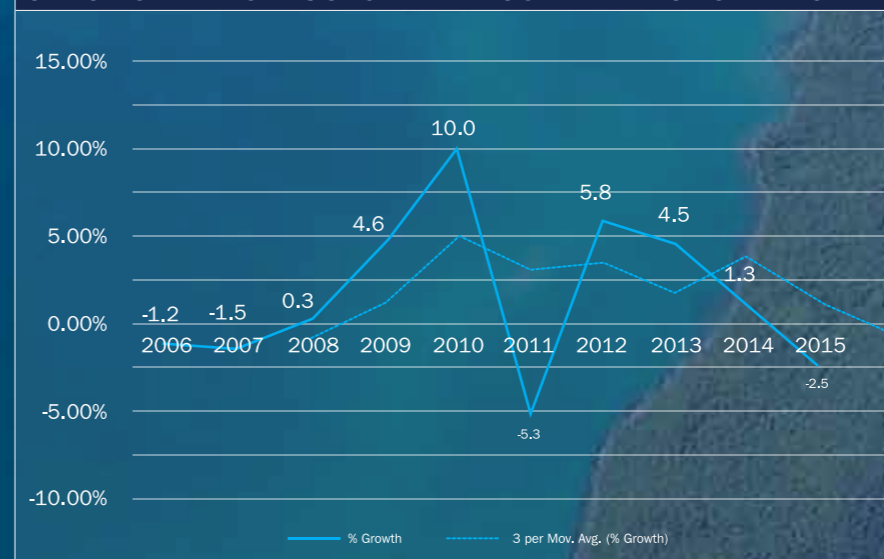
The report highlights the jump type a new member undertook for their first jump as a proportion of all new members for the calendar year. 99.1% of first time jumpers are undertaking a Tandem jump. At this time, the APF does not have an accurate record as to how many of these students may continue on to undertake an AFF or Static Line course. As such the figures do not represent a % of solo students, simply the 1st skydive undertaken as a member of an APF Club.

9.2.1. NEW MEMBERS % GROWTH ON PREVIOUS YEAR



The report highlights the growth in new members compared to the previous calendar year. 0% indicates the same number of new memberships were taken as the previous year, a negative indicates a reduction in the number of new members and a positive indicates an increase in the number of new memberships taken. The "3 per. Mov. Avg.", is a 3 year moving average which shows the short to medium term trend of growth based on a 3 year period. In 2015, the APF had 163,415 new memberships, representing an increase of 6.8% on 2014.

9.2.6 TOTAL INSTRUCTOR RATINGS HELD % GROWTH ON PREVIOUS YEAR



The report highlights the growth in total number of members who held any Instructor rating compared to the previous calendar year. 0% indicates that the same number of current instructor ratings were held as the previous year, a negative indicates a reduction in the number of instructor ratings and a positive number indicates an increase in the number of instructor ratings held during the calendar year. The "3 per. Mov. Avg.", is a 3 year moving average which shows the short to medium term trend of growth based on a 3 year period. During the 2015 year, 698 members held an instructor rating representing a 2.5% decrease in total instructor ratings held.

Appendix 4: Compares the percentage growth of New Members versus the percentage growth of Instructor Ratings over the previous 10 years. It is clear that the supply of Tandem masters (whilst following the trend of memberships) is unable to keep up with the demand of the Tandem Industry.

Please note these statistics have simply been lifted from the last APF Annual report (2015) and have been individually interpreted. Further targeted research is needed to explore this complicated and varied issue more specifically and precisely.

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Safety matters

"Most people do safe things dangerously to get a rush. I prefer to do dangerous things safely."
 - Brian Stuart Germain

The following are a sample of incidents from those submitted to the APF between Nov 2016 and Jan 2017 (incl.), and are published in the interest of safety education. 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 notifications as submitted. **Note:** Any 'Actions' stated are taken verbatim direct from the incident forms. **Please use these incidents 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 C, jump 378. Wings container, Safire 190 Main. Conducted normal check of Main pin and flap before putting on rig. Dirt dive with gear went as normal, no contact with anything. First on plane, not fully loaded, backed up against co-pilot seat. Had minimal movement apart from removal of seat belt. Last of 13 out, including one camera. Felt pud and container as usual, all felt ok. Stood up to position for exit and dived out. After freefall, reached break off height, tracked, and deployed normally.

After the jump, I was shown the footage. Footage showed bridle in tow as I docked on formation, with container flaps open. Closing loop was changed by packer four jumps earlier. I have been using packers for six days. I believe contact with either the seat or door moved the pin, and/or flap. I had no recollection of contact, but was very focussed on the job at hand. **Action:** Loop was shortened to lessen the chance of it dislodging so easy.

FREEFALL

Certificate A, jump 45. Icon container, Smart 160 Reserve. 4-way hoop jump with AFF ID. All jumpers had been briefed by the instructor to keep their elbows in to protect their cut away and Reserve handles when passing through the hoop. The jump was dirt dived for two jumpers to hold the hoop and the other two to pass through the hoop once each only. Break off was set at 5,000ft and the instructor was to land with the hoop. Jumper dislodged his cut away pad and cable. He realised what had happened, tracked away and deployed his Reserve at 4000ft. He landed on the drop zone without incident. **Action:** The jumper was counselled by the DZSO on what happened. Although he dislodged his cut away, he was very aware and took the right course of actions.

(J1) Certificate C, jump 100, Vector 3 container, Pulse 190 Main. (J2) Certificate C, 101 jumps. Angle jump. J2: "We had planned a 2-way track/angle to go head 90o off jump run to the right (away from town), where I would follow J1. We planned to break-off at 5,000ft then J1 said his Dytter was set for 5,500ft (miscommunication). I figured break-off was still 5,000ft. We didn't discuss what height we were deploying at. I assumed 3,500 to 4,000ft which proved to be incorrect. I fell behind J1 from the start, never caught up until the incident. As I approached approx. 6,500 to 7,000ft I did two barrel rolls in my track to practice. As I completed my second barrel roll I saw that J1 had deployed in front of and below me, perhaps approx. 1,000ft below me. I tried to steer my track to the right to avoid the collision, however when J1's canopy opened it turned and started then to fly in the

direction I had committed to. At the time J1 deployed my Dytter was yet to go off. J1 thinks he deployed at about 4,000ft. My Go-Pro and Alti shows I clipped J1 and then 18 seconds later I waved off at 3,800ft."

