



SKYDIVE RAMBLERS TOO GOOLAWAH



EQUINOX 2018



SKYDIVING MUSIC FESTIVAL

*Photos by Steve Fitchett,
Archie Jamieson, Sébastien
Chambet & Karen McEvoy*

Another two years have flown by and so has another Equinox. It was a beauty. Apart from the near perfect weather, Kylie's great music, Brendan's fantastic catering, Elad and Ryan's fabulous Day Tapes, Ali's delicious cocktails by the pool and the fun times that were had, the Skydiving was beaut. It was safe, fun, structured and successful. Everybody was happy with the number of jumps, the level of skill developed and the progress they made. The biggest positive was the coaching on hand. The coaches were terrific. I would like to publicly thank them all for the top job they did. Please come back next Equinox.

I had a great team for the event. Along with the coaches I would like to thank my Ramblers Staff; DZSOs, manifest and office girls, ground staff and cleaners, Viv Oakes and other volunteers, and the pilots and refuelers. Thanks everybody.

Finally I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the jumpers who registered, brought jump tickets and happy faces, and made the Nox what it is; a great week of Skydiving for Fun. Thanks for coming along.

Dave McEvoy





How blessed are we at Equinox?!

To have a whole lot of babysitters happy to keep an eye on our excitable little skydiver-to-be was just so fantastic. It meant I could turn off "mummy" and turn on "Susie" for a while, to get my knees in the breeze, blow off a few cobwebs and casually yet thoroughly enjoy 25 totally fun, fun jumps with like-minded, silly and beautiful people. How good is that?!

How yummy are those Banana Crests? How infectious is Germain's energy for hoop and tube jumps? How great are Paul's discounted Star Crests? How many Frenchies are there? How fun-loving are the Mackay characters? How magic are those moonrise/sunset jumps? How brilliant are the Meteor Men night jumps? How insane are the Wingsuiters going off? How much lead is on the XRW pilot? How cool, calm and collected is Mason? How fantastic is Freeflying with your father?! How good are the pack jobs? How beautiful are the jumpships? How hilarious are Byrnsey's skits? How entertaining are Elad & Ryan's day tapes? How surprising are Ben's acting skills? How delicious is Brendan's food? How well re-stocked is the Club's bar? How atmospheric is live music day and night? How awesome is a music and skydiving festival combined? How good are week long boogies? How good does it feel to be current?! How long til next Nox?

Susie McLachlan



EQUINOX

The Festival of Equinox 2018

It was a feeling that almost can't be described, like the blue of the sky. We see it's blue but look a little deeper... What skydiving does to the inner part of ourselves – that's the look to try and capture... a moment, a colour, a sound... the breeze, the laughter, the knowledge... the joy of strolling through those intense eight days and nights... the shared joy of making memories. Equinox 2018 reminded me of the lyrics from that old song "Dreams" by Grace Slick... O I believe in magic and I believe in dreams... Thanks for the memories Skydivers.

Karen McEvoy

Equinox is one of the must go to boogies on the Aussie calendar and 2018 certainly didn't fail to please. So good to catch up with old friends, make new ones but most of all to see everyone living their own skydiving story. My favourite is always watching the progression of the newer jumpers through AFF, B-Rel's and Star Crests. Congratulations to you all and a huge thanks to all the experienced jumpers on our Star Crest jumps for giving back to the sport. Massive thanks to Macca for inviting me and the rest of the boogie crew for a fantastic time. See you in 2020.

Marco DeBoni





This year, the crew at Skydive Ramblers joined forces with the Good Weather Gods to put on a super fun Equinox 2018. The support for Wingsuiting was massive too, with an almost unheard of four Wingsuit coaches joining the line up. Heaps of people showed up keen to fly. Eight First Flight courses were completed and five Wingsuit Crests signed off. The stoke level was high with Wingsuit Rodeos, mixed Wingsuit Freely Angles, Flocking and XRW cranking. The progression was ace to see and we had an epic week hanging out with old friends and heaps of new faces too. Thanks heaps!

Scotty & Woody's School of Wingsuit



Another great year at Nox. This year we saw a lot more Wingsuiters attending than previously. Made me a bit jealous being a new convert, but with plenty of Freeflyers around we had some great jumps, and in the end, with the heat and good crew, the jealousy definitely disappeared. There was plenty of socks being rocked off at Nox this year as well, with one of my greatest memories of the event being the mosh pit we had going one night at the main stage to a metal band. We just didn't want them to stop playing, was awesome. I think we tired the band out in the end after all the encores we made them play. Plenty of excellent entertainment and giveaways as always. Looking forward to the next one.

