

# Airwaves April 2018

---



Hi << Test First Name >>

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

In this edition:

- **Interview with:** [Wally Arcidiacono](#)
- **Event report:** [Dalby Big Air Hang Gliding Comp](#)
- **Event preview:** 2018 Australian Paramotoring Championships

- **Safety Tips from Peter Allen**
- **Congratulations & Celebrating Success**
- **New HGFA Office Reminder & New Safety Management System (SMS)**

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 challenge of flying further and longer.

With that in mind, in this month's Airwaves we speak to passionate paragliding pilot and instructor **Wally Arcidiacono** about his life-long enthusiasm for the sport and his efforts to open a new flight school in Bright, Victoria amongst other things.

Also, as we head toward the end of the PG/HG comp season, in our events roundup we look at both the recent **Dalby Big Air** and June's anticipated **2018 Australian Paramotoring Championships** by speaking to the organisers of both these thrilling events.

Meanwhile, there's a few important safety tips/updates from our Assistant Operations Manager Peter Allen, while congratulations are in order for a man whose contribution to the first successful HG flight has finally been recognised.

## **INTERVIEW WITH WALLY ARCIDIACONO**

We talk to paragliding pilot and instructor **Wally Arcidiacono** about his career in the skies...





### **When did the passion for paragliding first take hold for you?**

I've recently celebrated my 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday but I started flying when I was 18. Since I was 22 I started to put a lot of time and energy into flying - I absolutely love it. I enjoy the challenge of it, the ever-changing nature of the sport and just the fact that the learning curve never finishes. It changes but it never finishes. It's my livelihood – my life revolves around it.

### **The sport stimulates a range of emotions...**

It's an adrenaline rush and the racing aspect is more about the emotional dynamics of racing: sometimes you're ahead and you're feeling happy and other times you get stuck and you're behind...the emotions with that and keeping yourself calm and moving on...I do like that part of it.

### **Tell us about your efforts in opening a new flight school in Bright. What was the motivation behind this?**

I've been working as an instructor in Bright for 5 to 6 years and so it was just a realisation that the other CFIs won't be doing it forever and I wanted to get my foot in the door, start getting my business going and put my own mark on things in terms of what I'd like to teach and how I'd like to teach it. It's always been my intention to open a school and the timing now is good.

**Read our complete interview with Wally Arcidiacono [here](#)**

## **EVENT REPORT:**

### **DALBY BIG AIR HANG GLIDING COMPETITION**

Taking place between **8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> April**, 67 pilots competed at **Dalby Big Air**, which is recognised as the last cross-country competition of the season.



(Photo captured by Mike Zupanc)

Retired cross country hang glider pilot and comp organiser **Bruce Crerar**, has been running the event at Darling Downs with his wife **Annie Crerar**, (who's the Comp director) for the past decade. He says the hang gliding comp is all about offering a superb location, along with some positive vibes that come from being a AA comp (as appose to a AAA), along with great camaraderie amongst sports class pilots.

"It's an ideal location with a lot of farming land and plenty of opportunities for good landings," says Bruce, who is also the aerotow tug master, with over 4,000 tows to his credit, including 11 Nationals, a Worlds, a Pre-Worlds and 10 Dalby Big Air's.

Read more about the Dalby Big Air Competition [here](#)

## EVENT PREVIEW:

### 2018 AUSTRALIAN PARAMOTORING CHAMPIONSHIPS (8-11 JUNE 2018)

Although dates and location are yet to be confirmed, something to look out for in

mid-June are the Paramotoring championships, which are being organised by **David Wainwright** and **Scotty Duncan**.

Event co-organiser and High Adventure paragliding chief flight instructor, **David Wainwright** says, “We will be running coaching clinics during the event for people who want to up their skill and learn new aspects of flying paramotors.”

Please consult the event’s Facebook page for further updates [here](#)

## **SAFETY TIPS FROM PETER ALLEN**

- **Always connect your speedbar** - “We've had an incident or two of pilots flying without the speedbar connected. Please don't be lazy and remember to always connect your speedbar.”
- **Consider replacing your helmet** – “The Snell foundation recommend that you replace your helmet every 5 years. [How old is your helmet?](#)”

**For further information regarding replacement, click [here](#)**

- **Graphical Area forecasts (GAF)** – “CASA and BOM have upgraded Area Forecasts (ARFOR) to Graphical Area forecasts (GAF). Training materials are being updated to include this change.”

**For a useful two-minute video demonstration on its functionality, click [here](#)**

## **CONGRATULATIONS & CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

At the 44<sup>th</sup> CIVL Plenary, **The Hang Gliding and Paragliding Diploma** was awarded to Pat Crowe, in recognition for his contribution to the birth of the sport. In 1963 Rod Fuller successfully flew the Dickenson wing on Grafton’s Clarence River behind a boat piloted by Pat Crowe. Pat’s role was a crucial one and his expertise in manoeuvring and controlling the vessel to ensure the success of the flight was fundamental to the ground-breaking outcome.

Our congratulations to him!

Also, we’re very pleased to report that Australia’s bid to host the **1st FAI Asian**...

Also, we're very pleased to report that Australia's bid to host the **2022 IACASIAH Oceanic Paragliding XC** (at Bright, Victoria) has been successful.

View the full Plenary 2018 Story [here](#)

## **NEW HGFA OFFICE REMINDER**

Please note that our office has now moved and our new HGFA address is:  
**21/54 Commercial Place, Keilor East, Vic 3033**

## **NEW SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)**

Please also note that an updated HGFA SMS is available under 'Forms & Docs / Policies & Safety Management' in the Members Area, for members to review.

**Until next time, safe, fun flying**

**- Paul Green, President, HGFA**



You are receiving this email as a member (or past member) of the SAFA.

**Our mailing address is:**

Sports Aviation Federation of Australia  
21 / 54 Commercial Place  
Keilor East, VIC 3033  
Australia

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.