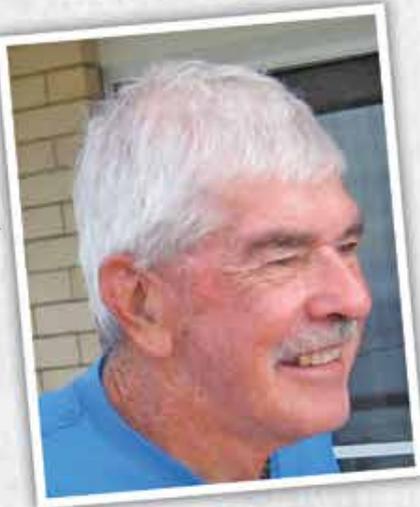


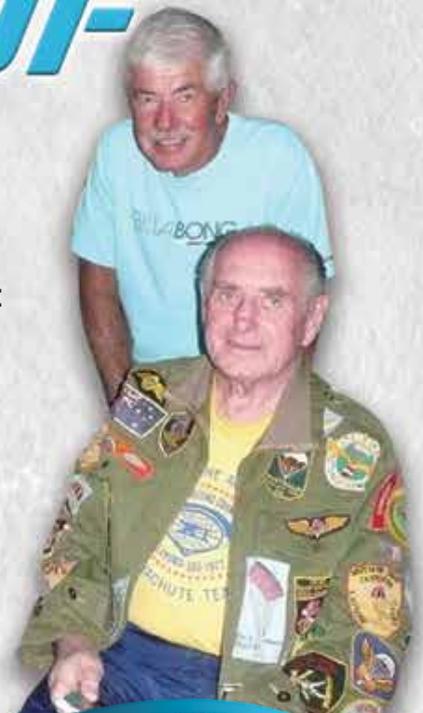
RIP A TALE OF TWO KINGS

BOTH COL KING AND CLAUDE GILLARD WERE MASTERS OF OUR SPORT OF PARACHUTING, AND FOR DIFFERENT ACHIEVEMENTS. IT IS SO SAD BOTH THESE GIANTS OF OUR SPORT HAVE PASSED DURING THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND HAVE THEREBY MISSED OUT ON THE SEND-OFF THEY WOULD HAVE RECEIVED. PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TRAVELLED FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY AND FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO BE PRESENT AT THEIR FAREWELL.

Photo by Allison Raynor



Col was Australia's first World Champion medallist when he scored the perfect score of six dead centres and tied for 1st place at the 1968 World Championships. Col's outstanding achievement at the highest level of international competition was an inspiration for Aussie jumpers nationwide. Col received tributes from across the skydiving world. Pioneer Parachute Company gave him their latest model Para Commander parachute. The APF Board gave him his Master of Sport Parachuting Award, the first recipient. His achievement sparked the fire in Australian competitors and gave them the confidence to not just make it on the Australian Team but to compete to win. And medals flowed. Col was a quiet person, modest and admired.



CLICK TO WATCH CLAUDE'S SERVICE



Claude was Australia's first international superstar. Claude qualified for the Australian Parachute Team twice but family and finances prevented his participation. However when he finally travelled to a World Meet as Head of Delegation, and to international parachute conferences, he was able to showcase Australia's progress through our administrative and instructional successes. Claude guided the APF from its inception and he wrote our first Instructor's Manual. It was for his dedication to the APF, dedication that drove its success, and for his overhauling of our instructional system that Claude was granted his Master of Sport Parachuting Award. Claude wasn't a quiet person, not modest but admired.

When this horrible pandemic is over it would be terrific if the APF could organise a tribute to these two giants of our Sport. Hooray for Col Accuracy King and Claude King of the Air Gillard.

