

# THE NATIONALS



GLIDER PILOTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARE COMPETING IN THIS COMPETITION INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE DARLING DOWNS SOARING CLUB FROM QUEENSLAND. THEY CALL THEMSELVES "TEAM DINGO" AND THEY ARE FAR LESS BOISTEROUS THAN MEMBERS OF THE KINGAROY CLUB.

## A VERY FAST DAY

Day Five of competition started as a glorious day and ended as an even better day for the majority of the pilots. The weather conditions made for great speed and good time. Chad had a great flight and was very satisfied. He came home only 2 minutes over time and at a cracking speed of 108mph. He came second in his class.

Ground crew people are a very conscientious lot. They tend to have larger than normal arm muscles to hold up umbrellas.

They are also excellent at running around finding things that pilots misplace. They are good at taking flack when things do not go as planned. They wash other people's clothes. They have great radio listening skills. They wait and listen patiently and know when to speak. They can source anything at a moments notice even if they do not know what it is they are sourcing. They always have a spare pen handy. They have mastered the art of giving positive vibes.

It is on out-landings that ground crew come into their own. A whole new set of skills comes into play. Like navigation and driving cross country driving - sometimes in pouring rain and slippery mud. Like remembering to take along all the necessary things that make for a smooth retrieve.

And finally all ground crew must be able to relax and enjoy both the quiet time when the glider is in the air and when a successful day is concluded. Ground crew must be able to deal with bullshit.



MISS SUNSHADE AT WORK



PAIN IN THE ARM



LOOK UP TO THE SKY

# PHOTOS



WATCHING AND WAITING FOR GLIDERS TO COME HOME CAN BE QUITE STRESSFUL. PARTICULARLY IF ONE DOES NOT HAVE A RADIO TO MONITOR THE FLIGHT AND KNOW WHEN A PILOT IS ON HIS APPROACH TO LAND. GROUND CREW WITH HAND HELD RADIOS QUICKLY ATTRACT MANY