

**OFFSHORE POWERBOAT SERIES GEARS UP FOR
SPECTACULAR GOLD COAST FINALE**

The final round of the Acme Fibreglass Supplies Australian Offshore Powerboat Series hits the Gold Coast this weekend in what promises to be an adrenaline filled, high speed round of offshore action.

With the series already in the bag after last weeks win at Mooloolaba, *Simrad* will be out to enjoy the race and soak up all that they have achieved in 2006.

When Ross Willaton and Luke Durman were teamed to pilot the number 15 *Simrad* boat at the beginning of this year's series, no one would have predicted just how successful the combination would prove to be.

In his debut offshore season, Luke Durman was teamed with experienced offshore racer Ross Willaton, and together the pair have steered home their diesel powered boat, with 1300 horse power per engine, to a Class One Australian Offshore title.

"It is a great feeling to have won the Australian Championship, and we are looking forward to getting out there and enjoying the race on the gold Coast", said Luke Durman.

This year's series has seen some fast and enthralling action, and we can expect the same this weekend for the Gold Coast 100.

Travelling at speeds in excess of 200km/h, offshore racing has to be seen to be believed. The ocean often serves up unpredictable conditions, something that takes plenty of skill to adapt to in an offshore powerboat.

Many local teams will be on show at the Gold Coast this week and all teams will be keen to put on a good show for their home crowd.

The Class Three- four litre field of *Hogs Breath Racing*, *Kwozzy*, and *Ezy Does It* are all local Queensland teams, and although *Hogs Breath* have already sewn up the four litre title this year, all three teams will be out to finish the season on a high.

The Class Three- six litre category is headed by *Red Bellies Racing* after five rounds, and another solid effort at the Gold Coast 100 will ensure that Bruce Sanders and Colin Craven take out the six litre crown for 2006.

Returning to the *Red Bellies* cockpit on the Gold Coast will be team owner Bruce Sanders, who was unable to race at Mooloolaba.

"I'm looking forward to getting back out there this weekend; it was a remarkable achievement by Colin and Andrew last week to win in Mooloolaba", said Bruce Sanders.

The series title may be out of reach for the local *Red Australia* team; however Steve King and Jason Ryder will be giving their all in front of a home crowd this weekend in the Class Three-six litre category.

Racing will kick off at midday on Sunday 9 July, with best spectator viewing points found at Main Beach or Karrawa Surf Clubs.

Testing and practice will take place between 3:30pm and 4:30pm on Saturday 8 July.

All boats will be on display throughout the duration of the weekend in the pit areas at the Southport Yacht Club, Macarthur Parade, Southport.

All spectators are encouraged to come along and get an up close view of these impressive offshore race boats.

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