

Windsock competition

Thank you! We were overwhelmed by the more than 120 entries submitted by readers in our 'spot the dodgy windsock' competition. And judging by the entries, this great continent of ours sports some 'winners'. There were those which were

testament to Aussie ingenuity, many missing in action, and some just downright 'sad'.

It was a hard task for our panel of judges, but on safety impact, they decided the 'best of the worst' after much deliberation.

And the winner of the Citizen Promaster Sky Pilot watch is ...



Schalonne Hendrix

Taken at Cronulla/Wanda Beach helipad on 21 May, at 1332; wind blowing from the south at 20 knots. 'We have been sockless for a while, please help our plight!'

Another reader also captured this, saying, 'I am a helicopter pilot and am astonished that this sock is in this condition considering that it's within the Sydney basin and used frequently by many emergency service and civilian helicopters.'

Wanda Beach helipad will be 'sockless' no more, thanks to Schalonne's winning entry and WSS Aviation.



Runners-up



A

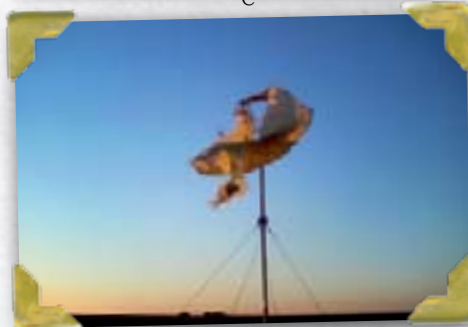


B

Editor's Choice



C



D

Congratulations to these two worthy 'inland' runners-up. Your iPod Nanos are on their way.

A. Jennie Shrimpton (Captain) Salvation Army - Associate Flying Padre. Daly Waters Airstrip, Northern Territory, 20th May 2008, 10:48am (Daly Waters also captured by Alex Hyde.) The judges especially noted the illumination for this windsock, highlighting its inadequacy?

B. Andrew Dunn

Taken 22 July 2008 at 3.38pm - windblown windsock currently 'on duty' at the Jerilderie Airport experiencing a stiff southerly so common lately with

our drought. Strip used by both the Victorian and NSW Air Ambulance Services, neighbouring schools of aviation, visiting politicians, aerial agricultural operators and general aviators.

There were also some readers whose photographs showed great composition and observation, so we decided to recognise these with two additional 'editor's prizes' - each winning an iPod Nano. Congratulations to ...

C. Michael Moir

Taken 12 July 2008, 8.43am at Chillinup, 52 nm north east of Albany airport. The sock provides vital information for flying and agricultural operations.

This morning a deep low-pressure system passed along the south coast of WA with associated winds in excess of 100 kph. We received much-needed rain from this system, following two pretty dry months.

D. Steve Ewen

YRAT Abrolhos Islands off Geraldton, Western Australia, 20 June 2008. 07:13am, QNH 1020, wind 07008kt, temp15°. Steve submitted a series of shots of this windsock, and captured its 'glory' at various times of the day, but we especially liked this one taken in the early morning light.