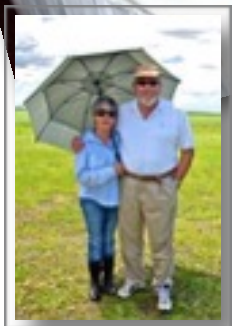
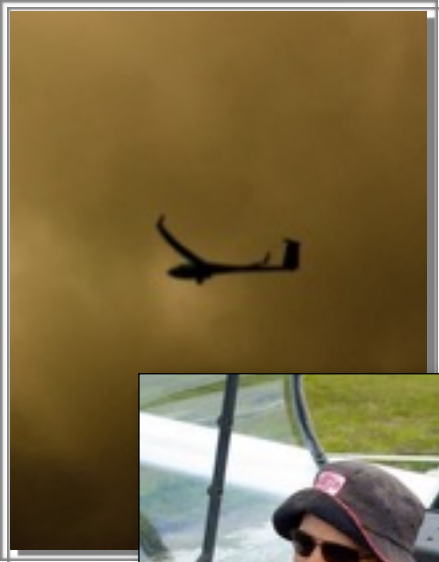


NATIONAL MULTI-CLASS GLIDING COMPETITIONS

DALBY
OCTOBER 2010



NATIONAL GLIDING COMPETITIONS

Practice Day

- 53 competitors, 10 days of competition
- Chad is in Open Class (highest class)
- there are 7 in Chad's class



- Chad's glider is the largest glider in the competition (28m)
- the owner of the glider is flying with Chad as ballast!!!
- Chad's glider is worth half a million dollars
- Chad is the chief pilot so he makes all the decisions and the points he earns will count towards his national standing over two years



Instrument Panels for Chad (pilot) and a copy for his passenger (owner of glider) who sits in the front seat.



Ground Crew

Chad's glider weighs one tonne so preferably there must be people helping on the ground. The glider trailer itself weighs 2 tonnes and it must be pulled by an 8 cylinder truck with 4 wheel drive. The glider normally has an engine with propeller for safety but due to weight problems the engine had to be taken out for the competition. We all hope Chad does not have to land away from the airfield!!! The owner of the glider is nearly blind so he cannot help fly the glider.

NATIONAL GLIDING COMPETITIONS

Day One

- weather hot - 28 degrees maximum
- difficult conditions due to moisture on the ground (3 out landings)



- 3 hour task set by organisers
- Chad came home on time but was not happy with his flight
- **he came 4th out of 8**
- gliders have 4 bitumen strips to choose from when landing but retrieve vehicles are not allowed to cross over runways so it can take a long time to drive around the airport to get to a glider that has landed



It can get very busy when 53 gliders are trying to land all around the same time. There are a bevy of people whose job it is to make sure everything goes smoothly.

There is always something that needs attention

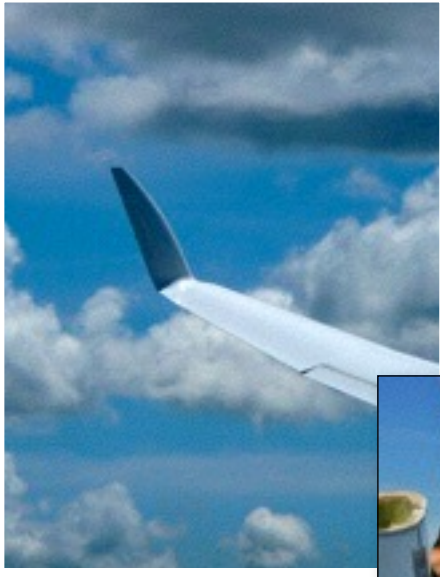
Because Chad's glider is very large and Griffio (the owner) is almost blind, the ground crew is always busy with many tasks. Before taking off the two pilots have to be protected from the hot sun with umbrellas and the wings need to be steadied because they are full of water which sloshes around. But everything seems to go like clockwork because the ground crew is organised and efficient :-)