J1 stated that after exit he was leading and tracked in the agreed direction. He did not see J2 once for the whole of the track. At agreed height of 5,500ft he tracked left for about five seconds, did a barrel roll still without locating J2, waved and opened. Didn't see J2 hit, but they collided. J1 noticed a 10cm tear in top of the middle cell. Canopy was steerable so he decided to keep it. By the time he landed, the tear was considerably bigger and he landed hard on his rear, failing to PLR. Sustained lower back bruising.

Action: J2 - I was spoken to by the DZSO about the incident and then also spoke to Freely coach. Decided that I was only going to do angle/track jumps with a coach, in small groups, until I am more comfortable with them, and I have more overall skydiving experience (jumps and time in the sport). **J1** - In retrospect I wish I had cutaway and I wish I had rolled upon touch down.

DEPLOYMENT ISSUES/MALFUNCTIONS

Certificate E, jump 1884. Micron container, JVX 84 Main, Optimum 113 Reserve. 2 way FF jump. Exited just above 11,000ft. Premature Main pin extraction whilst still sub terminal. Jumper sighted his D-bag to the right of his head at approximately 10,000ft and immediately pitched his pilot chute. Main opened in very aggressive spin with line twists. Observed by his jump partner to be violently spinning for several rotations before he managed to get his cutaway handle. Cutaway approximately 8,000ft, and Reserve opened very quickly due to skyhook.

Reserve was also turning quite fast and jumper was not able to fully assess as his visor was fogged and his vision was restricted. Managed to look up and saw the left side of the canopy was deformed - he believes he identified a line over. Pumped brakes and canopy deformity cleared, but canopy then immediately spun up into several line twists, which were cleared by ~4,500ft. **Action:** Jumper said he felt he knocked his rig on something on exit. He believes he caused the premature deployment. Stated he felt he was close to passing out just before he managed to cut away his Main.

Reserve inspected after returning to the drop zone - nil damage or line burns noted on canopy or lines. Will return gear to his Packer for further assessment and input. Main canopy was retrieved the following day several km east of the drop zone. Freebag not located.

Certificate E, jump 1051. Talon, Hurricane 170. 2-way Freely. Toggle escaped from keeper during freefall. Under canopy by 3,500ft - on opening brake line wrapped around line set. Unable to untangle after trying for about 1,000ft. Cutaway at 2,500ft and deployed Reserve. Under Reserve by 2,000ft. Landed safely on the drop zone. Main and freebag landed close by and both were retrieved. **Action:** Was jumping borrowed gear following his CYPRES fire on aircraft descent previous day. Check toggle keepers and packing methods. To be better familiarised with gear when using borrowed equipment.



Compiled by:
Kim Hardwick
 APF Technical Officer

Certificate D, jump 404. Icon container. Wingsuit jump.

Reporter comment: "I was filming a first WS flight course. Good flight, few practice touches, very smooth. When came time to deploy, WS novice could not pull the pilot chute and went head-down and spin. Never pulled pilot chute, went for Reserve handle at ~1,000ft. Landed off drop zone safely under Reserve. AAD did fire but handle still pulled."

Novice comment: "Tried many times, could only grab small amount of pilot chute handle. Continued trying until about 900ft and stopped and went to Reserve. When under Reserve, alti said 740ft."

Be Your Own Influence

You can have a real influence on the likelihood of whether you could become an incident statistic by paying attention to the details that make up the whole experience of skydiving:

- Use only current equipment that is well maintained and familiar to the user.
- Plan and rehearse your skydive with all parties with regard to individual experience level before leaving the ground
- Inspect your equipment – get an equipment check – before each jump, both on the ground and in the aircraft.
- Be personally prepared to use your emergency procedures on every jump.
- Respect planned opening altitudes.
- Be aware of those around you from emplaning to landing.

CANOPY CONTROL/LANDINGS

Certificate E, jump 1500. Mirage container, Crossfire 139 Main. Jump 1 of a planned 12 over two days at a Canopy Handling Course. Standard full pre-start briefing, as usual. The winds, jump run, exit points and exit order were established. The group was reminded, as usual, that first jump of the day is a 'Coffee jump' and a chance to warm up, look around, feel the conditions and take it easy and fly with your brain not your Super Hero Ego. Abort plans for everyone were discussed along with another reminder that we have all day and tomorrow to play with. The group were also reminded that we have 15 acres of landing area and no excuses for poor decision making. Circuit for landing was observed to be low for the planned 270 turn, a firm 90 turn was executed, which at the time appeared to be a correct decision, however on panning back through the camera it was seen as too aggressive for the altitude and the better decision would have been to do a much softer turn using a rear riser or fly straight and use the massive, well maintained landing area that was available.

Jumper sustained multiple injuries including fractures to femur, pelvis, sacrum, ribs and some minor internal injuries. Lack of awareness of back-up plan and quality decision making whilst in flight. Possible fixation on some reference markers on the landing area. Traffic was not an issue as there were only two other people on the load. Currency is not considered a factor as the jumper works full time doing both outside camera and tandem duties.

Having to change his planned landing approach likely distracted him enough to not recognise the situation he was putting himself into.

Action: Drop zone meeting to thank everyone for their efforts. Reinforced the point that an alternative, simple plan should always be close to hand. Video was used in later debrief with the injured jumper, who had been unable to clearly recall the impact. He was shocked at what he saw.

Certificate E, jump 1388. Wings container, Crossfire 139 Main.

In short, I did not have the altitude I required to make the turn onto final and failed to flare out of "the corner" – reaching the ground with still a great amount of horizontal speed catching my left foot, knee then hip. Wingtips were not level at time of impact. Resulting in heavy landing. No injuries, slight bruising and considerable soreness.

Learnings: Heed the signs to abort if the picture is not perfect (turn angle, timing). Wingtips must be level for minimum of three seconds before commencing flare.

Jumper Actions:

- I will get a digital altimeter (I'm already running a canopy audible altimeter).
- I will increase landing initiation height by 30ft.
- I will be more ready to abort.
- I will attend the next canopy/landings course that runs in the State.
- I will remember that 100% concentration is required on all elements of skydiving and in this case landings.

DZSO/CI Actions. Debriefed the importance of being consistent before bringing such turns to the ground, DZSO has insisted that jumper goes back to straight in double front approaches becoming consistent, before resuming "90'ies". Has strongly recommend seeking further canopy coaching and has since signed up for canopy coaching Hop 'n Pop day.

