

# THE NATIONALS



PILOTS (LIKE CHAD) KNOW THERE IS A PHOTOGRAPHER WAITING TO TAKE THAT SPECIAL PHOTO

## YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN

The weather continues to be oppressively hot with over 40 degrees forecast again for the last two days of the competition. But at least the thermals are not expected to be over 10,000 feet. This suits Chad better. He likes difficult conditions because it tests his skills. Its a blue sky day again today and he is feeling refreshed and ready to compete again. Gone is the lethargy. Gone is the worry about points. He is relaxed and rearing to go. Bring it on!! Chad expects to do well today.

Flying gliders is a very individual sport. You may have all the information you need on paper and in the instruments you have at your disposal before you take off but when it comes to making a crucial decision in the air you are on your own. The pre take-off processes, where information is deciphered, can be very intense. All pilots seek feedback from other pilots on weather forecasts, and alternative strategies for the course. Local knowledge is also sought after. Computers have been introduced into cockpits to assist planning and gain that competitive

advantage. Some pilots would now be lost without these. But ultimately no matter how much information is at your finger tips the final decision is an individual one. A plan may be formulated in a pilot's mind but it's only when up in the air that a pilot can see, hear and feel the conditions to make those all important intuitive decisions - some of which will be disastrous, while others will be talked about for years to come. Making appropriate individual decisions for the conditions is what gliding is all about.



KEEPING A COOL HEAD

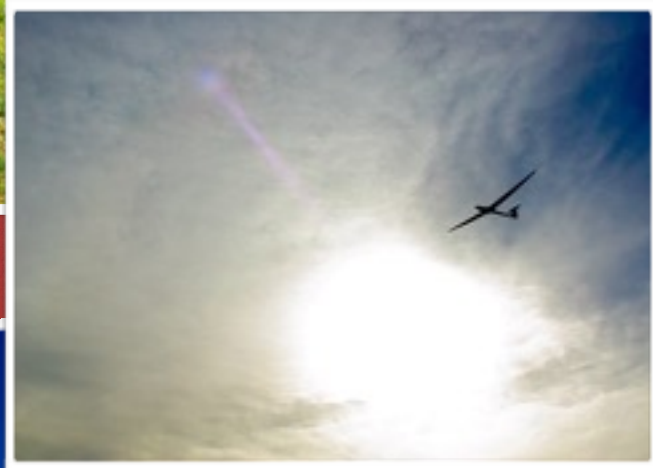
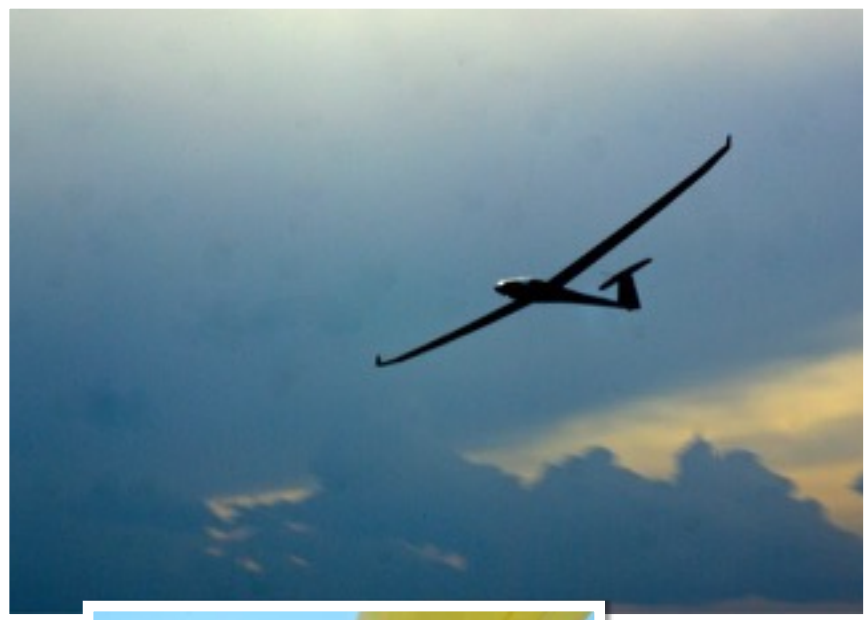


FEATHER DUSTER



LAST MINUTE REPAIRS

# PHOTOS



LAKE KEEPIT IS A NATIONAL PARK - AN OASIS IN A VERY DRY INLAND. THE NEAREST PROVINCIAL TOWNS ARE TAMWORTH AND GUNADAR - 45KMS AWAY IN EITHER DIRECTION. THERE IS ALSO A SMALL TOWN (MANILLA) THAT IS 30KMS FROM LAKE KEEPIT.