

Airwaves February 2019



Hi << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the **February** edition of Airwaves - the bi-monthly e-newsletter of the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia.

In this edition:

- We celebrate the life and achievements of HGFA member and proprietor of Updraft Microlights and Hang Gliders in Far North Qld, Kevin Gilligan, who sadly passed away at his home in February at the age of 62.
- We speak with a passionate and dedicated microlight pilot - Amellia

- We speak with a passionate and dedicated microlight pilot, Amelia Formby who will be circumnavigating the country to support bird conservation.
- Inviting all HGFA members to come along to the Australian International Airshow Aerospace and Defence Expo, at Avalon Airport in March.
- Share your stories and images for an exciting documentary on the history of Australian Hang Gliding.

Honouring HGFA member, Kevin Gilligan

As a renowned pilot in Port Douglas, Kevin Gilligan was passionate about the freedom of flight, giving people a unique aerial view of Northern QLD.

Working as the chief flight instructor and proprietor of Updraft Microlights and Hang Gliders- a HGFA approved flight training facility in North QLD, Kevin was known by his friends as a local legend.



His extensive experience with weight shift aviation stems back to 1976 where he built his first glider from plan set, "The Wind Soarer MkII." His various career achievements include competing in over 25 national ladder competitions. He was one of only three pilots in the country that had CFI credentials in both microlighting and hang gliding.

[Read more here.](#)

Pilot to spread her wings around Australia to support bird conservation

Travelling 20,000km over six months, HGFA member and microlight pilot, Amelia Formby from Perth is planning to embark on an Australian-first expedition for a female pilot, flying her microlight around the country to support shorebird conservation.

Commencing her flight from Broome in 2021, Amelia, a former zoologist, will

be stopping at major shorebird sites along the Australian coastline, collaborating with Birdlife Australia to introduce and educate school students on the incredible life and journey of these remarkable birds- the world's most endangered group of bird species.

Only learning to fly a microlight three years ago, Amellia will lap around the continent in the same amount of time it takes a group of shorebirds that are fitted with satellite transmitters, to migrate to Arctic Circle and back.



[Read more here.](#)

Come down and be part of the Australian International Airshow Aerospace and defence Expo

The HGFA will be presenting ground displays at the Australian International Airshow Aerospace and Defence Expo at the Avalon Airport in Geelong during the public entry days on 1-3 March.

We would like to invite members to come along to the 'meet the HGFA'.

The Southern Microlight Club will be joining in with the HGFA and will have an aircraft on display. They will be giving out flyers and talking to interested people. Make sure you come and say hi.

The Australian International Airshow is one of Asia-Pacific's most prestigious aviation and aerospace events and the most comprehensive aviation, aerospace and defence expo in the Southern hemisphere.

Be part of the history of hang gliding in Australia

Attention all hang glider pilots and families. Michael Sonkin, a Brazilian film producer from ClearLight Productions will be in Australia from mid-March to work on a hang gliding documentary to promote the sport and Australia to new generations on Brazilian television. The production team are looking for early

flying photos and film, but are equally interested in interviewing people with a good flying story. They would like to film the associated sites and towns to highlight the Australian landscape too.

It would be great to find early media and stories about a few milestone periods such as;

water-skiing and boat-towing;

foot launch in the early 70s... the skysurfing people;

the early Freestyle competitions and legends;

early XC in the Mt Buffalo region;

early XC and car-towing, the flatlands;

start of aero-towing and the new dune-gooning.

They will be here for only three weeks and Robert deGroot has offered to help co-ordinate their travels and help find potential material for the film. So if you have a story or can point Robert to the source of one or two, or any media that might highlight the times mentioned above, please email or phone Rob de Groot as soon as you can.

robert@degrootbdc.com

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CASA Survey

CASA have annually produced a close calls booklet that they distribute to all HGFA members. These real-life stories are of great benefit to our members who can learn from other pilot experiences. In order to gauge the booklet's effectiveness, CASA has invited you to fill in a short survey. Please note that the survey closes March, 30 2019. View the survey here: <https://consultation.casa.gov.au/stakeholder-engagement-group/ebf77d17>

Until next time, safe, fun flying

- Paul Green, President, HGFA





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