GEAR CHECK

Misrouted 3-ring

Talon 2001. Owner stated that the excess cable fell out of the sleeve on every jump. The Equipment Defect Report stated that this rig had always had a short Left-Hand Bendix housing that sat on an angle. The pictured misrouting was observed and corrected by the DZSO during the owner's repack process. **Action:** Container is having a new L/H Bendix housing and new cut away cables fitted to prevent excess cable from pulling out of sleeve in future.



Incorrect



Correct

Worn 3-Ring locking Loop

An instructor found this damaged locking loop while inspecting the gear of a licensed jumper who was participating in a canopy course. When looking at the front of the riser and 3-ring assembly, the damaged loop was obscured from view.

The instructor found it while looking more carefully at the back of the riser during a gear check. The damage likely occurred when the locking loop came into contact with a rough surface during a landing or during packing. Jumpers should check both the fronts and backs of their risers when inspecting their gear.

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Photo by Niklas Daniel

OTHER

Certificate B, jump 95. Talon container, Sabre 170 Main.

4-way Flat fly jump became unstable shortly after exit. Jumper tumbled onto his back then rolled onto belly. He had a quick glance at his alti, and thought the needle was pointing at 3,000ft.

He pitched his Main immediately then realised he was still around 9,500ft. He began spiralling to get down faster. This action induced line twists all the way down to just above his G3 helmet, forcing his head forward. Rather than pulling the risers apart and attempting to kick out the line twists, he forcibly pulled his head back through the risers resulting in his G3 coming off his head and falling to the ground.

Action: Discussed maintaining altitude awareness, canopy control and proper secure gear checks. Referred to CI for further discussion. G3 not recovered.

Action: CI note: Jumper stated that he panicked a bit when he thought he was at 3,000ft. He said he had visuals of the other three jumpers below him before he threw his pilot chute. On opening he was then very aware that he was high, and in controlled air space. So, he began spiralling whilst his canopy was only partially inflated, thus inducing the line twists. His stress levels increased when his head was forced forward with the line twists, and again he admitted to acting too quickly rather than slowing down and properly dealing the situation.

Discussed the importance of taking adequate time to fully assess a situation rather than allowing stress to turn into panic and possibly exacerbating a situation, as in this case.

Jumper was very honest about how and why he reacted as he did, and was keen to talk about how he may have better dealt with this situation. He will endeavour to better assess any future situations before reacting.

Specialty Jumps

Jim Crouch USPA Director of Safety and Training
Published Parachutist Magazine Dec 2016. Reprinted with permission of USPA.

Specialty jumps – whether from a helicopter or balloon or with a raft or other inflatable toy – are skydiver favourites. And while these jumps are always good for excitement and giggles, they also require a little extra vigilance to keep the level of safety where it needs to be.

Helicopter jumps

can be lots of fun. It's great to start a skydive by laughing with your buddies who are hanging on the opposite skid and then dropping away. However, the ride to altitude is often cramped and it's easy to bump and scrape your rig.

Because the helicopter's doors are likely off, a premature container opening in the aircraft can easily lead to disaster. So be sure your closing loops are tight and your container is packed correctly with no loose or exposed bridle. Guard your handles and pins carefully during the ride to altitude, as well as the climb out.

Jumpers also need to stay particularly altitude aware during helicopter jumps. Although no one has gathered official data on automatic activation device firings during helicopter jumps, it appears that they are more common than normal. Exiting from a lower altitude than typical (generally around 4,500ft for a helicopter jump) and spending too much time



giggling at your buddy is a good way to find yourself down and dirty. In most cases, jumpers end up with two canopies out because they deployed their Main canopies so low that their automatic activation devices cut the Reserve closing loops. Stay on top of your altitude when you are exiting a helicopter. There is not a lot of time to do much more than exit and start tracking for separation.

A balloon jump starts with a peaceful ride to altitude and almost always ends with a landing in an unfamiliar location. That's because the balloon pilot does not have much directional control and you will go wherever the wind takes you. Although balloon pilots must be in contact with air traffic control to alert other air traffic to the presence of skydivers, jumpers must still carefully scan the skies to look for other aircraft before exiting, especially because airplane pilots may not expect to encounter skydiving activity at locations away from known drop zones.

Once the balloon is high enough for an exit, you need to select a suitable landing area. Off-field landings are nothing to take lightly. What may look like a nice, open field at 5,000ft may actually be a hazardous area with power lines or obstacles that you can see only once you've descended to a lower altitude. Be sure you are looking carefully throughout your descent and that you have at least one other landing area, if not more, picked out as an alternate.

What direction is the wind blowing? Hopefully there is a smoke stack or some sort of flag nearby that will help you determine wind direction. Gauging your track across the ground while you are under canopy can help you determine the direction of the wind, but it takes a sharp eye and some experience. Also, while there is a good chance that the wind direction at 3,000ft will be close to the same as it is on the ground, that is not always the case, so you might end up landing crosswind or even completely downwind if you do not have a reliable source for determining the ground winds. The ground at your landing area may also be higher or lower than the ground where the balloon took off, so you need to rely on your eyes more than your altimeter while flying your landing pattern. Now is not the time to go big with a high-performance landing, especially if there are other jumpers in the airspace.

Jumping with rafts and other inflatable toys is another skydiver favourite. Be sure to plan for as many contingencies as possible and be ready to stay flexible when a new situation suddenly arises. Never tie yourself to anything or use any sort of looped rope or string that can wrap around your hand or arm and leave you entangled with your toy. You always need to keep yourself in a situation where you can get clear of the inflatable if everything goes to hell. And it often does with inflatable toy and raft jumps!

Novelty jumps always will be popular. The chance to do something new and different on a skydive is both fun and exciting. You just have to stay heads up and use some common sense to help ensure that you and your friends are still giggling long after the jump is finished and you are safely back on the ground.



Photo by Ossie Khan



Photo by Curtis Morton

Photos by Keith Cready



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DON WOODLAND JUMP PIG

By Shirley Cowcher
Photos by Stu Barton

FACTS

First Jump: Static Line on 6 August 1983, Dale River W.A.
How many Jumps: ?
Tandem: 4,100
AFF: 1,900
CRW: c.1,000
4-way: c.1,000
Demos: c. 200

DON WOODLAND, AUSTRALIAN ACCURACY CHAMPION, IS KNOWN TO MANY WEST AUSTRALIAN JUMPERS. GIVEN HE'S BEEN IN THE SPORT FOR 33 YEARS IT IS LIKELY THAT HE HAS TRAINED, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, MANY OF THE WEST AUSSIE JUMPERS. DON IS AN OLD SCHOOL JUMPER. HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS PASSION OF CLASSIC ACCURACY (NATIONAL CHAMPION AND REPRESENTED AUSTRALIA AT THE WORLDS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS), CRW (HOLDS STATE AND NATIONAL RECORDS), PARTYING WHEN JUMPING HAS FINISHED, AND, HE WORE HIS FRAP HAT FOR HIS 10,000 JUMP!

