



**Wings out West**

## Preliminary Information Package

Thanks for your interest for the **Wings out West 2020** Paragliding competition. **Wings out West 2020** is Australia's only ground tow paragliding competition, and one which challenges pilots to fly the central NSW flatlands. After the success of the 2019 competition, the 2020 event is shaping up to eclipse that success.

You will be among a select 35 pilots who will compete for flatland glory from 11 - 15 March 2020. Read on for further information.



### The Competition

**Wings out West 2020** is a HGFA sanctioned Category B competition specifically for EN A, B and C class paragliders only. If you are a serious competition pilot, flying a high end or competition wing, then you will need to step down, but you will potentially earn points for your national ranking. If you are more a recreational pilot, who just enjoys XC flying, then you won't be competing against competition rockets. Prizes will be awarded for Fun, Sports and Serial class wings.

**Wings out West 2020** is intended as an entry level competition with very modest navigation tasks in a fun social environment, but it will introduce pilots to the challenges of competition flying. The competition will be run in accordance with HGFA guidelines. Competition tasks will be set by an experienced competition task committee. Task results will interval speedrun with intervals between 5 and 15 minutes. Wings out West will be using Airscore as its official scoring application. You will load your task IGC tracklogs to Airscore and begin immediately to see how the results unfold as other pilots enter their tracklogs.

To be part of **Wings out West 2020**, you will need to hold at least a PG2 certification and your ground tow endorsement. International Pilots can obtain a visiting pilot membership at <https://www.hgfa.asn.au/>.



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International pilots are required to hold an HGFA Paragliding Ground Tow Endorsement or equivalent international qualification. Where international pilots do not hold a tow endorsement from their home association they may undergo a check-flight with an appropriately rated HGFA representative at WoW, who will issue a HGFA Tow endorsement to the visiting pilot, if they demonstrate the appropriate skill level. If not, they will have to undergo full HGFA Tow endorsement training before they can participate in **Wings out West 2020**.

While the carriage and use of a VHF radio is highly recommended when you fly XC, the competition organisers will set the competition task so as to avoid the vicinity of non-towered airfields. As always VFR apply and the carriage of UHF radio is mandatory. **SPOT/Delorme or other similar GPS tracking devices are mandatory** and are to be used in tracking mode during the competition tasks. To ensure the WoW organisers know where you are at all times, your SPOT/Delorme must be registered on the Highcloud database.

If you haven't had much ground tow experience, don't be put off – there is an official practice day scheduled for the first day 11 March 2020.

**Wings out West 2020** is a great chance to ease yourself into the paragliding competitions or if you are a competition hound, a chance to hone your flatland flying. There will be a mixture of pilots with a lot and a little competition and flatland experience and so it will be a great learning environment. We will have the support of some of Australia's finest comp pilots to act as flying mentors, windtechs and support for all manner of competition assistance.

### **The Location**

**Wings out West 2020** will be based in the central west town of **Trundle**. Trundle is located 48 km NW of Parkes, 58 km NNW of Forbes and 52 kms NE of Condobolin. It is literally in the centre of NSW and the epi-centre of flatland flying. Trundle is a typical outback NSW country town, servicing the surrounding crop and livestock enterprise, and has all the services that are needed for a successful competition and a fun time. Trundle is famous for its annual ABBA festival where 6000 people converge on the town for a weekend of ABBA madness. The town has an active Progress Association that is experienced at hosting significant events. They are keen to welcome the **Wings out West 2020** competition and, as is typical of country folks, they are friendly bunch.

Trundle has cafes, hotel, motel, B&Bs, Services Club, fuel stations, swimming pool, golf course, supermarkets, hardware and a number of local attractions, so bring your family for the extended long weekend. Trundle does have other accommodation facilities including the hotel, Services Club motel and two B&Bs but most pilots generally stay in the showground campground at WoW Competition headquarters and this adds to the competition ambience.

