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# STAY IN TOUCH THIS WEEK.

## WITH RAINING WOMEN

AND now for the weather on the Sunshine Coast. All today and tomorrow, continuing from Friday, it will be raining women in and around Toogoolawah. The women will be plummeting often in groups of four and eight but at other times in higher concentrations. Conditions are expected to persist until Sunday. In that time more than 100 women – “skysisters” – looking to complete 5000 or more jumps and break “six all-female national and world records including the impressive eight-way wingsuit world record with a 10-way of jumpers in multicoloured webbed ‘wingsuit’ outfits joining in perfect formation”. No, we’ve no idea – but it sounds good. The skysisters supremo, **Susie McLachlan**, has been running the all-female parachuting conventions since 2005 when she realised that only one in seven



of the 3000 registered skydivers in Australia were women. “It’s great for women because they’re not afraid to ask questions and

it’s confidence-building,” she told us, adding that pregnancy is the only excuse she’ll take for a no-show. “In the past five weeks, we’ve had five pregnancies.” The convention, on her dad’s property, is more a niche business than a separatist political statement. Giving tips this year is the celebrated parachutist **Norman Kent**: “A guy once said to me the best way to get more people into the sport is to get more girls, then the guys will come.” A second-generation parachutist, McLachlan said she liked operating from the family property as it was a place where she’d “had a lot of ups and downs”.