

HGFA Airwaves
February 2011

Greetings!

Welcome to the February 2011 edition of the HGFA Airwaves Newsletter.
If you have any articles that you would like to see sent to the HGFA members then please email them to newsletter@hgfa.asn.au

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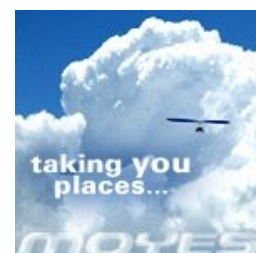
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I am happy to report that an amended HGFA Operation Manual went to CASA in the week starting 14-Feb for approval. While I wouldn't rate reading the Manual cover to cover as gripping reading, from CASA's perspective it is what the HGFA does and from a pilots perspective it is good to know what we can do. This recent Manual amendment is not remarkable in the sense it allows HGFA members opportunities to enjoy greater flying freedoms, rather it complies with current rules which govern all our flying. Unfortunately, not conforming to "rules" will expose pilots to significant levels of personal liability and our sport generally to negative perceptions.

I have said many times before, quite soon the "rules" will change. Then the HGFA will have broader legislative framework to include forms of aviation that have existed in the "grey area" for many years. CASA is also very aware of this regulatory oversight and is demonstrating a willingness to "close the gap". This is positive for the HGFA, our diverse flying interests now and very significantly into the future. I look forward to further announcements in the short term.

- John Olliff, HGFA Operations Manager

HGFA Office

The office is busy; we enjoy hearing from pilots and helping members where possible. But, may I suggest trying not to ring at 4.30 on a Friday to renew a certificate for a competition 😊, but plan your renewals get them in early and stay current. The Easter Comps are just around the corner.

Also, if you do not have a current card since renewing online, check with the office the card may be waiting for your hours to be logged on the renewal! Unfortunately we have quite a few cards waiting to be sent and our resources are limited...it is up to you!!

- John Olliff, HGFA Operations Manager

Weight Shift Microlights

Looking forward to working with the RAA to develop consistent training, certification and maintenance standards across our two organisations. I am already very grateful for the positive response I have had for this work from Larry Jones, Kev MacNally and Ned Macintosh. The work kicks off early March and will take some time to complete. I hope it will result in uniform standards and reduce owners and pilots confusion regarding the various and differing requirements.

- John Olliff, HGFA Operations Manager

Online Visiting Pilot Membership

Some of the online VPM forms have been submitted with incorrect credit card details. Event organisers should be responsible for ensuring a pilots membership form is submitted correctly. For pilots turning up to an organised event without HGFA membership, the online VPM form should be submitted by the event organiser after sighting and confirming the pilot's credit card details.

The current online VPM form is a short term solution while we put in place an automated system where credit card authorisations will happen automatically. In the interim it would be appreciated if event organisers could assist in making sure the VPM's are processed correctly. Please note that the HGFA waiver (the three page paper form) is part of the online VPM process - if a pilot has submitted the VPM form then they have also accepted the waiver.

The Online VPM process is accessed via the HGFA website at http://hgfa.asn.au/HGFA/overseas_pilots.htm. Any questions or comments regarding the process can be directed to benn.kovco@hgfa.asn.au

- Benn Kovco, HGFA Committee

Accident Report - HG Pilot Dies at Mt. Beauty



January 27, 2011 - A British hang-glider who was killed in an accident in Victoria's east yesterday afternoon had travelled to Australia to compete in a number of hang-gliding events along the east coast.

Andrew Hurst, 29, arrived in Sydney on January 1 and last week travelled to Mount Beauty to compete in the Bogong Cup Hang Gliding Championships, the largest in Australia.

Yesterday afternoon he had joined a group from Melbourne to hang-glide around Mount Beauty when he lost control of his craft while attempting to land at the Mount Beauty airfield about 5pm.

Paramedics were told he plunged 50 metres to the ground and suffered serious head and facial injuries, before going into cardiac arrest.

Onlookers and paramedics performed CPR on Mr Hurst for more than an hour, however he was pronounced dead just after 6pm.

Leading Senior Constable Peter Johns, from Mount Beauty police, said Mr Hurst had about three years' hang-gliding experience and was a member of the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association.

"There was a group here yesterday from the Melbourne Hang-gliding club, and he has attached himself to that group. He knew that they had an exercise here and has sort of tagged along with them," Leading Senior Constable Johns said.

"They all went up there together to take off from Mount Emu, which is about 10 kilometres east of the township of Mount Beauty. There is a launching place there for hang-gliders and then they all come in to land at the Mt Beauty airfield.

