



Learn to Skydive

Information for Beginners

Come and get your knees in the breeze, become a qualified skydiver and enjoy a life full of incredible fun, new friends and freefall. Ramblers have been teaching people how to skydive since 1972 and specialise in skydiving and parachuting instruction and coaching. Ramblers take people with no experience through all levels to become competent and qualified skydivers, competitors, Instructors and even World Champions!

Courses at Toogoolawah Drop Zone

There are three training courses available at Ramblers:

1. **TAF** Tandem Assisted Freefall Course (new to Australia)
2. **AFF** Accelerated Freefall Skydiving Course
3. **SL** Static Line Parachuting Course

The courses are designed for beginners with no experience necessary. All equipment is supplied. All courses give you the knowledge & experience to become a safe, qualified and licensed skydiver, as laid down by the regulations of the Australian Parachute Federation. The biggest fun factor for most is the freefall and the TAF/AFF courses give you plenty of that! Both courses consist of nine skydives (stages) in total, eight of which are freefall jumps from 14,000 feet – that's over one minute of freefall every jump – yahoo!

Both the TAF/AFF courses cover freefall skydiving and parachuting techniques with particular emphasis on freefall sequences, body position, safety, canopy flight, landings and fun! The SL course is a 20 jump parachuting course that builds up to freefall.

Ramblers offer TAF/AFF courses seven days a week at Toogoolawah Drop Zone, courses starting daily. Static Line courses are available on request.

Toogoolawah is skydiver heaven – a **REAL** drop zone with constant skydiving action of ALL varieties. ALL jumps from our turbine aircraft are from **14,000 feet** for maximum freefall time. If you would like to see the real side of skydiving; ie. experienced jumpers doing such jumps as skysurfing, freeflying, canopy formations, big formations, wing suit flying, night jumps and MORE – then Toogoolawah is the **ONLY** drop zone in south-east Queensland that can show you.

Jump Height

Ramblers Drop Zone at Toogoolawah is the only drop zone in south Queensland that offers TAF/AFF Course jumps from 14,000 feet. (Most drop zones only offer jumps from 10,000 feet for around the same price!)

Jumping from 14,000 feet is of huge benefit to you as a learner as you receive much more freefall time (10,000 feet = 35 secs, 14,000ft = 60 secs) to complete your jumps successfully without rushing, much greater value for money and a lot more fun (almost double the freefall – yahoo!)

Ramblers Drop Zone at Toogoolawah is the only drop zone in south Queensland that offers TAF/AFF Course jumps from a large turbine aircraft. (Most drop zones only have small Cessna type planes that seat up to 5 people max.) Jumping from our modern turbine plane gives you a quick ride to height (only 15 mins), more room to move around (safer & easier), a large door to exit from (safer & easier, no climbing out on wing struts), plus seats up to 17 jumpers and has a CD sound system!

Toogoolawah is Australia's premier drop zone because of the first class facilities, the modern turbine aircraft, the quality of Instructors, the modern equipment, the cross-section of people, the social life and the fantastic atmosphere day and night. Established in 1979 Toogoolawah Drop Zone is a purpose-built skydiving institution. It was built by skydivers, for skydivers – regular jumpers and visitors call Toogoolawah a Skydiving Resort!

TOOGOOLAWAH DROP ZONE

Post: PO Box 136, Toogoolawah Qld 4313

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Fax: 07 5423 1722

Email: skydive@ramblers.com.au

ABN: 75 100 848 315



Trading as Ramblers Parachute Centre

ABN: 28 863 145 789

www.ramblers.com.au

COOLUM BEACH DROP ZONE

Post: PO Box 191, Cooloum Beach Qld 4573

Mobile: 0407 996 400

Ph/Fax: 07 5446 1855

Email: coolum@ramblers.com.au

ABN: 79 100 848 333

Go Jump!