ASM 59

DON WOODLAND JUMP PIG



What was your most memorable jump and what made it memorable?
 There are lots but probably the most memorable was my first World Meet, in Croatia. I was the first to exit out of the M18 chopper.

What are your future plans in terms of jumping?
 When I stop doing tandems, which I have no plans to do yet, I would like to continue to teach CRW, train students in AFF and Certificate B. I'll also continue with Classic Accuracy and go to World Meets (I hope).

What advice would you give to new jumpers?
 Try all the disciplines and go for the one you like.

What is the hardest thing you've done as an instructor?
 Releasing Emily, my daughter, on her AFF 3. She was rock solid but I let her go and re-gripped about four times.

Describe Don Woodland in five words
 I can't give you five but I can give you three: Determined, enthusiastic and party-drunk.

Don Woodland celebrating with daughter Emily



On 19 November 2016, **DON WOODLAND** celebrated his 10,000 jump (that's approximately 300 jumps a year) by doing a 12-way jump that included his daughter, Emily. Don was very definite about how he wanted the jump filmed so that he could capture the moment; just in case it was the last jump they did together. There was some time taken to work out the set-up, exit and approach, and when we put it in the air it worked – what a relief! To say he was a little tense in the plane on the way to height is an understatement. I'm not sure how many times he needed to tell us all just to relax, have fun and fly well, but if it made him feel better we all smiled and agreed we would do our best for a man that deserves our best. These days there are not many who achieve the 10,000 mark as a weekend warrior so I think that deserves a toast, applause and a great jump. He also truly earned the cream pie his Mum gave him.



AUSTRALIA SETS 3 INDOOR SKYDIVING GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ BACK OUR SPORT

On 6th December 2016, to celebrate the grand opening of iFLY Perth, 3 Aussie flyers attempted and successfully SET 3 Guinness World Records! A fantastic achievement for the flyers and a substantial backing towards making Indoor Skydiving an Olympic sport.

iFLY Downunder - Kurmet Jaadla: On the 6th December 2016, achieved 54 x Head Spins in a Vertical Wind Tunnel in one minute, taking the old record of 50.

iFLY Gold Coast - Amy Watson: On the 6th December 2016, achieved 44 x 360 Horizontal Spins in a Vertical Wind Tunnel in one minute, taking the old record of 26.

iFLY Perth - David Hyndman: On the 6th December 2016, set a brand new Guinness World Records™ for Longest Distance Ran on the Wall of a Vertical Wind Tunnel in one minute, achieving 214 meters.



iFLY PERTH

January 2017

By Dicey Bergic, Facility Manager



Perth just got a little windier!

Waking up on a starry night, tired yet wired, not only were we about to set a brand-new Guinness World Record, but we were about to go live to Australia, with the most exciting news to hit W.A. (arguably) ever. Perth has it's very own, brand new, vertical wind tunnel! The third tunnel to open in just two years for Indoor Skydive Australia Group, and an announcement just weeks earlier that a fourth is on its way.

The reality of what was upon us became apparent that early morning in December. We knew we had trades arriving at 8:00am to keep working on site; electricians, painters, sign writers, all chomping at the bit to get stuck in and finish the project they had been a part of for months. Tunnel testing was still in progress, with our Sky Venture specialist still in the background working to get our beautiful air just right. We were so close to making this tunnel ours, but for that morning it was all lights, camera, action, as the magic of television begun.

Our incredibly supportive crowd started rolling in at 4:00am, although full of yawns, they were also much like

our iFLY team – filled with anticipation, excitement and caffeine, thanks to a well planned visit from Perth's Coffee Express. We were all ready to cheer on three Aussie flyers, Dave Hyndman, Kurmet Jaadla and Amy Watson, to see, feel, and be a part of our somewhat unconventional unveiling of Perth's brand new, state-of-the-art wind tunnel. It was not a disappointment, the rumble of the fans, the cheering from our crowd, and the feeling in the air was remarkable. Not only did we set three Guinness World Records, across three States simultaneously, we had successfully launched iFLY Perth!

That morning, and after opening ahead of schedule on 14 December, life for iFLY Perth's team has been the best type of crazy ever since! It seems emotional on reflection, but with this concrete structure comes new opportunities. Instructors chasing their dreams, a new sport that Western Australia can make theirs, and a playground for any skydiver willing to embrace it.

The support from Perth, and our local and national skydiving community has been remarkable! The school holidays were incredibly busy with first timers and pro-flyers, camps have been filled, events have been a huge hit, and our biggest thanks go out to everyone who has already come to fly with us, those who are planning to visit us soon, and everyone who has been shouting about us to anyone who will listen.

We've got the air just right and we have so much in the planning; awesome events, making your skydiver space your own, and so much more. If you haven't already, come say hello and check out your new second home!

We're so excited to contribute to the rapid expansion of the sport across world with the opening of our new facility, and Australia now in the record books for indoor skydiving.

This is just the beginning for iFLY Perth. Hugs and high fives!



Amy, Kurmet and Dave

FORMATION SKYDIVING

By Crash Bennett, APF Director Competition Photo by Steve Tonson

INTERMEDIATE CHANGE TIME?

Dive pools for the Open competitions in 4FS and 8FS formation skydiving events in Australia are the same as the FAI/IPC Open competition.

In Australia, we have separate dive pools for the Intermediate competition in most events, and in Formation skydiving 4 and 8-way, these have remained unchanged for a lot of years. Over the past year or so, there has been some discussion on changing the Australian Intermediate dive pools for FS.

In most other countries that have ascendancy classes of competition like our Intermediate event, they use a subset of the Open competition dive pool.

In 4FS, we use the same subset as the USPA A Class. The USPA has an additional class AA, that falls between the A class (our Intermediate) and the AAA (Open) class.

Rookie Class

This is the class for the beginners in the sport. The events of this class are an introduction to Formation skydiving competition at the grass roots. All sixteen Random formations are used, and no blocks.

A Class

The A Class is the next step up after learning the basics of 4-way competition in the Rookie Class. The A Class applies the following eight blocks of the IPC dive pool: 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, 21. The sequence can be three or four formations long. This is the same as the Australian Intermediate class, except we have a limit of four or five formation length.