"He has crash landed while attempting to land and it's still unknown the cause of the accident, whether it's pilot error or something different."

Mr Hurst is also believed to have competed at a hang-gliding event in Forbes in early January. He is believed to have been travelling through Australia on his own.

Leading Senior Constable Johns said Mr Hurst's family in Cambridgeshire in England had been notified of his death.

Police are investigating the accident and will prepare a report for the coroner.

- Courtesy "The Age" newspaper.
Link to article [here](#).

Accident Report - PG Crashes in Flinders Blackberries



February 4, 2011 - A PG pilot landed in blackberries at Flinders bowl. No serious injuries were incurred as pilot was flying low at the time and the blackberries were soft - and delicious apparently! An accident report was submitted by the pilot to HGFA office. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the pilot may have stalled the wing or was caught in rotor while turning close to terrain.

Amazingly, 2 Firetrucks, 2 Ambulances, 2 SES Trucks and 1 Police Car turned out to rescue the pilot. That's a total of 12 Fireman, 4 Paramedics, 4 SES Volunteers and 2 Policewomen - plus chainsaws - to rescue the 1 Paraglider pilot!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfC-DS_45wU

Bright Open 2011



The 2011 Bright Paragliding Open finished on February 12th with 4 scoring tasks during a rain-challenged week.

This year there was a strong focus on supporting and encouraging pilots new to competition flying and helping them to get the most from the event by providing a mentoring program and daily lectures on various aspects of XC flying and competing. Many pilots commented that both programs were very beneficial and hopefully they can be continued and expanded next year. The overall winners of each task were:

AAA Task (full results [here](#))

1st - Ari Sahlstrom, Finland
2nd - Mads Syndergaard, Denmark
3rd - Fred Gungl

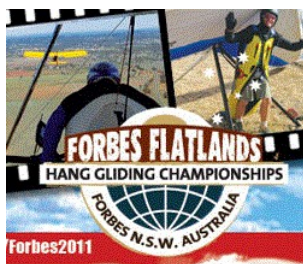
A Task (full results [here](#))

1st - Alex Yaschenko
2nd - Alex Morgan
3rd - Rod Lees

A big thank you to all the pilots for coming and to all our sponsors and support staff for bringing the event together. Look for a full report of the competition soon in Soaring Australia.

- Benn Kovco, Organiser 2011 Bright Open

Forbes Flatlands 2011



Video footage of flying at this years Forbes Flatlands (Optional: if you speak Russian then the dialogue will make sense...)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuSbBVQR7OQ>

More blogs and postings can be found here....

www.jonnydurand.blogspot.com

www.naughtylawyertravels.blogspot.com

"The Lee Side Thermal"

"The Lee Side Thermal" is a collection of random stuff that may be (or may not be) of interest to pilots...

Outtake from the movie "The Other Side".

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZO_lwoq6kM

Hang Gliding Game.

<http://www.guzer.com/games/glider.php>

If you have anything ideas for the "The Lee Side Thermal" then please email newsletter@hgfa.asn.au

Upcoming PG Events & Competitions



- * [Queensland Paragliding Championships](#) - Various
- * [Mystic Cup \(Bright, Vic\)](#) - Various Dates from Nov 2010 to Mar 2011.
- * [Weekend Warriors \(Manilla, NSW\)](#) : Various Dates
- * [State of Origin \(Manilla, NSW\)](#) : Easter 2011
- * [Skyhigh PG Club Easter Fly-In](#) (Bright, VIC) : Easter 2011
- * [Ozone Corryong Open](#) : Mar 2011
- * [Online Cross Country Comps](#) : Anytime!

Paragliding competitions registration can be done online at:
<http://ozparaglidingcomps.com/>

Please send details of other events to: newsletter@hgfa.asn.au

Upcoming HG Events & Competitions



- * [Wylie Classic](#) - 27th Feb to 5th March, 2011

Please send details of other events to: newsletter@hgfa.asn.au

Upcoming PPG Events & Competitions



- * [Australia NZ PPG Championships](#) - 22-26 April 2011
- * [Dam Busters Fly-in 2011](#) - Queens B'day long weekend in June
- * [Milbrulong Fly-in 2011](#) - 15-18 September
- * [Mt. Beauty Fly-in](#) - 18-20 November

Please send details of other events to: newsletter@hgfa.asn.au

About 'Airwaves'

'Airwaves' is the e-newsletter of the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia. It is scheduled to be sent out monthly but actual delivery dates may vary depending on events and circumstances.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments about 'Airwaves' then please send them through to: newsletter@hgfa.asn.au.

That's all Folks!!!