



## North East Victorian Hang Gliding Club Inc.

P.O Box 317  
Bright Vic 3741

### Senior Safety Officer's Report, 2009

The year just gone has been a good one for us safety wise with less incidents resulting in injury than for previous years.

Of the incidents that have occurred, the main contributing factor has (as usual) been pilot error.

With advances in equipment for both HG and PG disciplines, it appears as though their relative safety has increased. This could also be due to pilot choice of equipment – the lower-end equipment now provides performance superior to competition equipment of a few years ago – hence the pressure to fly relatively less safe wings has decreased.

This year two Safety Officer clinics were conducted. These were well attended, and the pilots took an active role in how they ran.

The previous year's bushfire season provided a challenge in terms of preventing conflict between our operations and those of the firefighting aircraft. However, lines of communication were easily established with the operations controllers and nothing eventuated that might have cast our sport in a bad light during these tense times. With predictions of a dire season for this summer, the same approaches will be applied as for last season.

Our negotiations to increase our access to airspace in the vicinity of the Albury Tower control zones continue. A draft proposal has been submitted to Canberra that would gain us 1000 extra feet allowable altitude over The Pines, and an extra 2000 feet in the vicinity of Myrtleford Hill/The Pinnacles. All efforts are being made to obtain these concessions prior to the Bogong Cup.

As always, pilots are advised to check the state of repair of their equipment for the start of the flying season.

The start to this season has seen some very good flying weather – but the Spring has been one of the more traditional ones with often bouncy conditions.

A reserve toss night has not been conducted for a few years. The Sky High Paragliding Club has been conducting very well run sessions which have met much of the demand. If there is enough local demand, a session based in Bright might be considered.

I wish all pilots the best for the oncoming season – keep it safe!

Thank you.

Karl Texler  
Senior Safety Officer  
North East Victorian Hang Gliding Club