AA/Intermediate Class

The AA Class is identical with the current USPA Intermediate Class. This class is the next step for teams and competitors that have mastered the Rookie Class and the A Class. Eight additional blocks (1, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20, 22) without memory and mirror image, and a little longer sequence are added to the rules of the A Class.

AAA/Open Class

This is the current USPA Open/Advanced Class, and the Australian Open class, applying the whole IPC current year dive pool and rules.

Sequences	5-6	4-5	4-5	3-4	3
Randoms	All	All	All	All	All
Blocks	All	See Single A+ 1, 11, 13-15, 18, 20, 22	2, 4, 6-9, 19, 21	2, 4, 6-9, 19, 21	None

What should we do?

4FS Intermediate

Do we include the more difficult blocks from the Open dive pool (1, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20, 22), and increase the Intermediate difficulty level to the equivalent of the USPA AA class?

If we do, do we rename the current Intermediate competition "A class" and keep it, or throw it away?

We are trialling a Rookie style event at the 2017 Nationals to try and include more jumpers in competition, so should we have four levels of 4FS competition?

Advantages

- It makes better steps between the levels of competition.
- Your thoughts?

Disadvantages

- It makes more steps between the bottom and top levels of competition. Is this a disadvantage though?
- Your thoughts?

8FS Intermediate

In 8FS, the story is different. We have completely different Random formations and Blocks between the two classes of competition.

The USPA (and therefore a lot of the rest of the world) does the same as for 4FS. Their 8FS Intermediate pool consists of random formations A to Q, and block sequences 1, 3-8, 10, 13-14, 16-19, 21. They have no other classes of 8-way FS competition.

Should we align with this in Australia?

Advantages

- We can utilise current 8FS Open coaches/competitors to train our 8-way Intermediate competitors.
- Intermediate competitors have an easier ascendancy path to the Open competition as they don't have to learn a whole new dive pool.
- Your thoughts?

Disadvantages

- Your thoughts?

Have an opinion on these questions before the 2017 Nationals in York, and we'll discuss the options at the competitors' meeting there.

In the meantime, join the discussion on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/aussieinter to get informed, and offer your thoughts on whether the Intermediate competition dive pools for Formation skydiving in Australia should be changed.



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TM Gareth Hemingway

BYRON BAY PULL YA STRINGS + TRAIN THE TRAINER TOO GOOLAWAH ALL FEMALE CANOPY COURSE

By Jules McConnell Photos by Jules McConnell and Steve Fitchett

BYRON BAY HOSTED THE THIRD TRAIN THE TRAINER COURSE IN NOVEMBER AND WITH THREE INSTRUCTOR A'S AND AN EX-WORLD CANOPY PILOTING COMPETITOR ATTENDING, I MUST SAY I FELT SLIGHTLY INTIMIDATED! WITH THIS WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE THERE WAS A LOT OF OPEN DISCUSSION – HEY, I COULD LEARN FROM THESE GUYS TOO!

You never stop learning in this sport. It was mainly a confirmation of the knowledge they already have, but Byron's Chief Instructor, Joe Stein, commented that he had several light bulb moments during the course.

There's a great vibe at Byron Bay. I was impressed when many instructors sat in on the course after finishing their day of jumping. Lots of fun jumpers added to this good energy, and now the instructors will be able to give them better feedback when it comes to flying their parachutes.

Some of the instructors attending Train the Trainer assisted on the weekend during the Pull Ya Strings canopy course; making my job much easier and giving them a chance to use their new skills.

While in the neighbourhood, I called into Toogoolawah for an all-female canopy course. There was a wide range of experience levels, from student to instructors, and ladies with thousands of jumps experience. It was a big confidence boost for all, culminating in a group flock at the end of the weekend, and with all the girls ripping it up!

A big thank you to the South Queensland Parachute Council and APF Fi Fund for supporting all these events. Lots more canopy fun is to be had this year so keep your eyes out for a canopy course near you!



TM Ria Peck



“As a new AFF instructor, I found the course really helpful on the second day, watching the videos and assessing the landings. I learnt a lot about what I should be teaching my students. It boosted my confidence in showing and telling students how to land safely! Thank you.” **Scott Perkins, Instructor D**

“After attending the course it consolidated what I always thought was right to teach about landings and control. So much so that I have run two courses at Toogoolawah since attending your Train the Trainer and received a lot of positive feedback from the attendees. Thanks for your well conducted course.”

Ben Nordkamp, Instructor A

“Passing on knowledge about canopy control has always been a bit daunting. I've always found it difficult to find the right method or words appropriate to get the message across. After attending Jules' course, I'm reminded that, as an instructor, I have the support and techniques available to me through courses like this. Thanks again for a very valuable weekend.”

Jesse Warren, Instructor D



“The canopy course was very well organised and run. It covered much of the information, both in theory and practical, that I had not picked up through my A Licence and subsequent skydiving activities. I came away with a far greater understanding of canopy handling, flight dynamics and confidence to continue flying with this new knowledge. Having experienced difficulties with my landings prior to the course, I could identify a number of areas to work on so as to improve my landing consistency moving forward. I'd highly recommend this course to others.” **Simon Backman**

“The skills and knowledge I walked away with after attending the course has helped me reduce the amount of times I land off.” **Chris Kokot**



“Thank you to Jules McConnel for an amazing canopy course! As a novice jumper who has just completed my A Licence, the knowledge, skills and confidence gained from your canopy course was priceless. It was incredibly helpful to fill the gaps in my understanding of canopy flight. I highly recommend everyone get to Pull Ya Strings.”

Jacqui Ruello





PULL YA TANDEM STRINGS

By Jules McConnel

WE START OFF IN THIS SPORT AS SPONGES ABSORBING A LOT OF NEW INFORMATION ON WEATHER, AERODYNAMICS AND SURVIVAL. AS WE PROGRESS THROUGH THE SPORT, WE ARE GUIDED BY INSTRUCTORS AND MENTORS TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND TRY NEW DISCIPLINES UNTIL HUNDREDS OF JUMPS AND YEARS LATER WE GET TO A POINT WHERE WE MAY DECIDE TO BECOME AN INSTRUCTOR OURSELVES. THIS DOESN'T MEAN WE KNOW EVERYTHING – FAR FROM IT. IT'S A NEW TICKET TO LEARN! I HAVE OVER 10,000 SKYDIVES AND AM STILL LEARNING EVERY TIME I JUMP.

