



December 1st, 2009

## The 2009 Airborne Gulgong Classic

The winners:

Open class:



Attila, Jonny, Ollie (1,2,3)

Sport Class:



Kathryn and Jorj (Photos by [Tim Ettridge](#))

Four tasks over seven days. 14,000' unreached (or so they say) cloud bases, strong winds on some days, temperatures in the high thirties to forties.

You can find the results [here](#).

You can read about the competition at Jonny Durand's blog [here](#). [Scott Barrett](#), who placed fourth, posted [this entry](#) on the Newcastle blog. Kathryn's blog [here](#).

## Kathryn on Sport Class at Gulgong

[Kathryn O'Riordan](#) is very new to competition. Here is her story from Gulgong:

For the last year and a half I have been involved in the competition scene, but not competing. My first taste of the comp scene was in Austria last year with Gerolf. I thought to myself, the only thing better than hanging out on a beautiful mountaintop in the sunshine would be if I was actually flying myself! I knew then that I wanted to be part of the action, not just an observer. Since then I have been to (but not flown in) comps in Australia, Florida, Austria and France and Spain. Gulgong was my first competition. Finally I was part of the action!

In Gulgong I flew an Airborne Fun 160 (same glider Jorj was

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## In other news

### Over 10,000'

[Vicki Cain](#) is attempting to get the upper limit of "hang glider specific air space" lifted from 10,000' to 14,000' for the [Forbes Flatlands](#), January 3rd - 12th. [Phil Schroder](#) is doing the same for the [Bogong Cup](#).

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### Adam's ribs

[Adam Parer](#) is out of the hospital and recovering from six broken ribs and other injuries suffered when his Airborne REV 13.5 (the Jonny beater) tumbled at the Airborne Gulgong Classic. It was the Jonny beater as former World Champion [Ricky Duncan](#) flew it at the Canungra Classic in October and placed first ahead of Jonny in second (Rohan Holtkamp, also on an Airborne REV, placed third.). You can read Adam's full report [here](#) and [here](#).

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### Comp coverage

The [Forbes Flatlands](#) and the [Bogong Cup](#) will be covered with daily reports in [Jonny's blog](#) and the [Oz Report](#) (which will link to other blogs).

## Got a news item?

Send it to the [HGFA newsletter editor](#).

flying). It's a beginner glider, a dune-soaring glider. It is definitely not designed to tow or go cross country. But I feel safe in it, and I thought there was so much to learn about going cross country, that I didn't want to have to worry about handling a more advanced glider.

Before the competition there were a few skills I was worried about and some that I knew I would be ok. I was worried about towing behind a trike, but this ended up being drama free. Some tows were quite bumpy but nothing too scary. I was worried about bombing out, but this did not happen too much. I was worried about not finding the next thermal, but you know, even though I didn't make goal, I did find some thermals and managed to stay in the air over 2 hours on the days I flew.

I was also a bit apprehensive about flying in gaggles, or at least thermaling with more than one person. I realised that I got a bit nervous whenever anyone flew too close. This is where my lack of confidence shows, and one area where I am determined to become confident in while I am still in the Fun.

Making decisions in the air is another area where my lack of experience shows. I realised that my decision to go downwind to find a thermal, as opposed to upwind was a very bad decision because it was so hard to punch back on course with the Fun.

Overall it was huge learning experience. I could even see by the end of the competition how I took things like towing, using my GPS and landing out all in my stride. There is really no better way to learn how to fly cross country than to enter a competition.

Personally it gives me a focus. I would prefer to have a task set for me than to just fly around aimlessly because even if you do not make the goal, you will be able to measure your progress and feel like you have achieved something. And of course there is nothing like getting up there and just going somewhere new, flying over terrain, landing in some random farmer's field and getting fed a lovely roast dinner with the farmer and his wife while you wait for retrieve :)

I think if newer pilots realized:

- tasks would be set especially for their class
- they would get tug pilots who are experienced towing kingposted and floater gliders
- top pilots competing so you have the opportunity to ask questions and learn from the best
- they would get help if needed with GPS and task strategy (it would be good if there was a top pilot who would spend 10 minutes after the briefing giving advice and answering questions newer pilots may have)
- magic conditions and the chance of flying long distances (and of course flatland flying means that you have no shortage of big landing fields!)

I think people like Curt and Tony Barton are in a good position to encourage people to compete. They have a good database of students and contacts. They can put a spin on it in such a way that it would be a fantastic way to practice, get some hours up and have fun.

Kathryn's blog with more about flying at Gulgong [here](#).

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## Sponsors



Curt's page on taking students to competitions [here](#).

## HGFA

[Craig Worth](#) is coming in as the new (new again) General Manager. Latest HGFA BOD minutes [here](#). AGM meeting minutes [here](#). In general, HGFA minutes are found [here](#).

Should the HGFA send their CIVL representative to the next CIVL Plenary (general meeting) at a cost of about \$4500? You can [vote on that issue here](#).

## VHPA asks HGFA for assistance

[Latest VHPA Newsletter](#)

The VHPA have formally submitted a proposal to the HGFA to secure funding for the Mystic Flight Park for the future. This proposal was recently ratified at the NEVHGC AGM and has been accepted in principle by the VHPA Committee. For full details relating to this application please read the [HGFA/VHPA funding proposal for Mystic Flight Park](#) document.

## 2010 Paragliding Calendar



Purchase it [here](#).

## No Microlight News

If no one sends [me](#) any news, I can't publish any news.

## Upcoming Competitions

[The HGFA Competition Calendar](#) (numerous errors)

-  [Corryong Cup 2010](#), B, 3rd Jan - 9th Jan, Corryong, NSW, [Wendi Herman](#) (Organiser)
-  [Forbes Flatlands 2010](#), AAA, 3rd Jan - 12th Jan, Forbes, NSW, [Vicki Cain](#)
-  [Bogong Cup 2010](#), AAA, 16th Jan - 23rd Jan, Mt. Beauty, Vic [Phil Schroder](#) (Organiser), Wes Hill (Director)
-  [NSW State Titles, \(Manilla\) 2010](#), B, 14th Feb - 20th Feb, Manilla, NSW, [Monica Barrett](#) (Organiser)



Manilla XC Open 2010, 30th Jan - 10th Feb, Manilla,  
NSW, Godfrey Wenness, CAT2

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