

Australian

skydiver

magazine



130-WAY RECORD!

ISSUE 96
Volume 3
MAY/JUN/JUL
2019

ASM AUSTRALIAN SKYDIVER MAGAZINE
FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION





Redefine your standards.

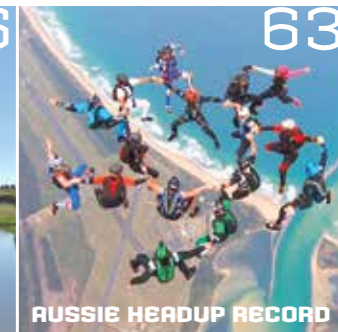
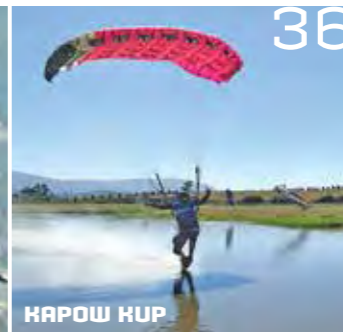


Skydiving and Wind Tunnel Helmet Certified to XP S 72-600



www.flycookie.com • info@cookiecomposites.com • facebook cookiehelmets • instagram @cookiehelmets

FEATURES



EDITORIAL

Scatty's excitement was infectious this issue. He was buzzing from bringing a few dreams to life, in particular the Head Up National Record and his Drop In Demo/Tunnel event. He said something along the lines of, "this is such a great time to be jumping, there is so much good stuff happening, how are you going to fit it all in the magazine?" Indeed. The vibe of an insatiable experienced jumper fuels me. Congratulations to the Bigways crew for pulling it off, setting a new record is no easy task, especially that size. Not the 150-Way as was first called for... I hope that means this Bigway journey is not over!

A huge congratulations (and thank you) to my legendary father, Dave McEvoy, for never giving up on his life long dream of creating a breeding ground and haven for jumpers. His full service drop zone at Toogoolawah just celebrated 40 years, what a remarkable achievement. I was five years old that day of the Grand Opening, holding Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's hand... Dad's been holding my hand ever since, along with many thousands of other jumpers on their skydiving and life journeys too! It's not just about the jumping...

Susie EDITOR
Susie McLachlan

CONTENTS

- p>5 Directors Direction
- p>10 130-Way Aussie Record
- p>18 Fall Fest
- p>23 Free Fly Fridays #11
- p>26 The Drop In iFly Downunder
- p>31 Kapow Kup
- p>35 Profile: Zack Rosser
- p>37 Fly In Fly Out
- p>40 Australian Head Up Record
- p>47 APF Conference
- p>52 APF Awards
- p>57 Safety Matters
- p>61 Two New Wind Tunnels
- p>64 Tunnel & Sky
- p>67 Get Into Camera Flying
- p>68 DZ Day
- p>76 Dave Smith OAM
- p>78 On The Air
- p>81 Ring The Bell
- p>82 DZ Directory

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kelly Brennan
David Brown
Kian Bullock
Steve Fitchett
Norman Kent
Karen McEvoy
Dan Rossi
Tommy Siera
Trish Vogels
Kestrel Wolf

Sam Buckley
Chris Byrnes
Amy Chmelecki
David Collins
Mason Corby
Ash Crick
Focus
James Garner
Vikki Girvin
Josh Haffer
Kim Hardwick
Rich Healey
Kristina Hicks
Scott Hiscoe
Sarah Hogan
Jenny Hopwood
Amy Jamieson
Jessica Johnston
Andrew Keir
Brow Knee
Jacob Logan
Darren Mason

Jules McConnel
Richard McCooy
Marley Nolan-Duncan
Shane Onis
Ronnie Perry
Olivia Scholten
Valerie Schmied
Laura Scott
Ben Skuce
Bria Smith
Dave Smith
Matt Smith
Shane Turner
Cain Vella
Trish Vogels
Owen Welsh
Graeme Windsor
Kokhon Wong
Andrew Woolf
Paddy Wyllie

[Publisher]

Susie McLachlan
PO Box 178, Moffat Beach QLD 4551
Ph: 0438 928 202 E: susie@skydiver.com.au

[Design & Layout]

iGraphix
Amanda Hutchison
Ph: 0419 381 931
igraphix@bigpond.com

[Printing House]

JT Press
Dave Biddle
info@jtpress.com.au

[Subscriptions]

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

[Advertising]

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

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form: electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, without permission of the Editor.
The views expressed in the ASM are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Publisher or the APF.
The Editor retains the right to withdraw any advertisement, article, photo or other at her discretion and does not accept liability for delay in publication or for errors, although every care is taken to avoid mistakes.
The information in this magazine was, to the best of our ability, correct at the time of going to press. Production and mailing takes a total of five weeks, so some information may be out of date or superseded.
Photos submitted will be returned if supplied with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The parameters of the Australian Parachute Federation lie in sport parachuting operations from aircraft and while the APF is aware that parachuting descents are being made from other than aircraft, APF rules do not cover these descents and the APF are not in a position to control them. Note: The ASM may include BASE jumping, providing the APF does not appear to condone the activity.
Pursuant to my contract with the APF in relation to the publication of Australian Skydiver Magazine, I am required to make a general statement about the nature of any pecuniary interest that I have in a particular brand of parachuting equipment, service or event being promoted in ASM. I am a Director of Toogoolawah Drop Zone Pty Ltd and I am a part-time employee of Ramblers Parachute Centre which organises various events and is a dealer for various equipment, some of which companies advertise in the ASM from time to time.

FRONT COVER



Australian National Record 130-Way, over Perris, USA. Photographer: Spot Tonson

BACK COVER



XRW over Fall Fest, Nagambie. Photographer: Scotty Patterson

[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
- Drop Zone stories

[Next Deadlines]

Issue 97
Deadline 25th Aug, 2019
Mag Out 29th Sept, 2019

Issue 98
Deadline 5th Nov, 2019
Mag Out 10th Dec, 2019

Issue 99
Deadline 15th Jan, 2020
Mag Out 19th Feb, 2019

SERIOUS HANDYCAM GLOVES THE ULTIMATE HANDYCAM GLOVE FOR SERIOUS TANDEM MASTERS.

FEATURES

- EASY ACCESS TO CARDS
- CLEAR VIEW OF INDICATOR LIGHTS
- SNAG RESISTANT & LOW PROFILE
- ADJUSTABLE GLOVE SIZING
- COMFY SPACER FOAM LINING

EXTRAS

- 3 MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM
- GoPro & ISAW EXTREME VERSIONS
- VERSIONS FOR ALL GoPro MODELS
- 2 CAMERA ANGLE OPTIONS
- CUSTOM SIZES AVAILABLE

FREEFALLSUPPORT.COM
TRACKY DAKS HANDYCAM GLOVES WEIGHT BELTS WRISTIES CAMERA JACKETS
SERIOUS SKYDIVING GEAR

POSITION VACANT

A CAREER OPPORTUNITY IS BECOMING AVAILABLE AT THE RAMBLERS DROP ZONE AT TOOGOOLAWAH.

RAMBLERS is looking for an **AFF Instructor / Tandem Master** with a **Rigger Rating** to be a part of the **RAMBLERS Instruction Team** at Toogoolawah and take on the DZ Rigging requirements. The successful applicant could take over the DZ Rigging Loft and develop the Rigging business as their own enterprise.

If you see yourself in this picture contact the Drop Zone with your Expression of Interest and more information.

Phone: 07 5423 1159
Email: skydive@ramblers.com.au

skydive ramblers

APF contacts [APF OFFICE]

PO Box 1440 Springwood QLD 4127
Ph: 07 3457 0100
Fax: 07 3457 0150
Email: apf@apf.com.au
Web: www.apf.com.au

APF National Office - Ph: 07 3457 0100 Fax: 07 3457 0150

Chief Executive Officer
Richard McCooley ceo@apf.com.au

Safety & Training
Charl Rootman Charl.rootman@apf.com.au

Technical
Kim Hardwick Kim.hardwick@apf.com.au
Wade Challenor Wade.challenor@apf.com.au

Sport Development
Julia McConnel Julia.mcconnel@apf.com.au

Accounts
Craig Perrin accounts@apf.com.au

Information Technology
Michael Cole michael.cole@apf.com.au

Executive Assistant/Office Manager
Jenny Larkin jenny.larkin@apf.com.au

Office Administration
Julie Singh, Sandra Jappe, Sarah Barrett apf@apf.com.au

[OFFICE BEARERS]

Chairman
Dave Smith 0419 464 112 dave.smith@apf.com.au

Company Secretary & Public Officer
Andy Mulholland 0412 266 630 mul@bigpond.net.au

[BOARD OF DIRECTORS]

Trevor Collins	0401 118 203	trevor.collins@apf.com.au
Simon Colmer	0408 238 833	simon.colmer@apf.com.au
Mark Gazley	0417 161 699	mark.gazley@apf.com.au
Vivian Mertz	0415 088 646	vivian.mertz@apf.com.au
Ash Saunders	0452 190 015	ash.saunders@apf.com.au
Dave Smith	0419 464 112	dave.smith@apf.com.au
Joe Stein	0402 008 924	joe.stein@apf.com.au
Mark Szulmayer	0414 684 740	mszulmayer@hotmail.com
Anna Van Der Vlugt	0429 772 154	anna.vandervlugt@apf.com.au

[OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS]

National Aviation Officer
Mark Edwards 0414 729 958 mark.edwards@apf.com.au

National Rigging Officer
Trish Vogels 0435 238 079 trish.vogels@apf.com.au

National Competitions Officer
Craig Bennett 0409 033 668 craig.bennett@apf.com.au

National Judging Officer
Gail Bradley 0413 119 575 gail.bradley@apf.com.au

National Coach
Ronnie Perry 0410 138 445 ronnie.perry@apf.com.au

Safety & Training Officers
Mike Tibbitts 0458 753 854 michael.tibbitts@apf.com.au
Brandon Van Niekerk 0412 546 763 brandon.vanniekerk@apf.com.au
Lindberg Jan (Chippe) 0458 546 077 Chippe.lindberg@apf.com.au

For all APF appointed positions go to
<https://www.apf.com.au/apf-zone/appointees-and-committees/>
appointees-and-committees

APF direction

FROM THE APF CHAIRMAN

For those people who were unable to attend the Federation's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at our St Kilda Conference in May, you will be interested to know the Board and Senior Management received questions from Members, including many regarding proposed changes to how Councils operate, how Board Members will be selected and their terms in office. Although the AGM typically sees only 100 or so voting members attend, it provides a meaningful sample of the APF's 3,000-plus members' views and opinions on matters of governance and management style and performance. Those who do attend are usually senior and longstanding members with an understandably better understanding of the 'workings' of the APF than your typical weekend jumper. By a show of hands, about 10 per cent of attendees indicated it was their first AGM. Of course, the question had to be put on the basis that answering yes would not cost them a 'case of beer' but it was great to see Members attending their first AGM.

Meanwhile, the Q&A session was insightful, sometimes probing, and ultimately productive as it gave the Board and Management good feedback on how the APF is performing. There was a clear appetite to see change in how Councils operate given they no longer deal with CI and new Club appointments, DZ audits and disciplinary matters, and are mostly moving towards fostering and promoting competition and recreational skydiving.

Likewise, there was clear support for proposed changes to how the Board is elected. Rather than Councils nominating their preferred representative to become a Board Member by Club Delegates voting, the new system would see all Members in the Council Area vote for their preferred candidate.

Those Members wanting to serve on the Board would be invited to put themselves forward by submitting their CVs and outlining what they would bring to the Board table. Voting would be electronic, with successful candidates appointed for three-year terms.

To preserve 'corporate knowledge' on the Board, voting would also be staggered between different Councils to ensure only a third of Board Members are up for re-election each year. Retiring Board Members could also put themselves forward for a second term, with Members to decide whether to re-elect them or appoint someone new. While these were only proposals at the AGM, the response among members was overwhelmingly in favour of change. The new system will be put to the Board to formally adopt a new Council charter at its August meeting.

Changes to how the Board is selected and rotated will take longer as careful drafting of the Constitution is needed and necessary administrative protocols are required on how voting will be managed electronically. Constitutional changes require 75 per cent of those members voting to agree so we need to offer all members the opportunity to not only vote but be informed what the vote is about.

We hope to undertake these changes before the end of 2019 and will keep you updated as the process unfolds.

Dave Smith OAM
APF Board Chairman
F221 / Senior Instructor & Rigger (Retired)

FROM THE APF CEO

As a skydiving community, we love nothing more than sharing our passion for the sport, so it's been great to see an assortment of positive publicity during the past few months. Gold Coast Skydive featured with some high-profile displays, while the Aussie Bigways received solid television and online exposure when they set a new National Record with their 130-person formation in California.

Closer to home, we have completed two successful National Championships, with York hosting Canopy Piloting and, for the first time, Moruya hosting all other events. As a result of their efforts, 23 athletes will represent Australia at World Cups in Speed Skydiving, Wingsuiting, 4-Way FS and Canopy Piloting, with APF Performance Based Funding (PBF) to support training for eligible entrants.

Our Technical Conference was also held in St Kilda during May, with more than 120 of our most experienced skydivers and instructors listening to a wide range of presentations. The workshops were particularly interactive and developed some real solutions to various challenges the sport faces. For those not based in Melbourne and couldn't get to the Conference, we are planning to come to you! That's right - during August a small APF team will visit each region to present a mini conference aimed at mainstream sport jumpers, instructors and packers. Keep an eye out for dates in your area!

The Board and Management are also preparing the next APF Strategic Plan, which will map out our vision for 2020 to 2025 based on short, medium and long-term goals. For the first time, APF will consult directly with members to seek input on the direction they want the organisation to head,

with a sample of various experience levels and different disciplines represented in this process. This is part of our commitment to meeting the needs of our members and I look forward to hearing a wide variety of thoughts. I am also pleased to announce that after an extensive search and some high-quality applications, the new appointments in April of two key senior management roles in the APF office. Both of them bring a dedication and high energy level to their roles.

Charl Rootman was appointed to the position of Safety & Training Manager. Charl has been an APF Safety & Training Officer (STO) for nearly four years. Immigrating from South Africa a decade ago, he has been an active Senior Instructor or equivalent, both here and in S.A. for 20 years. Charl holds a Bachelor's Degree in Administration and Political Science as well as an extensive list of training and workplace qualifications.

Jules McConnel has also been appointed as the new Sport Development Officer (SDO). Making her first jump in 1995, she holds a Senior Instructor rating and has been an avid competitor across four disciplines since 1998, competing at six World Meets, one World Games and has won five international medals.

Richard McCooley
APF Chief Executive Officer
F206 / Senior Instructor

Aviation Competitions Judging Rigging Safety & Training



We all jump from aircraft for various reasons, whether simply for fun, to compete, or as a job or business. Whatever the reason, we like what we do. But however we look at it, skydiving is a risky activity. Dan BC said it best:

“Skydiving is not a safe sport. It is a dangerous sport that can be done safely.”

Safety is not the responsibility of only one person or group. We all share the responsibility on various levels, whether a student, sports jumper, Instructor, DZSO, CI or APF officer. Safety in skydiving can ultimately only be achieved if we all work together towards the same goal and every person plays their part.

Rules and regulations are a necessary part of this, call it a necessary evil if you want. We live in a complex regulated society and operate within the wider aviation industry where the expectations of what we should do and how we should do it are sometimes determined by external influences or events. If we were all equally responsible and used common sense in the same way, we may not need regulations. But we all know that is not the real world. Common sense is not as common as people may think.

One can only regulate safety to a point. In the end safety depends on people making good decisions. We need to educate and motivate on all levels to achieve this.

We only need to look at the most recent fatalities and serious incidents in Australia to see that, almost without fail, it comes down to poor decisions and not lack of regulations.

We (the APF - which is all of us) have a good reputation internationally in terms of safety and training. Training systems are the backbone to a lot of what we do, from first jumper training and B-Rel's to training of coaches and instructors and everything in-between. Yes, we need to have good materials, manuals, exams and online systems and also responsible, professional and ethical course trainers and examiners. But training systems can only function effectively and improve if we all work together and are constructively involved.

Achieving safety and training excellence is a collaborative effort, involving everyone's contribution and commitment on every level. It involves changing the way we think about what we do, as ultimately our decisions and actions lead to incidents or a breakdown of systems.

We encourage communication on and between all levels, on all topics. Between CI's on a more regular basis; between TM's on DZ level; between fun jumpers, students and instructors. In support of this there will be Regional Conferences in most states in August this year with the aim to reach as many local members as possible. Tom Noonan, Tandem Program Director at UPT, will be presenting at all and Jules McConnel, APF Sport Development Officer, will attend most. The schedule is below, and more details will be available soon. Hope to see you there.

LOCATION	DATE
New South Wales, Newcastle	Mon 12 August 2019
New South Wales, Wollongong	Wed 14 August 2019
North Queensland, Innisfail	Mon 19 August 2019
South Queensland, Brisbane	Wed 21 August 2019
Western Australia, Perth	Fri 23 August 2019
South Australia, Adelaide	Mon 26 August 2019
Victoria, Melbourne	Wed 28 August 2019

I am pleased to announce Chippe Lindberg has been appointed to the position of APF Safety & Training Officer and commenced in the role on 1 June. Chippe, who currently resides in Victoria, is a multi-rated parachuting instructor with more than 36 years of experience holding previous safety roles in Sweden, is an accomplished competitive skydiver and currently appointed as a CI in Victoria. Chippe also has extensive experience as project manager in the IT environment.

Charl Rootman
APF Safety & Training Manager
F769 / Senior Instructor



A few activities have kept my roles busy since I last wrote. This column will talk about Judges and IPC Competitions.

A huge congratulations to the 130-Way Record holders, Camera-fliers and Organisers for the new Aussie Record completed in Perris Valley, CA, USA, in May. I am sure that will be covered elsewhere in this edition, so let me mention the Judges too.

Firstly, Jan Nejedly was our “on the ground” Chief Judge in California. His job was to make sure we remote Judges received the Dive Plans, photos and footage so we could judge within 30 minutes of it being sent. This was a huge task given he was also flying on the record attempts! A bit of early practise paid off.

Back home, Dean Brook-Rerecich was sending messages and making phone calls to get Judges out of bed. As practically every Judge had volunteered to judge this record, as soon as Dean got five people up, the judging could commence.

We judged over two nights/days. Judges involved at some time or other included Dean, Leanne Critchley, Neil Fergie, Peta Holmes, Yijun Huang, Jock Moir, Jenni Plumridge, Lindy Rochow, Ray Williams and myself. Sorry if I left anyone out. We were pretty excited and kept sending each other WhatsApp messages with “pings” until Dean hushed us down.

When the time came and we finally saw the real-deal 130-Way, it was an easy task to examine all the grips – thanks for the GREAT footage – and send our results to Jan. As Sandy and Jan were in the Record and I was judging from England, it was a truly global event for we Judges too! Loved every part of this, especially working with a great Judging Panel.

Second item, we have some new Judges! At the Nationals in Moruya, Sharan Fergie (ACT) and Karl Herber (WA), while already Judge-rated, completed their first Nationals in Accuracy and Formation Skydiving respectively, to cement their APF Judge ratings according to the rules. In WA, a new Judge in CP, Johannes Debler, earned his stripes and a CP Judge rating. Congratulations to you all. We wish you a long and happy judging career with lots more ratings to follow.

The next career step for any Judge is to do some more Nationals and build up their knowledge and experience in order to attempt an FAI Judge rating. On that score, going overseas this year to work as FAI Judges we have:

- Neil Fergie judging Wingsuiting in Italy
- Jenni Plumridge, as Event Judge – go girl! – and
- Gail Bradley judging Canopy Formation in Romania, and
- Ray Williams judging Artistic Events in Eloy, USA.

It's on off-year so only four Judges is to be expected. We hope to get our whole contingent of nine FAI Judges overseas in 2020 to keep them current!

