

March Airwaves



Hi << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the **March** edition of AirWaves; the bi-monthly e-newsletter of the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia!

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No matter what the discipline, the thrill of free flight continually draws us to explore and challenge its boundaries. Through our unique and enthusiastic community, the HGFA helps to build piloting skills and confidence with an emphasis on training and safety, so that pilots can confidently tackle the

emphasis on training and safety, so that pilots can confidently tackle the challenge of flying further and longer.

With that in mind, for this month's Airwaves we ask two of our skilled pilots, including world record setting hang gliding champion **Jonny Durand Jnr.** and enthusiastic and experienced paraglider **Sonya Fardell**, about their preferred gliders, their proudest competition achievements and what they believe it takes to become an effective gliding instructor.

We also take a look at two recent paragliding events: The **Bright Open** and the subsequent opening round of the **Paragliding World Cup**, (also held at **Bright**) and speak to some of the participating pilots, (including PWC national champion Peter Slade) to see how their skills and piloting expertise have been triumphantly put to the test.

3 QUESTIONS WITH: PARAGLIDING PILOT SONYA FARDELL

Enthusiastic paragliding pilot **Sonya Fardell** is the secretary of the Toowoomba/Killarney Paragliding and Hang-Gliding Club in Southern Queensland. She tells us how her favourite glider has evolved over the years, the most enjoyable competition she has participated in and the skills she believes are required to be an effective paragliding instructor.





(Sonya Fardell captured by Jo Hjortshoj)

Read our complete Sonya Fardell Q&A [here](#).

3 QUESTIONS WITH: HANG GLIDING CHAMPION JONNY DURAND JNR

We asked, renowned number one pre-world cup winner **Jonny Durand Jnr**, who recently flew at the Forbes Flatlands Hang Gliding Championships, the same set of questions.



(Jonny Durand Jnr. captured by Christina Quinn)

Read our full Jonny Durand Jnr Q&A [here](#).

EVENT REPORT: BRIGHT OPEN 2018

101 pilots competed in the 7-day Bright Paragliding Open 2018, which took place between 10th- 16th February. **HGFA Treasurer Brian Webb**, who helped coordinate the event, shares his insights on how it all went down.

“Three tasks were undertaken, which was a little less than we would’ve liked. When the weather was good it was excellent but when it was poor it was difficult...”

“The leading Aussie was Wally Arcidiacono who came 4th and then a Japanese visitor, Yoshiki Kuremoto, with two more Australians (Alex Yaschenko and Peter Slade) after that. Kari Roberson secured 10th place, consolidating her firm grip on the top 10, watch this space...” concludes Brian encouragingly.



(Pilots flying off Gundowring at the Bright Open. Photo captured by Jo Hjortshoj)

Seen as a warm-up to the subsequent Paragliding World Cup this year, the Bright Open, which was praised for its organisation, helped to ensure pilots were well prepared for the succeeding larger event.

Read more about the Bright Open [here](#).

EVENT REPORT: PARAGLIDING WORLD CUP 2018

For the first time in two decades, Australia hosted the renowned **Paragliding World Cup** in Bright, Victoria. Taking place between the 17th- 24th February, 120 of the most accomplished Race Cross Country Paragliding pilots from across the globe participated in what was considered one of the most competitive and prestigious worldwide events of its kind.

The week-long event consisted of daily competitions among the archetypal high peaks and valleys of the Victorian Alpine region and flown from local hang gliding sites including Bright Mystic Valley, Gundowring and The Pines. Each race challenged pilots to fly routes at altitudes of up to 3,000 metres with racing speeds of up to 80 kph.

We spoke with pilot and PWC Aussie champ **Peter Slade** about his experiences and achievements during this thrilling and most prestigious paragliding event.

To read Peter's insights, click [here](#).





(Peter Slade at the PWC 2018. Photo captured by Jo Hjortshoj)

Until next time, safe, fun flying

- Paul Green, President, HGFA



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