

## Parasailing, Port Stephens

Written by Martin Style

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It was peaceful up there.. or it would had been if my girlfriend wasn't screaming in front of me. We were 80 feet in the air being dragged along by a boat, so I suppose it was an appropriate time for screaming. "Act tough, baby", she said between yells, to which I replied "you're the one that's screaming"! Hmm.. perhaps I was too.

We'd travelled down to Port Stephens for a weekend and Parasailing is something that Mel has always wanted to do. For me, I was still unconvinced, especially on an overcast day with spits of rain. Nevertheless, we were speeding off on a boat with 3 other couples. Soon we were far enough away from shore that leaping overboard and swimming back was not an option. We decided to go first and the crew threw the parasail into the wind as we were strapped into the harness and soon we slowly ascended into the sky.

The boat was soon a speck in the distance and I was contemplating whether or not we would survive if we fell into the water from that height. I tried to convince myself that we would be fine whilst vaguely recalling a "myth-busters" episode that proved the contrary.

Much to our relief, we were soon descending, although we found it odd that we weren't getting any closer to the boat. Then the realization that they were lowering us into the water dawned upon us. As our feet touched the water, that's when we really were screaming but the captain soon pulled the boat into full throttle and we were launched into the air once again. Haha.. very funny.. Captain.

We found the experience exhilarating and would recommend it. The worst part was waiting for everyone else to go as it was freezing on that boat. My advice.. do it on a sunny day and act

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tough, baby!!