While it's great to gain new Judges, we also have to recognise that sometimes we lose some. In this case, Jock Moir has decided to hang up his stop watch. We are very sorry to lose Jock from our team and shall miss his humour and dedication to service.

That means we have 26 active and current Judges managing the multiple disciplines and events we run

across Australia. If you've been tempted by the thought of being a Judge, please contact my Deputy, Neil Fergie, via the APF, and let me offer you again:

- Great team to work in
- Stay in an industry you love
- Be challenged by the intellectual (and sometimes physical) demands of Judging
- Potential travel benefits
- No pay
- Did I mention great team to work in?

On the international competition front, it's great being on the IPC Bureau and being able to hear first hand about trends in skydiving. Here are a few things that have been happening, which I post for speculative information.

- Both VFS and Artistic Freestyle grow in popularity as wind tunnel events.
- In Lille, France with over 300 competitors in FS and AE, including a test 8-Way FS event for demonstration only, as not all tunnels can accommodate 8-Ways.
- In Speed, the magic 500kph barrier was recently cracked in the final round of the ISSA World Cup Series. We are delighted to see them all using GPS devices.
- Canopy Formation – in this off-year CF has been struggling to field the minimum of four NACs in both 4-Way Sequential and 4-Way Rotation. Once the Mondial in Russia is completed in 2020, both these events may be examined for their ongoing viability as Category One (international) events.
- In Wingsuiting, expect some minor rule changes before the World Cup in Italy in September.
- Argentina hosted the World Cup of Style and Accuracy, expecting 150 entrants, but only 88 competed. This will surely reverse for the WPC on the Russian Mondial.
- In CP, the numbering system (only) of the CP Freestyle Competition has been combined with the Classic CP Competition, but all tasks remain distinct and separated, with separate champions for CP Classics (Speed, Distance, Accuracy) and CP Freestyle.
- Expect the Russian Mondial in Siberia (!) in August 2020 to be HUGE.
- The World Air Games in Turkey in 2022 will not host all of our disciplines. The FAI and IPC are currently discussing which ones we “put on show”, that can be adapted to the needs of the Organiser to attract a large public following.
- The IPC has launched a new website where you can go for results, competitor profiles, media engagement, event highlights and media articles. Bookmark worldskydiving.org. It is already live.

Once again, I've tried to write a paragraph and managed to fill pages instead. Hope you found/ find this interesting. Send any questions/comments please to gail.bradley@apf.com.au.

It must just mean we are busy

Gail Bradley
National Judging Officer





APF direction

2019 SPORTING CODE AND DIVE POOL DOCUMENTS

The 2019 Issue of the Sporting Code and Dive Pool docs are available on the APF website now.

There have been quite a few changes this year, as it is an Off-year.

As usual, we in Australia are a year ahead of the other nations out there, as we incorporated Dive Pool changes as soon they were passed by the IPC plenary last year, but there are a LOT of rule wording changes and judging guidelines for competitors, coaches, and judges alike, to get your heads around.

The Dive Pool for VFS 2-Way has been tidied up and clarified after there was a fair bit of confusion amongst coaches, competitors and judges at this years Nationals, which was the first year that we ran this as a test event at the Nationals.

The Dive Pool had been developed by Nathan Brown (thanks Brownie!) with input from a bunch of experienced VFS competitors, and had been used at most State Meets last year as well.

Basically this years' changes are:

Accuracy

A re-jump is awarded for a defective AMD, Judges signals have been clarified.

FS/VFS

Zenith definition.

Grip clarification diagrams have been changed.

Added 2-Way VFS Inter and Open Events.

Canopy Formation

Definitions have been re-worded.

Determination of winners has been altered to be the same as for most other disciplines.

Camera requirements for providing proof that no further formations have been performed after the end of working time have been detailed.

Canopy Piloting

Changed Intermediate Zone Accuracy course diagram to indicate actual course length, not overall lengths.

Included Wind Limit summary for all events, for easy look up.

Included CP re-jump forms for easier meet administration.

Freestyle/Freefly

Working time changed to 42 seconds from 45 seconds.

Judging guidelines wording changes for all Compulsories.

Deductions tables for both Freestyle and Freefly Compulsories have been modified.

Camera work wording changes for most Compulsories.

Camera deductions guidelines table has been modified for most Compulsories.

New judging guidelines for most Compulsories moves.

Wingsuit

Basically a re-write of the events rules, including lanes, time/distance window, plus:

There are two added compulsory sequences in Wingsuit Acrobatic, Sequence L – Hand to Foot, and Sequence M – Reversed Hand to Foot.

Speed

Basically a re-write of the events rules, as the event is evolving from when it was run at the World Meet, with fairer and more accurate SMDs being available than the archaic barometric ones than have been in use up until now. If you don't know what the issue is, put aside a good half hour and talk to any Speed Skydiver – they'll fill you in - or read Ash Crick's articles in the last ASMs detailing it all.

Anyways, if you're a competitor, have a read of the Sporting Code to get across all the changes in your discipline and events, download a copy of the current Dive Pools if you need to, and I'll see you on a podium somewhere!

Craig "Crash" Bennett

APF National Competitions Officer



INTRODUCING: THE NEW APF SPORT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

I'll always remember Saturday, October 7th, 1995 as the day my eyes finally opened, I was reborn to a whole new world of freedom, friendship and fun. This was the day I did my first tandem skydive and I haven't looked back since!

In 23 years I've travelled to most drop zones in Australia and several overseas, I might have even met you... Did I pack your parachute? (that would have been many years ago!) Or compete with you at a State Meet, Nationals or even World Championships? Have I coached you in CRW or Canopy Piloting? Taken you for a B-Rel? Fun-jumped with you? Maybe I did your AFF? Took you for a Tandem? Taught you to be an Instructor? Got you on the television or your local newspaper? Coordinated an event at your DZ? Or maybe I haven't met you yet... But if you're as passionate about this amazing sport, then I'd love to meet and share your journey and ideas!

I bring to this role all the knowledge learnt over the years in competition, instructing, event coordinating, media liaising and DZ management, to continue developing this sport. Having relocated from Moruya to be based from the APF office in Brisbane (great timing for winter might I add!) I plan to attend State Council meetings and visit drop zones to network and foster ideas of sport retention. I'm welcome to any suggestions you might have, so drop me a line or come along to your local council meeting to share ideas.

Julia McConnel

APF Sport Development Officer
F718 / Senior Instructor & Coach



CYPRES

Reliability made in Germany

VOLUNTARY MAINTENANCE

All CYPRES manufactured since 2017 have a 15.5 years service life and maintenance is voluntary.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO, BUT YOU CAN SEND IT

WWW.CYPRES.CC





RECORD SUCCESS FOR AUSSIE BIGWAYS 130-WAY

By Kelly Brennan



“ This Record result is the culmination of so much work by so many just plain ‘ordinary Aussies’ who have committed so much time and money in an attempt to make their own piece of Aussie Skydiving history! ”
GREG JACK, AUSSIE BIGWAYS CAPTAIN

RECORD PARTICIPANTS

- ADAM PEMBLE
- ADRIAN FERGUSON
- ALAN MOSS
- ALEXANDER CATTANEO
- ALEXANDER MARTEN FOA
- ALI BAWDEN
- ALLAN GRAY
- ALLISTER WARE
- ANDREJ PERCIC
- ANDREW BARKER
- ANDREW MULHOLLAND
- ANTHONY ZAMAN
- ARTOUR KOLESNIKOV
- BRAD TREVENA
- BRANDON SHORTLAND
- BRANDON VAN NIEKERK
- BRENDAN BUELL
- BRIAN BLEAZARD
- CALDER CHERNOFF
- CARLOS DAVID GOMEZ
- HERNANDEZ
- CARSTEN COOPER-JENSEN FOA
- CELINE PELLETIER FOA
- CHRIS FARINA FOA
- CHRIS HOWARD
- CHUANG LIU
- CRAIG GIRARD FOA
- CRAIG MCNEE
- CRAIG MORRIS
- DALE WIRTANEN
- DAN BC FOA
- DANIEL GRAY
- DAVE DOW FOA
- DAVE EISELE FOA
- DAVE GIRVIN
- DAVE GOUGH
- DAVID BAKKERS
- DAVID LONCASTY
- DAVID SCHRAGER FOA
- DEREK MURPHY
- DIANE EVANS FOA
- DONALD WOODLAND
- DOUG FORTH FOA
- DOUG PRYOR FOA
- DOUGAL MUNFORD
- GARRY SMITH
- GEORGE TANG
- GRAEME WHITE
- GRANT NICHOL
- GREG HAMILTON
- GREGORY JACK
- GUSTAVO BOISSON
- GUY TAYLOR
- HEATHER LITTLE
- HELEN MAHONY
- IKUKO YODA FOA
- JAMES LONGWORTH
- JAN NEJEDLY
- JANINE HAYES
- JARROD MATTHEWS
- JEAN SZKARADEK FOA
- JENNIFER DOMENICO FOA
- JENNIFER PIERCE FOA
- JIM DOYLE
- JIM MCCORMICK FOA
- JOEL MATTHEWS
- JOHN GARNETT
- JOHN LEACH
- JOHN WINKLER
- JON THORVALDSSON FOA
- JONATHAN MCWILLIAM
- JONELL GOSS
- JOSEPH CLARKE
- KATE COOPER-JENSEN FOA
- KAYLENE MATTNER
- KEITH FAY FOA
- KERRY HOOK
- KEVIN DODD
- KEVIN KIERCE FOA
- KIERAN TOMLINSON
- KRISTINA HICKS
- KRISTOFOR SIECZKOWSKI
- LARRY HENDERSON FOA
- LAURENCE GARCEAU
- LAWRENCE WOBKER FOA
- LEON BLACK
- MARCUS BOURGET
- MARILYN TOMLINSON
- MARK FOSBURY FOA
- MARK HIGGINS
- MARK SZULMAYER
- MARTIN BARKLEY
- MARTIN KLAPPER
- MARTY LLOYD
- MARY NGUYEN
- MATT HILL
- MAURICE MATHEY
- MELISSA HARVIE
- MICHAEL PARIS
- MIKE DYER
- MILDRED SPINOZA
- NIGEL ACKROYD
- NIGEL BRENNAN
- OVE JORGENSEN
- PAUL GRESSER
- PAUL MURPHY
- PETER MCKENZIE
- REBECCA DENGATE
- RICH DELGADO FOA
- RICHARD WILKINSON
- RICKY SMITH
- ROBERT DOMEIER FOA
- ROBERT STUMM FOA
- ROSS SHAW
- SANDRA NIEUWENHOVEN
- SCOTT LATINIS FOA
- SEAN WALSH
- SHAUN VINEYARD FOA
- SHIRLEY COWCHER
- STACEY BROSNAN
- STEVE BAKER
- STEVE CUSATO
- TARAN LAVAL
- TERRY IRVING FOA
- TIM HURFORD
- VIVIAN MERZ
- VLASTIMIL ZAMECNIK
- WARWICK JONES
- WILL CASS
- WILLIAM HARRIS
- YUKARI HASHIMOTO FOA
- CAMERA: CRAIG O'BRIEN, NORMAN KENT, TERRY WEATHERFORD, LUCIANO BACQUE, STEPHEN 'SPOT' TONSON



“ I hope you guys believe in yourselves as much as we believe in you, because we’re excited! P3 COACH, KATE COOPER-JENSEN, BEFORE THE RECORD. ”



AS THE SUN SANK TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN MOUNTAINS ON THE 2ND OF JUNE, AUSSIE SKYDIVERS BARRELLED OUT OF SEVEN PLANES AND BUILT A NEW AUSTRALIAN RECORD. THE 67 SECONDS OF TEAMWORK PRODUCED A PICTURE-PERFECT 130-WAY.

THE MAGIC MINUTE HAD BEEN FOUR YEARS IN THE MAKING AND, LIKE ANY GREAT ACHIEVEMENT IN SKYDIVING, IT DIDN'T COME EASILY. IN BETWEEN THE MANY LAUGHS AND AWESOME SKYDIVES, THERE WERE WEATHER HOLDS, INJURIES AND HEARTBREAK.

No dream start...

So-called 'sunny' California greeted the Aussie contingent with grey skies, rain and icy wind to start their training camps. So there was plenty of time for a classic 'meet and greet' around a very crowded room of 120+ excited people.

By this point, some of the travel adventures were already well known. One player was 24 hours late because he'd turned up at Melbourne Airport without his passport. Another had arrived on time but his luggage took three days longer. One Aussie was stuck back in Australia with Visa issues.

An advance group of about a dozen had already been in Perris for a few weeks honing their skills on 80-Ways. A couple of them had even seen an F16 crash at the local Air Base.

Speaking of unfortunate incidents, there were plenty of injury discussions too. After a relatively safe history, the Aussie Bigways team had been jinxed in the final few months by a freefall shoulder dislocation, landing fractures and a bizarre spate of non-jumping finger injuries (a power tool, a sharp pruner and a toxic mozzie bite.) The worst case of the walking wounded was, sadly, not walking at all. Tracey Basman, who'd been spearheading the team's preparations for the past four years, had badly broken her foot in a hard landing, and she was out of action for six months at least.

So, by the time we gathered in that crowded training room at Skydive Perris, we thought nothing else could possibly go wrong. It did, of course. There were last minute withdrawals for financial and family reasons, and a new recruit who found himself in a Perris hospital with pneumonia soon after arriving.

How do you stay positive when all of this is happening and the weather is destroying the dream start?



“ For me, late joiner to the party, it was like stepping onto a movie set during a war scene. Sinuses exploding left, right and centre, ice packs on feet held up on chairs, crutches, slings, arms falling off, sweat dripping down under layers of thick sweatshirts, a mentor flying over just to be there, bare arses on the runway, and who will ever forget the scoot scoot horsey? All united under Captain Jack's leadership. ” LAURENCE 'LG' GARCEAU, NSW AUSSIE BIGWAYS MENTOR/COACH



Well, the meet and greet was a reminder that Aussie Bigways has a strong heart and a determination that can't be dented. There were people who'd cutaway from uni, jobs or marriages to be in Perris. There were women who'd scheduled babies around Bigway record missions. Some had missed out on the previous record and wanted their 'revenge'. Some had been on previous records and didn't want to lose the bragging rights. Some had been AFF students or B-Rel rookies back in 2015 and had their heart set on this goal since then. A couple had even been out of the sport and were lured back in for this event.

Our great big multi-cultural family had pulled off personal miracles and financial juggling acts to get there and we were ready to create history again. So, nothing was going to flatten the excitement.

Beginning to build...

We belted out seven jumps over twelve hours when we finally took to the skies, followed by six jumps the next day. The hardest souls also put in a tunnel comp after all that.

These first jumps were all about the Bigway mantras: Fly the stadium. Approach on radial. Stop before you dock. Keep flying. Track safely in groups. Clear the landing area ASAP. Plus, a whole new one from coach, Kate Cooper-Jensen, who described the approach for the outer wackers as 'an escalator of happiness'.

The P3 coaching team - Perris Performance Plus - challenged people with slots they don't usually fly. Fast-falling Base people were tested on the outside of 30-Ways, and little people were loaded up with lead to have a go in the Base.

We were soon jumping three-plane formations from a Skyvan and two Twin Otters. One load came down due to cloud. Well, not the entire load. A trail-plane floater thought she'd missed everybody's exit so she let go, and soon realised she was alone in freefall. Very, very alone!



Thankfully, there was a strong beer police presence. Chief Inspector, Matt 'Mayday' Hill, diligently kept the paperwork as 125 beer fines stacked up. Meanwhile a certain lawyer tested the boundaries of self-incrimination with daily instalments of 'Higgo Moments', usually involving bathrooms, baby oil and a poor sense of direction.

Tracey was whizzing around on a special pimped-up trolley to rest her foot, complete with a toy horse head and a hooter to warn slow traffic in her way.

We got into record mode early, beating our previous turnouts at the local Sizzler restaurant. 100 Aussies plus eight FOAs (Friends of Aussies) were officially listed and it was all signed off by an APF judge.

The second camp started slowly, with another day lost to bad weather. And it was still a tad chilly up top when we got cracking again. Debriefs were noisy, with coaches having to shout above sniffing and coughing as a lurgy swept through the camp, claiming more and more victims.

Eventually, we put the thermals away and welcomed warm sunshine. By the end of the second training camp, we were pretty much completing a fast-falling 72-Way Base group and a slow-falling 52-Way Wacker group from 16,500ft. These two groups were being designed to merge into one giant formation for the start of the record camp.

The team line-up...

The team had a diverse group of players, with less than 300 jumps up to tens of thousands.

A total of 140 people registered from all mainland Australian States and Territories, as well as USA,

New Zealand, Japan, UK, China, Hong Kong, Fiji, Germany, Iceland and South Africa. Not a bad mix of Aussies living overseas, and FOAs to round out the team.

Before registering for this event, ten participants had 400-Ways in their log books, and two had nothing bigger than a 9-Way. One of those two was also our youngest, Joel Matthews, who turned 19 in Perris. He'd deferred his first year of Uni to make this trip, joined by his skydiving brother and father.

The oldest participant was 74-year-old, John 'Leachy' Leach, who clocked up his 2,000th jump during the first camp. Leachy has had a couple of shoulder reconstructions and has two replacement hips.

"I make exercise almost a full-time job," he explained. It paid off as he kept going strong to get that record.

Ashleigh Barker was the least experienced with 247 jumps at the start of the camp. Ash was wearing lots of lead and flying well during the practice jumps, until she dislocated a shoulder in an untidy landing. Her shoulder was put back in with a satisfying 'pop' but that was the end of her record hopes.

The most experienced Aussie was Jon McWilliam, with nearly 26,000 jumps.

Don Woodland has been jumping for 35 years, representing Australia in Accuracy at five World Championships. But he was a relative newbie to this type of Bigway event. "I'm really out of my comfort zone," said Don. "But, the focus for aiming at that accuracy target is similar to the focus needed here."

Terry Irving was another player with thousands of jumps, who's been working hard at Bigway after years of being excluded from Rel Work because of her tiny stature. She gave away beautiful hand-made bags to those who'd helped her most, and she ran a prize draw of little koala mascots each night.

Inclusivity has always been a drawcard in Bigway, especially so for Marcus 'Pink Bits' Bourget. "Aussie Bigways welcomes everyone, and it would be great for more LGBT people to get involved", he said.

The Perris paradise...

Up close, the ground in Perris is parched and lifeless. The town itself is ordinary, and it's had some ugly headlines with the recent 'House of Horrors' family.

However, it's stunningly beautiful from above. On the climb to height, there are striking vistas of the surrounding mountains, including the snow-capped Big Bear. Plus there's nearby Lake Elsinore, and some interesting waterways.

The DZ is a skydivers' paradise, with a pool, bar and stacks of Skyvans and Twin Otters. It's also home to a shiny DC3 and the Perris Jet, and a DC9 that's being revived as a jump ship. And there are dawn balloon jumps too, helping many of the Aussies tick off their Bucket List.

A place this perfect sounds too good to be true. And so it is. The hard ground and changing winds caused everything from ankle sprains to very ugly facial injuries on one head-slamming landing. We soon learned to follow the lead of locals and close visors for landing!



APF SUPPORT

The APF provided valuable support for team logistics in California. A generous Level 3 Fi Fund allocation helped us with a Team Manager, a good media effort, judging expenses, first aid supplies and other bits and pieces.

State Councils also granted funding to participants. THANK YOU to the APF and all the generous State Councils for thinking big with us.





SPOT Images

Giddy up for a record...

"Game on!" declared Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld, the lead coach of the P3 team, at the start of the third camp, the actual record effort.

Tracey Basman was speechless, just for a moment, when everybody removed their jumpers to reveal a T-shirt with her face and her catchphrase, 'Giddy Up'. Ben Nordkamp was out injured, but flew over to Perris anyway to cheer on the team. Aussie skydiving pioneer, Andy Keech, was also there to soak up the vibe. He too had once been on a large formation record, the world's first 4-Way!