Mason Corby



Photo Shoot Raffle Winner - HALEI LOPEZ, AFF Student from NT



EQUINOX

DAY TAPES

Elad and Ryan's legendary Day Tapes can be found on this link: <https://vimeo.com/user58815556> or search for channel name: "Skydive Ramblers Toogoolawah"

ACHIEVEMENTS @ PRE-NOX LCC

- Matteo Chiodi - Certificate B
- Harold Davies - Certificate C

ACHIEVEMENTS @ EQUINOX

- Shaun West - Certificate A
- Sung Won Kim - Certificate A
- Simon Yorkston - Certificate A, B & C
- Jason Munster - Certificate B & C
- Jamie Davenport - Certificate C
- Marie Tardy - Certificate C
- Fabio Guardala - Certificate C
- Elise Smith-Bessen - Certificate C
- Ryan Murphy - Certificate C & Star Crest
- Charmaine Nielsen - Certificate C & Star Crest
- Oliver Morris - Star Crest
- Jay Cook - Star Crest
- Jason Munster - Star Crest
- Nigel Hawtin - Star Crest
- John Hamilton - Star Crest

- David Hodson - Certificate D
- Ian Brooks - Head-Up Freefly Crest
- Marley Nolan-Duncan - Head-Up and Head-Down Freefly Crests

MILESTONES

- Sam Messemer - 100 Jumps
- Fartosc Bonsic - 200th Jump
- Robin Spedding - 300th Jump
- Shelby Jane du Moulin - 400th Jump
- Kevin Boudeau - 500th Jump
- Olli Dixon - 800th Jump
- Cameron White - 1,000th Jump
- Tanguy Barsacq - 2,000th jump

WINGSUIT CRESTS

- Luke Morley
- Danny Andersen
- Blake Dickson
- Ben Lucock
- Jason Schloss

FIRST WINGSUIT FLIGHTS

- Melke Kendall
- Basti Bastozaur
- Bart Borkowski
- Christine & Trevor Collins - (revals)

FIRST NIGHT JUMP COURSES

- William Todd
- Marc Rochecouste
- Bianca Wilson
- Fabrice Bernardi
- Ashley Robinson
- Ryan Murphy
- Oliver Morris
- Joseph Larkin
- Kevin Vassilev
- Guilherme Magalhaes
- Andrew Fraser-Scott
- Fabio Guardala
- Nigel Hawtin

Dave and I were on a road trip through northern NSW following the APF Conference this year when Dave asked if Marco and I would do the Star Crest loads for Equinox again. Marco as video and I as coach worked well as a team last time. Generous grants were gained from NQPC and SQPC to subsidise the jumps of experienced SCR holders by \$15 per jump, to encourage their participation to put together a stable base for the Cresters to target. This plan worked so well that Rob Kendall and I were kept really busy during the rush of participants, Cresters and experienced SCR holders, so much so that Ben's bigways were somewhat reduced for the first couple of days.

The experience level of the cresters varied and it was evident that although having more than 100 jumps many came to the boogie with only minor flat flying experience since gaining their B-Rel qualification. This slowed the progress of those who were flying well and if I were to do this again I'd apply smaller skills development jumps prior to stepping up to a SCR jump. This would allow for better matching of skill levels and not only increase the safety for others on the jumps but give increased competence and confidence to complete the SCR jumps with less pressure to perform and so enhance the learning experience.

Having said that, it was a great week with lots of experience gained by a lot of jumpers. There was a full gambit of fun, elation, frustration, achievement, carton buying and a couple of scary moments. All in the spirit of a great boogie! Dave and his staff couldn't have been more helpful in making this an exceptional boogie. Thanks everyone.

Paul Osborne

THANKS TO THE AWESOME SPONSORS

APF, TSC, SQPC, PA, Cypres2, Cookie, L&B, Sunpath, Intrudair, Aerodyne, Flysight, ASM, Job Connect Recruitment, Deem Flywear, WeArePHNX, Vertical Suits, Corporate & Group Xperiences, LVN, Somerset Regional Council, High Speed Productions, Not For You Films, Fitchimages.com, Australia Zoo, Anaconda & Ego Pharmaceuticals



The On Fires



Sarah "Bear" Apalais



Skye Marsh

SKYSOUNDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Skydiving and music combined perfectly!