Dave McEvoy

CLICK TO WATCH CLAUDE'S SLIDE SHOWS

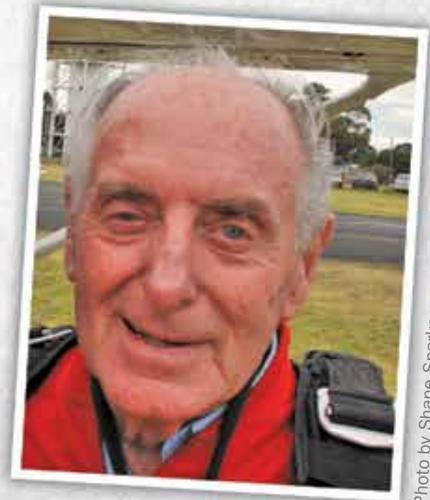


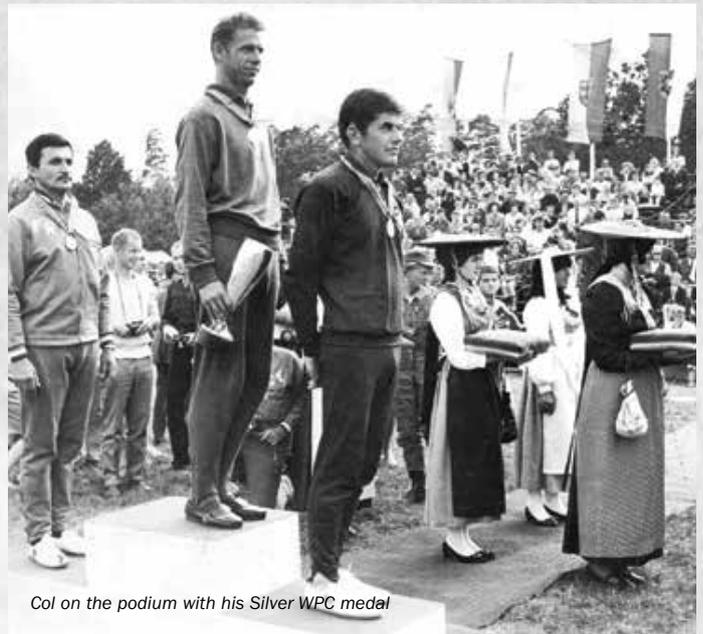
Photo by Shane Sparkes

I met Claude at the Nationals in 1961 in Victoria. Claude was very social and laughed (then) the way he always did since, as we well remember. He hadn't picked up "King of the Air" which made him even more memorable and famous. Certainly one of the original pioneers of the 50s parachuting.

Col, I knew far better because he was in our club (NSPC) right from the start in 1961. Col was the best Relative Worker I flew with while in Australia. He could be trusted to do his obligation to the success of the jump, and to modify immediately when the plan unexpectedly changed. Col became our best and most successful world level jumper winning Australia's first world competition medal. He also was the most worthy first recipient of Australia's Master of Sport award.

Col was always good company with a clever understated sense of wit and humor. He set the standard for honesty and earnest help and support of those coming up through the ranks. He is very much missed by all of us.

Andy Keech



Col on the podium with his Silver WPC medal

CLICK HERE TO READ COL'S ASM PROFILE

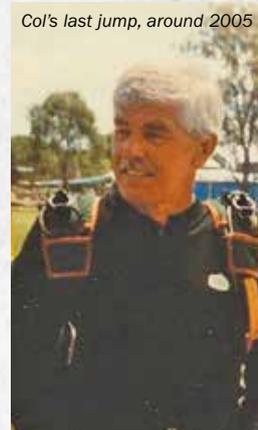


CLICK HERE TO READ CLAUDE'S TWO ASM PROFILES

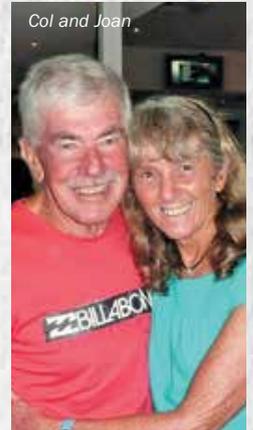
4 of his 6 comp discs



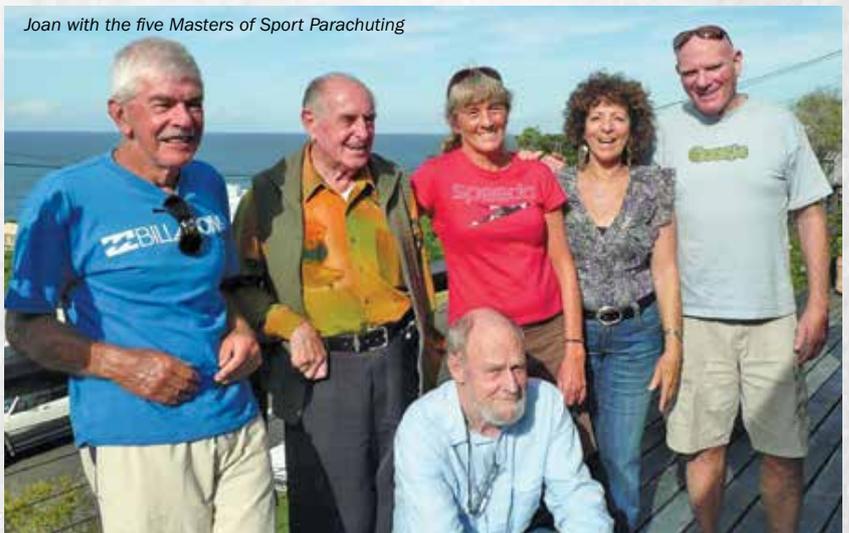
Col's last jump, around 2005



Col and Joan



Joan with the five Masters of Sport Parachuting



Although I had known Claude since I was 18 years old, I think the couple of years that I spent with him after he moved to Toogoolawah revealed more of him than I'd ever known. Claude took his ex-wife's son (Ben) under his wing and then supported Ben's mother Candy when she also arrived in Australia from Thailand. Candy enrolled in a course in Toowoomba. Every Sunday, Claude and Candy came to stay with me in Toowoomba. Candy attended class on the Monday and Claude and I usually spent the day together. I remember fondly, the morning coffee in the sun discussing everything that came to mind. Much of it about his early life.