It was a foggy start again and there was plenty of dirt diving for a 137-Way to start the mission. The game plans had been emailed out, so everybody knew their slot, their plane and their exit. But the reality of pacing it out, with jumpsuits on, began to hit home. This was a huge, amped crowd, including a few talented new faces who'd just arrived. Craig Girard was now in the team, along with many other skydiving A-listers who mix in P3 circles.

Over and over, the team practiced approaches from the seven different planes, running it out on the tarmac or dusty driveways to rehearse the build and the track-off plan.

Team captain, Greg Jack, was carefully avoiding the 'F' bombs in media interviews at the same time as Dan BC was throwing around his favourite 'C' word. "Calm down," he'd stress during each dirt dive. "Stay calm. Be calm."

When the fog cleared, the team took off. But those in the outermost layer of the formation, the wackers, weren't allowed to take grips for the first three attempts. On the fourth attempt, 'permission to dock' was granted. The result wasn't pretty! Calm went out the window and confusion prevailed.

Day two of the record camp was foggy until midday. The troops were restless but the mood was high. The effort was ramped up a gear with our on-site Judge, Jan Nejedly, waking up the judges back in Australia to be in standby mode for the first serious cracks at the record. There were three attempts that day, each getting smoother, closer and more promising than the one before.

There are no superstars or glory slots in something like this. The 8-Way chunk at the heart of the Base had been pulling off faultless exits for days, toughing out some serious tension as the formation built each time. On the outside of the formation, skydivers had long, careful approaches to their wackers, holding their slowest possible fall rate and inching closer as the formation took shape in front of them. Everybody in-between had a challenge of their own, ranging from exit pack-ups to navigating to their slot and tracking groups.

One load appeared in doubt when one of the four S kyvans had a mechanical problem. The DZ simply halted a fun jump load and sent that Skyvan across to the Aussie group.

"It's all about the attitude now," said Dan BC, as day three began. He was urging the Aussies to stop their previous habit of getting the record on the last jump of the last day. "No more of that. "Let's do this on jump one!"

It was trimmed down to a 132-Way by this point, with the inevitable culling in full swing. Quality skydivers were on the bench, just like any other large formation record, and they were hurting as badly as those who were out with injury. At events like this, it's about skill, consistency and also a bit of luck in the slots they give you.

Then there's the need to keep on going until the job is done. Supercharge tunnel trainer extraordinaire, Melissa Harvie, was hobbling through dirt dives on crutches with a bad ankle sprains and bum-sliding her landings. Sandy Nieuwenhoven had painful arms from toughing out the base. She had massage and pain killers between jumps, even lying on the concrete to try to cool her arms down.

Day three, jump one, record attempt number four was unsuccessful but getting more promising. Attempt number five was agonisingly close with just one person out. It was her first time in a new slot, and another 500 feet would have got her there, but the Aussie 'fair go' is not in the P3 rule book when it gets to the business end. So she joined the cheerleaders on the ground.

It was a colourful collection of flag-wavers, including relatives, partners and injured team-mates in slings or ankle braces. There was also a single bare bum salute out there, behind the trees, away from the cameras.

Record success...

The sixth serious attempt took off after 6pm in lovely early evening light and exited from 17,500ft. The Base nailed it again and the jump felt smooth and calm, even better than the one before. It looked good from the ground too. But there was no shouting under canopy and no wild squeals on landing. Did they know something the rest of us didn't know?

Dan BC landed first, optimistic but not yet convinced. Camera guru, Norman Kent, threw caution to the wind. "Wow, that looked good!" he declared. "Well, if the camera man says it's good, it's usually good," smiled Dan, giving the first of many high-fives.

At the same time, excitement was sweeping across the landing area, with tears and hugs as the result sank in. The camera team quickly found shots of the completion which were urgently emailed to the Aussie judging team, and the jumpers started cracking open beers to wait for the result.

It seemed like an eternity before Greg Jack was able to confirm the good news. He stood in front of the players, an Aussie flag draped around his shoulders, reflecting on the 119-Way record set four years earlier at the same DZ. "I'm very pleased to say that record has now been broken," he declared, raising his voice above the screaming, and holding up the flag. "It's now 130!"

It was a loud, happy celebration but also a surprisingly brief one, as the Aussies had one day left and wanted to use it well.

They returned the next morning for three more attempts at a bigger record, adding back in some of the last people who'd been capped and going all the way up to 20,000ft. The judges in Australia were hauled out of bed at 4.30 in the morning. The first load (134-Way) didn't complete. The second was aborted at 14,000ft when one plane ran out of oxygen, and the third (133-way) was also unsuccessful.

The Aussies had tried hard to share record success with a few more mates but it wasn't to be.

The Glitterati...

Every record effort deserves a fitting celebration, so the theme for the wrap party was 'sparkly and shiny'.

Glitter, sequins and shiny spandex surrounded the Perris pool, along with the usual collection of boys in drag, and an obligatory phallic creation. There was also plenty of red, white and blue among hosts and visitors, who were tucking into potent margaritas.

"Aussie Bigways is alive and well," declared Tracey Basman during the speeches, outlining events ahead in Australia over the next two years.

And then it was done. Aussies dispersed for holidays or homeward travel, leaving happy memories in their wake. And a stubborn trail of glitter!

MEDIA MANOEUVRES...

The team had a solid media plan in place and funding from the APF to make it happen. We ran a positive social media campaign before and during the event, encouraging friends and family to share, like and comment. We hired our own camera operator to pull together interviews and ground vision for the newsrooms back home.



We received coverage on all the commercial TV networks, many of the larger radio stations, plus dozens of newspapers and digital sites. Channel Seven reporter, Amelia Brace, even did a tandem skydive for her news story. Plus we had hundreds of thousands of views for social media posts about our event.





2019

NAGAMBIE

FALL FEST

IT ALL STARTED WITH A SIMPLE IDEA - A LAST CHANCE FOR SOME INCREDIBLE SKYDIVING BEFORE WINTER ARRIVES. SIX LONG MONTHS OF PLANNING LATER, SOME CONSIDERABLE SWEATING AS TO WHETHER CUSTOMS WOULD RELEASE THE T-SHIRTS IN TIME, AND SUDDENLY FALL FEST 2019 WAS HERE!

By Tom Fletcher Photos by Michael Young, Paul Barker & Scotty Patterson

“There was no shortage of loads and quick rides to height - the two Supervans turning hard made short work of that”

A total of 108 eager jumpers flooded in from all around the country, with some travelling from as far away as WA to come and enjoy the event. When they arrived, they found sponsor logos plastered around the DZ, the hill tyres revamped and goodie bags packed and ready. Waiting for them were the coaches - with some of the best from around the country travelling to Nagambie to ensure there was going to be something for everyone.

There was no shortage of loads and quick rides to height - the two Supervans turning hard made short work of that! Following on so soon after the ever popular Downunder Dynamics, the Freefly scene was intense. And with the record attempts at Perris coming almost immediately after Fall Fest, many eager Flat Flyers came to soak up some last-minute formation load practice and glean as much information as they could from Mossy. The Wingsuit coaches were not to be outdone, running three groups rotating between First Flights, Flocking and of course the ever popular XRW.

Once again Snappa's Catering joined us for the event, keeping everyone well fed throughout. With delicious and ample quantities of food being served up, Snappa's goal

seems to be to abolish the need for anyone to wear a weight belt!

Once jumping was done each day, the big screen came down and everyone gathered to watch the day tapes (with a beer in hand, of course!). There were lots of oohs, aahs and some laughter courtesy of great editing by Tommy Siera. DJ Teags then kept everyone entertained until the bar closed... and sometimes longer!

Massive thankyou's must go to our major sponsors - Phil Onis at Sydney Skydivers, Skydive Nagambie, APF Fi Fund, VTPC and Mortels Sheepskin Factory - without this support events of this nature simply couldn't happen.

Thank you also to our other sponsors - Sunpath, Intrudair, Deem, Aerodyne, FlySight, Phoenix Fly, LVN, Cypres, Cookie and NZ Aerosports.

A big shout out also to all the Coaches, Camera Flyers, Pilots, Refuellers, Caterers, Barman Hamish, packers, DZSOs, Manifest, Instructors, skydivers and anyone who helped make Fall Fest the success it was. Look out for Fall Fest 2020!

Now some words from our coaches:



“Fall Fest was a huge hit! Skydive Nagambie turned the volume up full for this one, and the vibe was all time! Over 100+ participants gathered and were spoilt with 2 Super Caravans (I know, right?!) which meant we jumped HARD! Literally whatever discipline you're into and whatever the skill level - you were well fed. Wingsuiting or XRW, Bigway RW, Freeflying or a healthy mix. It was awesome to see the DZ pumping, and was a pleasure to be involved alongside so many great organisers and flyers. Thank you Skydive Nagambie! Can we do it again already?!” AK



“Fall Fest 2019 went off! What an incredible event. Great weather, two Supervan's pumping out loads, good vibes and some great jumps. From a coach's perspective it was incredible seeing how well everyone was flying. There are some really motivated skydivers in Australia right now and Nagambie seems to be the go-to drop zone for great events like this. I can see Fall Fest becoming a 'must do' every year.” Tayne Farrant



2019 FALL FEST NAGAMBIE



“First Flights, wingsuit Crests, XRW, Dynamic Flocks, two Super Vans running hot all day for three days, formation loads, good food, Reserve “drills”, an abundance of Coaches and three nights of what seemed like never ending cartons on the bar - Fall Fest had it all and did not disappoint. This was one of the best boogies Australia has seen in years. The vibes were high from the 100+ who came out to Nagambie with smiles all round. I’m honoured to have been given the opportunity to be a part of another legendary event at Skydive Nagambie put on by the famous Don, Louise and Tom.”

Jason Dodunski

“What a great turn out for Fall Fest 2019 as we had over 35 people doing Flat Flying - over 25 of them are going to Perris for the record - fantastic! The jumpers were split over three groups, with Tracey and I looking after the more experienced fliers, in particular to challenge the Perris folks, while Christian looked after the novices, lower experienced and non-Perris fliers, trying out for Star Crests and basic Bigway skills.

But unfortunately on the first load, Tracey, the driving force behind the next Bigways record attempt, hurt her ankle on landing, so Christian and Mossy had to step up, with great support from local instructors and Flat Fly friends Adam Davis and Jan Nejedly, looking after the lower experienced fliers. Thank you fellas!

The two experienced groups’ flying skills were evident in the sky, with multiple point 12-Way+ skydives tearing it up. By lunchtime Saturday we were into 28-Way formation loads with the last jump of the day being a completion, but with a short spot, resulted in a nice long walk back to the DZ on sunset for most of the load.

More 25- to 28-Way formation loads on the Sunday topped off a great Easter long weekend. The weather kicked in on Monday with low cloud, putting an early end to the event, but I’m sure that those who were at the epic party Sunday Night weren’t too concerned. The group of flyers we had was great fun, with a lot of laughs mixed in to the discipline required for Big Way jumps, and the whole event having a great boogie feel to it. We would like to thank the APF and VTPC for their support of the event, and a big thank you to Don, Louise and Tom for providing a great set up and a well-organized FALL FEST 2019.

Cheers from Aussie Big Ways! ”

Mossy



Coaches: ALAN MOSS, TAYNE FARRANT, REED RAMAGE, ANDREW KEIR, SCOTTY PATERSON, MICHAEL “WOODY” SMART, JASON DODUNSKI, DARREN GRIGGS, TRACY BASMAN, CHRISTIAN PERIC, ADAM DAVIS
 Camera: TOMMY SIERA, PAUL BARKER, JOHN SWANLAND, MICHAEL YOUNG *MC/DJ: Matt Teager*



“Fall Fest 2019 was a stand out event from my point of view! Since moving overseas I don’t do as many events in Australia as I’d like to, so to plan a one month trip home and be fortunate enough to coach at Downunder Dynamics 6 and Fall Fest all in this trip was a blessing!

I started jumping at Skydive Nagambie in 2012 and I’ve had a soft spot for it ever since. I was obviously stoked to hear that the events I was coming home to do were being held there, because in my opinion it’s at the top of the list for holding these kinds of big events. I love the sense of community you have at skydiving events when everyone stays onsite and really shares every aspect of the event together, and Nagambie really helps in creating this vibe where fun-jumpers really feel valued and welcome.

Thanks again to Skydive Nagambie and everyone involved in Fall Fest for making it such a rad four-day weekend, I can’t wait to make my way home for more to come in the future! ”

Reed Ramage

“If there’s one thing the folks at Skydive Nagambie know how to do well, it’s get a bunch of people in the air, real quick! Fall Fest 2019 definitely didn’t disappoint. 2 fast turbines ripped up the sky continually, pounding out the loads. The wingsuit scene in Victoria just keeps getting better, with a huge turnout of super keen pilots. Make sure to get yourself to Fall Fest 2020. Word is it’s going to be even bigger!”

Scotty and Woody’s School of Wingsuit



DOWNWARD TREND

for every skydiver!



**INSTRUCTOR AND
MILITARY DISCOUNTS**



UPT, SUN PATH AND VIGIL APPROVED SERVICE CENTRE

- NZ AEROSPORTS ICARUS CANOPIES DEMO CENTRE • GEAR HIRE
- RIGGING AND GEAR SALES FOR OVER 21 YRS • FREE ADVICE

Email: info@downwardtrend.com.au Phone: +61 (0)400 011 331 3 Storie St Clontarf QLD 4019

WWW.DOWNWARDTREND.COM.AU

SHAKE DON'T FLAKE

Free Fly Fridays #11

By Jason Stiquel and Tara Bradley

SHAKE DON'T FLAKE SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED OUR 11TH INSTALMENT OF FREEFLY FRIDAY AT SYDNEY SKYDIVERS. IF YOU HAVE BEEN LIVING UNDER A ROCK AND HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT FFF AT PICTON YET, THE EVENT IS A DAY OF FROTHY FUN JUMPS WITH DEDICATED COACHES HELPING SKYDIVERS OF ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS REACH THEIR SKY LORD POTENTIALS.

FFF11 saw a record number of 63 participants gracing us with their presence. We had a lot of familiar faces and a good balance of beginners and intermediate Freeflyers, as well as some interstate and overseas weaponry join the fun. The Dekunu team also joined the party and brought a bunch of demo altimeters for participants to try out. Additionally, they generously gave away a 30% off voucher for a new Dekunu smart alti.

From the start the weather wasn't really on our side, however, that didn't stop any of the froth. People were as keen as ever to take to the sky. Over the course of the day there were just over 200 fun jumps, two chops and plenty

of good vibes. Special mention to Tassio Porto who got his HU & HD Crest signed off, and Chihun Oh who got his HU Crest.

By early afternoon, just as more clouds started to roll in, two caravan loads of participants geared up for a drop in demo jump over the Penrith skyline and into a Scrambles/Huck Jam event at iFly. This was organised by Kim (Scatty) Hopwood. We were stoked to be able to collaborate and merge these two events, most of the FFF jumpers committed to make Scatty's vision a success and obviously a lot of fun.

Quick shout out to the APF and NSWPC helping out with funding our coaches and enabling us to continue running these epic events. And as always, we have been overwhelmed with the support from our coaches and participants, it has been truly epic!

So again we say for those of you who haven't been to a Freefly Friday out at Sydney Skydivers yet, get on it! To stay updated on all upcoming events, make sure you follow ShakeDontFlake on FB and Instagram.





SHAKE DON'T FLAKE
Free Fly Fridays



THANKS TO OUR COACHES:
Brent Chandler
Kyle Chick
Scott Hiscoe
Nathan Brown
Ben Cuttler
Ware Wano
Shane Onis
Alex Ohno
SPONSORS:
APF, NSWPC, DEKUNU
IFLY, NZAEROSPORTS



SHAKE DON'T FLAKE AND FLIGHT CLUB PRESENTS:

The Drop In @ iFLY DOWNUNDER

By Kim Hopwood, Team Focus



ON FRIDAY MAY 10TH, ISA FLIGHT CLUB AND SHAKE DON'T FLAKE LAUNCHED THE FIRST EVER DROP IN @ IFLY DOWNUNDER, PENRITH.

THE CONCEPT WAS SIMPLE. FLY ALL DAY IN THE SKY. DROP IN TO THE TUNNEL, AND THEN KEEP FLYING ALL NIGHT AT THE TUNNEL THROUGH A 2-WAY FREEFLY SCRAMBLES COMP, AN HOUR LONG HUCK JAM, AND A BIG PARTY AFTWARDS! PEOPLE SEEMED TO LIKE THE IDEA BECAUSE IT BROUGHT JUMPERS FROM MELBOURNE, BYRON, MORUYA, AND EVEN SINGAPORE TO COME ALONG, CREATING THE BIGGEST EVER FREEFLY FRIDAY, THE BIGGEST SCRAMBLES COMP THE TUNNEL HAS SEEN, AND DEFINITELY THE BIGGEST DISPLAY JUMP EVENT I'VE EVER SEEN, LET ALONE ORGANISED!

After an epic day of jumping at Freefly Friday, 28 jumpers climbed aboard two Caravan loads towards the end of the day, taking off from Sydney Skydivers at Picton, and climbed their way to 14,000 feet above iFLY Downunder, Penrith and got ready to "Drop In".

The conditions were perfect, we got the clearance to height we were hoping for from Sydney Tower, so we had Freefly groups exiting from height over the top of Penrith, landing just a few hundred meters from the tunnel, as the sun was making its way down.

The tunnel event was designed as an opportunity to get all levels of flyers together and celebrate the incredible community we have built over the last five years since iFLY Downunder opened at Penrith. We had skydivers, tunnel flyers, young kids and oldies.

Before the comp, the vibe was incredible. A bunch of adrenalin charged skydivers frothing over their demo jumps, canopies being packed all around the tunnel, and lots of smiles and laughs, while the last of the first timer tunnel customers looked on in awe. Then we closed the doors to the public and got ready for lock down!

There was a massive 50 competitors who turned up for the event, a total of 25 teams! Even the senior tunnel instructors decided to get in on the action once they saw how good the vibe was. We created the teams based on skill to make sure the lesser experienced were always paired with the more experienced to make it an even comp. And of course being a true 'Scrambles' event, every round you had a different team mate. So half the fun was navigating your way through the crowd in between rounds to find your next teamie.

The competition was scored in real time by Kyle Chick of Team Focus. With the competition being six rounds long,

Chicko judged a total of 150 rounds straight over three hours! What an absolute weapon!

After the competition, we kept the tunnel running for another full hour-long Huck Jam, while the DJ fired up his decks to kick off a massive party, and the beers were flowing.

Following the Huckjam the music stopped briefly to announce our winners and their prizes of free tunnel time courtesy of ISA Flight Club:

- 1st place Joshua Tay – 30 minutes free time
- 2nd place Russ Blackman – 15 minutes free time
- 3rd place Andrew Ravenscroft – 10 minutes free time
- 4th place Nicki Brown – 30% off a Dekunu
- 5th place Lachlan Azzapardi

Bummed you missed out? Don't worry, the Drop In will be happening two times per year – so stay tuned for the summer edition, towards the end of this year. In the meantime, get a team together for the Indoor Nationals, happening August 23-24 as it will be just as epic, with an anticipated 200+ competitors!

Thanks to...

Shake Don't Flake – for letting us join forces for this awesome day and night combo.

Izaya Souter – Izaya pulled the event together from the iFLY side and considering the scale, it was run so smoothly.

Kyle Chick – who on earth judges 150 rounds straight?

Phil Onis – for giving us the super quick rides in his amazing aircraft

Pilot – for dropping us at the right spots every time.

Dekunu – for the support at the event.

Greg Whitehead – for driving the bus loads of jumpers around and being super helpful as always.

iFLY Downunder – for closing the doors to the public on a Friday night, providing nearly two hours of free time through the Huck Jam, and prizes, and being so supportive of the sports flyer scene. It's the big daddy of tunnels and we're so lucky to have it in our backyard.