Just because we have the right number of jumps to become an instructor, doesn't mean we have the necessary skills. In my ten years of canopy coaching, I have had several tandem instructors come to me for advice and training to improve their landing technique and accuracy. I am impressed with these instructors putting their ego aside and asking for help. It's never too late to ask for advice and to learn. If you feel like you are inconsistent with your landings, lack confidence, or are only just getting by, then speak up! After all, it's not just your body on the line!

Enough from me, here's what a couple of instructors I have worked with have to say:



"I completed my tandem rating and was struggling to finish my flare, not sure what my weight limits should be, having no experience, and dealing with changing weather conditions having learnt on the coast then travelled inland to a thermally drop zone to take live tandems.

Although I was happy with the training I had received when I did my tandem course, I wasn't as confident as I should have been under canopy, and decided to seek help from the one and only Jules McConnel. She had helped me when I had 50 jumps with my canopy control, so why not now too?

Jules watched and videoed my landings and discussed different ideas. I was trying to flare with strength only, which I didn't have enough of, and no technique, which is important for tandems. Learning the right technique can help with getting that little bit extra flare out of the canopy, and make all the difference in a soft, safe landing. Jules explained how the wing-loading and weight of the customer would impact on where and when you would set-up for landing, which of course makes complete sense, but because it changes with each jump, it's a never-ending guessing game when you first start doing tandems.

Confidence was a main factor for me, and I think I was very conscious of the stereotyping that comes with being female and flying a canopy. I don't know whether it's because females tend to be more self-preserving than males, or whether it's simply because I was told early on that females always have trouble with canopy skills. Mentally it's always been in the back of my mind, but Jules proves that theory wrong, as she is one of the best canopy pilots in the world and she has a vagina!

I think more emphasis should be put on canopy piloting throughout our skydiving careers. I'm so grateful I have Jules to look up to and help me out. I have learnt so much from her and I feel so lucky to have role models like her in the skydiving community. " Ria Peck

"Realising that I needed extra canopy training at the ripe old age of 900ish jumps was a bitter pill to swallow at first. Why should I need a canopy course? I've had 900 completely safe and uneventful landings! I'm the frickin' Volkswagon of safe landings! But after moving from one of the most forgiving landing areas in the world to one of the most technical in the country, that reality came crashing home like a skydiver through the sugarcane.

Starting my sky life at NZSS, I'd been taught all the information I needed to find the earth in every conceivable condition, but ever since I'd been living in a la-la-land of gentle westerlies, a landing area the size of a small European country, and ten dozen catchers in the catching area – just in case, all the technical skills I'd learnt early on had gone unused, forgotten and absent when I needed them most. Like all skills – use it or lose it!

So, after swallowing my pride, and that bitter pill, I was off to Moruya to meet the legendary Jules I'd heard so much about. What I got was much more than I could have hoped for. Not only was this a refresher course on all the important stuff I'd forgotten, and not only did Jules film and debrief all my landings, but she even came along for a front ride on maybe half a dozen Hop 'n' Pops. Training doesn't get any more hands on than that!

After taking the reluctant step back, I've now taken two jubilant steps forward and levelled up to safety super Sayan 2.0! I've got my confidence back, I'm flying my canopy better than ever, and so far I've been leaving the cane harvesting to the professionals.

AND, as an added bonus, I've got a bunch of new friends in the awesome crew at Moruya and the wonderful Jules herself. Win, win, win! " Gareth Hemingway



Jules McConnel is an Instructor A, Tandem Examiner with over 3,000 tandem skydives, and canopy piloting coach of more than ten years' experience.

If you need advice or help pulling your strings, then contact her via email: juliamcconnel@yahoo.com.



MILESTONES @ LANGHORNE CREEK

By Zack Rosser Photos by Bryce Sellick, Jed Smith, Johnny Windsock, Shaun Henderson, Zack Rosser

2016 PROVED TO BE A GREAT YEAR FOR PERSONAL PROGRESSION AND ADVANCEMENT AT S.A. SKYDIVING. JUMPERS TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF EVENTS RANGING FROM FREEFLY COACHING, JULES 'PULL YA STRINGS' CAMP, TO 4-WAY COACHING AND MANY MORE, ALL AIMED AT PUSHING LIMITS AND EXPANDING HORIZONS, WITH MANY TRYING NEW DISCIPLINES FOR THE FIRST TIME.

2017 looks to be shaping up similarly, with Jules coming back for some more fun Langhorne Creek Style, as well as lake landings organised by Beau Gora and C2C kicking off shortly! CRW, Freefly, Star Crests, Flat coaching and many more awesome events are on the horizon. Amongst all the action, I wanted to take the time to highlight some of the awesome milestones jumpers have been achieving over the past year. I decided to put the word out and here is a short selection of the crazy jumps we did.

There are a lot of things that make the Valkyrie look good on paper: 4 years of development, thousands of test jumps, countless prototypes, and sleepless nights.

But you don't fly a canopy because it looks good on paper.

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ZACK ROSSER - C LICENCE

I decided to do a Wingsuit Hybrid for my 100th jump, but wanted to hang below off the chest strap rather than sitting on top. I hadn't seen many done before so thought it was worth giving a shot! Everyone before the jump was very hesitant that it would even work and thought that I would get flung off as soon as we exited the plane, so we started to plan what we would do if the jump went sour. Jed Smith agreed to be the trusty wingsuiter for the jump. The exit went a bit funky but held well. Everything from there went better than I hoped! Was so cool having four other people chasing after you whilst you hung underneath a wingsuit. Towards the end of the jump Bryce Sellick managed to dock with Jed and he captured some epic shots!

I was determined to make 2016 my year for skydiving. After a three-year break from the sport, I came back to renew my skills, rekindle my love with the sky, and to reach my 100th jump milestone! Building my confidence throughout the year allowed me to fulfil my wish. I finished the year my 100th jump, doing a bad-ass Mr Bill with my fiancée – best decision ever! Looking forward to more super rad jumps in 2017!



HALEY WELCH - C LICENCE

BRIA SMITH - D LICENCE



Planned to do a Hybrid for my 300th but didn't want to miss a sweet Angle so did that instead. Went super steep; was awesome! Finished off the jump with everyone landing in our secret tequila bar location! 301 was a failed hybrid so just as well I got a nice Angle!

THOMAS WATERHOUSE - D LICENCE



For my 200th jump I did a sick Mr Bill however both cameramen somehow forgot to bring their GoPro and SD cards into the plane, so no footage was captured. Back tracking to my 100th, I did a hybrid jump. The exit started messy (as all great skydives do), and gave Dan Heard a challenge to dive down to myself and Dasun Aitchison, but we eventually linked up, and got the hybrid done. We did plan for another skydiver to stand on top of us but we ran out of time due to the exit.

