

To the Australian parachute federation my name is Kobi mcgregor, I am 9 years old I was born on september the 6th 2010. I live in Airlie beach QLD. My dad is the chief instructor of Airlie beach skydivers. My family and me have worked very hard over the last three years to build the drop zone at Bowen. I have been around drop zones for as long as I can remember. For christmas my wish is to go for a skydive with my dad. I have flown with my dad in our skydive plane lots of times and I get so excited when I'm in the plane. At our drop zone I help handing out certificates and videos. I have seen people be nervous and scared, I know that skydiving can be dangerous but I feel safe to skydive with my dad.  
 thanks for reading my letter  
 from Kobi mcgregor

H. I am writing to see if i could do a spt dive with my dad. - I come to the drop zone with my dad and watch with him jump we motor bike ride together and go flying. I went to jump with my dad for my birthday  
 Linke ln  
 mc Gregor  
 25/5/16



# THE MCGR

**JASON MCGREGOR / CHIEF INSTRUCTOR & CHIEF PILOT OF AIRLIE BEACH SKYDIVERS, QLD  
 AGED 35 YEARS, BORN IN KIAMA, NSW / RAISED IN A SURFING TOWN SHELLHARBOUR, NSW  
 OTHER HOBBIES INCLUDE SURFING, FOOTBALL & MOTOCROSS.**

I started skydiving in 2007. My brother wanted to follow Dad's passion for skydiving, Dad completed four Stages of AFF in 1991 with Steve Whalan and Phil Onis, so he booked us into an Outback Solo Skydive Course with Poo Smith from Skydive Oz. Not realising what I was signing up for, I was glad that my brother lost scissors-paper-rock to jump first. We had Poo Smith and Robbie McMillan as our AFF instructors and we completed the course in a week. I worked hard and jumped whenever I could.

After the completion of my AFF, work found me living in South Australia for a couple of years. Here I found Miffland and started jumping at Langhorne Creek SA, with Greg Smith of SA Skydive. I quickly realised how much effort and all-round ability these small operators took on. I watched everything that these guys did and I put steps in place to one day operate a drop zone. I got my Private Pilot's Licence as I realised it was an important quality within this industry, especially as a small operator.

With around 500 skydives and a Pilot's Licence, it was time to head back to NSW, quit work and skydive my ass off. It was a risky choice at this stage in my life, I now had four children -Maisie, Lincoln, Kobi and Vann.

I began jumping at Picton every day trying to better my skills and knowledge of the sport. After one year of not missing a day jumping at Picton, Phil approached me to become an instructor and work under him. I completed AFF ID and Tandem Endorsements, and worked alongside the Picton crew. Kobi Bokay was very inspiring and I wanted to do exactly what he was achieving. Along with the help of Phil, Cindi and Jonny Mac I had a chance to achieve my goal to become a Chief Instructor of a DZ.

Thankfully, my seniors acknowledged the effort I was applying and a wonderful opportunity arose. Phil asked me if I wanted to step up as an Instructor B and Location Manager of new operation, Airlie Beach Skydivers, in North QLD. I checked out Airlie Beach for a few days to see if it would suit my family and I. A month later I had my family packed and I had Phil's Cessna 182 loaded up with a couple of tandem rigs and harnesses ready to fly eight hours up to Bowen, to start a new DZ with Jonny Goss who was Chief Instructor at the time.

Our DZ is now coming up to four years of successful training operations. There's been some long days, hard work, and a few moves and alterations from gazebos to site sheds and finally setting up a hangar where we now have a very healthy operation.

It has been very rewarding to be part of setting up this skydive centre, to now being the Chief Instructor of the operation. My kids have been part of every step in building up the drop zone, they understand the good, the bad and the ugly of the industry.

Maisie, now 15, has completed five tandem skydives. Lincoln and Kobi have been asking for a very long time, when they can go for a jump. "Well you have to wait a few years until 12," I always replied. After continual nagging, "Dad, can I jump before 12?", we decided to put some thought into the idea. As a family, we spoke about all the nitty gritty stuff and proposed an application for review from the APF Team.

With approval from the technical safety committee, we had a very exciting 2020 new year school holidays ahead of us.



# EGOR Family

Kobi 9 years, Lincoln 11 years and Maisie 15 years all completed a Tandem skydive with their Dad on the 20th of January, 2020 over the beautiful Whitsundays. Unfortunately for Vann he will have to wait a little longer, he is very eager though and already asking the question.

Eldest brother Lincoln put his hand up for the first jump of the day. As we exited the plane Lincoln unfolded his arms into the box skydive position as a natural instinct. We were instantly stable. We shared an awesome freefall surrounded by some nice fluffy clouds. Upon parachute opening Link shouted, "Dad can we go again now". When we landed he said, "I didn't even get that weird feeling in my gut like on a roller coaster, that's all I was nervous about." And, "you feel like your floating, it's so cool".

Kobi's jump was like clockwork, she knows the DZ as her second home as she has grown up around drop zones. On the climb in the aircraft she was asking me a lot of questions about the topography of the land, "Dad, why is that river dry", "there's the island that looks like a kangaroo, why is it called Stone Island? They should call it Kangaroo Island." On exit Kobi presented a perfect arch with a quick look over her shoulder to say, "Dad are you going to tap me for arms out?" With a tap on the shoulder she was in the perfect freefall position having the time of her life. When the canopy opened she said "all my dreams have come true, I got to touch a cloud." When we landed, Kobi went straight back up for her second jump.

To my surprise the kids were very calm throughout the climb in the aircraft, without doubt more confident than I

was on my first tandem at age of 17! I think I was more nervous than the kids. It was a very proud moment as a father and a memory that will stay with our family forever. I am very honoured and grateful to be part of a Club organisation, community and sport that can offer beautiful times like these.

The kids are also very excited and grateful to have experienced a skydive at a very young age. With many more jumps to come, I think it's safe to say, that we will

have another few kids coming through the sport as the years progress.

We would like to thank the APF team and members, for the support and accepting the kid's Minor application. A huge thanks to Phil Onis and Cindi Hemila, for allowing the kids jumps to go ahead, and their continual effort and contribution to the skydive industry. Big thanks to Peter Franklin and all my team at Airlie Beach Skydivers, and my mentors; Phil Onis, Alan Moss, Poo Smith, Greg Smith and Kobi Bokay.