"Thanks for such a great event, it was awesome! Really cool to fly with everyone, thanks for sharing the love!"

Gary Nemirovsky

DISPLAY JUMPS: KEEPING IT SAFE

Safety is always a big factor in Display jumps, and with such a large number of demo participants, this was especially critical. A detailed information pack was sent to everyone prior to the day containing high resolution aerial and ground photos identifying hazards, and recommended approaches based on conditions. We set a minimum criteria of a Certificate 'E', and participants had to demonstrate safe and accurate landings during Freefly Friday. The wind limit was decided well in advance of the day, and set at a much lower level than would be considered reasonable at that site. Additionally, to keep it safe in the air, the Freefly groups were limited to 3 to 4 jumpers with at least one coach or experienced display jumper in a group. We had two passes per load, with break off above 6,000ft and opening by 4,500ft so there was plenty of time for landing set ups. Penrith is the ideal area for Displays, with so many fields that can be used as outs or potential landing areas. With the support of Penrith Panthers, we were able to secure several great landing area options much bigger than football fields.



"Just wanted to say thanks again for organising the event, I honestly didn't think I was going to have that much fun but holy s\$%^ it was sick!! Everyone I talked to was absolutely peaking about the event. Love your work!!!"

Nathan "Ravo" Ravenscroft



"Thanks heaps for the demo and the tunnel session. Had an awesome time! Well organised, can't wait for the next one"

Chris Garcia

A BIT ABOUT FLIGHT CLUB

Flight Club is the loyalty program for the ISA tunnels in Australia – that's iFLY Downunder (Penrith), Perth and Gold Coast. The main benefit for joining Flight Club is you earn points for flying which can convert to free tunnel time, and in the first year, which has just finished, they gave away over 85 hours of free time to members! The Drop In event was designed for Flight Club members, and is just one of the additional perks you get for being a part of it. Check out info.ifly.com.au/flightclub to learn more.



WHY NO FLAT FLYERS?

We hoped that this event would be all inclusive for Free flyers and Flat flyers, with the idea being we would mix up the scrambles with some belly/back rounds to bring the light and dark sides of the force together, plus have some laughs and a bit of carnage! Unfortunately, the event happened at the same time as the Aussie Big Ways in Perris so despite trying we couldn't get enough Flat flyers there. But the next event we definitely want to see a strong FS turnout, the more the merrier!





TALON FS

for all forms of flight

THE TALON FS HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO THE EXACTING DEMANDS OF TODAY'S SKYDIVING, FROM FORMATION SKYDIVING, FREELY AND VFS TO WINGSUITING AND CRW. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PASSION, THE TALON FS RESPONDS TO IT ALL.



Spacer foam on the backpad and inside leg pads for added comfort. In-set horizontal backstrap, hip ring and comfort pad results in unparalleled stabilization with maximum comfort.



Main rear covers - Designed for maximum holding power. The backpad is shaped and contoured to fit the shoulders and upper body and stay in place.



The V-Flex upper leg strap and "Multi-Flex" harness configurations with chest and hip rings allows for maximum comfort and flexibility. Reserve ripcord - standard or low profile.



Upward main closing flap and integrated side flap with bridle cover for maximum closing pin and bridle protection.

KAPOW KUP 2019

By Zack Rosser

KAPOW KUP 2019 WAS MY FIRST TIME EVER COMPETING IN CANOPY PILOTING AND ALSO JUMPING AT SKYDIVE YARRA VALLEY. FROM THE MOMENT I ARRIVED WITH MY FELLOW FRIENDS FROM SA SKYDIVING WE WERE WELCOMED WITH THAT COCKNEY ACCENT THAT WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE, RONNIE PERRY, WHO INTRODUCED EVERYONE TO OUR SUPER COACH FOR THE WEEK, WORLD CHAMPION ANDREW 'ANGRY' WOOLF.

After our gear was checked and approved by DZSO Kevin and money was loaded onto our accounts by the wonderful manifest machine Lou, we were ready to start our brief with Angry. Discussions went around the group of what we wanted to get out of this week of training development, and what our goals were down the track to work towards. Soon after our exit groups were made and we went over everyone's wing loading and how much separation needed between each person. As Angry said "Your exit order is your landing order".

Just after takeoff the swoop camp game was already in full swing as we managed to create space for Matt to knock out twenty push ups. After what we all thought was a great landing it was time to start getting debriefed by Angry. It was going to be a frustrating week when you have to change your turn mechanics and bump it up 50ft, but this was the reason we were all here. You gotta take one step back to be able to take two forward.

Blue skies and five knots downwind - what a way to start our day! It's always fun watching people make that split decision between sliding it in or running it out, or attempting to anyway. It was a mixture of highs and lows throughout the day from every person as they went from having a great swoop to taking a shovel and digging themselves out of the corner. It also didn't help that the upper winds were constantly changing from north to east to west and then the south. Never from the same direction. I personally struggled with recognising the changes and kept stuffing up my setup on each jump. Ben 'Ditchy' Cutler took it upon himself to take me aside and give me some pointers to use for the next jump, and that setup and landing was my best one of the day. A thing I like most about swooping camps is that no one thinks they're better than the other and everyone's willing to help, guide and support each other to all skill levels.





We finished the day early so we could head over to the Yarra Valley Racetrack to set up the course over the pond ready for the next day. It was quite obvious how excited everyone was getting, and itching to start swooping across the pond, as we all did our introductory walk around. Both Angry and Ronnie briefed us on the dangers of the pond and a few guidelines should we land in the pond and how to get out quick and easy so we're not holding up traffic behind us, and the procedure for what happens if someone does end up stuck in the middle of the pond.

Watching the hot air balloons never became boring each morning and was a great sight as we used them as wind indicators to see what was going on up there before the first load. We planned to do two practice jumps at the drop zone before heading over to do practice runs over the pond. Angry briefed us on a dummy setup of the pond that he had marked out in the landing area for us to use as a visual aid to then take with us for when we jumped at the race track. Tip of the day from Ronnie was to set up deeper, then go even deeper! Everyone was focusing on working out their setup point ready to then transfer it over to the pond. With a mixture of people over shooting and under shooting we all figured we were pretty much ready to run the pond for first time of the week. Excitement levels were rising and we couldn't wait to drag some water. Unfortunately no-one landed in the pond, everyone just made it out or overshot tremendously. With the weather rolling in we were stuck on the ground, however we used the time wisely with Angry showing us some footage from the latest CP World Meet and going over competition rules and regulations for the upcoming Nationals.

KAPOW KUP 2019

DAY ONE

Blue skies and nil wind. Perfect conditions. We got our competition brief from Griggys and then we were assigned into either Open or Inter for the competition. Gearing up, excited and ready to go we all loaded into the plane and took off to get the competition underway.

After scoring a zero for my first round and not being happy I fully committed to Round Two. Deeper I went. Surely I can get a point for just getting wet through the entry gate. Oh boy did I go deep. Proper committed, gates in sight. This was the one. Until I landed in front of the entry gate scoring a zero and then near drowning in front of a live broadcast that happened to turn up. Guttled.

After three rounds of Distance the competition was close in Open with Ditchy in first place and Colmer and Bailey hot on his tail. Over in the Inter competition it was just as close with Dumpling leading the way naked and dripping wet, with Paul Barker only one point behind. We pursued onto Accuracy and this is where the competition flipped on its head. With Colmer scoring a zero and Ditchy having an average run the competition really opened up for everyone. Meanwhile in Inter we had competitors going too deep, too short or not even running the course. This opened up the scoring and with Zack getting some points on the board this fast tracked him straight through to first place. With the weather reaching limitations we decided to hold off on competition rounds and called it a day with some beers and a trip to the pub.

DAY TWO

It kick started with equally great conditions as Day One started with. With all the feedback we had received from Angry about our previous rounds, again we geared up and took off to finish the last two rounds of Accuracy. The pressure of competition got to a few competitors in the Open with some copping zero's or not their usual rounds, which allowed competitors to advance up the leaderboards. In the Inter division the fight for the top spot was still neck-to-neck between Victoria's own Dumpling and South Australia's Dark Temptation. It came down to the final round.

I managed to make the entry gate and Zone 2 which I was beyond stoked with. I was in first place. I eagerly waited for Dumpling to commence his turn through the course. I couldn't have been more happier to have seen him miss the entry gate by 20ft and was beyond stoked to be the Kapow Kup Inter Champion!

Congratulations to Skud for taking out first place in the Open division and Bria for earning the McMillan Medal for Most Improved and Safe Competitor.

With Kapow Kup being my first Canopy Piloting competition I can safely say I loved every second of it and put myself on the road towards the Australian CP Nationals. I'd highly recommend anyone to give it a go and come on out next year! It honestly doesn't matter if you don't swoop, as long as you get the entry gate and get the points you're still a contender for the competition!

Massive thanks go out to the APF, VTPC, Darren Griggysy, Andrew Wolf, Ronnie Perry, Louise Andrews and ...



This was my first Kapow Kup and I was very much looking forward to it. The Kapow Kup is also the 1st Victorian CP Meet over a pond! It's a little different with Kapow as the jumpers have to get permission prior to the comp due to the location of the pond. To have a comp on a Racetrack for horses and having the owners happy for parachutes to swoop in (or getting wet...) next to the track is amazing. To have a relationship like this with the locals is a huge credit to the staff of Skydive Yarra Valley.

It was a busy few days coaching with a huge progression seen by all of the jumpers. The last training day was done with some jumps over the pond to get used to the area, and to challenge everything the last few days, and challenges were aplenty (hey Brody...) :D

The comp was very safe and entertaining with more than a few people getting a little wet. Thanks to Rachel for saving their lives. Congratulations to all the winners. Big shout out to all the staff at Skydive Yarra Valley, especially Lou for manifesting and organising, and to Cody for getting the event on the go for the fourth year running. Shout out also to Kev for being an amazing DZSO and helping out with all gear checks, as well as the pilots for flying and getting up nice and early so we can all go for a play in the sky. Thanks also to the staff and management at Yarra Glenn Raceway for letting us use this venue for the third year running.

See you all next time!

Angry Woolf



PROFILE: ZACK ROSSER

Zack's Canopy Coaching With Teags

SA SKYDIVING YOUNG GUN, ZACK ROSSER, HAS RECENTLY ATTAINED HIS CANOPY COACH RATING. ZACK HAS BEEN CONTINUALLY PROGRESSING AND LEARNING AS MUCH AS HE CAN AROUND CANOPY PILOTING AND SHOULD BE PROUD OF SOME FANTASTIC SUCCESSES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS. HE HAS JUST PUT TOGETHER A FEW RESOURCES AND MADE CANOPY COACHING AVAILABLE TO OTHER JUMPERS HERE IN SA. TEAGS CAUGHT UP WITH ZACK TO ASK HIM A FEW QUESTIONS.

How long have you been skydiving and at what point did you become more interested in Canopy Piloting?

I've been skydiving for three years now, doesn't feel that long! I was interested in Canopy Piloting competitions specifically before I did my AFF course. I used to watch all the Dubai Swoop League and the American Nationals day tapes just because I found it really interesting. Had no idea of how complex Swooping was but I was instantly drawn to it from the get go.

What have been your main influences / inspirations to pursue CP?

I think the main inspiration was watching all the other 'big dogs' swoop in and thought, "that was pretty cool, I wanna do that". My main influence though would have to have been my good friend, Beau Gora, after he went to Nationals for the first time under a Crossfire2 129, it opened my eyes up to the options and that I could also do that.



You had some recent success at the Kapow Cup and the CP Nationals, tell us about that and your training in the lead up to the events.

Yeah I was pretty stoked to get first place at Kapow Kup and be the Intermediate Champion, which was a pretty good personal achievement. I can't lie, I was wearing the medal till I got home to Adelaide. Nationals I had no main goals except for learning as much as I could. Competition was tough but I was super proud of myself for my own results. I learnt so much and was just an overall great two weeks of learning and hanging out with good friends, would highly recommend it. Leading up to both Kapow and Nationals I was flying camera for the Bruise Brothers which helped with training as it was basically free hop'n'pops and then in my spare time trying to do as many jumps as I could with Beau Gora and Bryce Sellick who I consider to be my mentors.

What are your main motivations for starting your own coaching?

I think my main motivations would have to be self-progression and other's progression. So many of my mentors were happy to help me out, coaching me get to where I am, so I figured it's only fair I did the same and try to build safer canopy pilots in SA, and hopefully have more people come over to Nationals too.

What are your top three tips for new canopy pilots?

1. Be patient and learn your canopy, don't be in a rush to get to the next stage.
2. Have a progression plan. Be realistic with where you want to go with canopy piloting.
3. Have the right gear and look after your gear!

Thanks Zack, congratulations on your achievements this far and we are excited to see just how far you'll go in the future.

FOR THE AERONAUTICAL MANOEUVRING OF WINGSUITERS

COMING SOON



#RELEASETHEKRAKEN

Icarus
KRAKEN NZ

NZAEROSPORTS.COM



By Sam Broad

FLY IN FLY OUT

IS AN EVENT WE'VE BEEN RUNNING IN SYDNEY OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS THAT COMBINES TUNNEL FLYING AND SKYDIVING IN TO A WEEKEND OF VERTICAL SEQUENTIAL GOODNESS! WE GET A GUEST LOAD ORGANISER IN, START IN THE TUNNEL ON A FRIDAY ARVO AND THEN HEAD OUT TO THE DROP ZONE FOR THE WEEKEND TO PUT OUR WORK IN THE SKY.

The last event was the biggest and best yet with seventeen of the best skydivers (and Jacob Mulder) coming from all around the country to learn from the masters; Scotty Hiscoe and Mason Corby. We had an extremely high level of talent and experience in the group, and took full advantage of that preparing some very challenging and technical tunnel flying. We built stuff, we flipped stuff, we flew under/over stuff and we even finished off with an unofficial Aussie indoor Head Up record, building a 17-Way formation and turning a couple of points.

From there we let the tunnel cool down, and drove down to Wollongong where we met the Skydive Oz Caravan and flew down to Moruya in style; entering the event with a sunset Angle over the coast. The weather was amazing over the weekend and we managed as a group to smash out 22 skydives, culminating in a couple of full plane load mixed discipline jumps in which we flew a moving group around a big way static group.

FlyIn/FlyOut is designed to push the collective skill level by providing a platform for newer Freeflyers to jump with, and learn from some of the most experienced skydivers in the country. We aim to teach and inspire, and to showcase the talent that is erupting in the Australian skydiving scene. And this is only the beginning, with future events we will be taking in more participants and catering to a broader range of skill levels.

Huge thanks to everyone involved in the continuing success of this event; iFly Indoor Skydiving, Skydive Oz, Sydney Skydivers, the NSW/ACTPC and LVN. Also to the load organisers, Mason and Scotty, and most importantly to the participants who attended, learned, frothed and threw down, we hope to see you all on the next one!



FLY IN FLY OUT

FLY IN FLY OUT



MASON CORBY -
LOAD ORGANISER
SCOTT HISCOE -
LOAD ORGANISER
SAM BROAD - EVENT
ORGANISER/CAMERA
KYLE CHICK
TIM GOLSBY-SMITH
LUCAS GEORGIU
LIAM HOFFMANN
TOM MITCHELL
DAN SMITH
ANDREW RAVENSCROFT
NATHAN RAVENSCROFT
JACOB MULDER
MICHAEL CRUSH
BEN CUTTLER
DAVID COLLINS
RHYS HAGGARTY
SHANNON SEYB



THANKS TO:



Australian Head Up Record

By Kim Hopwood

Photos by Kyle Chick, Leigh McCormack, Ben Cuttler, Tim Golsby Smith and Greg Whitehead

FREEFLYERS HAVE BEEN DOING HEAD DOWN FORMATION RECORDS FOR THE LAST 15 YEARS, WITH FOUR AUSTRALIAN HEAD DOWN RECORDS SET OVER THAT TIME, MOST RECENTLY THE FOCUS ORGANISED 44-WAY. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE DIFFICULTY OF CONTROLLED, LINKED HEAD UP FLYING, NO HEAD UP FORMATION RECORDS HAVE BEEN SET AROUND THE WORLD UNTIL THE LAST FEW YEARS.

With the upcoming Head Up world record in August, we decided it was time for Australia to set our own Head Up record. The Australia Day long weekend saw a group of Australia's most talented Head Up flyers come together at Skydive Oz, Moruya, to attempt to put that first record together.

Without having any past record experience in Head Up, Focus engaged the support of the APF to bring over Freely guru, Andy Malchiodi, from the US to help engineer the jump. Andy's organising skill and information was priceless, which was shown in the success of the event.

There were four days of jumping planned, two warm up days and two record attempt days.

The first day started with smaller groups of 6 to 8-Ways, organised by Andy and Focus captain Kyle Chick. We were launching 3 to 4-Way bases, practicing breaking in to the base, and stinging. There were some good jumps and some not so good jumps. It's amazing how difficult it can be to launch a 4-Way Head Up exit, even with highly experienced people. But once the timing and technique is right, it becomes second nature.

Day Two, the smaller group jumps started really coming together, and with an uncertain weather forecast ahead, we decided to accelerate the process and put up a 15-Way record attempt in the afternoon. We gave our head judge, Ken Enright, a call and asked if he could come down early from Goulburn to make sure he was on site to judge the event. Ken being the absolute legend he is, jumped in the car straight away and made his way down.

We geared up for our first attempt, jumped on the plane and made the nervy-excited plane ride to 15,000 feet. We exited the plane, and boom, Andy, TGS, Sonnica and Royce launched the Base clean and on heading, all leaving from inside the plane to create room for Floaters on the door. With Floaters and the Base in the air, the Divers followed, transitioning on level to head up before building. Lucas and myself broke into the Base to make it a 6-Way, allowing the

rest of the team to build Wacker lines off the Base.

The formation was building progressively through freefall, and as we were getting near break off height it was starting to look pretty good with only a few grips off. As the AADs were firing, it looked pretty damn close to the surprise of many of us! Could this be a record on attempt one? Surely not!

We got on the ground, reviewed the footage, and it looked good so it was submitted. While we were waiting for the judges, we went up again for another attempt.

The second jump, another 15-Way, was executed even better and there were no questions about it. We flew the sucker for a solid five seconds with lots of time for grins and nodding heads across the formation. It was that epic feeling you only get on successful record jumps.

Once we landed, the judges confirmed our first 15-Way attempt was an official record!

In my 12 years of doing Aussie and World Record Freely formation records I have never, ever heard of a record getting done on the first jump. Needless to say there were a few cartons put on, but not too many drinks, as we had Jimmy Cooper and Scott Hiscoe arriving that night so were getting ready to go bigger.

Limited by plane size, we could only make a 16-Way, with one camera. So we asked Andy to coach us from the ground, put Scotty in the Base in Andy's place (no pressure!) and slotted Jimmy in the formation to get all the Aussies involved.

The first 16-Way attempt saw some grips dropped in the Base while it was building to a 6-Way. It rebuilt quickly, however didn't allow enough time for the formation to fully build.

With the clouds rolling in and out, we spent time on the ground debriefing, briefing and dirt diving, with excellent advice from Andy on everything from stack up times through to grip techniques.



There was a break in the clouds, so we geared up for our second 16-Way attempt. The base launched like a dream, and the approaches into the formation were a little more considered with everyone making sure they paused before picking up the grips. One by one it built out, and before we knew it, we had 16 of us flying a beautiful, stable, formation.

The footage was submitted, promptly judged and confirmed we had set a new Australian 16-Way Head Up record!

With only four record attempts, we built three successful formation records.

The only thing missing was a second plane – next time we are going much bigger!

Special shout out to a few key players:

Firstly to Mark Gazley, who organised the event, but was unable to attend due to family reasons. Mark put in all the hard work of pulling the event together but was unable to participate in the actual record. Without Mark's initiative this wouldn't have happened.