MATT 'TEAGS' TEAGER - D LICENCE

My 200th sprung up on me relatively quickly and it so happened that on that day, good mate and one of my original AFF instructors, Jed, strolled into the packing room. I asked him if he was down for a wingsuit rodeo, I'd seen many done, some more successfully than others. He was, as he always is, more than keen for a jump. We had no trouble finding keen camera flyers, and before we knew it we were stacking up the exit from 12,000ft. We went steep but stable off the door, before levelling out and cruising nicely above the clouds. I was a little far back, causing us to sink a little, however we flew around having a ball until I deployed off the back. Shouts to Jed for the ride and to everyone else on the jump, namely Hendo, who got the money shot.



CHLOE CASTLE - D LICENCE



LAUREN HATCHER - C LICENCE

I'd had my mind set on doing a Wingsuit Rodeo for a while before my actual 100th, so on the day of the jump when Dale, silent assassin slash awesome wingsuiter, turned up to the drop zone, I jumped on the opportunity. Some of the guys hanging around and instructing caught wind of the jump, and soon we had a full load. We decided that it'd be sort of like an Angle, with Dale and I as Base. Dale pulled off some kind of Wingsuit gainer that made for a sweet exit, and the tracking guys got tight quick. At one point, I was pretty much visor to visor with Hendo, and at another Vinnie was close enough for a hand dock. Norseman and Hazza were flying close on either side of Dale and I, and overall, the visuals were awesome. Pitching off Dale's back made for one of the smoothest openings I've ever experienced, and I got to land to high fives and cheers. To the guys reading this who were on the jump, thanks for making my 100th an epic one.



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"Skydiving - the most fun you can have with your clothes on!" Or in the case of some, with your clothes off. My 100th jump was an exhilarating celebration of my journey so far. It definitely didn't go to plan. But a pinnacle lesson that skydiving has taught me is to embrace all the moments... and so we did. What began as a hilarious (unintentional) zoo style exit quickly turned into a blissful star formation. Holding your close friends' hands while plummeting from the sky naked is an experience that sits pretty high in my list of happy moments. When we linked up in the Star formation and I looked around at those giant skydiver smiles radiating around me, I was so proud. Not only that I had reached 100 jumps, but proud that I get to be involved in this sport and that I get to call these people my friends. I am excitedly looking forward to jump 200 and all of the magic and challenges in between.

FAR NORTH FREEFALL Xmas Party Boogie



By Tim Kolin
Photos by Kian Bullock

Photo competition winner! Jordy breaks from the horny gorilla to get his hair in breeze

WELL, HO HO HO! FAR NORTH FREEFALL CERTAINLY GOT INTO THE DROP ZONE PARTY SPIRIT AT THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MINI WEEKEND-BOOGIE, SO MUCH SO THERE WAS ONLY ONE LOAD OF SIX FOR THE SUNDAY.

People began showing up Friday afternoon and setting up early to begin the flow of money over the bar. However, the Christmas road blitz was in full force with a few legal drivers being chased into the drop zone by multiple police cars to ensure the attempt to escape RBT was futile. Issy even got chased twice!

Jumping started early Saturday morning with Tommer Vardi load organising Freefly jumps and Kian Bullock chasing the formations for the sick photos. The strong Far North Freefall crew of around 30 pushed hard all morning going two-to-one with the Mission Beach tandem loads. We were running hot and with the tropical north climate everyone was brewing his or her thirst for the night time beverages.

The thing that makes this Christmas celebration is the competition to get the best Christmas costume skydiving photo. Multiple jump ticket prizes were on offer and the frocks came out early. The Santa costumes were impressive, both in the sky and on the ground, with Firthy leading a sick Angle dive complete with the Santa's and elves in hot pursuit. Tommer was pushing the limits of the local crew with awesome Carving, Angling and Sit-flying going on. Alicia was putting her newly learnt tunnel skills to good use in the sky, nailing some awesome Vertical Head-down and Head-up jumps. Kaaja escaped manifest to get her Xmas jumping fix and showed why she should be in the air more often rather than behind the desk. Thanks must go for her Santa organising skills to keep the loads pumping out.

The Port Douglas Crew showed true class organising a tandem for their regular party and the Boogie DJ. He even strapped a lucky teddy to his front to make it a tandem threesome! With the heat continuing, everyone kept pushing themselves to keep the Xmas jumps going.

Rob was kindly introducing Fry to the world of bigger wingsuits and they managed to make it back every time. Issy brought along her inflatable flamingo that proved quite a logistical challenge to get in the plane. Although the jump didn't go accordingly to plan, it was highly entertaining especially watching Potter deploy with the flailing flamingo in his left hand.

The most unique fixture of the Far North crew has to be Rob's inflatable jumping castle! On nearly every load people were charging the castle entertaining those on the ground. Potter continued smacking into it all day and racing to put it back up so more could aim for its tight inflatable hole! Many thanks to Rob for the continual repairs to keep it going!

The photo competition somehow managed to happen around the hustling bar, jumping castle, in the packing area, and Fry's magnificent dinner cook up. The winning shot showcased Jordy's early detachment from the 5-way Horny Gorilla, letting his fine red wig catch the breeze for an awesome photo. Now the winners just have to remember they actually won as the party certainly left people a few memories short.

Waking early Sunday to attempt to hustle a load up was futile. The heat had begun early and tents weren't a place to escape it hung over. Many decided to leave and dash home to the sanctity of the couch and airconditioning, leaving few to actually jump. Thus only one load was done to finish the jumping at the Far North Xmas Boogie for another year!

Big thanks must go to the NQPC for funding Tommer and Ki, producing some awesome sky flying, learning and epic pictures to prove it.



Firthy leads Santa and his elves into a tight Angle

Far North Freefall crew showing their Santa spirit in front of the infamous jumping castle



Tim charging the jumping castle



2nd place in photo competition, riding the flamigo doesn't quite go to plan



Nice and tight festive Horny Gorilla



Sunset Hop 'n' Pop for Tim's 1,500th jump with Wade and Potter



Party DJ goes for a triple tandem



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B-CERTIFICATE TO STAR CREST



By Kelly Brennan Photos by Joey Sanza from the current Star Crest Saturday series at Barwon Heads

YOU'VE JUST RUNG THE BELL AFTER COMPLETING YOUR B-REL TABLE AND, WHILE THEY'RE ENJOYING YOUR HARD-EARNED BEERS, THE EXPERIENCED SKYDIVERS ARE TELLING YOU THAT THE NEXT STEP IS YOUR STAR CREST. "MY WHAT?" YOU ASK, VAGUELY RECALLING THAT SOMEBODY ONCE MENTIONED IT. "NO PROBLEM. I'LL BE BUYING ANOTHER CARTON IN NO TIME!"

