



CIVL 2018 PLENARY – ANNEXE 36A
NOMINATION BY CIVL
FOR THE HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING DIPLOMA
PAT CROWE (AUSTRALIA)

In the history of modern hang gliding, three men who held the fate of the hang gliding future in their hands: John Dickenson, inventor of the modern hang glider, Rod Fuller, first man to fly it successfully, and Pat Crowe, driver of the boat that towed it. As a team they succeeded; had any of them failed they all would have failed.

Pat Crowe was not only the Grafton Water Ski Club's best boat driver: his time in the Air Cadets gave him a good understanding of aerodynamics. In boat towing, both with the flat kites and with the deltas, the boat driver had far more control of the situation than the pilot.

Rod's first flight was not eventless: the strong wind gradient had to be mastered, the Grafton Bridge got in the way and the boat had to U-turn. During this time, Rod was merely the passenger who was enjoying the flight and following Pat. He had to follow Pat, who had total control at all times. Because of what was learned from the success of this flight, John Dickenson was able to fly later in the day, when he experienced the great little aircraft he had built.

Many flights followed. The tow rope was dropped and the glider free flew. Modern hang gliding was born. The team kept working together until John moved back to Sydney.

The Hang Gliding and Paragliding Diploma was awarded to John in 2007 and to Rod in 2012. We would like to see Pat Crowe get the same recognition for his contribution to the sport we love.