The TAF/AFF Jumps Explained

Stage 1 Training & Jump – TAF/AFF

Stage One consists of a full day of theory and practical training, in the classroom, on the ground and in the training harnesses. You will make your Stage 1 jump in the afternoon. After exiting the aircraft you will maintain a stable body position, breathe normally, be aware of your height and surroundings and you will practice deploying your parachute. At 4,500 feet you pull the ripcord to open the main parachute. This Stage 1 jump is a straightforward introduction to skydiving and parachuting with easily achievable goals.

Your Stage 1 jump is made in Tandem (TAF) for advanced training purposes and safety. (Note: when learning to fly & drive you are not alone for your first time, always assisted by an Instructor.) Stage 1 in Tandem is totally different to a normal Tandem skydive/joyride in that YOU perform all the maneuvers and the Instructor goes along for the ride. This is **exceptional hands-on training** as the Instructor is with you at all times throughout the jump – from exit to landing. When you deploy the parachute the Instructor teaches you about your parachute, the functions, how to handle it, flight patterns, wind indicators & directions, drop zone location and orientation and most importantly how to land your parachute. This kind of training is **invaluable** and prepares you for your next jump (Stage 2).

After your jump you will receive a certificate, sticker, student log book, a safety binder with an 'A' Licence manual. Bookings are essential for Stage 1. The Stage 1 Training Course commences every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 9am, other days are available on request.

Stages 2 – 4

Stages 2 onwards can be TAF or AFF, the choice is yours. For TAF courses, these jumps are made in Tandem. For AFF courses, the jumps are made with two instructors who accompany you for the 60 second freefall until you deploy your parachute.

The pre-jump training for these skydives require up to 2 hours each. These jumps focus on FUN plus maintaining a stable body position throughout the entire freefall, altimeter and height awareness, maintaining hover control (falling straight down), changing your body position to achieve forward movement and turns, and parachute deployment. After opening, other goals include the ability to locate the drop zone and directional arrow, canopy control, flight pattern and landing the parachute.

Stages 5 and 6

For both TAF/AFF Courses, these skydives are made with one Instructor and by this stage you are able to hold a stable flying position and you are 'height aware'. You will be released completely by your Instructor – you are flying! Your extra goals for Stage 5 & 6 are, while in freefall, plus achieve 360 degree turns, move forward and dock with your Instructor and have fun! The sequence of turns and docks is repeated as remaining altitude permits.

Stages 7 and 8

Goals for Stages 7 & 8 are to have more fun with a dive exit, back loops, turns and tracks (maximum forward movement). You will also perform slow and fast fall rates and also tracks with intentional turns – yahoo!

By this stage you will have learnt all the basic techniques of freefall skydiving and parachuting and you will have acquired the skills and experience necessary to jump by yourself without Instructors. Also, you will have had over 8 minutes in freefall - Yahoo!

Stage 9

This is your qualifying jump and is performed solo from a lower exit altitude of 4,000 feet to give you the experience of a shorter freefall (maximum 10 seconds) and a sub-terminal velocity parachute opening.

Course Completion

Once you have completed the nine jumps of the TAF/AFF course you will receive a course completion certificate, stickers, a copy of the Australian Skydiver Magazine, an 'A' Licence Manual and 'A' Licence application card. You are then qualified to go solo jumping (or with an Instructor) any time you wish. The TAF /AFF courses with Ramblers are recognised internationally and the best news is that jumps are now a lot cheaper!



Video as a Training Tool

Having your Course jumps videoed is the single most valuable training aid available – for you and your Instructor. The video never lies - it shows exactly what is happening, from aircraft exit to canopy opening and your parachute landing. Instructors can give you the most thorough and accurate briefings of your jumps – as you can see and understand what is happening and they can explain to you why it is happening. By way of video footage and with the assistance of slow motion the good and the bad are revealed, described, understood and progressed upon, making your learning curve higher and faster. Besides, everybody LOVES seeing themselves on video, especially when skydiving! Please note: Course videos are at a discounted price.

