

Ramblers Equinox Rocks Skydiving & Music Festival

Ramblers Drop Zone – Toogoolawah was started by Dave McEvoy thirty two years ago in January 1979. Dave started his professional skydiving instruction at Caloundra in 1971. He then went to a drop zone at Beaudesert, then back to Caloundra Downs and finally to Toogoolawah. Dave said that he was frustrated going to so many places, none of which were permanent. At Toogoolawah Dave purchased two blocks of land where Ramblers is now situated. He liaised with the then Esk Shire Council who helped with his applications etc for a drop zone and at the first meeting of Council (after his application was submitted) it was approved in October 1978. Dave contracted to the Council who built the airstrip. This was the first time Council had built an airstrip! He

liaised with Graham Wyatt who was the engineer at the time. Following this, the main building was moved from Bulimba in Brisbane. The building was shifted in two parts by road transport. Dave was jubilant to be able to start the operation at its current location on the second weekend in January 1979. The Ramblers Parachute Drop Zone was officially opened by Sir Joh Bjelke Petersen on the Queen's Birthday weekend in June 1979. The first air show was held in 1980. In 1982 the South Pacific Championships was held, followed in 1984 by the Parachute World Cup. In 1986, 1987 and 1988 the Drop Zone hosted the National Skydiving Championships. The first Equinox was held in 1994. It was the biggest and most successful skydiving festival of all time. The Equinox is the most popular skydiving festival (boogie) in Australia.

Cats & Dogs must be microchipped before selling or giving away

From 1 July 2009, microchipping of cats and dogs was introduced in the Council districts of South East Queensland, Gladstone and Central Highlands. All other Queensland Local Governments will introduce cat and dog microchipping no later than 12 December 2010.

There are three cases when microchipping your cat or dog is mandatory:

- If your cat or dog is under 12 weeks of age when the microchipping laws are introduced in your local Council area
- If a cat or dog is being sold or given away
- If a dog is a declared regulated dog.

An authorised microchip implanter cannot microchip a cat or dog less than eight weeks old unless at least one of the following is met:

- The implanter has a reasonable excuse
- The implanter is a veterinary surgeon who considers implanting the microchip is not likely to be a serious risk to the health of the cat or dog
- There is a signed veterinary surgeon's certificate for the cat or dog stating that implanting the microchip when it is less than eight weeks old is not likely to be a serious risk to the health of the cat or dog.

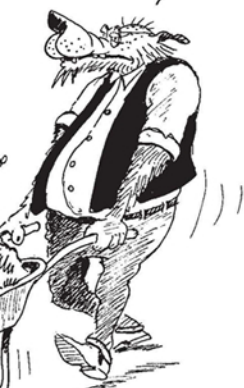
Recently Ramblers received recognition from the Queensland Events Corporation. The last Equinox in 2008 received QEC funding. This triggered support from the Australian Parachute Association and this year that support has continued from both parties. Queensland Events Corporation suggested that Ramblers run more events at the Equinox for the benefit of the local community and region in general. They suggested a music concert to be held at the same time as the boogie. This would be one way to increase exposure to the general public who would other wise not attend skydiving events. Dave thought this was a good idea. His daughter Kylie, who is a musician in the music industry with experience at organising concerts, organized all the performances and bands which will be performing on 16th October at the "Equinox Rocks Extreme Music Festival". All Dave had to do was see to the infrastructure and preparation etc. Dave said, "The SES has been great! If it were not for them this would not be happening. Thanks to the SES and volunteers for helping and especially to Neville and 'his crew' at Toogoolawah."

Come to Ramblers on Saturday 16th October 2010. They will be hosting a huge Rock Concert which is open to ALL to attend. This wonderful week of celebrations at Ramblers is for skydive and sports enthusiasts and music lovers but ultimately it will just be a good time out for everyone. There will be plenty of food vendors, areas where you can chill out and all basic amenities will be available including FREE camping on site. If it is families, or hanging out with your mates, or taking your partner along for a great day out, ALL are WELCOME!!! There will be music, aeroplanes, skydiving and parachuting – all afternoon and into the night!

Come and you will hear and see many great bands. Angry Anderson will be there as well as Dallas Frasca, Legless, The On Fires, L.U.S.T., Robert Carl Blank, Truth Serum, Green Thief, The City Shake Up, Pin That Puppy, Urban Prophetz, Bixby Canyon and Broken Vision. Also see spectacular night jumps. No alcohol will be for sale on site. The concert area is alcohol, glass and smoke free. There will be plenty to tempt your taste buds – Dutch Pancakes, Ice Cream with a Smile, Coffee Trail, Boost Juice, Cooroy Mountain Spring Water, Big Aussie Barbeque and the SES will be conducting a sausage sizzle and will have sandwiches for sale. There will be FREE camping. Come along and have a great time, bring a blanket and a chair, a hat, shade (if coming during the day), mozzie repellent, maybe wet weather gear and a torch. The ambulance, police, SES and security will be in attendance. There is plenty of parking area and also a large camping area. Get your tickets on line at www.equinoxrocks.com for \$49.50 (incl GST) or at the gate for \$65. The gates will open at 11 am with the first band due to rock at 2 pm. BETHERE!!!!

Christine Aitken

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Dave McEvoy owner of Ramblers Drop Zone which he started in 1979