

# WA STATE HANG GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Austin Meyer (Aussie) towing up to the clouds  
Photo: Sally De Koning

Again this year the WA State Hang Gliding Championships were held in Westonia. We have been building relationships in the town for three years now and it is starting to pay off. We have a huge amount of support from the small local population.

by **Richard Breyley**

Simon Shuttleworth lining up Jason Kath for another tow  
Photo: Pauline Deas (Westonia Gallery Café)

**T**his year we offered aero-towing at the comps. Gavin Penfold from Birds Eye View came down from Exmouth and Simon Shuttleworth came up from Albany. Generously, Jamie Wolfe (Wolfy) and Peter Hardy-Atkins also came up from Albany. Between them they turned our aero-towing operation into a well-oiled, efficient machine. All the pilots could pretty much tow when they wanted to, due to the work that these guys did every day. We are hugely grateful, guys!

We had a poor start to the comp with HGFA President, Sun Nickerson, passing away on Monday. It appears to all witnesses that Sun was struck down by a medical condition during flight. Despite this, Sun was able to land his glider one handed in difficult conditions. I have known Sun since I learned to fly at the Sky Sports Flying School 14 years ago. There are few people who have worked as hard as Sun or volunteered as much time as him in the administration of our sport. Sun loved to fly hang gliders and I will miss not seeing him at Cottesloe this winter.

Left: SunNickerson  
Photo: Sally Dekoning

Below: Richard Breyley towing up behind Gavin Penfol  
Photo: Sally Dekoning



## Results:

### Open Class

- 1 Jason Kath
- 2 Gary Wright
- 3 Murray Wood

### Sport Class

- =1 Antony Corbet and Duncan De Koning
- 3 Michael Cassells

### Novice (Supervised)

- 1 Michael Cassells
- 2 Paul Broad
- 3 Aussie Meyer

### Teams

- 1 Darwinism
- 2 Goldfields Dust Devils
- 3 Perth DustiesL

## The Flying

The weather was not quite as awesome as in previous years, but we still got six out of seven flying days plus an excellent practice day. One day was stopped due to the weather and we ended up with five tasks completed. We started off with a triangle task, then we went down to Soldiers Road, past the old 'Rabbit Proof Fence'. There was a ripper of a thermal above the old gold mine at Marvel Lock, and Bonnie Rock is little more than a silo.

Special thanks to our sponsors, the Hang Gliding Association of Western Australia (HGAWA), Moyes Gliders, Airborne, Westonia Tavern and the Westonia Gallery and Café.

Left: Peter Roberts on tow with "Wolfy" in the foreground  
Photo: Sally Dekoning

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