Course Packages

1. Introduction Package

3 jump package over 2 days

Complete Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the TAF/AFF Course over a 2 day period (weather permitting). This is an ideal package for people who want to check it out without committing to the full course and for travellers with time and financial restraints. The TAF/AFF courses with Ramblers are recognised worldwide allowing you to continue through the course at other drop zones around the world.

'Introduction' Package includes three TAF/AFF Course jumps plus free bunk house accommodation, packing lessons, a Log Book, T-Shirt and membership to the Australian Parachute Federation.

2. Completion Package

Full Course 10 jump package over 5 days

Complete the full nine jumps of the TAF/ AFF course over a 5 day period (weather permitting). This package is ideal for travellers and locals south Queenslanders alike. By completing the course in a short time frame you are creating the best learning environment possible and maximising your skills.

'Completion' Package includes full nine jump TAF/AFF Course plus free bunk house accommodation, packing course, a Log Book and T-Shirt PLUS a bonus jump for free! (Bonus jump includes gear hire and pack).

3. Addiction Package

'A' Licence 20 jump package over 7-10 days

The ultimate skydiving holiday! This is the most mind-blowing adrenaline packed holiday you are ever likely to experience – spend a full week (or longer) skydiving and achieve your 'A' Licence – that's your open licence to skydive! Yahoo!

'Addiction' 20 jump package includes the full nine jumps of the TAF/AFF course PLUS an extra 11 freefall skydives from 14,000 feet. All stages of the course include freefall video. Still photographs will be taken of at least 2 jumps and a CD full of digital video grabs of your jumps will be made for you to take home. All gear hire for the 20 jumps is included plus you will become a member of the Gear Hire Scheme giving you cheap gear hire after the package is completed. Included is membership to the Australian Parachute Federation. You will also receive a 300-jump Log Book, a pair of goggles, a T-Shirt and the latest copy of the Australian Skydiver Magazine. You will also complete your packing course and accreditation, and you will also achieve your 'A' Licence. On-site caravan accommodation is included for the 7 days. This package gives you over \$350 worth of freebies!

Book a Course

Ramblers Drop Zone at Toogoolawah is open 7 days a week, with Courses starting daily. Weekends are the busiest days, so it is best to give 1-2 weeks notice for jumps on these days. If you know what date you would like to jump, even if it is months in advance, be sure to book in early to secure your slot. Ramblers are also able to take last minute bookings depending on vacancies available.

A \$30 deposit per person is required with your booking. Please note that deposits are non-refundable, but are transferable. The balance may be paid on the day by cash, cheque, eftpos or credit card. *Please note that when paying by credit card a 2% fee applies.*

To make a booking: Phone, fax, email or book on-line at Ramblers web site.



Frequently Asked Questions

Are there any limitations?

There is a minimum age limit of 16 years, with parent/guardian consent. Also, there is a maximum weight limit of 100 kgs. It is advisable that you be of good general health.

Is it safe?

No but, Ramblers Instructors are among the most experienced in the country, certified by the Australian Parachute Federation. Ramblers student parachute equipment is state of the art and all reserve parachutes are fitted with a 'Cypres' automatic activation device for maximum safety.

Ramblers is the ONLY operation in Queensland which employs a full-time parachute equipment Rigger thus ensuring that you will be jumping with the best maintained parachute equipment available!

When will I jump?

Ramblers Drop Zone at Toogoolawah is open 7 days a week for your jumping convenience. Ramblers have four full time Instructors and video camera flyers on-site. Stage 1 training and jumps are generally held every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday commencing 9am. Other days are available on request. Stage 1 is all-day training with the jump in the afternoon. Stages 2 – 9 involve pre-jump training up to 2 hours for each stage, plus the jump and also post-jump debrief. It is possible to make up to three course jumps in a day, weather and jumping conditions permitting.

