



Hi

Welcome to the April edition of Airwaves- the bi-monthly e-newsletter of the Sports Aviation Federation of Australia.

In this edition:

- We celebrate the life and achievements of SAFA member Mick Farrell and being the 6<sup>th</sup> person to fly an unpowered hang glider through the Morning Glory
- We speak with a passionate paraglider pilot Laurent Besnard who conquered the Western Arthurs in March.

### **Celebrating the achievements of hang gliding pilot, Mick Farrell**

Taking a trip down memory lane, former hang gliding pilot Mick Farrell of Boorowa

NSW tells how he first fell in love with flight after seeing a group of men jumping off sand hills in Kurnell on the outskirts of Sydney and then taking to the skies in a hang glider. Watching the hang glider soar skyward, chasing the thermals with wedge-tailed eagles seemed like a surreal experience he wanted to be part of.

The sport and the aircraft were very different back in those days. Mick recalls that it wasn't long after witnessing the hang gliders taking flight and being influenced by Fred Fahey, that he went to Canberra and bought a brand new Seagull 3 for \$375. It came equipped with a harness and an instruction book, that was it. Read more [here](#)



### **An incredible flight journey**

A journey by paraglider Laurent Besnard through remote south western Tasmania in the Western Arthurs has only been achieved by two other pilots. The iconic mountain range has no roads leading to it and no infrastructure, only mountains, dense forest and buttongrass plains.

This incredible landscape offers stunning views with glacial tarns surrounded by jagged quartzite cliffs.

Laurent first took up the challenge in November 2017 and back then, no one from the Tasmanian paragliding community was aware of any flights conducted in the

area. Living in Hobart for the last 11 years, it had been in the back of his mind to fly the Western Arthurs ever since he took up paragliding, back in 2015. Then in March this year, he decided to take on the challenge again. Read more [here](#)



***Paul Green, President, SAFA***



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