A great achiever from a humble beginning and a great friend to our sport, RIP Claude. Gillard Of Doveton.

Jim Czerwinski

I have been lucky enough to call both Claude and Col mates.

Claude was my first instructor in 1962 and over the years I think I got to know him pretty well.

He was a great ideas man however some of them needed a bigger budget than was available. But he was always looking for new techniques and ideas or ways to improve our sport. As an administrator is where he really made his mark both nationally and internationally. Today's jumpers are reaping the rewards from his visions for the sport.

As an individual he could keep you captivated for hours with his stories and plans, and was not backward in telling you where to go if you disagreed with him. I can recall some great arguments he had when someone disagreed with him, he would get red in the face and a vein in his right forehead would start pulsating, but a few hours later it was as if nothing had happened and they were both mates again.

He could be inspiring and a pain in the arse at the same time, he was a complex man who has left the sport in a better condition than he found it, and I for one am so glad that our paths have crossed.

One thing is certain anyone who has ever met Claude will have a story to tell about him and that in the long run could be his greatest legacy.

Col and I met on the boat from Australia enroute to the 1964 WPC. I spent a couple of years sharing a flat in London with Col and multiple others, then touring the continent to competitions in the summer.

Col had his first PC in late 1964. We had only just seen them at the WPC and none of us had ever packed one before. So the first pack was an experience. It was done in the flat with the harness in the toilet and the rigging lines around the corner and down the hall, with another left turn into the lounge and the apex tied to the fireplace. As you can imagine on the first jump we all held our breath but it opened no problems and was another first for Col - 1st PC jump in England.

I have not met anyone who has a bad word to say about Col. He was a born team leader who led by example and always put the team first. He never sought the honours that were bestowed upon him but thoroughly deserved them all. He would rather just hang back and be one of the mob than be in the limelight.

In later life Col moved to the Sunshine Coast finally settling down to a quiet life on acreage near Coolumb Beach with his partner Joan, going for an early morning swim most days then coffee with mates.

He was successful in business, developing land which put him in the position that he could afford to get his beloved Jaguar which he cleaned more than he drove. He travelled overseas with Joan in style and visited all the sites he missed when he just went from DZ to DZ on the cheap.

I will miss Col for many reasons but have to thank him for providing me with lots of memories.

Parachuting has been well served by both Claude and Col and I feel privileged to have known them.

Jack Moir

Claude's Records

I first met Claude in 1979 when my partner and I drove from Brisbane to Melbourne to pick up a printing machine. We arrived at Labertouche and stayed at Claude's house in Doveton, before lumbering back with a load of heavy, bulky equipment destined to improve the quality of the skydiving magazine, *Rambling On*.

Rambling On recorded, "As you have probably noticed, the last issue was our first on the new offset printing machine, and believe me, it does take a bit of getting used to - ink flies everywhere. However, we are improving..."

Claude's donation of the machine not only improved the quality of *Rambling On*, but also reflected his support of information dissemination to skydivers across the country.

Over the years, our paths crossed frequently, especially when my partner, Rick, worked for the APF in Melbourne and Canberra. I would query Claude about the progress of his skydiving website - a venture and conversation that continued for many years.

It was poignant that my last catch up with Claude this year was yet again to discuss his historical skydiving records. I was privy to finally see the vast collection of records that he had amassed over the years. Claude expressed his wish for them to be used for the creation of a website or a book about skydiving history; it was still a priority after all these years.

It became more of a mission than ever to ensure that his accumulated knowledge was preserved and protected, so earlier this year, a submission was made to the APF Board. The proposal was that the records be sorted, categorised, digitised and archived, as well made accessible through an online database. The Board approved the project and an *Expression of Interest* will be called shortly for someone to undertake the work. In doing so, Claude's vision of sharing skydiving information with others will be continued, and his vision for a book or website about the history of the APF can finally be fulfilled.

Christine Collins



**1992 World Meet
(Style & Acc) Austr**



**2012 NT Sport Parachuting
50 year Reunion at Batchelor**