How long does the course take to complete?

You can progress through the course as fast or as slow as you wish, however it is preferred and strongly advised that you jump regularly to keep 'current'. Ramblers have a variety of package deals to suit your time and financial requirements. If you wish, you can complete the entire course in 4 days, and even achieve your 'A' Licence in less than 1 week (weather permitting).

Is there accommodation?

There is bunkhouse style accommodation for all jumpers - bring your sleeping bag and pillow. Motel style accommodation is also available. There are also plenty of camping areas (no charge) and powered sites are available for campers and caravans.

What do I wear?

All skydiving equipment including jumpsuit, helmet and goggles is supplied. You may jump in whatever you feel comfortable in ie. jeans and a jumper in winter, shorts and a t-shirt in summer. It is essential that you wear good running shoes – please don't wear the kind of hiking boots with open hooks for the laces.

Can I jump with prescription glasses?

Ramblers have goggles that fit over glasses, and contact lenses are fine. Please ensure that you tell your Instructor if you wear contacts.

About Ramblers

Back in 1966 Bob Morrison was the original Rambler. He trained up Instructor Dave McEvoy in the late 60s. Dave carried the Ramblers torch and founded Ramblers Parachute Centre in 1974. He also founded the first successful parachuting magazine in Australia 'Rambling On', specifically to communicate with the jumpers nationwide.

In 1979 Dave purchased the land at Toogoolawah and built the drop zone from scratch. In the same year Ramblers was the first organisation in the world to use modern sport parachute equipment for student use. In 1982 Ramblers was the first organisation in Queensland to adopt the Accelerated Freefall (AFF) method of student training.

During the 80s Ramblers Drop Zone was the host of two international skydiving competitions, the South Pacific Championships and the World Cup of Canopy Relative Work. In the late 80s the drop zone hosted three consecutive Australian National Skydiving Championships.

In the early 90s Ramblers was the first operation in Australia to use the Tandem Assist Freefall (TAF) method of training students. In 1994 the drop zone hosted the first of many successful international parachuting conventions called the Equinox Boogie. The Equinox Boogie is regarded as Australia's premier international skydiving event.

At the turn of the Century, the new Millennium, the Australian National Skydiving Championships were again hosted at Toogoolawah and were held there for another two consecutive years.

Over the past 30 years, Ramblers has grown to become a family-run organisation. Dave's sister Karen continues her 5,000 jump career as an Instructor; her daughter Deb is a full-time instructor, cameraflyer and coach at Toogoolawah drop zone with 2,000 jumps, while Dave's daughter Susie, also an Instructor of over 1,100 jumps has taken the magazine 'Rambling On' into the next millennium and publishes 'ASM – the Australian Skydiver Magazine' for the National Membership. Dave's nephew Junior is also a full-time cameraflyer who travels around the drop zones in search of work and fun!

Ramblers is the longest running and most experienced skydiving institution in Queensland. To this day Ramblers continues to grow and reach new heights in the Sport and in the Industry. Ramblers is undoubtedly Australia's most progressive parachuting and skydiving organisation – a leader that has set the standard for other drop zones to aspire to.



Directions to the Drop Zone

To Toogoolawah Drop Zone

Street Address: Brisbane Valley Highway, Toogoolawah.

The Drop Zone is located 2kms north of the township.

Phone: 07 5423 1159

From South Brisbane – Follow Ipswich Road (Ipswich Motorway) all the way (not quite to Ipswich) and take the Toowoomba Bypass (Warrego Highway). Follow all the signs to Esk. Take the turnoff on the right hand side of the road after Blacksoil. The sign says Esk, Wivenhoe Dam, South Burnett. You are now on the Brisbane Valley Highway. Follow this highway all the way to the Drop Zone's front door! This highway goes through the towns of Fernvale and Esk. When you get to Toogoolawah, don't turn off, keep going 2kms past the actual township as the Drop Zone is on the highway, on the left hand side. You will see the Ramblers Parachute Drop Zone sign.

