



HGFA Airwaves
May 26th, 2013

Tragic Accident, Warrnambool Victoria

On Saturday the 18th May, Rob Lithgow and Bruce Ottoway took off on a tandem PG flight from a site close to Warrnambool in Southern Victoria. Concerns were raised when they did not return to their pick up point, that evening. Wind and weather were well within acceptable flight conditions but it is suspected a sudden drop in wind may have become a major issue. The following day Rob's body was recovered from the water but the search for Bruce Ottoway has proven unsuccessful.

The Paraglider and harness were recovered and the paraglider is believed to be near new with little to indicate equipment failure. An inquest to discover what led to the tragedy is underway but we may never know exactly what led to the tragic outcome. We do know Rob was adamant about not flying over water and was renowned for instructing his students to not put themselves in a position where they may have to execute a water landing.

The loss of a senior instructor, who became a mentor and friend to many HGFA pilots across all disciplines, is a tragic event that will sadden many involved in air sports across Australia. To add to this tragedy is the apparent loss of a returning HGFA member who was well regarded by the people who knew him. The loss will be felt not only in Victoria and South Australia but across Australia as both pilots had made an impact on many people across the country.

The HGFA Management Committee would like to express their deepest sympathy to Rob Lithgow's and Bruce Ottoway's families in this time of great loss. Rob will be missed by his colleagues, the pilots he trained and the friends he made while living his passion and helping others to discover the freedom of flight.

Rob Lithgow's Celebration Service will be held on Monday 27th May, Barrabool Hills Baptist Church 4-46 Province Bvd Highton at 1:00pm followed by interment in the Bellbrae Cemetery at 3:30pm.

Sincerely,

The HGFA.

About 'Airwaves'

Airwaves is intended to communicate pertinent notices in-between the printed magazine editions.

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

Feedback

HGFA



[HGFA Website](http://www.hgfa.asn.au)

High Adventure



[Visit Our Sponsor](#)

Icaro Helmets



[Visit Our Sponsor](#)

Moyes