To Kyle Chick, who flew camera for the actual record attempt jumps. Chicko is probably the best Head Up flyer in Australia, but humbly took the camera slot, and in typical Chicko style, absolutely nailed it, providing perfectly framed, submittable footage.

“When Andy briefed our first jump, it included a 4-Way Head Up exit with all flyers stacked up inside the plane, allowing a full row of Floaters behind us in the door. I was sure this was going to fail, Head Up exits are so hard even with only one person launching from inside. However, as with all things coached by Andy, it launched perfectly, setting us up to set the first ever Aussie Head Up record on jump number one!” **TIM GOLSBY-SMITH**

“The opportunity to participate in this challenging record with such an elite level of flyers really helped to highlight the amazing community we are lucky to be a part of. Having such a huge level of experience and knowledge when it comes to making these things happen speaks volumes to how the team made it happen with apparent ease. A huge thank you to the whole team - it was an awesome experience and I wish the representatives for Australia all the very best for the upcoming international record.” **GREG WHITEHEAD**

“I can't believe the jumps came together so quickly! I'll be honest, there was a bit of pressure being slotted straight into the Base in Andy's slot, so I'm stoked it worked out.” **SCOTTY HISCOE**

To Andy Malchiodi. There are good coaches and there are exceptional coaches. Andy is an exceptional coach. His attention to detail, analytical approach and ability to address the right issues to make jumps successful is amazing. He even provided all jumpers with a report card providing feedback on 11 areas of the jump covering things like climbouts, quietness, presentation and breakoff.

Our judges Ken Enright, Peta Holmes and Jim Moir. In a record event the judges are always on standby ready to review submitted footage whether they are onsite or online. We are especially gracious considering it was the Australia Day long weekend.

To Skydive Oz at Moruya. The guys always play the best hosts, give us the altitude we need and have the most beautiful DZ in Australia.

To my Mum, Scattyma for being a part of the team at Moruya and minding our new baby girl Mia so Jenny and I could both participate.

And finally the APF. Without the APF's financial support we would not have been able to get Andy down to the event, which would have greatly impacted our chances of a successful record. We now also have a group of jumpers who have had some great advice and applied knowledge transferred to them. The APF National Coach, Ronnie Perry, was also a huge help. Ronnie attended the event, kept the skydiving community updated with our progress, made sure we were motivated, and took some great yearbook photos!



FOCUS

Australian Head Up Record

16-WAY HEADUP RECORD

2019
Focus Australian
Head Up Record
16-Way team

-  NATHAN BROWN
-  CATH COMYNS
-  JIMMY COOPER
-  BEN CUTTLER
-  LUCAS GEORGIU
-  TIM GOLSBY-SMITH
-  SCOTT HISCOE
-  KIM HOPWOOD
-  JENNY HOPWOOD
-  LEIGH MCCORMACK
-  JUSTIN MOONEY
-  JACOB MULDER
-  BELLA SMART
-  SONNICA VAN ZIJL
-  GREG WHITEHEAD
-  ROYCE WILSON
-  KYLE CHICK (CAMERA)



ISA FLIGHT CLUB

FLIGHT CLUB IS 1

2019 STATS

Total members: 729

Platinum: 21

Gold: 24

Free flight time given: 5090 minutes

84.8 hours

Guest passes given: 110

3.6 hours

Birthday passes: 483

40.25 hours

Monthly member lotto time awarded

105 mins

Top flyer minutes flown: 3990

66.5 hours

Free Flight Club huck jams: 9

18 hours

Sponsorships

1 x Indoor skydiving World Champion – Amy Watson Junior Freestyle

1 x Skydiving World Championships bronze winners – Team FOCUS VFS

Exciting things to come

Flight Club membership cards – all your info stored in 1 handy place
(plus no more signing in!)



SIGN UP NOW FOR FY20!

info.ifly.com.au/flightclub

iFLY Downunder (Sydney), iFLY Gold Coast, iFLY Perth

HURRY!
REGO'S CLOSE 9TH AUGUST

2019
AUSTRALIAN OPEN
INDOOR SKYDIVING
CHAMPIONSHIPS

YOUR CHANCE TO BE AN AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION!

CATEGORY	PRICE PER PERSON
4 way Rookie	\$275
4 way A	\$275
4 way AA	\$275
4 way AAA	\$275
2 way Dynamic Inter	\$325
2 way Dynamic Open	\$325
4 way Dynamic	\$275
2 way VFS Inter	\$300
2 way VFS Open	\$300
4 way VFS Advanced	\$250
4 way VFS Open	\$275
Freestyle Inter	\$325
Freestyle Open	\$350
Junior Freestyle Inter	\$325
Junior Freestyle Open	\$350

REGISTER NOW: [IFLY.COM.AU/AUSTRALIANCHAMPIONSHIPS](http://ifly.com.au/AustralianChampionships)

ISA FLIGHT CLUB

iFLY DOWNUNDER

FRIDAY 23RD & SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST 2019 | 123 MULGOA ROAD, PENRITH NSW

ParaGear.COM

Expert Service & Sales For Over 55 Years!

GREAT PRICES! WIDE SELECTION!
We Carry Every Major Manufacturer's Products

EQUIPMENT COMPANY

NEW!

BH AERO FULL FACE HEADGEAR. FULL FACE & LENS P.L.P. POLYCARBONATE THICK LENS. SLEEK DESIGN. **\$405.00** #L5152

GRELLFAB CHIN CAMERA MOUNT. DIFFERENT COLOUR PARTS FOR GO AND GOPRO CAMERA MODELS. JUST WEDGE FOR DETAILS. **\$69.00 - \$125.00** #L61

SCHIER CLAMP GOPRO MOUNTING CLAMP. LOW PROFILE & SNAG RESISTANT. **\$19.95** #L12000

ATLAS ANALOG VISUAL ALTIMETER. DIGITAL READOUT, LOGBOOK FUNCTIONS. **\$399.00** #L11429

ARES II VISUAL ALTIMETER. MADE OF POLYCARBONATE. ALUMINUM CASE. LOGBOOK FUNCTIONS. **\$399.00** #L11000

PROTRACK II ANALOG VISUAL ALTIMETER & FREEFALL COMPUTER. DIGITAL ACCURACY. AMP DATA. SWEEP ALARMS. **\$349.00** #L11140

STELLA ANALOG VISUAL ALTIMETER. DIGITAL ACCURACY. W/ANALOG FACE. ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE. **\$199.00** #L110514

PARAGEAR HEADGEAR BAG FITS FULL OR OPEN FACE HEADGEAR. CONFORMS WITH SOFT SATCH. RESISTANT LINER & ZIPPER CLOSURE. **\$35.00** #L12335

PARAGEAR GEARBAG THE BEST PLACE TO CARRY YOUR GEAR. CONFORMS WITH SOFT SATCH. RESISTANT LINER & ZIPPER CLOSURE. **\$84.99** #L12445

COOKIE M3 IMPACT RATED HEADGEAR. DE RATED HEADGEAR WITH COOKIE STYLING. OPENED FACE & SUPER COMFY! **\$169.00** #L5775

COOKIE FUEL CAMERA HEADGEAR. MULTIPLE INTERCHANGEABLE MOUNTING SURFACES FOR CAMERAS, ALDIDES & ACCESSORIES. **\$249.00** #L5751

COOKIE G3 FULL FACE HEADGEAR. ALL COLOURS AVAILABLE IN ALL SIZES. **\$379.00** #L5723

POWER TOOL PACKING HELPER TOOL. MAIN COLOURS: BLACK, BLUE, GREEN, ORANGE, PINK, RED, SILVER & YELLOW. **\$19.95** #S70825

PG CURVE GOGGLE SKYDIVING GOGGLE. CLAMP/STRAP RESISTANT LENS. GOGGLE BAG. COMES IN CLEAR, YELLOW AND SKATE TRIVED LENS. **\$15.95** #L1187

MCGOWAN'S SELECTIONS EPIC PHOTO BOOK FROM MICHAEL MCGOWAN. SEE THE WORLD OF SKYDIVING FROM THE LENS OF MICHAEL MCGOWAN. **\$42.95** #L1188

PARA GEAR ALUMINUM HEX END CLOSING DEVICE. BISSING CLOSING DEVICE. **\$35.00** #S 2315

CONTAINERS

MORE CHOICES AND OPTIONS ONLINE.

MICRON **MIRAGE** **parodyne** **infinity** **PEREGRINE** **Strong Enterprises**

CANOPIES

Icarus **ICARUS**

CYPRES CHANGEABLE MODE

VIGIL CUATRO

M2 MULTI

CALL FOR CURRENT AAD PRICING

ORDER ONLINE **www.PARAGEAR.com**

ParaGear EQUIPMENT COMPANY

3839 Dakton Street | Skokie, Illinois 60076 USA | PHONE: +1-847-679-5905 | FAX: +1-847-679-8644 | www.PARAGEAR.COM

SHIPPING WORLDWIDE CALL US FIRST!



2019 APF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE



By Jules McConnel
APF Sport Development Officer

Members flocked from all corners of the country to St Kilda for this year's annual conference. Being the 'off' year it was a short two-day conference focussing on industry and sport. Presentations to educate and inspire, and interactive workshops engaging members to consider changes and improvements to current training methods, rules and regulations.

There have been significant changes to the APF since the last Conference – new faces on the Board and in senior management, and for those regular to the conference, a new Emcee. Robbie McMillan did a great job corralling the audience over the two days - made easier by longer time slots for each presentation allowing for changeover time between sessions. Well done to Jenny and Julie for coordinating the event – we're so grateful to have these wonderful, familiar faces supporting us from the office.

Day one opened with an address from our new CEO, Richard McCooley, followed by key note speaker, Captain James Nixon's presentation 'Only The Paranoid Survive'. He began by entertaining us with anecdotes as pilot in command of Ansett airlines pre 9-11 when they could invite Swedish backpackers up to the flight deck for take-off. Then went on to describe some 'classic' plane accidents where in most cases there were multiple causes of a crash. The Swiss Cheese model – where latent failures in every process were just sitting there waiting for the day when all the holes line up. Concluding with some clear reminders: 'Gravity always wins' and 'Even the best of us can stuff up on a bad day!'



CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Summarised by Charl Rootman

APF Safety & Training Manager

IN ADDITION TO ALL THE PRESENTATIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND FESTIVITIES AT APF CONFERENCES A NUMBER OF TOPICS ARE WORKSHOPPED. THE INTENTION OF WORKSHOPS IS TO BE INTERACTIVE WITH IDEAS AND DISCUSSIONS FROM THE FLOOR, THE FACILITATOR GUIDING THE CONVERSATION WITH THE AIM OF FINDING SOLUTIONS TO COMMON CHALLENGES AND MAKING CHANGES OR IMPROVEMENTS WHERE REQUIRED. SOMETIMES THE DISCUSSIONS CAN BE VERY TECHNICAL, DEALING WITH REGULATIONS RATHER THAN FUN STUFF. AT THE 2019 CONFERENCE THERE WERE EIGHT WORKSHOPS AS WELL AS A CI FORUM, EACH 45 MINUTES IN LENGTH.

Jules McConnel, APF Sports Development Officer, facilitated the Sport Development/Competition workshop, which identified the following as ideas to improve retention of members in the sport:

- A mentor program or 'on duty' tutor to jump with Certificate 'A' jumpers at DZs
- Profiling students prior to AFF course and continual engagement with their goals to help direct them through the sport (training program like a Personal Trainer would implement)
- Better communication to students and novice jumper on pathways in the sport, e.g. posters, social media or phone app
- Design a feedback form for DZs to use for data collection on why people are dropping out of the sport

The following were identified as competition ideas:

- Focus on mini competitions after skills camps
- Mini leagues amongst states
- E-league needs better promotion
- State media liaisons to assist promoting events

Jules also facilitated workshops on *Tandem Canopy Piloting and High-Performance Canopy Piloting*. In the first she gave an overview of her Tandem Safety Workshops of 2018-2019. It was observed that some of the common issues identified were: over-piloting during setup causing canopy depressurisation and aggressive hook turns leading to inconsistent plane out (both affecting flare performance); TM's trying to stand up in nil wind conditions; poor management in turbulence; inconsistent student harnessing; and inexperienced TM's mimicking those more experienced without proper guidance. She also gave an overview of tandem statistics and showed that the injury rate per tandem jump in New Zealand was about half that of Australia.

It was agreed to continue workshops at DZ's for professional development of TM's, with a proposal of a six

monthly TM canopy review facilitated by a canopy coach during a one-day workshop. This should be part of DZ risk management and included in the SMS. It was also decided to obtain data from NZ Aerosports on the flare difference between single six vs single/double eight brake line configurations.

The following was decided on during the High-Performance Canopy Piloting workshop:

- A canopy course should be included as a pre-requisite for any instructor rating
- More canopy instructional information should be included in the AFF and SFF endorsement syllabus
- Canopy coaches to sign off canopy course attendance in participant's logbook
- A "wet weather" manual with safety seminars should be developed
- Regulations should be changed to allow non-training organisations to conduct high performance landing training (OR 9.10.1 (c) and 11.1.3 (j))

STOs, Mike Tibbitts and Brandon Van Niekerk, facilitated two *Tandem Workshops*. Tandem incidents over the last 12 months were reviewed and a high incidence of line twist and pressure knot malfunctions was noted. There was some agreement that the current instructor revalidation requirements are insufficient, with a proposal of a form of "continual professional development" as an alternative, with points being earned through online education or other skydiving related activity (e.g. attending a conference or boogie, participating in parachute displays).

During the tandem workshops there was also discussion around instructor probation periods and minimum requirements for Tandem endorsement (both also discussed during the CI forum). In the workshops it was recommended that there should be a CI sign-off at the end of the probation period, stating that the CI is "happy for candidate to conclude probation" with no minimum



National Rigging Officer, Trish Vogels, discussed potential changes to packing requirements for licensed skydivers, packers and riggers with her presentation 'Ignorance is not Bliss while Packing'. Sun Path Products engineer and master rigger, Tom Parker, gave a practical demonstration on reserve packing technique. Tom has been a regular guest presenter and now recently joined the APF Rigging Committee as a valuable resource to the team.

The AGM was held on the afternoon of the first day – a noticeable improvement in attendance than previous years when held after the Awards night and subsequent Jyro parties. Dave Smith kept us all engaged about important decisions to be made in the near future considering constitutional change, inviting all members to be a part of the change and have your say when these decisions are announced.

Day one wrapped up in the bar with happy hour sponsored by the APF, where everyone came together to share ideas from the day's activities.

The APF's new Safety and Training Manager, Charl Rootman, opened day two followed by two very relevant presentations for dealing with incidents – 'Exposing Oneself! (Legally Speaking)' with Matt Dudakov from law firm, Lander & Rogers, and 'Handling the Media in Crisis' with Naomi and Dwayne from Ruby Communications.

Brandon van Niekerk presented 'Tandem Master Biomechanics' – a fitness and injury prevention program developed for tandem instructors by tandem instructor, Sally Baker, who is also an exercise physiologist.

The conference finished this year with the annual Awards Presentation and dinner, followed by drinks next door at the Espy care of NZ Aerosports.

If you feel like you missed out because you didn't make it, well you did! But the APF realise for some people it is a long way to attend, so this year we will be bringing the conference to you! A series of regional mini-conferences will be held in most states in August – check the APF website for details.



CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS CONT.

number of jumps or list of tasks to be completed. It was also suggested that a solo canopy training course and two years minimum in the sport should be “recommended prerequisites” for a tandem endorsement and listed in the APF Tandem endorsement guide.

Mike also facilitated the *Display Workshop*, which resulted in the following suggestions:

- APF should consider to publish all display rating courses, wherever in Australia
- Proposal to amend Display Pro requirements to minimum Certificate E and include meteorology and spotting lessons in the course.
- Currency requirements for display ratings to remain the same
- A recommendation was made to remove the requirement of a Display Pro for doing night tandems
- A recommendation was made to introduce a “Tandem Display Rating” as an alternative to a Display Pro being required for TM’s jumping at Cert E or F DZ’s. Suggested criteria for this rating is five successful tandem jumps landing accurately with a licenced jumper on the front into Cert F DZ.

The *Tracking and Angles Workshop* was facilitated by Wade Challenor, APF Technical Officer. After a brief discussion regarding the history of this subject it was agreed that this has been discussed before and that the current regulatory situation is not completely effective. As expected, most agreed with the introduction of a Crest. A two-level crest was suggested with the following criteria:

- Two signatures required at both levels (Coach/Crest holder/CI)
- Suggested names of crests: “Angle Crest” and “Open Angle Crest”
- Training requirements to include written, in air skills and navigation skills assessment
- Limits to the privileges of each crest
- Recommendation to create a forum for input from the industry for further discussion

APF STM, Charl Rootman, facilitated a workshop on the future of the *AFF/Tunnel trial programme*. After a brief discussion and input by Archie Jamieson regarding the history and development of the trial programme, the following was resolved:

- There is strong support for AFF/Tunnel to continue as an official APF programme in the TOM. It should be an alternative to standard AFF, as the tunnel programme will not suit all.

- CI’s currently involved with the trial will work together to develop a standardised programme/training table, with standardised stages, with possibility of small variances
- Agreement that instructors teaching “tunnel stages” must be APF rated (in addition to any requirements the tunnel may have).
- Agreement that the current requirement for AFF instructors to have a minimum experience of 200 AFF jumps for in-air solo JM stages of the programme is too high/restrictive. A minimum of 50 AFF jumps with CI approval was proposed and agreed with by those present.

The *CI forum* was facilitated by APF CEO, Richard McCooley. It was agreed that a 45-minute session is insufficient for this type of forum, with a recommendation of a 1 to 2-day biennial CI conference (on conference “off years”). Regular communication between CI’s was encouraged, with agreement that the current CI “email forum” should be continued. The following was also discussed and agreed:

- Minimum requirements for new instructor ratings or endorsements: For tandem, minimum jumps remain at 500 and a minimum of three years skydiving experience since obtaining Certificate A should be added as a recommendation in the TM Endorsement Guide (not regulated). No change to the requirements for other ratings or endorsements.
- Six month probation period for new instructor ratings or endorsements: Strong support for this, with agreement that there should be some form of CI sign-off at the end of probation with the option to extend probation period by another six months. A suggestion of an initial “probationary rating/endorsement” which expires after six months.
- Agreement that the requirement to have CI approval to pack for oneself should be a requirement for Certificate A, not B. Recommended to keep regulations as is with CI’s having the option to require this for Certificate A on club level.
- Jumpers not keeping logbooks was identified as a problem, especially when application is made for ratings/endorsements/certificates/crests. It was agreed that keeping of up-to-date logbooks should be enforced.
- There is strong support for a fee to CI’s for processing applications, with agreement that the concept requires more thought and work.



APF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

By Peta Holmes

THE 15TH MAY 2018 - 2019 MARKED OUR ANNUAL APF AWARDS CELEBRATION AND CEREMONY WHICH WAS HELD IN ST KILDA, VICTORIA.

THE NIGHT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES TO PRESENT OUR SERVICE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE FEDERATION AND TO HONOUR THOSE WHO HAVE DEDICATED AN OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OF TIME AND ENERGY INTO CONTRIBUTING VALUE WITHIN THE SPORT.

THE PRESTIGIOUS TIM BATES AWARD WAS TRULY DESERVED BY AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER, WHILST MANY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO MEMBERS, RECEIVING TREMENDOUS APPLAUSE FOR THEIR EFFORTS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

ALL THIS AND MORE WAS SHARED ON THE NIGHT WITH DIGNITARIES, LIFE MEMBERS, MEMBERS AND HALL OF FAME MEMBERS.

Honorary Life Membership

BRYAN BURKE

In recognition of outstanding contribution to sport parachuting through his contribution at the WPC 2018.

