

## **Westonia 2014**

It has been three years since our last State championships. The comps have traditionally been held at Wyalkatchem in Western

Australia, however, the paddock we used changed owners and we had to find a new home. As luck would have it, Ross decided to re-enter our sport after an absence of 20 years and suggested we look in the Merredin-Westonia area...

WA Hang Gliding Flatland fly belt is as good forbes or Dalby.

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by Richard Breyley (Competition Organiser)

e held a reconnaissance mission in September 2013 and after a meeting with the Westonia Shire President, we decided to hold the 2014 WA Hang Gliding comp in Westonia.

Flatland flying in the Western Australian wheat belt is as good as anywhere else in Australia, including Forbes or Dalby.

Westonia is a great little wheat belt town with a pub, pool, bowling green and recreation centre which was used as our headquarters. The town has everything we needed for a comp

We had a good turn-out with 21 pilots and officials

plus drivers split into four teams. In Western Australia, we take our teams competition very seriously and team points are calculated on distance flown with a large handicap for novice and intermediate pilots. This is to encourage teams to include lower airtime pilots in their ranks. This year we saw the return of the 'Dusties' and the 'Geroatrics'





as well as the new teams of 'Sky Scrapers' and 'Phuck Yeh'.

As a competition organiser, I value the support we receive from our sponsors more than most. Both Aussie hang glider manufacturers, Moyes and Airborne, have been long-standing sponsors of comp flying in WA. Our State association, HGAWA, made a very respectable cash donation and we also received support from the Goldfields Dust Devils HG and PG club and the Westonia General Store

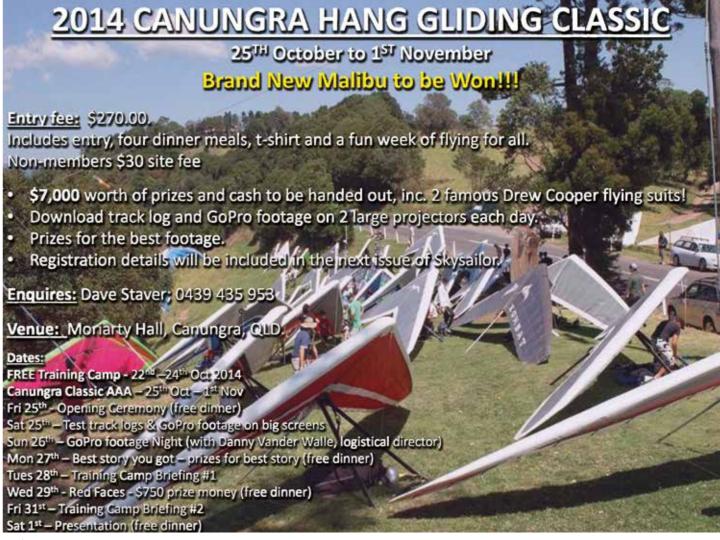
This year we were also blessed by the weather gods, with six out of seven flyable days plus a practice day. The first few days were light and scariable, but we enjoyed cloudbases of nine grand with cumulus clouds to mark our thermals. After that, things got more challenging, with blue conditions and thermals to only five or six grand.

The comp had everything – great weather, plenty of PBs and first XCs from our novice and intermediate pilots. We also had eagle strikes and plenty of downtubes were recycled, but nobody was hurt.

The WA comps are going to happen again in 2015. See you there.

Photo: Richard Breyley





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