

THE NATIONALS



THE SHORE OF THE LAKE IS A GREAT PLACE TO PHOTOGRAPH GLIDERS AS THEY RETURN LOW TO THE AIRFIELD

HOT HOT HOT HOT HOT

Its very hot again - for the competitors and spectators and for ground crews. These conditions are not nice at all.

Chad came 12th yesterday. It was a slow speed day for everyone and there were 3 out-landings. Currently he is in 11th place overall. Today's task is a short 2 hours and everyone is irritable and tired. If Chad does well today he could end up in the top 10. Hot weather is generally good for gliding but continuously oppressive conditions are not pleasant. Everyone is glad today is the last day of competition.

Take pity on the group that makes the decision about when and where to fly on each day of the competition. They have to analyse the weather reports very carefully. A small powered plane is sent up high early in the morning to test the temperature and humidity at various levels. Is it going to be a long or short day? Will the gliders take off early or late? Many of the younger pilots (Chad included), visit the weather sites on the internet the night before they fly. They already know something about the conditions expected the next day. Nobody wants 60 gliders to out-land

because of a poor weather forecast interpretation. Even when the gliders are on the grid ready to go there may be delays. Sitting in a cockpit in the heat waiting to take off can be very debilitating. Pilots have to drink lots of water to stop dehydration. The first gliders are sent up to report back to the organisers on the conditions. Start may be delayed for hours. There may even be a change to Course B or the time may be shortened or even cancelled. Finally the competition starts.



WASHING THE DUSTY WINGS

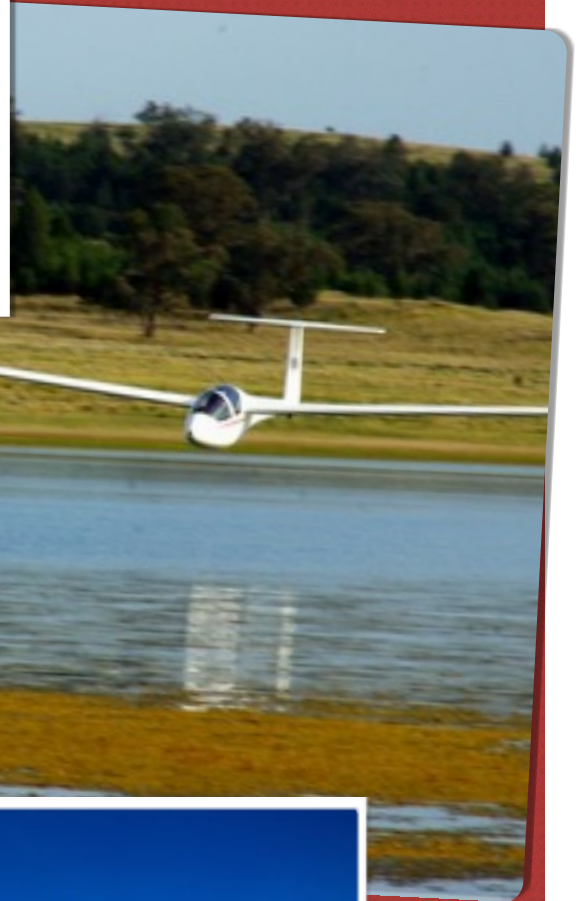


COMRADES WORKING TOGETHER



GETTING TIPS FROM AUSTRALIA'S TOP PILOT

PHOTOS



THE AREA AROUND LAKE KEEPIT IS WELL KNOW FOR ITS GLIDING WEATHER. KEEPIT HAS LESS RAINY DAYS PER YEAR THAN MANY PLACES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. UNFORTUNATELY THESE CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE STRUCK AN UNSEASONAL PATCH OF CONTINUOUSLY