



# THE NATIONALS



**TRUE STORY**  
SHIELDING THE CANOPY IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE SOME OPEN CANOPIES ACT AS A MAGNIFYING GLASS AND THAT CAN MELT PLASTIC IN THE COCKPIT.

## A BETTER DAY

All gliders (bar 2) landed at Keepit by the end of Competition Day 3. One of those that landed broke its tail (the bang could be heard all over the airfield). One competitor less. Chad came a disappointing 22nd. Hopefully a better day tomorrow. He is currently in 12th place overall in the Club Class.

After the scare of so many out-landings on Day Two most pilots decided to give themselves lots more height to come home without stress.

The relief of just getting home was evident. Stories about the different tactics used to ensure a safe passage home reverberated all that evening. Everybody was tired and needed an early night to recuperate. Out-landings are stressful for everyone concerned. No-one was keen to have any more "close shaves".

Just as everyone was getting into deep sleep the lightening and thunder started. Within seconds there were masses of people all checking out their

"babies" to see if they are tied down ok and then everyone helped to bring the 6 tugs into one hanger. It will be another early night for everyone tonight (for those that got up at least).

At the morning briefing a local farmer (who played host to many gliders landing in his paddocks) rang to remind the organisers that he had mown the private airstrip where he flies his own plane. He was keen to tell encourage everyone to use his well mown strip.



WINGMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE



TEAM DINGO'S AERIAL



HOMEWARD BOUND

# PHOTOS



PHOTOGRAPHING GLIDERS COMING IN TO LAND IS QUITE DIFFICULT. THEIR THIN PROFILE MEANS THAT YOU CAN BARELY SEE THEM UNTIL THEY ARE AT VERY CLOSE RANGE. SOMETIMES YOU CAN HEAR THEM BEFORE YOU SEE THEM. THEY ALSO MOVE SURPRISINGLY FAST AND THE CAMERA IS CONSTANTLY ADJUSTING ITS FOCUS.

TRYING TO PHOTOGRAPH GLIDERS HIGH IN THE SKY IS IMPOSSIBLE. ITS ONLY WHEN THEY GLINT AGAINST THE SUN DO YOU REALISE THEY ARE THERE. BUT ONCE THE PHOTO IS SNAPPED THE PICTURE IS ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL - A GLIDER IS THE MOST GRACEFUL OF THINGS TO SEE IN THE