Being one of the artists who performs as well as a lover of tandem jumping, and my fifth time as the music co-ordinator of a boogie at Ramblers, I thought I knew what was coming. But this Equinox was surprisingly very different, and I was delighted at the results.

The mega sound system supplied and run by Will (Toddy) set the sweet scene. Having a professional staging in the main area was a big step up in production from previous events and it ROCKED! Production is very important not only for the listeners but for musicians too. This years' version of "Advance Australia Fair" during the Australian Flag jump with myself and Keith Gall was a perfect example... it was an absolute beaut live music and skydiving moment that I will cherish, and a fitting way to open the event.

We had so many great Musicians visit and perform for us, however it was the talent within the skydiving ranks that shined so brightly. DJ Teags kept the cool beats happening on the main stage and in the bar throughout the boogie. His choice of music and groovy socks were rad. Skye Marsh launched her original song and video, "She Jumps to Get High", and revealed not only what a gorgeous voice she has, but also her multi-skills on guitar and drums.

Melbourne Duo, "The On Fires", literally came out of retirement for us, and it was so brilliant and life changing for them that they have since officially decided to make a serious comeback, their tandem jumps invigorating them back to life! Their performance rocked us again eight years later, and won them a stack of new fans.

Another returning artist was Bud from the band "Kill Pill". Bud is an amazing shredder of a guitarist and he put on the most energetic and athletic performance we've ever seen at 'Nox! Together with Eva and Jacquie they created a Monday night punk rock riot Toogoolawah won't forget in a hurry!

Poolside was an afternoon phenomenon that got busier and busier, with some choice acoustic artists and yummy cocktails. Myself and Skye, Troy Troutman, (who was so good we invited him back for a spot on the Main Stage the following night) and on Friday the missing member of The Amanda Emblem Experiment, Brother Brutus arrived too and he did some poolside tunes with drummer Taco. The quirky Pepper Jane arrived Tuesday and stayed on for the Jam Night in the Bar, which was the start of something very special. After a little encouragement, local instructor Ollie Dixon joined in with myself and Taco, and by the end of

the night it was exclusively Skydivers on stage with a mighty jam happening - French guy joined on bass, other dude on drums and finally joined by Mason on didge. It was Mason's first ever performance in front of an audience, he then went on to win the Talent Competition on Thursday night, scoring himself two free tickets to The 2019 Mitchell Creek Rock'n'Blues Fest as well as free jumps, not that he needs more free jumps, so he donated them on to other Talent Questers.

The Bertie Page Clinic returned with her "after hours" Rock Burlesque Show, delighting everyone with her provocative glowing outfits and antics. Thursday night it was Doof night. DJ Teags and Robin pushed some mad beats out with some skydivers lending a hand on the decks. Talent night was the biggest surprise, it was really something special thanks to Robbie McMillan, Ryan Murphy and Claude Gillard to name just a few. A video of the highlights are on the Skysounds Facebook page.

By Saturday night we were ready to let our hair down. The finale "Nox Rox" started with our own "Bear" on Sunset. She had been hard at work in manifest all throughout the festival and it was her turn to shine. What a great talent. Comedian Gary Bradbury joined her as well on saxophone to finish a great set of experimental guitar looping and percussive atmospheric music providing the perfect atmosphere for what was the last jumps of Nox for many. The night was non-stop live music and lots of fun. "The Amanda Emblem Experiment" performed a stack of original songs that had featured on the Day Tapes throughout the week, and were joined by the "Sax Duo" for a great party dance set. After the final Day Tape the almighty "Riff Raiders" from Melbourne rocked the main stage. They were on a massive high after doing their first ever tandem jumps that afternoon and it showed in the intensity of their rocking performance. They are still raving about it now! When the main stage finally shut down the party continued all night with DJ Teags and his mates playing beats until the wee hours.

This unique festival had so many highlights and was easily the best we've ever had. Never before have Skydivers been so involved in performances, or embraced the live performance with such enthusiasm. I know that even though Nox is over again for two years the music hasn't stopped at Ramblers. The seeds of creativity were well and truly replanted and I'm sure that the talent that exists amongst our crew will continue to blossom.

Thanks everyone for making it so enjoyable.

By Kylie Cowling

(AKA Amanda Emblem and The Secret Sista)



Amanda Emblem



Bud of Kill Pill



TM Wayno & Kylie