Don't be in too much of a rush to get your Star Crest. The jumps are a big step up from B-Rel's, with a few more safety issues to be aware of. A handful of annoyingly super-talented skydivers can manage them soon after their B-Rel's, but most newer skydivers need a bit of time and experience to lock their skills in.

What is the STAR CREST?

The Australian Star Crest (ASC) is not compulsory for general jumping. But it is essential for wannabe instructors and for those who want to jump with larger groups.

You need a Star Crest number on your APF Sporting Licence to be able to take part in any freefall formation larger than a 10- way, regardless of whether it's a flat, vertical, angle or wingsuit jump. It's also a mandatory achievement before seeking an Instructor rating.

To get your Australian Star Crest (ASC), you need to enter a successful flat formation fifth, or later, on an 8, 9 or 10-way. And you need to do it three times.

Here are some things to work on before you start your Star Crest mission:

Reading and videos

Now that you've done your B-Rel's, take a few minutes to re-read your B-Rel Manual. The briefing notes are terrific and it's well worth reading them again to recap all the skills that you've picked up.

Additionally, grab a copy of the APF Star Crest and Big-ways Guide. Have a read of this booklet and think about your readiness. Then read the APF calendar to plan ahead for Star Crest opportunities.



B-CERTIFICATE TO STAR CREST

"You are most likely to succeed in your Star Crest jumps if you come to the briefing with a good attitude and pay attention to what your coach tells you." **Sandy Nieuwenhoven, Aussie Big-way Mentor**

"If you can do some tunnel training before your Star Crest, I recommend that you work on the ability to stop and hold your position strongly whilst taking grips without needing them for stability." **Melissa Harvie, Aussie Big-way Mentor**

Watch some good, recent videos of successful larger formations. Check out the approach angles and no-momentum docks. Note how the best flyers are level and stopped when they dock. (If you find old-school 'crash and burn' jumps, use them as an example of what not to do!)

The actual flying skills needed are much the same as those you've already learned. But they'll need to become second nature to you, so you can focus on the added challenges of a larger group.

Currency is key

Keep yourself current! Don't stay on the ground while you wait for new gear to arrive or while you save up for a tunnel trip. Jump, jump, jump!

Any form of currency is good. Flat-flying currency with others is the best option if you're building skills for your Star Crest jumps. Solos and non-belly jumps are better than not skydiving at all, especially if your awareness is improving with each jump and your canopy flying is developing too.

Build skills on smaller jumps

As a guide, it's great to complete your B-Rel's and then do another 30+ flat jumps, working on your skills in smaller groups, like 4-6-ways.

Most Star Crest coaches recommend at least 80 to 100 jumps before attempting your Star Crest jumps. You want to give the jumps a good chance of success, for yourself and all the others on the load.

A 4-way team is a great way to practice. You can also jump with friends, practicing diving slots and smooth docking. Perhaps you could hire a coach for a day to do some useful skill-building dives.

Make the best of every jump. You can even brush up your dives, turns, and side-slides on 2-way jumps.

Exit well

Mix your exits up a bit. Try having all four people in a 4-way doing a floating exit from outside the door. Or try having everyone on a 6-way diving out together to do a Speed Star.

Is your awareness improving with each exit? Are you learning more about catching the air and exit timing with every jump?

Track well

Get some tracking tips from coaches and apply them on every jump! Good Big-way skydivers never stop working on their track.

Learn how to fly flatter tracks for maximum lift and distance, how to be aware of jumpers around you, and how to change your course if you need to.

Fly and land safely

Consider a canopy course during this B-Rel to Star Crest period.

Safe canopy flight is vital when the skies are crowded with larger groups. You need to fly predictably, within a group landing pattern, and you need to land safely without cutting anybody off.

Larger groups are not the time to be working on your accuracy. You need to have your head on a swivel looking out for other canopies, and you need to land where it's safest for the group.

Get the right gear

Think 'safety first' when buying or borrowing gear for larger formations. A full-face helmet is recommended because the exits can get a bit rough. An audible altimeter is a great back-up to remind you of break-off height. Go with a clear

visor or clear goggles so you can read each other's faces and anticipate changes.

A jumpsuit with FS grippers is preferred. If everybody has grippers, then the organiser can plan a wider range of formations, and it's easier for each person in the whole group to dock. It's not about testing you without your well-loved freefly suit. It's about the best suit for the success of the group. Boosters are good to help with forward movement, but only if you're familiar with using them.

Fast fallers might need a much slower suit, or a baggy long-sleeved shirt to wear over their suit. Slower fallers might need tighter suits or weights to fall with the group. Talk to an experienced Flat-fly coach about this.

Tunnel

If you have a tunnel in your area, use some tunnel time to prepare for your Star Crests and build your FS skills. You can practice your fast and slow fall. You can work on stopping assertively for no-momentum docks. And you can resist pushes or hits by holding a strong freefall position while your coach tries to move you around.

Attitude

The main thing is to be competent in your basic flying skills and confident about your contribution to the group on your Star Crest jumps.

It's OK to be a bit nervous. Nobody expects a perfect performance from you, but they do want you to be safe and aware.

Listen to the advice of the load organiser and absorb all the details you need for the task. Stay calm and positive.

If you've prepared well, it's awesome fun sharing the sky with a large group of people who want you to succeed!

Thanks to Skydive Australia, the APF Fi Fund and the VTPC, we have low cost jumps, once a month, focussing on Star Crests and Big-way skills. We also have some great prizes from iFLY Melbourne and Cookie.



"Practice unlinked exits and perfect them for complete control out the door. In our experience, the exits are the most important part of the skydive." **Tracey Basman and Dave Loncasty, Aussie Big-way Coaches**

"The trainees who are best prepared for Star Crest jumps are those who practice their approaches and docks before attempting their Star Crests." **Mark 'Stretch' Szulmayer, Aussie Big-way Coach**

"Before you do your first Star Crest make sure you have read the Star Crest and Big-ways Guide available from the APF." **Ian 'Robbo' Robertson, Star Crest Coach**

"The best preparation for your Star Crest jumps is to do at least 15 to 30 flat jumps involving four to six others. And I'm not talking about tracking jumps." **Shirley Cowcher, Aussie Big-way Mentor**