From the Gold Coast – Travel north on the Pacific Highway and take the Logan Toll Road on the left. Follow the toll road to the very end, which arrives you on the Ipswich Motorway. Now follow the directions above.

From North Brisbane – Follow the Bruce Highway north and take the Caboolture turnoff. Follow the main road through Caboolture. This road becomes the D'Aguilar Highway. Follow this highway through the towns of Wamuran, Woodford and Kilcoy. About 10 minutes past Kilcoy, take the Toogoolawah/Esk turnoff on the left straight after the Brisbane River bridge. You are now on the Brisbane Valley Highway. The Drop Zone is only 10 minutes along this highway on the right hand side, before the township of Toogoolawah. You will see the Ramblers Parachute Drop Zone sign. If you find yourself at Toogoolawah you have gone 2kms too far, come back.

From the Sunshine Coast – Travel to the Caloundra/Landsborough turnoff on the Bruce Highway and follow the signs to Landsborough. This is the Old Bruce Highway. Go past Landsborough and turn right at the Beerwah turnoff. Go through town and follow the signs to Kilcoy. You will travel up and down the Peachester Range, enjoy the rainforest and the views of the Glasshouse Mountains. When you come to a big T section, turn right to head to Kilcoy. This is the D'Aguilar Highway. About 10 minutes past Kilcoy, take the Toogoolawah/Esk turnoff on the left straight after the Brisbane River bridge. You are now on the Brisbane Valley Highway. The Drop Zone is only 10 minutes along this highway on the right hand side, before the township of Toogoolawah. You will see the Ramblers Parachute Drop Zone sign. If you find yourself at Toogoolawah you have gone 2kms too far, come back.

To Coolum Beach Drop Zone

Street Address: Conference Centre, Coolum Beach Hotel, David Low Way, Coolum Beach.

The Coolum Beach Hotel is located across the road from the Caravan Park.

Phone: 0407 996 400

From Gympie/North – Travel down the Bruce Highway and take the Coolum-Yandina Rd turn-off at Yandina. Follow this road all the way to a roundabout, go straight ahead through the roundabout and this road will take you all the way into Coolum. Turn left at the lights at David Low Way and travel about 1km north through the town.

From Noosa – Travel down the David Low Way. The Coolum Beach Pub is on the right, at the beginning of town.

From Mooloolaba – Get onto the Sunshine Motorway and head north. Follow this motorway for about 10 minutes and take the Coolum Beach turnoff. Go straight ahead through the roundabout and this road will take you all the way into Coolum. Turn left at the lights at David Low Way and travel about 1km north through the town.

From Caloundra – Travel north up the Nicklin Way and this road will turn into the Sunshine Coast Motorway. Follow this motorway for about 10 minutes and take the Coolum Beach turnoff. Go straight ahead through the roundabout and this road will take you all the way into Coolum. Turn left at the lights at David Low Way and travel about 1km north through the town.

From Brisbane/South – Travel north on the Bruce Highway and take the Buderim/Mooloolaba/Sunshine Motorway turnoff. Follow the signs to the Sunshine Motorway and head north. Follow this motorway for about 10 minutes and take the Coolum Beach turnoff. Go straight ahead through the roundabout and this road will take you all the way into Coolum. Turn left at the lights at David Low Way and travel about 1km north through the town.

From Kilcoy/West – Travel east along the D'Aguilar Highway and follow the signs to the Sunshine Coast. Take the Beerwah turnoff on the left and travel up and over the Peachester ranges through the rainforest and enjoy the views of the Glasshouse Mountains. Go through Beerwah and turn left on the Old Bruce Highway and head north. When you come to the Caloundra turnoff, veer left to head north up the Bruce Highway. Now follow the direction from Brisbane.



Map to the Drop Zone

