

# FLYING WITH THE...

Richard Breyley

## Goldfields Dust Devils

Hang Gliding and Para Gliding Club - Kalgoorlie



### THE GOLDFIELDS DUST

DEVILS IS A SMALL HANG GLIDING CLUB BASED IN KALGOORLIE WA. WE'VE ONLY GOT SEVEN ACTIVE PILOTS, BUT WHAT WE LACK IN SIZE WE MAKE UP FOR IN ENTHUSIASM. KALGOORLIE IS AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST OUTBACK CITY WITH A BIT OVER 30000 PEOPLE, IT IS 600KM EAST OF PERTH. KALGOORLIE IS ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST MINING CENTERS AND WE ARE CURRENTLY ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF THIS COUNTRIES RESOURCES BOOM.

**W**e fly from Lake Perkolilli, a dry clay pan about 35 km north east of town. Lake Perkolilli has a little bit of history about it, it is an old dirt bike racing track and regular motor bike and car races were held there before the war.

National 24 hour speed records were broken on the clay pan at Lake Perkolilli during the 1920s and in 1927 the State motor racing championships were held there. Also in 1927 Harry Baker set the first Australian motor bike speed record in excess of 100mph.

Elsewhere in Australia Motor racing was progressing along European lines with small displacement engines in light cars, but at Lake Perkolilli they were racing large American cars, Buicks, Studebakers, Chryslers and Cadillacs. At the time it was one of the very few motor vehicle race tracks in Australia that held regular meetings.



The start of a race at Lake Perkolilli in the 1920s

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You can still see the foundations of the grandstands from the air.

We use a vehicle mounted Atol launch system, which in our opinion is the safest towing launch available. We have pioneered circle towing and usually ground tow to between 1100 and 1400ft agl though our record is 2200ft agl. The main advantage with circle towing is if you hit a thermal but consider yourself too low you can simply continue and get it on the next lap.

Most people don't realise that Kalgoorlie is in the middle of the worlds largest arid forest. Unfortunately for the local hang gliding community that tends to limit landing options on cross country flights. Cross country flights end up be limited to the southern to north-western directions where the landing options are more plentiful and accessible, usually other salt lakes. To our south-west

A Perkolilli Racer (Buick) in the 1920s



The Buick at Lake Perkolilli in the 1920s. Note the boat tail body from the firewall back, and the wire wheels.

we have a guaranteed thermal source at around 10km which is the large Red Hill Gold Mine. The thermals are triggered every five minutes by dump trucks hauling the ore from the open cut. This is the first port of call for many successful cross-country flights.

In the other directions landing options become very limited and isolated, with plenty of opportunity to join the Koala Bear Club.

Muz's (our club president) favorite cross country is 60km west to the Broad Arrow Pub. The landing is tricky, being an asphalt car park wedged between a 150ft deep open cut gold mine, a pub, a waste dump and a railway line but this is an excellent opportunity to show off to the girls, bikies and tourists enjoying a Sunday afternoon beer on the front veranda. He is yet to demonstrate the discipline and self control required to fly past that pub.

The Goldfields Dust Devils have always been keen to explore other flying locations. Lynn Webb, Muz, Drew and Duncan recently spent 4 days flying, fishing and taking photos on the Nullabor coast at their secret camping spot at Point Colver south east of Baladonia. We also had a club trip to Kookynie in the goldfields. We usually go down to Esperence a couple times a year which as good a family-flying holiday you can have, and a couple of us are going to Victoria this summer.

We always enter a team in the State Soaring Championships at Wyalcatchem and have recently competed with some success winning the team trophy twice in the last three years. The first time was won with the assistance of Johnny Durand Jr.

So, if you are passing through Kalgoorlie and want a fly give the Dusties a call. Our numbers are in the back of this magazine.



Our trusty tow car, with Richard getting ready to launch.



Drew taking off for another cross-country flight.

## HGFA News

### NEW PRODUCTS

#### USHPA 2008 Calendars

The 2008 Hang Gliding Calendars and 2008 Paragliding Calendars are now available from USHPA! We would like to send you a complimentary copy of each and want to verify that the address above is correct.

The 2008 calendars are full of vivid flying photos which are guaranteed to make you dream of free flight aviation during the work day! We



hope you enjoy them! They are available for \$12 plus shipping & handling.

The 2008 calendars and other items can be ordered through USHPA's online

store or by calling us at 1-719-632-8300, [www.ushpa.aero/store].

United States Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association [www.ushpa.aero]