Bryan came out first to address the annual Conference which was held at the world meet hotel at Sanctuary Cove, in May 2018. During this visit, he was able to meet with many of the key personnel for the WPC organisation, getting a first-hand knowledge of what needed to be done to run the event efficiently as possible, which is something he is very good at as the Operations Manager for the largest DZ in the world at Skydive Arizona, Eloy. No skydiving event has ever been run before at Runaway Bay, let alone a WPC with a number of challenges, with an off-site airport and four aircraft.

Bryan’s attention to the finest details, his knowledge of the competition rules and with a great support team of volunteers was a key element in producing what many have assessed as the best WPC ever.



Service Awards

GAIL BRADLEY

In recognition of her outstanding and sustained contribution to sport parachuting, particularly in competition and key aspects of conducting the 2018 WPC.

Gail began skydiving in late 1991. She went down the instructor path at first, as an Instructor B and Packer A. After an injury period, she found her passion was judging and anything to do with competitions.



SHIRLEY COWCHER

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to parachuting over more than 20 years as an administrator, coach, and motivator.

She is especially well respected for extensive, sustained contributions in her home state, Western Australia. Shirley has also made her presence felt nationally as a powerful voice for process and professionalism on the APF Board. Internationally, she has represented Australian skydiving with record setting performances in large Formation Skydiving.



Tim Bates Award

STEVE FITCHETT

The Tim Bates Award was bestowed upon the Outstanding Skydiver of the Year 2018 - 2019, for his exceptional camera work and camera flying leadership.

Steve’s imagery helps the APF to promote our sport to the wider public, and to build an archive of achievements for this remarkable era of development. From Parabatics to home-grown Bigway records and our superb WPC, Steve’s recent CV shows his impressive contribution to our sport’s finest achievements. He is also raising the bar for what’s expected of future generations of camera flyers.



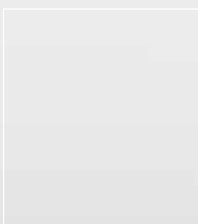
Achievement Awards

LUKE ROGERS:

Wingsuit
Performance flying
Advance, longest
distance 4.877km,
Nagambie 2018.

Luke Rogers:

Wingsuit
Performance flying
Advance, Fastest
time 89.3sec,
Prostejov 2018.



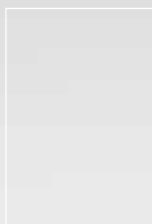
ROTOR OUT:

4-Way FS, Points
in time 32, Gold
Coast 2018.



BEN COVE:

Wingsuit
Performance flying
Intermediate,
longest distance
2.495km,
Nagambie 2018.



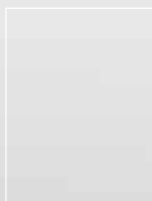
**SHANE
TURNER:**

Speed Skydiving,
Fastest
vertical speed
524.62km/h,
Gold Coast 2018.



**BOOMERANG
BETTY:**

4-Way
FS, Points in time
32, Gold Coast
2018.



JYR8: 8-Way FS, Points in time
21, Gold Coast 2018.



Take the Leap

Take the leap and ask us about our **PAYMENT PLANS** on all leading brands of Containers, Canopies & AAD's. **ZERO INTEREST CHARGED!!**



• RIGGING • GEAR STORE • RENTALS **MEE LOFT**

Phone: 0417 726 653 WWW.MEELIFT.COM.AU



SKYDIVING
EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS



TERMINALSPORTS.COM.AU

Got Questions?
Get Answers!



2019

- 12th Aug to 16th Aug, 2019 (Full Moon 15th)
- 7th Oct to 11th Oct, 2019 (Full Moon 13th) (7th Oct - Queens Birthday)
- 9th to 13th Dec, 2019 (Full Moon 12th)

skydive
ramblers
★ TOOGOO LAWAH QZ

p: 07 5423 1159 e: skydive@ramblers.com.au w: www.ramblers.com.au

BET YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE A SPONSORED ATHLETE AT 500 JUMPS... ARE YOU THE ONE?



Safety matters



CURIOUS?
OPEN YOUR CAMERA APP
AND SCAN QR CODE

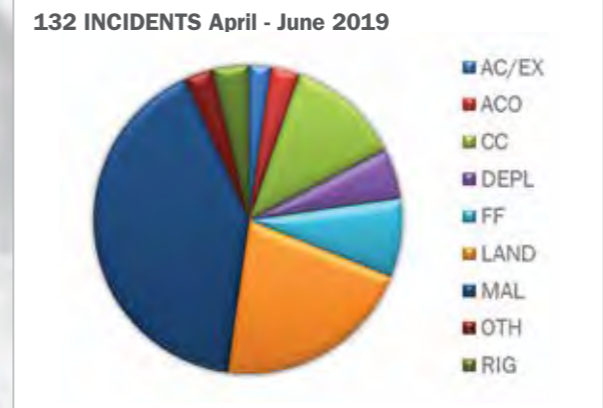


Compiled by:
Kim Hardwick
APF Technical
Officer

When you're poised on the sill, ready to launch, it's an entry, not an exit.
Kim Hardwick

Incident Focus: The following are a sample of incidents lodged with the APF April-June 2019 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:** 'Actions' identified are taken verbatim direct from the incident forms.

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



AC/EX	Aircraft/Exit	ACO	Aircraft Only
CC	Canopy Control	DEPL	Deployment
FF	Freefall	LAND	Landing
MAL	Malfunction	OTH	Other
RIG	Rigging Report		

AIRCRAFT/EXIT

Certificate C, jump 215. Icon container, Solo 250 Main. Jumper was playing the role of a student during a training day for potential instructors. Exited the Cessna Caravan 208 plane approx. 4000ft with hand on BOC. Jumped up slightly in a head high position and deployed immediately. Pilot chute went over tail of plane and slid across to end of tail before clearing the aircraft. Aircraft was powered off, straight and level throughout incident. **Action:** Jumper was unaware he left with his hand on PC and jumped up and deployed so quickly. Footage taken from within aircraft was reviewed, and jumper did not jump for the remainder of the day. He was appropriately humbled by the experience. Further discussion followed with the rest of staff and other jumpers to educate about the importance of exit techniques and awareness.



"If this pilot chute had snagged on the elevator horn then this could have ended very differently."
National Aviation Officer

FREEFALL

Jumper 1 - Certificate D, jump 830. Javelin Container, Sabre 135 Main, Smart 120 Reserve. Participant on B-Rel 6 jump. On unlinked exit the B-Rel student inadvertently dislodged and pulled out J1s cutaway handle. This was not observed directly by J1 at the time, however, moments later, just prior to the handle falling free J1 noticed something flash past in his field of vision. Unsure of what it was, he carried out handle checks and was unable to locate cutaway handle. Although he was fairly confident the handle was gone, he still deployed his main, just in case it had only been dislodged. Main released as it was opening, and skyhook activated the reserve. J1 landed safely on the DZ under reserve. All gear, minus cutaway handle, was retrieved. **Action:** Be more diligent educating students and novices about safety on exits and the importance of hand placement with regard to handles. Group discussions with instructors and coaches resulted after this incident.

DEPLOYMENTS / MALFUNCTIONS

Certificate E, jump 9593. Micron Container, Crossfire 119 Main, Airforce 120 Reserve. CYPRES 2 wingsuit AAD. AFF instructor, with a 'CYPRES2 wingsuit' AAD fitted to his rig. After opening the instructor immediately started spiralling down, as he was also acting as T.A. The CYPRES did not change over to swoop mode and did not sound the audible. The Instructor did not notice that the audible had not sounded as he was concentrating on getting down as quick as possible. He also jumps tandems and has a second set of equipment where there is no audible signal from the CYPRES, so not hearing it is not an unusual jump for him. AAD fired. As the reserve inflated, he cutaway the main, and landed without further incident.



Outcomes: "If using a Wingsuit CYPRES, after deployment you have to fly straight and level for approximately 7 seconds for the AAD to recognise that you have transitioned between Freefall and Canopy status. On the incident jump, the jumper did not do this (almost immediately started spiralling). The CYPRES therefore still recognised Freefall status. As he exceeded the Freefall parameters for the specific AAD model while descending rapidly under parachute, the unit recognised he was still in freefall, and activated as designed.

The jumper did wear the audible, but it did not sound.

The jumper used the AAD outside of the parameters for its intended use.

The message/lesson from this is: AADs are becoming extremely complicated. Jumpers need to understand their specific model, mode, settings and its safe operating parameters, and remain within." Safety & Training Manager.

Jumper 1, Certificate E. jump 1150. Infinity Container, Safire 115 Main. Jumper 2, Certificate C, jump 170. Javelin Container, Pulse 150 Main, PD 143 Reserve. Jumpers were doing a 2-way sit-fly jump, exiting in a train position. After exit, the jumper (J1) on the tail felt their bag lift off. The jumper (J2) on the front saw a bag in front of their face, and assumed it was their own. Both jumpers separated at this point. J2 who had thought it was their bag, then cutaway and deployed their reserve around 11,000ft. J1 experienced the horseshoe waiting a little longer and then deployed their main using their pilot chute. Both jumpers landed successfully on the PLA with no further incident. **Action:** Jumpers will take more care on exits to ensure no contact between back of rig and aircraft.

Certificate D, jump 2130. Micron container, Katana 97 Main, Optimum 143 Reserve. Deployed at 3500ft, had a bag lock. Completed EPs by 2200ft, swinging under res by 2000ft. Noticed main right riser still attached at RSL shackle. Gathered

up main deployment bag and contained between knees, disconnected RSL and landed reserve without further incident. **DZSO Conclusions:** Main D-bag was connected to the bridle incorrectly with a soft link acting as a restrictor, rather than the manufacturer recommended Rapide link. Under tension the soft link was able to be extracted through the D-bag grommet thus collapsing the pilot chute before the locking stows had been affected. EPs were performed by 2200ft but without any staged delay between cutaway extraction and reserve handle extraction with a potential res/main entanglement. Fortunately, this did not eventuate. **Actions:** Jumper shown the correct rigging configuration and advised to refer to manufacturer's manuals and recommendations in the future. Jumper also reviewed on high speed EPs and reminded of the importance of insuring full cut away effectiveness prior to reserve deployment.



Certificate D, jump 245. Talon container, Pilot 168 Main, Phoenix-Fly Havok Carve wingsuit. Jumpers own words: 4-way wingsuit jump, uneventful to time of chute deployment. Normal flare at 4000' slightly to the north of the landing zone with a focus on stability during deployment. Rapid line twists developed (about 6) with attempts to use differential wing ineffective. Unzipped arms and legs and attempted to clear the twists via leg-kicks with signs of unwinding (down to 4 twists) at 2000', my nominated cut-away height. The unwinding stopped soon after and began to wind back up (further examination showed the slider was locked into the twists). By this stage I was through 1500' and felt committed to landing. I released the toggles, but they locked within the twists, so I positioned into the nearest paddock using front risers with a focus on landing into wind. Approaching impact, I adopted the PLR position and

attempted to roll. After landing I self-assessed for injuries with nothing obvious. However, when walking to collect my gear I noticed discomfort in my abdomen, so I stayed standing where I was. Subsequent scans at local hospital revealed a small bleed inside pelvic cavity. **Contributing factors:** I have been having line twists regularly with the Havok since jumping it (at least every 2nd trip) so was probably too comfortable with getting out of them – this created a mindset of pushing below the decision height thinking I just needed more time. **Lesson:** Clearly a poor decision to commit below 2000' with line twists was the major error here. Need to be disciplined with (and clearly articulate) the criteria for a chop and be rigorous in applying that criteria. If in doubt...chop!

Difficulty Cutting Away from Spinning Malfunctions

In follow-up to an article in the last issue of ASM on Spinning Line Twists, perhaps you or someone you have heard of have experienced difficulty in cutting away from a spinning malfunction.

Certainly, the following type of incident description is not uncommon in Australia. "Deployed main into line twists, spinning on back. Hard pull on cutaway, fully open reserve at 1200ft."

A recent article in the May issue of USPA's Parachutist mag declared that "they had received several reports of jumpers who experienced a difficult time shearing the Velcro of their cutaway handles during spinning, high-speed, line-twist malfunctions. During these types of malfunctions, the risers are crossed, and the main lift web is forced tightly against the torso, making it more critical than ever to perform the proper cutaway technique. Look, grab the cutaway handle, peel the Velcro in an upward direction and then push to full arm extension. The second step—peeling the Velcro in an upward direction—significantly reduces the force required to extract the cutaway handle from the pocket."

Note: The pictures above demonstrate the two-handed pull method. Using the single-handed method applies the same principles as described.

CANOPY CONTROL / LANDINGS

Certificate C, jump 159. Parachutes de France ZP-EXE 185 Main. Jumper heading along his downwind leg found himself too low to make it around into wind. Instead of doing a flat turn or landing downwind into the clear space ahead in the very light conditions the jumper pulled down his left toggle at a very low altitude and impacted the ground at an acute angle. Jumper was very badly injured and was airlifted to hospital. It appears he was caught in the "Vertical Corner" that exist at one end of the dz when landing to the east, i.e. he tried to turn at a location as opposed to an altitude. **Actions:** 1. CI and jumper debriefed incident briefly via phone. When back on his feet, jumper and CI will spend time looking at the landing and re-briefing techniques which could be used in this situation.



2. CI changed briefing card to include being aware of this potential "corner".
3. CI will introduce Safety Days where everyone will be encouraged to practice a particular safety or canopy skill for the whole day.
4. CI will check the knowledge set of the jumper from his original training to note if he was given the information and had just forgotten to use it.

Conclusions: "Jumper was fairly uncurrent although he had jumped the previous day and performed well. He had injured his leg in a hard landing a few weeks previous to this incident. Multiple changes in plan during his approach proved to be distracting enough for him to forget the basics and perform a hard turn to try and land into wind." **Safety & Training Officer**

Certificate B, jump 54. Safire 210 Main. Jumper left his holding area late and then indecision and many turns left and right caused the jumper to run out of altitude and do one continuous slow turn into the ground. The video made it quite evident that the jumper became "lost" and did not have the skills to improve the situation. Sustained a dislocated shoulder. **Action:** DZSO and jumper debriefed landing at length from the landing video which had been shot of him. DZSO and jumper went through patterns, Flat turns, landing downwind and recovery techniques.

APF Equipment Standards (UPDATES)

The following APF Equipment Standards were issued in June.

ES APF 081014-F – Issued 14/06/2019. Standard for Emergency Personnel Parachutes. It replaces Equipment Standard APF 081014-E.

Please note that SIFE containers approved under French DGAC QAC 121 or QACI 121, now meet APF ES 081014-F.

ES APF 14062019-B – Issued 14/06/2019. Compatibility of Components of Parachute Assemblies. It replaces APF RAC 215 Rev A.

They are available for view and download on the APF web site at:

www.apf.com.au/apf-members/equipment/equipment

Main-Reserve entanglement

A jumper in Canada survived a main-reserve entanglement recently, with nothing broken other than a cracked vertebra. That was an amazingly lucky outcome. He spun all the way down with a choked off reserve (PD143), a ton of line twists, slider above them, and the main up above, a couple cells inflated and flapping around, landing in soft wet grass.

The exact causes and sequence of events aren't yet clear, but the lessons seem to be to check your pin tension, and to avoid catching your rig on stuff while making your exit. Also mixed up in all of this is the possible difficulty of recognizing a premature container opening, and possible snags on camera equipment from such a situation. If you don't know what's happening behind you, you may not take the correct action to fix it.

For more on this incident take a read at: www.dropzone.com/forums/topic/266399-main-reserve-entanglement-non-fatal-hamilton-canada-2019-june-6th/



Cutting Away

15 years was never the plan, but somehow that happened. Now it's time to cutaway and move onto the next chapter. It has been a privilege to have served the APF and its members as the Technical Officer, moving initially to Canberra in 2004 to take up the position, and ending up in Brisbane after the office relocation.



I've read, coded, reviewed & entered into the data base about 10,000 incident reports, with countless extractions of various statistical queries to examine trends. And hooray for the new on-line incident reporting system released at the end of 2017.

This issue of ASM is my 75th Safety Matters pages, in which the aim has always been to highlight areas that need continued vigilance to hopefully increase safety of the members. As the saying goes, best to learn from the mistakes of others because we won't live long enough to make them all ourselves.

Some of it has been tough, with being involved in the investigations of 34 fatalities, many of whom were friends, all of whom felt part of family. The way to get through those was to aim to do the very best for them in discovery and try to ensure that any safety messages could be put out to help reduce risk for others.

It has been exciting to watch the extraordinary advances in skill levels of skydivers over so many disciplines. Not only in the sporting field, but throughout instructor/coach, riggers, judges and entrepreneurs, who are putting together amazing events & boogies & training camps. There is just some damn good sh#*t goin' on out there!

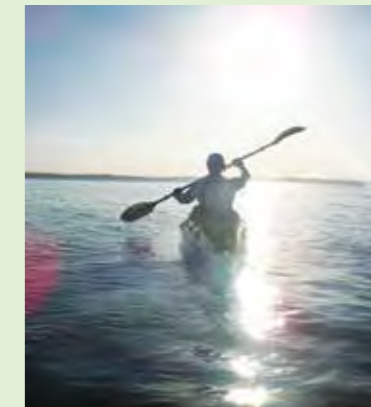
So, thank you to those that gave me encouragement, inspiration, guidance & support throughout. Thank you to those that challenged and stimulated my thinking. Thank you to all the various members of the APF Office staff current and past, who have each brought their own passion to the team and been invaluable to me as colleagues.

Over the last 36 years of my life in skydiving, the best moments have always been the opportunities to mix with the amazing, multi-generational, limit pushing, authority challenging, boundary smashing, eclectic group of people that make up the skydiving community Australia wide and the world over!

I'm heading to the West Coast for a while, back to my familial roots, before eventually returning to my favourite town of Newcastle. Maybe you'll see me out on the water somewhere. Find me on social media and come for a paddle one day.

Blue skies, stay safe.

Kim Hardwick
F 387 / Instructor A / Packer A (Retired)





Can you believe it? Finally it's here

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM FOR PROFLYERS

UPCOMING CAMPS:

Mason Corby - Downunder Dynamics
Tayne Farrant

IN HOUSE COACHES:

- » Jarrad Kline
- » Leo Harragan
- » Anthony Skipsey
- » Tommy Siera
- » Alex Canadi
- » Simon Young
- » Matt Schreurs
- » Kai Johnson-Peady
- » Ben hatfield
- » Blair Smith
- » Mayumi Sadler
- » Mitchell Hancock

FOR ALL INFOMATION FOLLOW US:

f iFLY MELBOURNE TUNNEL FLYERS

1300 435 928
experienced.melbourne@iflyworld.com

IFLYWORLD.COM.AU/CHECK-PRICES/EXPERIENCED-SKYDIVERS



TWO POWERFUL NEW WIND TUNNELS



BRISBANE & MELBOURNE

By Laura Verrier

THE BIG DOGS HAVE BLOWN IN AND THE TUNNEL SCENE IN AUSTRALIA IS ABOUT TO GET WHISKED UP IN A WHIRL WIND OF RED, WHITE AND BLEW. YOU COULD SAY IT'S ABOUT TO START RAINING TUNNEL RATS AND DOGS... IF MY WEATHER-RELATED PUNS HAVEN'T CLUED YOU INTO THE EXTREMELY AWESOME OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE IN THE CARDS FOR AUSSIE SKYDIVERS, THEN I'D SAY YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS ANYWHERE NEAR ENOUGH AS YOU SHOULD.

iFLY Corporate, the mega-giant in the wind tunnel industry, has finally rolled onto Australian shores. Not only are they here to save our souls from rainy days, weather holds and gale force winds, but they are also going to make us the sickest Freeflyers to ever shred our warm summer skies.

If it feels like you've been waiting for a long ass time for tunnel flying to really take hold in our fair country, and then all of a sudden "BOOM" you're hearing about iFLY opening up all over the place, that's because, well, that's exactly how it's happened. It's been a hell of a journey for the Aussie iFLY team and if it weren't for their inhuman powers of commitment and a deep love for the sport, that would put to shame even the most diehard of old school Bellyflyers, it never would have happened.

