



**PETE ALLUM IS THE PETER PAN OF INTERNATIONAL SKYDIVING. HE'S A REAL-LIFE VERSION OF THE FREE-SPIRITED YOUNG BOY WHO CAN FLY; ETERNALLY YOUTHFUL YET OH SO WISE.**

Pete Allum left Neverland recently to spread his fairy dust in Australia. (Pete's home is a medieval village in Spain, straight out of a storybook. And his version of fairy dust is the many priceless grains of knowledge from his lifetime in skydiving.) His first stop here was a week with the 4-Way team, Kinetix, at Picton. Then he came south to Barwon Heads for a glorious weekend of 15-Ways.

The skydiving Pete doesn't play pipes to fairies or ride imaginary goats. But he is a perfect 'betwixt and between' who crosses several different disciplines in skydiving. He's logged 34,000+ jumps, has countless tunnel hours and has been competing for 35 years at WORLD meets. As his legend grows, his canopies get smaller, surprising the cool kids at the DZ with his 75ft canopy.

It's because of Pete's amazingly broad talents that he's the coach of choice for Kinetix, the new Australian Champion 4-Way team. "We have had many coaches over the years

*and, whilst there are a number of very good coaches, we believe he has the most diverse skill set,"* says Stricko.

Pete Allum is also known as the nicest guy in skydiving, with good reason. He has a kind, calm and nurturing approach, which brings out the best in his flying followers. As another Pete, aka 'Irish', said while commentating the UK team on screen at the WPC, "Isn't Pete Allum amazing? Don't you wish he was your Dad!"

The Barwon Heads event, Barwon Bigways 2.1, was two days of 15-Ways, thanks to generous funding support from the APF Fi Fund and the VTPC, which enabled it to happen. (We also had excellent support from the DZ itself, plus a big makeover project from staff and skydivers in our fun jumpers' shed.) The skydives with Pete focussed on unusual slots for people, different fall rate techniques, different floater lines to what we're used to, and really nailing our one second stops between points. We achieved some great





# OF SKYDIVING

By Kelly Brennan

multi-point 15-Ways, even while adjusting to those small differences and subtle challenges that were set on each jump.

The event secured fantastic media coverage in three newspapers and a radio station, but Pete remained humble, quietly doing the dishes in the share house and emptying the rubbish at the DZ. He wore his shiny new Aussie Bigways cap with pride, heading home with a bad case of hat hair.

As the original Peter Pan once said; "Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away, and away means forgetting." His skydiving namesake is certainly not forgotten and he already has plans for two more trips.

Pete Allum's positive vibe is a perfect help for Aussies on a treasure hunt for medals or records.

