



Courier Mail  
Friday 29/04/2011

Page: 25  
Section: General News  
Region: Brisbane, AU  
Circulation: 201687  
Type: Capital City Daily  
Size: 341.98 sq.cms.



**slice**  
slicemedia.com

press clip

# Eight drop in to set record

Philip Hammond

SCREAMS of delight could be heard over Toogoolawah yesterday when a team of skydivers broke the Australian all-female record with an eight-way canopy stack formation.

All week an international mix of daredevil parachutists at the Skysisters Convention, at the Ramblers drop zone, have been clocking up dozens of free falls, including one session in lingerie.

Yesterday's new record replaces a five-woman stack, also set by the Skysisters in 2007.

Jules McConnell, the national champion in canopy formation and silver medallist at the 2010 World Championships, trained the team in 2007 and again this week.

"I've been coaching the girls all week in preparation for this attempt so we're all really pumped about getting it together on the first jump and setting a new Australian record," she said.

"Canopy formations are probably one of the most male-dominated disciplines in skydiving purely because of how physically taxing it is to fly under canopy for that long. It's like doing 10 minutes



**FALL GIRLS:** A week of training paid off when eight female skydivers formed a record canopy over Toogoolawah yesterday as part of the Skysisters Convention. **Pictures: Norman Kent**

of pull-ups at the gym without a break."

McConnell said the women had practised in three and four-way groups and yesterday afternoon's jump was unexpected.

"Some of the girls were leaving tomorrow so we had to go for it. I told them there was no pressure. I thought it might take a couple of jumps but we did it straight off.

"We jumped from 14,000 feet and it took us six minutes to form up. It was complete at 6000 feet and we held it for one minute, to 4000 feet. Next time, I'd like to see them try different

shaped formations: a nine-way diamond or a 12-way box."

Event organiser Susie McLachlan added: "We are so proud of the girls, the drop zone erupted when we saw them holding the formation."

**Courier Mail**  
**Friday 29/04/2011**

Page: 25  
Section: General News  
Region: Brisbane, AU  
Circulation: 201687  
Type: Capital City Daily  
Size: 341.98 sq.cms.



**slice**  
slicemedia.com

press clip



The successful eight skydivers were Jules McConnel of Moruya, NSW; Kat Mettler of West End, Brisbane; Charlotte van den Burg, of Toogoolawah, Queensland; Jill Grantham from South Yarra, Victoria; Amy McDermott of Salter Point, Western Australia; Riss Anderson from Fortitude Valley, Queensland; Tracey Basman of Wahroonga, NSW; and Wendy Smith of New Zealand.