It's time to acknowledge the awesome work of three of our industries best - Nir Davidson, Jarrad Kline and Michael Katz - the men who brought us the brightest future of tunnel flying to date, but not without some seriously heavy hits to their dreams along the way.

Back in 2013 the whispers began that the first Corporate iFLY might be getting some traction at a site in Melbourne, and in 2015 it was announced that the construction had begun. Not only were we getting a brand spanking new tunnel, it was going to be a competition level, 14ft, bloody masterpiece. All we had to do was wait... and wait... and we waited some more. Then the unthinkable happened - there was a terrible plane crash at Essendon Fields which would change the permitting process for all building located near the runway, and everything came to a screeching halt. Everyone had to accept that the crisp, clean, perfectly smooth air you could almost feel in your veins, was over. Or it would have been over if lesser men had been in charge of the production. This was a life's culmination of skydiving dreams for Nir

Davidson and he wasn't about to let this puppy die quietly. He rolled up his sleeves and delivered his dream to our doorsteps. When Air Traffic Control said the tunnel was too high, they redesigned it. When the Council started to pick holes through the construction, they filled them. That tunnel was getting built no matter the cost.

Flash forward to 2019 and we finally have a gigantic light at the end of the wind tunnel, Christmas will be coming early this year, in August to be exact. All we have to do is wait a little longer, with our piggy banks clutched to our chests and a hammer at the ready for the moment they announce the official open date - "TAKE MY MONEY PLEASE!"

Speaking of Christmas coming early, iFLY has more presents up their sleeves for us this year than we ever thought possible. Not only have we had the announcement of the Melbourne Tunnel's expected completion, but we also had the opening of a Brisbane Tunnel thrown our way as well.

With all eyes on Melbourne being the golden child, we all thought we needed to live vicariously through its little brother. iFLY Brisbane went ahead and blew us all away by not only sneaking in and taking the lead on being the first ever Corporate iFLY on Australian soil, but it also wins the title of having the latest in technological advancement from the unquestionable leaders in wind tunnel development, Sky Venture.

iFLY Brisbane is a part of the newest generation of tunnels recently designed by Sky Venture and while I won't delve into the deep mechanical workings of these amazing beasts of technology (mostly because its way over my head) I will say, I have flown it and by the time I had to leave it, I was ready to sell all my worldly possessions and move in next door.

There was one slightly upsetting thing I learned while flying my time at the Brisbane iFLY and that was they were about to lose two of their key team members to the calling of the 14 footer in Melbourne once it opens. Jarrad Kline and his wife Olivia moved



Nir Davidson

to Brisbane from the U.S. where they both travelled together helping open and run iFLY tunnels across North America. Jarrad happens to not only be playing a huge part in changing the face of iFLY as a company, but is also somewhat of a 'child prodigy' so to speak in his ridiculously fast climbing of the iFLY chain of command. Within a few short years he managed to go from an entry level instructor to helping train and commission upwards of 10 different iFLY tunnels around the world.

I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to chat to Jarrad about his past, his career and his plans for making iFLY a Skydiver's best friend (as if we need more of an excuse.)

Looking from the outside Jarrad and his wife Olivia have got what looks to be a perfect recipe for happiness with skydiving, tunnel flying, travelling and a puppy = quite possibly living the dream. But when you burrow into the metaphorical (and probably plenty of literal) blood, sweat and tears to get to where they are today you can appreciate how these two humans have managed to be the fantastic people they are.

Jarrad started his adult life out in the Military where it goes without saying, that life has plenty of exhilaration and drive in it every single day. We all know how difficult and demanding it must be to be a part of such an important and extreme world but we don't often talk about what happens when people leave the military. How do you just go back to normal life after serving in something so big?

There's always a void left behind, some people spend their entire lives trying to fill that void and then some people are lucky enough to find skydiving. The sky was not the limit for Jarrad however and skydiving soon gave way to BASE jumping, which lead him to Twin Falls, Idaho. Whilst helping film a documentary for the Travel Channel centered around BASE jumping, he was tasked with the fruitless job of finding and convincing an attractive, unsuspecting girl into volunteering to do a tandem BASE Jump. Along came Mrs. Kline...

After that the path to iFLY sounds a lot like it was a smooth stroll as one thing seems to have led to another. A boogie in Mexico led to a trip to Austin, Austin led to a job in San Antonio and without realising it, iFLY had accidentally hired one of its future brightest stars. Now if you believe in fate this story fits in to that word very nicely, however as effortless as these stepping stones sound on paper they definitely don't just play out that way. You need a special kind of human to have the level of drive it takes to not only climb through a company that's full of people who are at the top of their game, but also to start trying to shape and restructure the way the industry is run.

And Australia is going to have some of the first iFLY Centres in the world to experience the benefits from the restructures.

When I ask Jarrad what the end game for his vision of iFLY was he cited "more people flying, more people flying more often and making it a lot more enjoyable and affordable for everyone who comes through the door". Simply put but not quite as simple to execute.

Two of the most exciting new initiatives coming out of the iFLY Brisbane and Melbourne tunnels very soon are already showing that Jarrad Kline is living up to his reputation and with new skydivers being able to breath a collective sigh of relief.

1. Introducing AFF integration programs, not only will these integration programs help new skydivers not have to constantly repeat levels but will reassure their confidence and safety in their freefall skills. It will also allow AFF trainers the ability to focus much more heavily on canopy skills and training, as well as more time for the students to concentrate on their emergency procedures and safety checks rather than an endless circle of dive flows.

2. The other novel program coming out shortly is a Membership program that is promising to be the most convenient online adaption in our lives, since Uber Eats made us all realise just how good it is to be living in the age of technology.

iFLY is partnering with an online app that not only lets you track all of your progress and previous sessions but it also gives you access to iFLY's day so you can see exactly what coach is working what session and book in with them immediately. Everything you ever need and want from iFLY will be available at the tap of a touch screen. They are expecting to roll this new membership app out as early as July this year.

So I guess I'll be taking that money I squirreled away for that Russia tunnel course and burn it on Aussie soil... I'll probably even have some left over for a new canopy... maybe a new helmet... possibly a suit... I should get a new rig.



JARRAD KLINE

Jarrad has worked for iFLY in the U.S for the past 3.5 years and is a Level 4 Instructor & Level 4 Trainer.

Jarrad has over 10 years in the skydiving industry. With around 5,000 skydives, 150 BASE jumps, 250 hours flying planes and thousands of hours of instructing in wind tunnels, it's safe to say he loves to fly.

Jarrad has spent the last 7 years living, learning and working in the USA in multiple locations around the country.

His profession has taken him around the world, and he has worked and learnt from some of the best coaches and flyers from around the planet.

His passion is teaching, he enjoys nothing more than to be able to pass on his knowledge and see the enjoyment and smiles new skills bring.



Thank you for all the support

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM FOR PROFLYERS

LADIES NIGHT: Last Friday of the month

COACHING NIGHT: Every Second Monday

PRO FLYER NIGHT/HUCKJAM: 1 per month

MASON CORBY - DOWNUNDER DYNAMICS: Weekly

PLUS REGULAR 4 WAYS, STATIC & DYNAMIC EVENTS

IN HOUSE COACHES:

»» Jarrad Kline »» Rosie Dodgson

»» Warren Riley »» Dave Hedley

»» Phoebe Coutts »» Reece Delemere

»» Ross BurBury »» Matt Chong

FOR ALL INFORMATION FOLLOW US:

 **iFLY BRISBANE TUNNEL FLYERS**

1300 435 928
experienced.brisbane@iflyworld.com

IFLYWORLD.COM.AU/CHECK-PRICES/EXPERIENCED-SKYDIVERS

Tunnel & Sky

"Knowing the differences that could save your life"

By Matt Boag (Boagsy)

IMAGINE YOURSELF IN THIS SITUATION:

YOU'VE BEEN IN THE SPORT FOR FIVE YEARS, WITH AROUND 950 OR SO JUMPS AND YOU SCORE A JOB WORKING IN AUSTRALIA'S FIRST WIND TUNNEL. YOU FLEW A LOT OF TUNNEL IN THE LAST YEAR, PUTTING MOST OF YOUR TIME INTO FLYING INDOORS AND NOT AS MUCH JUMPING AS YOU USUALLY WOULD DO (MAINLY DUE TO YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT BEING A NEW TUNNEL INSTRUCTOR HAHA). YOUR SKILLS INCREASE, ALONG WITH YOUR EGO.

YOU GO FOR A JUMP WITH YOUR TUNNEL BUDDIES. AS YOU TAKE OFF YOU NOTICE THAT THE CLOUD BASE HAS DROPPED FROM 5,000FT TO UNDER 2,000FT. AS YOU CLIMB TO HEIGHT, YOU HEAR THE PILOT SAY WE ARE GOING TO EXIT AT 12,000FT AND NOT 14,000FT. YOU EXIT THE AIRCRAFT (HEAD DOWN) AND GIVE IT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT. LOOKING DOWN AS YOU'RE FLYING AT REDICULOUS SPEEDS YOU SEE THE CLOUD BASE, FORGETTING IT'S DROPPED FROM THE LAST JUMP. YOUR HELMET STARTS TO PULL BACK WITH THE SPEEDS YOU'VE NOW REACHED. YOU ENTER THE CLOUD THINKING, "I SHOULD HAVE HEARD MY AUDIBLE ALTI BY NOW, RIGHT?". AWARE THAT YOUR AUDIBLE IS NOW SITTING DOWN THE SIDE OF YOUR NECK. YOU EXIT THE CLOUD AT 1,800 FT DOING NEAR 400KM/H HEAD DOWN AND CAN LITERALLY SEE THE GROUND RISING.

NOW WHAT?

I WAS EXTREMELY LUCKY TO GET OUT OF THIS SITUATION WITH MY LIFE; BY NOT DEPLOYING MY MAIN BUT GOING STRAIGHT TO MY RESERVE, AFTER BELLING OUT. DOING THIS, I WAS UNDER AN INFLATED RESERVE BY 850FT. IF I WAS TO PITCH MY MAIN CANOPY, MY AAD WOULD HAVE FIRED, PROBABLY CAUSING A CANOPY WRAP AT HIGH VERTICAL SPEED AND RESULTING MOST PROBABLY IN DEATH.

So how did this happen? Well, there's a lot of reasons on how this happened, which I will discuss with you.

Since this incident, I've made it one of my goals that no-one I'm jumping with does this again, because it can happen to anyone.

Don't get me wrong, this is meant to be a positive article I'm writing, I'm not trying to scare anyone out of tunnel flying or skydiving, what I'm trying to do is show that tunnel flying is a great tool for skydiving, if it's done right.

Personally, I LOVE TUNNEL FLYING, nearly as much as skydiving. But now with more tunnels being built around the world, insane price drops in tunnel time and "bulk time packages" being sold, I've written this article just to point out the differences there are between flying indoors and skydiving that (I've noticed) not many people are aware of.

Firstly,

1. WHAT IS A GOOD MIX? HOW MUCH TUNNEL/SKYDIVES SHOULD I BE DOING EACH YEAR?

Now everyone is different, some people fly more than others, some people have more money to spend on it than others. Overall I think that however many skydives you do regularly each year (tunnel flying or not) you should ALWAYS try to stick to that number, after all most of the things skydivers want to learn in the tunnel they aim to take to the sky.

Over the last five or so years of coaching people in the tunnel, I've seen and met a lot of people with a lot of different plans regarding their flying progression paths.

- Some take a year off one discipline to focus on the other.
- Some tunnel fly to learn the super basics of body flight then never tunnel again.
- Some smash a heap of tunnel before attending a skydiving skills camp.
- Some will fly overseas to do a year's worth of tunnel in two weeks.

In my opinion all of these situations are fine, as long as it's properly managed and kept safe when converting it back to skydiving.

2. TUNNEL ROTATION LENGTHS VS SKYDIVING FREEFALL TIME

Generally, most people progress very quickly when flying indoors. But what most people don't notice is the overall duration of each flight. For example myself and a lot of other well-respected coaches coach most of their students in the wind tunnel for three to five minute rotations (that's flying in a wind tunnel from three minutes up to five minutes straight, then having a break before getting back in again). I've personally found that students progress way more faster the longer they fly.

Most skydivers who begin tunnel flying are generally used to freefalling maximum 60 seconds before deploying their parachute.

Example: After a student with 100 jumps has done say ten hours of tunnel flying in a short time period. They are now more than likely getting into the Freefly progression path, not realising as their skills are increasing, so is their fall rate.

From the example: That student, who was Belly flying in the beginning, has gone from doing a belly jump (60 second skydive), has trained in a wind tunnel for ten hours, flying five minutes each rotation, with no altimeter, coming out of it a confident Head Down flyer.

Now, don't take this the wrong way, this is a great outcome! But when this student goes back to the sky for his/hers first skydive they are more than likely going to give this Head Down thing a go, and their skydive is more than likely going to last MAXIMUM 30 SECONDS.

I've found this is where the problem is most of the time, people losing awareness of their altitude, just like I did, on their first jumps back from banging out a heap of tunnel time.

So how do we manage this?

Well it's kind of easy, just take a step back and do something not as intense. Go on a few Belly jumps to get used to skydiving again, notice how your Belly skills have also improved. Jump on a mate's B-Rel or even plan to pull a little higher than usual to fly your canopy more. These are all simple solutions to translate your new tunnel skills into skydiving SAFELY, and doing so you'll love it ten times more.

3. DOUBLE AUDIBLE ALTIMETERS

Just like it says, just get two. If you are one of those skydivers who the majority of your jumps are now Freefly, just buy a second audible alti. Ask around your local DZ, it's more than likely that guy/girl who is an absolute shredder Freeflyer will have two audible alti's in his/hers helmet. Doing this will give you a lot more piece of mind when Freeflying, especially if transitioning from tunnel. ALSO, remember that visual alti checks are always there too!

4. STAR CREST

When progressing in the tunnel, it's more than likely you've done it 1-on-1 with your coach. Take this into account: you've been flying with ONLY one other person. I see from time to time, some people with around 50-150 jumps head to a tunnel and smash out a heap of time, only then to throw a 17-Way Head Down out of the plane on their first few jumps back, sometimes without even having a Star Crest. Being in this situation is what most people would call having "HEAPS ON". The only way to get used to flying with more bodies in the sky is to approach it slowly and safely, by this I mean doing your Star Crest as soon as you feel you're ready. Star Crest weekends are always on at most DZ's and are super fun. In my opinion I believe you should have your Star Crest signed off before going for your Freefly Crest.

5. THE AIRCRAFT

Sounds like a simple one but a lot of people don't realise this: when it's been a while since jumping and you've got all these cool tricks you've learnt and want to try in the sky, you need to remember the simple things to keep you and everyone else on the plane alive. By this I mean exiting the plane safely. When stacking up near the door on a jump you don't want to be thinking "ok, so when I'm head down I'm going to keep my legs like this...." What you want to be thinking is, "Are my pins secure? Is my friend's gear good? What's jump run? I won't bump my pins climbing out." Doing these things correctly will for sure keep you longer in the sport to progress a lot further.

Just remember, you don't have to worry about the tunnel stuff at this time, you've done it already. Now it's time to go skydiving, so keep your focus on that.

Lastly,

6. GEAR

With all the skills you've mastered and the speeds you can now fly at, have you considered if your skydiving equipment can handle these speeds as well?

Over the years I've seen people wanting to Freefly with some crap rigs. It's super dangerous and can cause serious problems. If you've spent \$10,000 on tunnel maybe put some money and thought into a good container. It's worth it.

Most of the time this is overlooked, people hear that their rig is "Freefly Friendly", so they assume all is fine.

What you want to be looking for is:

- Is my BOC tight, like REALLY tight? It should be, you don't want your pilot chute coming out when you're sit flying. I've seen three pilot chutes deploy in a Head Up orientation and let me tell you, it happens fast!
- Are my pins secure? How many times do you check your pins in the plane? I check mine at least seven times in the plane before exiting. If you're not comfortable checking your own pins then ask a buddy to check for you.
- With the speeds you're reaching when flying in certain orientations, if a pin was to be dislodged the outcome could be extremely bad.
- Also, have a look at your rig's details online and you'd be surprised what deployment speeds these things can actually handle. Almost all manufacturers say that their rigs are NOT rated to be opened in ANY high (Freefly) speeds. So basically any premature opening in a Freefly orientation and you're on your own.

I hope by reading this you've started to notice what I'm talking about - by doing these small simple things correctly we can safely bring two really fun sports together as one.

So if you, or someone you know, is going to bang out some tunnel, GREAT! But just mention to them some of these things when converting it back into the blue room.

If you have any questions about this article or you'd like to see the video of how I messed it up, or even come and do some tunnel flying /skydiving with me, feel free to chat to me. If we ever cross paths at the tunnel or drop zone, I'd love to hear your feedback on this.



Photo: Luciano Baque



Pro



Student



Tandem



Xtreme



Cuatro

The Original Multimode AAD + Vigil Xtreme mode. Four modes in one unit. The most advanced "Guardian Angel" on the market!

Photos & design: Willy Boeykens

Vigil is a proud sponsor of the



Come and meet Vigil @ the World Meet venue

www.vigil.aero

4-way Inter FS winners 4Play 2016
Photo: Stephen Tonson



4way FS AAA Silver medallist
Higher BOCE 2018
Photo: Shane Sparkes



GET INTO CAMERA FLYING

By Jules McConnel
APF Sport Development Officer
F718 / Senior Instructor & Coach

FOR THE LAST 15 YEARS, SINCE THE ONSET OF HANDICAM IN THE INDUSTRY THERE HAS BEEN A HUGE REDUCTION IN CAMERA SKILL DEVELOPMENT. HISTORICALLY (OVER 20 YEARS AGO) AT STATE AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS THERE WAS A CAMERA POOL THAT COMPETITORS COULD RELY ON TO HAVE A CAMERA FLYER THEY COULD TRUST BECAUSE OF THEIR BACKGROUND IN COMMERCIAL CAMERA WORK.

NOW THERE IS NO CAMERA POOL, CREATING THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS:

- Camera flyers are doubled, sometimes tripled up with teams – increasing their workload
- Manifest workload increased trying to shuffle teams around
- Competition is slowed up
- If an untrained jumper volunteers to video a team, the quality of footage is often poor – out of frame, too far away or too much movement
- Judging can be difficult and therefore teams lose points because of their camera flyer
- Some teams won't use an untrained camera flyer for safety risks – then we are back to the problem of camera flyers being over worked

This proved to be a huge success as the judges commented the quality of footage was much better than previous years. They found it hard to tell the difference between an experienced camera flyer and a new camera flyer, and teams weren't losing as many points from camera angle than previous competitions.

This trial has turned into a program fully supported by the APF – Get Into Camera Flying - a series of camera training workshops run alongside small competition events around the country including 4-way 4 Everyone, 4-way Scrambles and 4-way Froth. They will also be run in conjunction with some State Championships so other disciplines can take advantage of this great opportunity.

At the 2019 National Championships in Moruya Steve Fitchett (Fitchie), Dan Rossi and Mark Gazley trialled coaching the camera flyers in competition. During a weather hold Fitchie presented a camera safety seminar followed by Dan and Mark presenting tips for climbout, exits, framing and flying skills in their respective disciplines. During competition camera flyers were debriefed by Fitchie, Dan, Mark and Stephen Tonson.

But wait, there's more... if you register for this event you could WIN a free camera helmet set up! This prize will go to the most improved camera flyer of the program.

So, whether you've never done camera or have camera experience but want to improve then this course is for you! For more information and workshop dates go to www.apf.com.au/apf-members/sport-development-programs/sport-development-programs or www.facebook.com/vents/592293414614843/

DZ DAYZ



PROGRESSION TO FLOCKING WEEKEND

By Daniel Wilcox

The first of what we hope to be many Flocking Weekends happened recently in SA at Adelaide Tandem Skydiving. The aim this time around was to progress jumpers to a level allowing larger groups to regularly hone their skills and assist newer Wingsuiters in getting more experience so we can build bigger and better flocks.