### **Competition Headquarters**

The **Wings out West 2020** headquarters is at the Trundle Showground. The showground has powered and non-powered camping facilities as well as a pavilion with kitchen facilities. The Showground will also be the location for the mid- comp country themed dinner and evening meals will be available at comp headquarters for a fee on other nights.



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### **Competition Organisers**

The **Wings out West 2020** competition is run by the Flatlands Towing Club, an incorporated association and flying club affiliated with the HGFA. The Flatlands Towing Club has a membership spread throughout western NSW and is responsible for the development of ground tow launching and flatlands flying in recent years.

The Launch Director for the competition will be Phillip Mansell. Phil is the President of the Flatlands club and the operator of Fly Dubbo <http://www.flydubbo.com/>. Fly Dubbo has been introducing pilots to ground tow launch and NSW Flatlands flying for a number of years through Phil's highly successful Tow Safaris. Phil is also the designer and manufacturer of the latest ground tow technology, in use at a number of Flight Training Facilities throughout Australia. Phil is also an experienced competition pilot and flies an EN C wing.

The Competition Director is John Brassil. John is a keen XC pilot and has flown with Fly Dubbo on a number of occasions. John is the current President of the Sydney Paragliding and Hang Gliding Club, and has also served in the past as the Treasurer of the NSW Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association. John's experience in project management will ensure the smooth operation of the competition.

The task, safety and scoring committee for **Wings out West 2020** will be comprised of experienced PG competition pilots who will bring their experience and knowledge of competitions and flatlands flying to the event.

### **Your Entry Fee**

Your entry fee will be \$350. For this fee you will get;

- Four days of scheduled competition over an extended weekend, with modest navigation tasks set by an experienced task committee. That's less than \$90 per day!
- Access to prepared ground tow launch strips to cater for all wind directions and your first tow on each task. If you bomb out within 5 kms of the competition start you will be retrieved at no charge from the nearest road and have the opportunity to re-launch. You can compete in the task provided your re-launch is still within the launch window.
- The competition will be limited to 35 pilots and so gaggles are unlikely to be crowded.
- Experienced flatland ground towing Launch Director and crew and safety committee. The competition will run four tow vehicles from three adjacent tow pads to maximise the number of pilots that can be launched during the launch window.
- Wind/Thermal test pilots at the commencement of each day. Flying mentors to help you navigate around the task and help find those thermals.
- Access to a fully automated scoring system to allow you to enter your track log (Airscore).
- Organised retrieves along the task route for a small additional fee.
- An official ground tow practice day with tows at a modest additional fee.
- A mid-comp dinner/ bush dance fully catered, BYO drink.
- Free wifi in and around the competition headquarters.



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You will be responsible for the following additional costs;

- Accommodation and meals for the duration of your stay except on the night of the mid-comp dinner dance which will be fully catered. The nightly fee for camping is \$10 non-powered, \$15 powered. Other accommodation options are available in Trundle.
- We encourage you to join in the ground tow practice day. Each tow will be at a very reasonable rate.
- You may choose or find yourself requiring re-launch on competition days. After your first free tow, each additional tow will be at a very reasonable rate.
- The competition organisers will provide a retrieve service along a selected route following the task for a small fee. You can, if you prefer, arrange your own retrieves which may provide you with a more extensive retrieve option. During the 2018 WoW competition all pilots used the competition retrieve service and found it to be very efficient.

### **Registration**

To confirm your spot among only 30 pilots for the **Wings out West 2020** competition, complete the registration on Airtribune and remit by direct debit your competition fee to;

**Wings out West**  
BSB: 062-208  
A/c #: 10251260  
Swift Code: (for International entrants) CTBAAU2S

On the receipt of your registration and entry fee you will be confirmed as an entrant to the **Wings out West 2020** competition. The comprehensive **Wings out West 2020** Competition Handbook with more details regarding the competition will be published closer to the event.

### **Enquiries**

If you have any questions please send an email, text or call;

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**Be part of something special, join us at Wings out West 2020 11-15 March 2020.**



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Note: As with all Paragliding competitions, prevailing weather conditions determine whether a task goes ahead. No refund will be offered for no-fly days.