NATIONAL GLIDING COMPETITIONS

Day Two

- good weather with 28 degrees
- **Chad came 4th from 8**
- Chad was happy with his flight but knows there is room for improvement
- **his average speed was 119mph**



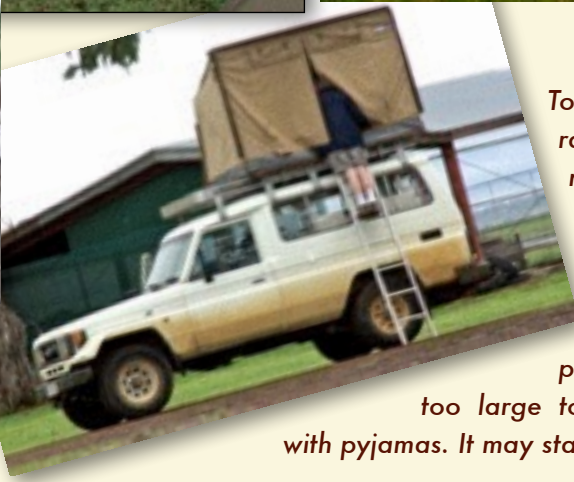
Rebuilding the glider

After any outlanding (there have been 6 so far) the wings of the glider have to be reattached. Chad's Certificate 11 maintenance skills come in handy. Pilots are keen for someone like Chad to double check and make sure everything is safe.

NATIONAL GLIDING COMPETITIONS

Day Three & Four

- rain rain and more rain
- **no flying for at the least 3 days**
- pilots are frustrated, ground crew are relaxed watching TV and reading books
- **the competition may be over**



Glider pyjamas

To protect the glider from rain (and possible hail) it needs to be stored inside a hanger, or broken up and put inside a trailer or, if it can't be moved, it needs to have pyjamas. Chad's glider is too large to do anything but cover with pyjamas. It may stay here for a long time.

NATIONAL GLIDING COMPETITIONS

Day Eight

- surprise surprise - a flying day after all
- Chad flew the glider on his own without a passenger
- Chad had an excellent flight despite the difficult conditions
- **Chad came 3rd today (3rd overall)**



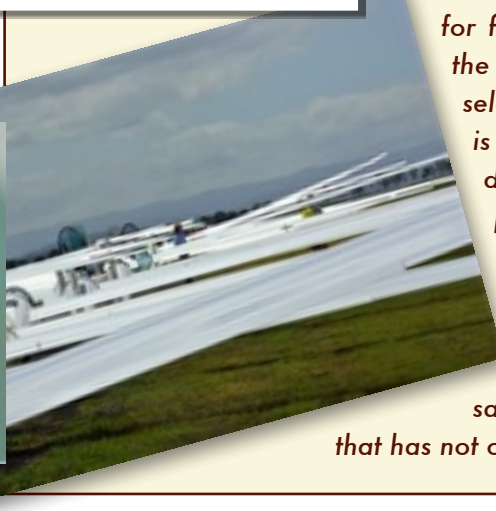
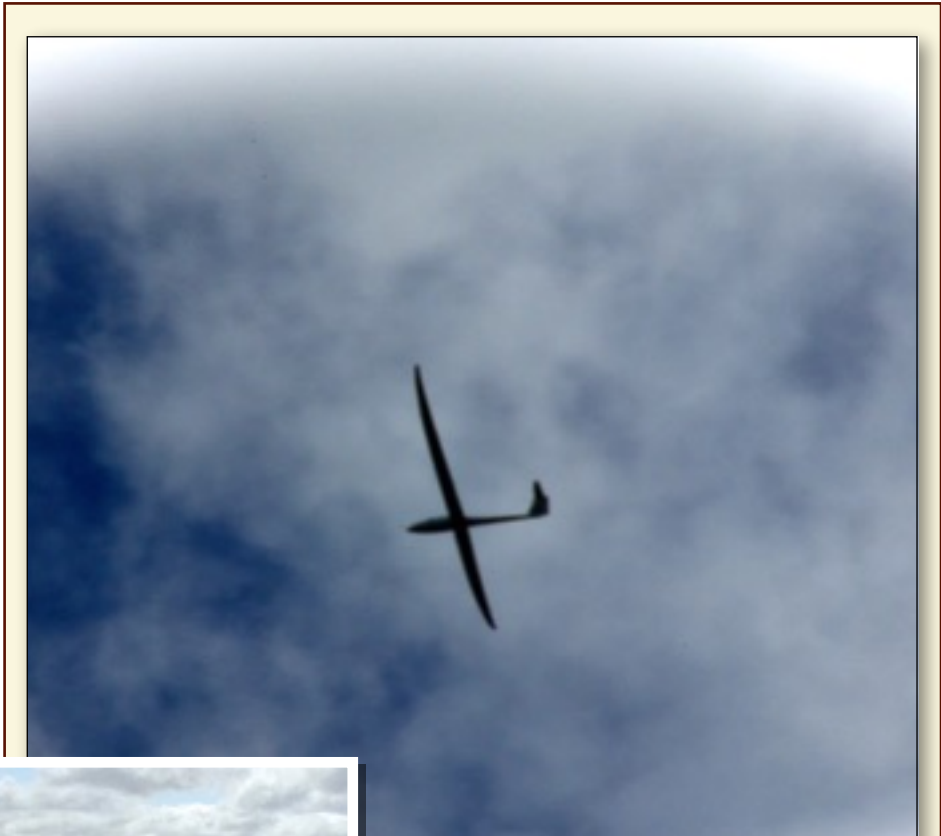
Flying in difficult conditions