Day One got off to a slow start with perfect wind conditions but complete cloud cover, restricting the loads to small windows of opportunity. Once it cleared the day consisted of some smaller coach jumps working on crests, 5-Ways and 6-Ways (which had us packed in the 206 like sardines). After some zoo'ish type starts the groups settled and flocks started to form, aided by some solid base flying. From that point the flying only got better. Proximity to others got closer, safe approaches were on point and transitions were smooth. Everyone was pumped after jumps, packing quickly in anticipation for what was to come next and make the most of the daylight. We ran until sunset and after a quick informal de-brief over beers and a feed at the pub, we hit the hay eager to run hard the next day.

Day Two looked very promising at first light, we were all keen and ready to run hard... then the cloud rolled in. Luckily, like the previous day, just when we thought it

might be there to stay, it parted to blue skies! Multiple loads, 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-Ways were the order of the day with seldom a minute to relax between loads, let alone pack. Groups were tight, levels and approaches were good and there was some awesome flying by all. We made the most of the day running hard until the sun set again with a 'Swoop'n'Chug' to finish off the weekend.

Over the weekend several Wingsuiters progressed to their Wingsuit Crests. Ash Van Hagen signed hers off (which is a great effort considering she was one of the least experienced at the start of the weekend) and Liam Savage, coming back after a period off due to a non-skydiving related injury, has now all but signed off his Coach rating, introducing another coach to the mix in SA. Special thanks to the coaches, Gary Scheepens and Travis Naughton, both of whom went above and beyond in helping organise the event and making the time to attend, Adelaide Tandem Skydiving for the facilities and discounted slots for participants and the funding support of the APF Fi Fund, SASPC and SAPC, without which this wouldn't have happened.

Future events are already in the making and interest is high, hopefully at the next one we can have a crack at the SA Flocking record... we're coming for you guys!



Liam Savage & Jon McGregor

Photo by Gary Scheepens



Alex Hanka

Photo by Gary Scheepens



Gary Scheepens & Ash Van Hagen

Photo by Daniel Wilcox



Alex Hanka

Photo by Gary Scheepens



Gary Scheepens, Liam Savage, Mike McClane, Matt Stevens, Jon McGregor, Travis Naughton

Photo by Daniel Wilcox



Jon McGregor & Matt Stevens

Photo by Gary Scheepens



Gary Scheepens

Photo by Jon McGregor

TULLY CANOPY COURSE

By Laura Scott

The Far North Freefall hosted yet another successful Canopy Course, was a great turnout with 16 participants over the four days. Was really positive to see so many people from Cairns all the way to Airlie Beach wanting to learn more about their canopies and to progress in Canopy Piloting. Big thanks to our coach, Dan Smith, for coming up to share his experience and coaching expertise, helping everyone to make the most of the four days with an open and easy learning environment, video debriefs and wet weather seminars.

Day One of the May Tully Canopy course was a real success, seven hop'n'pop loads and hardly a lick of wind all day long. Congratulations to Cain Vella for his 200th jump, finishing the day with a 'swoop'n'chug' to celebrate and to really test how well our accurate landings were. Well done to Anna Mueller, stepping her Canopy Piloting up a notch with consistent, accurate landings and exploring the different inputs that her canopy can do.

On Day Two the tropics reminded us the wet season still wasn't over yet, managing to get only a few jumps in to consolidate Day One's learning. Alex Gallagher started to bring his swoops to the ground finishing the day with a

high level of stoke. A solid effort from everyone on their pathway to performing smoother, faster and to some; high performance landings.

Day Three was a no-jump day, the crew took to the streets of Tully with an essential trip to the top of the iconic golden gumboots, and we were also treated to a cassowary and wallaby sighting. Wet weather seminars included downsizing, flocking jumps and a short intro to competitive Canopy Piloting.

Day Four we finished the course on a real high with seven jumps. The clouds lifted enough and we were able to get stuck in and work on our swoops. Everyone looked super consistent and accurate all day long. It was a successful, safe and fun four days in the far North, thanks to all the participants for getting stuck in and soaking up all the learning.

A huge thanks for the support from the APF Fi Fund, NQPC and the Far North Freefall Club, to the coach Dan Smith, the Pilots Mark and Pavel, and to Tim Kolln and Ronnie Perry for ongoing support helping me to organise these events.



Check out the
Event Video:



SA SKYDIVING B-REL AND REFRESHER DAY

By Jed Smith

May 4th and 5th saw SA Skydiving host a weekend at our Langhorne Creek training DZ, that was dedicated to anyone without a 'B' Certificate. The weekend provided participants an opportunity to smash out some B-Rel's, get on some Canopy jumps, learn something new, or simply just get back up in the sky if it had been awhile. In order to encourage maximum attendance funding was sought from the APF, the SA Sports Parachute Club and the SA Parachute Council, who all helped to make the tough B-Rel Stages more cost effective in order to encourage maximum novice attendance over the weekend.

The 'B' Certificate is a known drop out point within the sport nationwide, and this event was aimed at exposing novice jumpers to the community scene, with the ultimate aim of increasing retention and the number of jumpers achieving their 'B' Certificate.

The weekend saw:

- 9 novice participants all attending on the same weekend, completing 27 student jumps over the two days.
- 9 coaches on board to help make the magic happen.
- 21 loads. 121 skydives.
- 22 B-Rel skydives.
- 2 Canopy Coaching jumps, and 3 Refresher jumps.

All landings were filmed and debriefed by Zack 'Black Magic AKA The Champ' Rosser with significant improvements noted over the weekend. Many students were nailing nil wind landings by the second day.

Friday night saw Teags spend time running through an in-depth packing seminar, and early morning rises saw time spent towards tracking, equipment and canopy landing seminars, amongst many other topics covered over the course of the weekend. Saturday night saw the wood fired pizza oven fired up, and no shortage of cartons. Ring that bell!

Special thanks to Matt 'Make It Happen' Teags, Shaun 'The Machine' Henderson, Greg 'On Going Support' Smith, and to all the SA Skydiving Instructors who donated their time and coaching fees for the weekend to help make it the successful event it was. Also big thanks to the experienced jumpers who spent their jump credit in order to help many a novice achieve their 3 and 4-Way skydives (or if not then to learn a very important lesson in not going low! We've all been there...!)

I think this is an extremely important point to reinforce. I think every single one of us can remember an experienced jumper or two who gave some unconditional help and support during our own skydiving journey, and if we as skydivers do not perform the same role and give back to the next generation of jumpers, there will not be a next generation.

The B-Rel stages are difficult ones, especially the later stages, and it is incredibly important that we invest time and financial investment in this critical stage of a skydiver's journey. The idea of this event was not just to make jumps more cost effective, but to give novices a dedicated weekend that would create a great social setting to learn skills, form relationships and create memories that will ultimately help them stay in the sport. It also provided an ideal learning atmosphere where key lessons could be taught to a large audience of novices. Thanks to all involved, and hope to see you out there at the DZ sometime soon!

B-Rel and Refresher Day Participants, 2019

Matt Beckwith, Carrie Eames, Mitch Finlay, Callum Manhall, Harrison Page, Sam Marsh, Mitch Finlay, Brodie Shepherd, Bianca Anti



RAMBLERS DROP ZONE TURNS 40!

By Dave McEvoy

I can't believe it's been 40 years since I first laid eyes on the DZ location. It was a dry "melon hole swamp", a flat paddock which stretched from the main road to a railway line about a kilometre away. A paddock that was close to town which meant town water, sewerage, gas and electricity, and three pubs! A dry flat swamp meant a good flat airfield, and it also meant soft ground to land parachutes on. The hairs on the back of my head stood up. This was IT. Let the work begin.

Forty years later and nothing has really changed. Skydiving is still happening over the skies of Toogoolawah. A lot has happened during the past 40 years, but it is still the same, people are still being trained here, jumping for fun here, and discovering that Ramblers DZ will always be their "home".

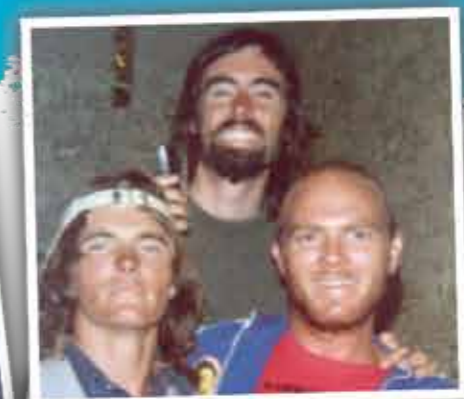
The 40th Anniversary weekend celebrations started early Saturday due to the weather stopping jumping. Our planned epic 40th jump was not to be. The bar opened early, the inside fire was roaring and the party started. It was a great night. The weather stopped raining and the outside bonfire also lit up. Some great memorable moments were shown on the big screen, some speeches and thank you's were delivered, a few "originals" made an appearance and so the night flowed.

On Sunday the weather cleared and fun jumping started. Rod Benson and Rangry celebrated the anniversary milestone by jumping the big flags. I went to height and turned a 40-point one-way. Joking!

It was a terrific weekend. Thank you to everybody who sent their congratulations. Thanks to everybody who came along, there were some old familiar faces. Thanks to the Toogoolawah Skydivers Club and to the people behind the scenes who provided the entertainment and bolstered the already great atmosphere. Thanks to our great Ramblers staff.

«Congrats to Macca on the 40th anniversary! It's been a fantastic era and thanks Dave for supporting the sport so greatly over the years. I have always said Toogoolawah is the best DZ in the country. You are a total legend Macca.»

Faye Cox



Jon Kent – 1st jumper to land at Ramblers at Toogoolawah (by a few seconds)

13 February 1979:

I was a 20 year old uni student with 68 jumps on Uni holidays, and Macca and I had been at the new DZ at Toogs getting it ready for jumping to start on the following Saturday.

We had been burning piles of dead trees - blowing up tree trunks with gelnite and fertilizer (that was FUN), "stick picking" and making it safe for jumpers.

"Tricky" (Alan Trickey) arrived with the DZ jump plane at about midday - VH-RJN, a C-180 - to see that the newly bulldozed strip was ok for use.

Macca (to me); "You want to do a hop'n'pop?"

Me: "Yeah!"

Borrowed gear - owned by Rick Collins.

For the oldies: - PA Pig - capewell release system - 5 cell Strato-Star Main parachute - drilled out blast handle Reserve ripcord - belly band throw away pilot chute - 24ft flat circular Reserve.

The rest is history.

40 years later... 27 June 2019:

That was quick!

Memories:

- Sleeping around the campfire before the clubhouse arrived
- Freezing dawn loads **without** an in-flight door
- Washing at the creek
- Moving into the bunkhouse - "luxury"
- \$5.00 jumps to 8,500ft in the C-180 and \$6.50 jumps to 12,000ft in the C-402
- Instructing - students on Pigmies with SOS systems with PCs - and then X-300 - 7 cell squares

- Introduction of AFF and Tandem
- DC-3s at Kingaroy
- Ekka demos
- The training camp for the 1st WPC of CReW at Gatton in 1986 - the Royal Marines, Team France and the USA Budweiser teams.
- Training at Toogs and competing at World Meets with 'Early Openers' in 8-Way CReW
- DZ parties

And more recently:

- First jump back after 26 years
- New age gear
- Bigger faster aircraft
- 14,000ft!!!
- Big ways
- Instructing again
- DZ parties

Toogs has always been my home DZ - even when I stopped jumping between 1990 to 2016.


My jumping friends from 30-40 years ago are still friends and many new ones over the last two and a half years.

Standing around the fire on Saturday night - the faces change (still a few old ones) but jumpers are the same.

Thanks Macca for the dedication to our sport and the foresight you had all those years ago.

Toogs enabled us to stop our "Gypsy Moth" wanderings and create a permanent home for skydivers and skydiving memories.





Dave Smith

APF LEGEND RECEIVES OAM HONOUR

In 1967, a 21-year-old stepped out of a plane high above Canberra for the first time, beginning a journey that has seen him become one of this sport's most passionate servants. Last month that passion was rewarded when Dave Smith received one of his country's highest accolades when he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal "for long and outstanding service to the APF and to Sport Parachuting" in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

A doyen of Australian skydiving, Dave has been a member of the APF for 50 years and presently oversees the organisation as Chair of its Board. The number of roles he has filled while serving the Federation at the highest levels for more than 40 years is too great to list

in an article of this length. He's been an Examiner and Director of Riggers, an Executive Director and chaired countless committees.

Crucially, he's performed the majority of these roles in a volunteer capacity and continually displayed dedication to the often-thankless tasks that have to be done in APF governance and administration.

From that very first jump in Canberra, Dave was hooked on parachuting. Within two years he had gained an instructor rating in Static Line and was soon employed as

an instructor by Parachutes Australia/Sydney Skydivers before going on to be Manager and Chief Instructor of the Wilton Parachute Centre, better known these days as Picton Parachute Centre.

Dave's love for skydiving saw him turn his focus to developing equipment for Parachutes Australia and, once again, his list of achievements at the organisation is too extensive for a snapshot about his life. What can be said is his expertise and vision changed the face of skydiving, with the development of the Trimpack fore & aft system, military T100 aircrew emergency parachute and Pigmeo with SOS among his handwork.

Dave also had a stint in the 1980s with the National Safety Council of Australia (NSCA) as its Chief Instructor, developing its Pararescue equipment and training PJs for overwater operations until NSCA had sufficient in-house expertise to do so themselves.

In more recent times, Dave established Air Safety Solutions, which manufactured safety and rescue products used by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, emergency medical services and the Defence Forces. While Dave sold Air Safety Solutions and retired in 2014, he continues to consult to it and other aviation companies on an ad hoc basis.

Once again proving his credentials as a game-changer, Dave's persistence in developing user-friendly restraints



has led to a cultural shift in skydiving, with jumpers who once shunned using restraints now embracing their use as standard safe practice.

As his Queen's Birthday citation indicates, Dave's OAM largely honours his incredible contribution to the APF and it's fair to say the Federation would not be what it is today without his efforts.

Having served the organisation for so long in so many capacities, Dave took up a part-time position in the early 1990s as APF Executive Director. This evolved to a full-time position, which he held until 2003 and during which he worked tirelessly after a fire destroyed the APF office and many of its important documents. A sign of his commitment was the fact he set up operations from his own kitchen during this difficult period.

Dave later served as APF President for seven years until the role became redundant in 2015 with the move to a Company Limited by Guarantee. As he indicated in the 2014 Annual Report, the APF had become something he once could only have dreamed of.

"Phil Hindley and I did the grunt work for the current constitution which has served us well enough for 24 years," he wrote. "But it's now time for a corporate model befitting our size and breadth of reach."

In a world where it can be increasingly difficult for organisations to find people willing to give up their time for a cause, it is a tribute to Dave that, except for a handful of years, he has attended APF Board Meetings continuously for four decades in various volunteer roles.

Today he continues to serve as an independent Director, appointed by the Board to tap into his vast knowledge, expertise and dedication to helping the APF. Known for his calm and fair leadership, he is a font of wisdom in the evolution and development of the APF, as well as having an unrivalled working knowledge of drop zone operations and equipment manufacture and maintenance.

In being awarded the Order of Australia Medal, Dave joins Claude Gillard, Graeme Windsor and Jo Chitty in receiving

the honour for long and outstanding service to the APF and to Sport Parachuting.

It is also not the first time he has received public recognition for his hard work, having already been the recipient of the APF Service Award, an Australian Sports Medal and the FAI's Paul Tissandier Diploma.

Anyone who knows Dave would appreciate why he is a fitting recipient of the OAM. The reasons he deserves such a title are endless but best summed up by the words of the person who nominated him for the APF Service Award in 2017.

"Dave is held in the highest regard by all in the skydiving community," they wrote.

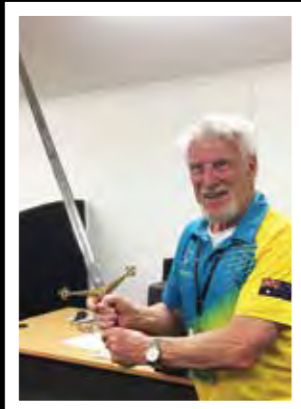
Congratulations Dave.



ON THE AIR

JIM MOIR RETIREMENT NOTICE

With understanding, joy and sad regrets, I wish to announce the retirement from Judging of Jim Moir. In our language, he is "hanging up his stop watch".



"JOCK" has been an asset to Judging twice in his career, starting Way Back as an Accuracy & Style Judge, and in the last seven years working in Accuracy, CP, FS, AE, CF and anything else he could get his hands on.

A highlight for him was being Chief Judge at the 2018 World POPS Meet in Nagambie, where his enthusiasm, professionalism and endless good humour generated an outstanding competition for all involved.

In addition, Jock was Transport & Accommodation Project Manager for the 2018 WPC on the Gold Coast. His funky spreadsheets, inexhaustible time commitment and unfailing commitment to service will be long remembered with deep affection.

I personally remember and thank Jock for those long evenings spent training Judges in VIC, using his apartment's facilities. The wine sharing was friendly and the atmosphere convivial. From this lounge, we produced some first-rate Judges. He has offered that this can continue, so we are not saying goodbye in Victoria just yet.

To everyone, Judges, competitors and officials alike, Jock has been a friend, a shoulder and a mentor. He is a straight talker with quick and easy humour, and a joy to have both on a team or leading a team.

I am personally very much saddened to see him go and will miss him in the Judging room. I know you all join with me in recognising Jock's contribution. While his Judging may cease, some friendships will live forever and this is one of them.

Jock and Barbara intend to spend even more time travelling, something they do often and well. I think they are aiming to complete the 195 Countries Visited list. Along with their close relationships with family and friends, they are busy people.

Good luck in retirement Jock. If you ever change your mind you know you will be welcomed back. We love you.

Gail Bradley
National Judging Officer

FOUR GENERATIONAL JUMP

In December 2018 at Semaphore, Adelaide with **MARK GAZLEY'S** Coastal Skydive, four generations of the Mann Clan – **HARRY MANN** (91 years old), son **COLIN** (68), grandson **NATHAN** (48) and great grandson **RYDAH** (age 13) - took to the skies to set a unique record.



"We have only found one instance of a four direct descendent family group jumping, but their age range was 18 to 88, so ours has both oldest and youngest," says a very proud Harry. "One might assume only a limited number of families might be suitable on account of age. Then there are other circumstances to take into account such as health, willingness etc. So there is always going to be a very small number of suitable family groups."



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

"I just took my son **DANNY** for a jump on his 10th Birthday, at Mission Beach. He absolutely loved it!" **RICHARD FRANK**



DOWNUNDER DYNAMICS

TUNNEL

Flyspot
June 24th-4th July
July 8th-19th
November 4th-14th

St Petersburg
May 20th-30th

Sydney
April 29th - 3rd May
September 24th-27th
More TBA

Brisbane
All year round,
email or pm to book.

SKYDIVE

FIFo Ifly Downunder -Moruya May 16th-19th
Into the Sky Belgium, May 8th-11th
Sunset Boogie Finland, June 16th-21st
Foot Fetish #2 August 12th-17th
Rel Week August 31st-7th September
DD#7 October 7th-12th

Available for boogies or camps upon request
Email or pm to book

www.downunderdynamics.com

mason@downunderdynamics.com

DARWIN PARACHUTE CLUB PRESENTS...

REL WEEK 2019

FEATURING

- MASON CORBY DOWNUNDER DYNAMICS
- MATT BOAG FREE FLY
- RED FERGUSON FLAT/ANGLES/FREEFLY
- SAM HARDY & CHRIS "DOUGGS" MCDUGALL WINGSUIT
- RISS ANDERSON FLAT FORMATION

31st AUGUST - 7th SEPTEMBER

BATCHELOR, NT

FAST CARAVAN ALL WEEK
STUDENTS & A LICENCE WELCOME



