



hydrofoil flip record

QUEENSLANDER GREG GILL RECENTLY EARNED HIMSELF A SPOT IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS FOR COMPLETING THE MOST NUMBER OF INVERTS ON A SIT-DOWN HYDROFOIL IN ONE HOUR.

The 37-year-old plumber and part-time show skier from Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast went upside down a dizzying 589 times in one hour in June, beating the previous record which was set at 529 by USA skier Geno Yauchler.

The record was set on the Maroochy-dore River behind Gill's Malibu Wake-setter. In order to have the record officially recognised, strict Guinness rules had to be followed, including having two timers, two counters, a police officer (acting as a JP), and a full video of the attempt.

The majority of the flips performed were air gainers (basically a straight backflip outside of the boat's wake), but Gill did mix it up to avoid getting dizzy during his 60 minutes of flipping. "I probably did 15 air gainers in a row because that's the fastest flip, but then I'd cross the wake and do a wake gainer or wake back roll. I did get a bit giddy, but it was really a case of mind over matter, and that's why I mixed it up," Gill said. He had been eyeing off the record for

most consecutive flips, as well as most flips in an hour, but was brought unstuck by a collision with a large mullet after flip 505. He still had 18 minutes to go when he fell, so he wasn't too concerned about making the one hour record, despite the disappointment of missing the consecutive record. During the week Gill works as a plumbing foreman, and on Fridays and Saturdays works at Sea World on the Gold Coast, where he gets to ride his Sky Ski. He has spent plenty of time pursuing his passion for skiing since he began almost 20 years ago, traveling and skiing locally and overseas. He started waterskiing in 1990 at

the age of 20 when a cable ski park opened locally at Bli Bli. "After picking up the slalom ski in what I would consider a rather slow pace, I saw one of the local guys perform a superman take off and a tumble turn and was blown away. I had no idea that such tricks were possible. From that day I was committed to one day perform both tricks." In 1999 Gill went to New York and worked at a summer camp for four months. It was here that he purchased his first Sky Ski hydrofoil. He later returned for another trip to the US and also traveled to the UK and then Japan, where he skied at a theme park and honed his skills on the Sky Ski. He has been skiing at Sea World on a casual basis for almost four years. When he's not working at Sea World, Gill still spends a day most weekends on the Maroochy River with my friends and family behind the Malibu. It was during this time that the speed of his inverts increased and the idea of a record attempt came up. "I'd like to thank my family and friends, with special recognition to my father. I'd also like to thank Jake at Sky Ski and Sports Image and also Dirty Dog eyewear. Their support and encouragement made the record attempt a lot easier."

join the footers

THE NATIONAL BAREFOOT ASSOCIATION IS ON A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS RIGHT ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

The association is open to all ages, both male and female, and caters for all type of footers, from beginners to advanced. The club offers a great way to get into the sport, or take it further, while making new friends

and contacts. The club ensures that club days have a fun, social atmosphere, with barbecues and non-stop practice out behind the boat. You can join the club with the aim to compete at tournaments around Australia, including club, state and national levels. The club's coaches will get you footing in no time if you're new to the sport, while the advanced skills techniques will have any competent barefooter taking it to the next level. The club has exclusive access to one of the best barefoot facilities in Australia, the Georges River at Liverpool in Sydney. Now is the time to join the club and dial in some new skills and meet some great people. Both single and family memberships are available. For more information visit www.barefoot.org.au or contact John Beattie on 0408 237 302.