



## **Paramotoring- A new dimension in free flight.**

### **What Is Paramotoring?**

Paramotoring is the latest development in the range of foot-launched ultralight air sports. It is literally an aeroplane in the boot of the car! A small 2-stroke petrol engine drives a propeller, and the whole unit is strapped to your back as you fly beneath a standard paragliding wing. Not only is it minimum aviation par excellence, it is also the easiest powered aircraft you can learn to fly. Launching and landing on your feet means an all-terrain operation, without the limitations imposed by rough, wet or grazed fields when using a wheeled undercarriage. Once dismantled, the paramotor and paraglider can be transported easily – even taken on a plane to your holiday destination.

Paragliding has developed into a popular aviation sport in the last 13 years. It is an evolution of hang gliding, but without a rigid structure - easier to learn, lighter in weight, but most important of all can be carried in a rucksack. Canopy design over the last few years has seen amazing progress, combining more performance with increased safety. Nowadays a typical paraglider stalls at around 5 mph with a top speed of 25 mph. The glide ratio is between 6:1 and 9:1 (a hang glider = 11:1). Sink rate is typically around 250 feet per minute.

While a standard paraglider needs a hill or mountain to self launch, adding a paramotor unit enables take off to be achieved within a few paces from any suitable flat field. Unlike hill flying, the wind direction is not important and there is no minimum wind speed required. A paramotor is, however, a fair weather machine - flying in strong or gusty winds is not recommended. A paramotor has a fuel duration of up to 3.5 hours, making cross-country or extended local flying a possibility. Landing out near a petrol station can get you back in the air straight away!

The engine can be switched off once airborne to glide gently back down to earth for a slow power-off landing. Alternatively you can use thermal lift to climb to cloud base, or soar in ridge lift in the same way that sailplanes, hang gliders and paragliders can when favourable conditions exist. An electric start allows re-starting of the engine in mid-air, extending the possibilities of this versatile motor-glider.

With the paramotor disconnected, you can use your paraglider wing and harness to fly from hills or mountains, joining the thousands of people who already enjoy this unique sport throughout Australia and around the world.

### **What Are The Legalities Of Flying A Paramotor?**

Paramotor operation in the Australia is overseen by the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia but is in effect unregulated. All aircraft must respect the Australian Air Navigation Orders and international aviation law.

Landowner's permission is required for take off and landing.

Aviation law spells out the rules of how close one may fly to towns, clouds, airports etc., and there are some special rules applying to paramotors, which must be complied with.

## What About Learning To Fly A Paramotor?

Almost anyone can learn to fly a paramotor. However, some degree of fitness and mental agility is required. Although it is easy to fly, it is nonetheless still “aviation”. The pilot’s attitude to safety and airmanship is what ensures an accident free flying career. Remember “there are old pilots and there are bold pilots, but no old bold pilots”! You have to learn to control a paraglider very well before you embark on any paramotoring. Inflation techniques (getting the canopy to come up overhead), launching, turning, controlling flying speed, landing approach, landing, and canopy handling are all skills which need to be mastered.

You have to be familiarised with the powerpack: Assembly, disassembly, starting, throttle control, power cut off, fuel/oil mixing, maintenance, torque and thrust effects, special dangers.

When proficiency has been reached in those two elements, they can be combined to tackle powered flight.

As well as the practical work, you will have to learn some basics in the following subjects: principles of flight, meteorology, aviation law and navigation.

Obviously if you already have an aviation background, your learning curve will be accelerated. Typically, an established paraglider pilot will be able to “upgrade” in a couple of days.

A PPL holder will already have knowledge of some theoretical topics, and his experience and airmanship will accelerate him through the course.

A complete beginner with no aviation background will need upwards of 10 days of tuition with plenty of reading to become proficient at un powered flight. You should then accumulate another 25 hrs of un-powered flying before commencing powered tuition.

## What Qualifications Can I Get?

The HGFA (Hang Gliding Federation of Australia) is the governing body which looks after the interests of the sport in the Australia, ensuring that problems do not arise in training or operation, and thus ensuring that paramotoring remains unregulated.

The HGFA has a pilot rating scheme which allows you to achieve a rating in both paragliding and paramotoring, and also looks after the training and licensing of instructors.

A Power unit with all options including delux harness, electric starting with re charging, four piece cage and power exhaust will cost approximately up to \$8,000 delivered to Canungra . If you wish to purchase your motor from Paragliding Queensland, the cost of your paramotor endorsement can be substantially reduced.

## The “Paragliding Queensland” Paramotor Centre

Paragliding Queensland is one of the Australia's most successful paragliding schools. Established in 1992, the company has always been at the forefront of the sport. We have been selling paramotors since 1995 when we moved to Canungra. An ideal location to teach paragliding and paramotoring.

Over the years, we have accumulated a wealth of experience, and you can be sure that with “Paragliding Queensland” you will be learning with the most experienced instructors in the business. Our training program is designed to help speed the learning process and have you on your way to powered flight as quickly as possible..