



Welcome to the first edition of Blue Sky, the newsletter from the Avon Valley Aviation Alliance.

The Avon region is a fantastic place for aviation, with its clear blue skies, open spaces, low air traffic, picturesque surroundings, great weather, and just a short drive from Perth.

The Alliance aims to make the Avon Valley known for its excellent aviation conditions and operators. We look forward to working with you in the future to achieve this. Now, I'd like to introduce our members, and some of the events and projects we have been working on.

Graeme Wishart
President, Avon Valley Aviation Alliance

WINDWARD BALLOONING Floating over the Avon Valley at dawn, in a hot air balloon, has been enjoyed by 2000 people this year. Most ballooning visitors stay overnight in the Valley, to prepare for the early morning lift off! Flights run daily from April to late November in Northam, and include a champagne breakfast. Weekend flights \$250 pp Midweek flights \$200 pp Gift Vouchers available www.windwardballooning.com.au Phone 9621 2000



NORTHAM AERO CLUB Take the controls in *your* hands at the Northam Aero Club. With uncrowded skies, friendly staff, and no landing fees this is the relaxed way to learn to fly! Trial Introductory Flight \$55. Gift vouchers available. www.northamaeroclub.com Phone 9622 3248



GLIDING Don't just fly, SOAR! The gliding clubs at Beverley, Cunderdin and Narrogin have great facilities, and operate most weekends in the year. Members come from the Avon region and Perth. Try an Air Experience Flight. Gift vouchers available. www.beverley-soaring.org.au www.glidingwa.com.au www.gfa.org.au/narrogin Phone Beverley 0407 385 361 Cunderdin 0409 683 159 and Narrogin 0407 088 314

SKYDIVE EXPRESS

Every year 18,000 people jump out of a perfectly good plane in York. The multi-award winning Skydive Express offers the best value skydiving in WA, and is also the biggest in WA. On site facilities include a pool, sauna, café and licensed bar. First jumps cost from \$260. Gift vouchers are available. www.skydive.com.au Phone 9444 4199

HANG GLIDING, PARAGLIDING & MICROLIGHTING

These enthusiasts can vary their launch site dependent on weather conditions. Wyalkatchem and York are popular sites. These clubs are keen to create a base in the Avon region, especially air strip facilities for launching. Find out more at www.waparagliding.com & www.hangglide.com.au, or Phone Sky Sports Hang Gliding School 9451 9969, WA Paragliding 9295 2820 and South West Microlighting 9795 9092.



2003 State Skydiving Championships**September 27th - 29th York****(York Jazz Festival Weekend)**

"Skydive Express" has once again, won the right to host the State Skydiving Championships.

Come and view the state's best skydivers in action, battling it out for the gold medal. See firsthand, teams practising their predetermined formations on the ground before boarding the aircraft to 11,000ft for a "35 second" chance to beat their opponents!

Competition promises to be fierce with some thrilling skydiving to be seen. Skydivers would appreciate the support, so feel free to come out for lunch or coffee and get into the competition spirit! For further information, please phone Skydive Express on 9444 4199 or visit the website at www.skydive.com.au

2003 WA State Gliding Championships**3rd January-10th January 2004 Cunderdin**

This years event is hosted by the Gliding Club of WA based at Cunderdin Airfield.

Approximately thirty pilots are expected to compete over the eight day event. Tasks are set daily depending on the weather, and vary from a minimum of 200 kms to a maximum distance of 500 kms. The event is very much like yacht racing with the winner being the fastest pilot around a set task.

Visitors welcome with action beginning at lunch time each day.

State Hang Gliding Championships**21—29th February 2004 Wyalkatchem**

The Western Soarers Club will be hosting the WA State Championships at Wyalkatchem.

The competition brings together the best hang gliding and paragliding pilots from all over Western Australia. Pilots compete daily over a course of between 100 – 200 kms, with height gains of up to 10,000 feet and flying time of up to 6 hours.

For further details and an insight into the exciting world of hang gliding and paragliding visit www.hgfa.asn.au and www.hgfa.asn.au/~wshgc

Beverley Gliding Club

27-28 Sept 2003 York Jazz Festival Beverley Soaring Society will be gliding at York. The public are invited to experience a glider flight by flying with an instructor in one of the club twin seat gliders.

1 October 2003 Look out for the new signs! The Beverley Shire Council has approved the installation of new signs on each of the four main entry routes to Beverley promoting Beverley as a Gliding Centre. The signs have been paid for by the Beverley Soaring Society to be installed by the Shire

1 November 2003 Beverley Soaring Society have a film night for the St Johns Ambulance. Local townspeople are invited to attend this event which will be held in one of the glider hangars.

LOOK UP! What's On in the Avon Valley

September 2003	Skydiving, Gliding, Paragliding, Hang gliding and Microlighting All featuring at YORK during the JAZZ FESTIVAL
November 2003	Beverley Gliding Club 30th Anniversary BEVERLEY
January 2004	State Gliding Championships CUNDERDIN
February 2004	State Hang Gliding Championships WYALKATCHEM
September 2004	Skydiving Championships YORK

AVON VALLEY AVIATION ALLIANCE CONTACTS

		Phone
President	Graeme Wishart (Beverley Soaring Society)	9328 2511
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Committee	Damien Hays (Windward Ballooning)	9622 5490
	Julian McPherson (Hang gliding, Paragliding, Microlighting)	9388 1584
	Rod Carter (Gliding Club of WA, Cunderdin)	9641 7045
	Zanda Cameron (Wheatbelt Development Commission)	9622 7222

Our Next Meeting 6:00 pm 21st October 2003 Perth