Chad coped with immense pressure today. Conditions were very difficult and there was every chance that he would not finish the course. Gliders his size usually have a motor in case there is a problem but Chad does not have this luxury. The glider owner had great confidence in Chad - he flew the glider on his own today.

NATIONAL GLIDING COMPETITIONS

Day Nine

- conditions were difficult again so the organisers made sure that the course was near local airfields today
- Chad enjoyed his flight but was pipped to second place by just 10 points
- **he is still 3rd overall** - one day to go



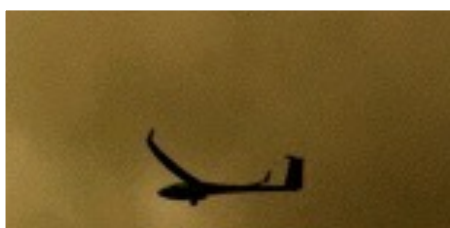
Competition must go ahead

The weather continues to be difficult for flying. Although it has not rained the skies are overcast and the sun seldom pokes through. Because this is The Nationals the organisers are determined that competition takes place even. To improve safety the course has been restricted to flying near local airfields so that if a glider does get into trouble it has a place to land safely. Chad is one of the very few that has not outlanded during this competition.

NATIONAL GLIDING COMPETITIONS

Final Day

- final day flying was very very difficult
- Chad did not enjoy his flight and was lucky to land (Chad has not out landed in any competition)
- **he came 4th on the day**
- **his final position was 4th** - just 9 points behind 3rd and 58 points from 2nd (max 5000). So so close.



Scoring winning points

Chad did win an award - Best Novice Pilot. In his speech he thanked the organisers who had to cope with a very difficult competition, his parents (expert ground crew and general assistance) and his willing mentor "Griffo" who allowed Chad to take charge of his state of the art glider without hesitation. Chad was less than happy (but did not show his displeasure) at the scorer who did not give Chad extra bonus points for coming in on time against the overall second place getter who came in ahead of time with less speed and less distance than Chad. We only found this out after the ceremony. Chad still has the possibility of representing Australia if any of the top three place getters decide not to go to the world championships in USA in 2011. If he is asked to go his mentor said he will cover Chad financially to fly in any class event he chooses. Chad already has a willing ground crew who are keen for him to fulfill his passion.

