

RACERS GEAR UP FOR NEWCASTLE ROUND
AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE POWERBOAT SERIES

Offshore powerboat racers are making their final preparations today as they gear up for the all important third round of the ACME Fibreglass Supplies Australian Offshore Powerboat Series, scheduled to kick off at midday in Newcastle on Sunday 7 May.

All teams have now arrived in Newcastle creating great interest among locals who are keen to get a glimpse of these amazing machines before they hit the water for racing tomorrow.

"We have always had a good following and support from the Newcastle community, and its great to see so many people down here today taking a look at the boats and talking to competitors," said Race Director Russell Embleton.

"The opening two rounds in Victoria were staged in perfect conditions, and Newcastle has produced some brilliant weather today, so with a bit of luck we will have the sun shining again tomorrow for the spectators."

The Newcastle Challenge sees the entry of two new teams to the series for 2006, with Red Australia and the Ezy Does It crew coming on board for round three.

"We can't wait to hit the water tomorrow, the weather is great and everything is set for a great days racing," said Graeme Fraser of the Ezy Does It team.

Tomorrow's race will also feature the father-son combination of Bill and Tom Barry-Cotter, racing for the first time together in the Maritimo AUS1 boat.

It will be Tom's first ever race at an offshore event after turning eighteen late in March and he will sit next to his father while making his debut.

"Its great to be along side Tom in his first race, I'm going to control the throttles and Tom will sit in the driver's seat," said Bill Barry-Cotter.

All offshore boats will be on display the entire day on Saturday at Lee Wharf with testing to commence at 3:30pm in Newcastle Harbour.

Lee Wharf will be open to all spectators to get an up-close and personal glimpse of the powerful offshore race boats.

This years Class One field is the biggest assembled in Australia for many years, comprising five entries, all of which are valued at one million dollars or more.

The stage is set for a fantastic spectacle tomorrow, and all fifteen teams will be out in force to put on a great show for the Newcastle crowd.

Boats will reach impressive speeds of more than 200km/h when they take to the waters tomorrow, in what is a fantastic spectacle for all involved.

ACME Fibreglass Supplies are the proud sponsors of the Australian Offshore Powerboat Series, with great support from Nautilus Marine Insurance Agency and Australian Futures Trading.

The Series also happily announces the addition of new sponsor Walker Corporation.

Saturday May 6

What: Testing & Practice

Where: Newcastle Harbour- Best viewing from Queens Wharf in Newcastle

Time: 3.30- 4.30pm

Sunday May 7

What: Newcastle Challenge Offshore Powerboat race

Where: Newcastle Harbour

Time: Racing from 12.00pm- Best viewing from Queens Wharf in Newcastle