

**AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE POWERBOAT SERIES**  
**SET TO MAKE A SPLASH IN SYDNEY!**

The ACME Fibreglass Supplies Australian Offshore Powerboat Series is set to make a splash as it heads to Sydney this weekend for Round Four at Botany Bay.

Newcastle was a huge success among the local Newcastle community last week with spectators lining the shores to catch the roaring sounds of the powerboats, as they battled it out for line honours on Sunday.

ACME Racing will be notably absent from round four action after flipping their Class One boat in spectacular fashion while travelling at 150 km/h at Newcastle. All other teams are backing up for the second week running to put on a show for the Sydney faithful.

Maritimo's AUS1 pairing of Bill and Tom Barry-Cotter secured their first victory for 2006 in Newcastle, in what was Tom's debut race.

The eighteen year old braved tough conditions and impressed on lookers taking out Round Three honours in his first ever race.

Tom has had a huge involvement with Offshore racing since he was a young child as his father Bill has been racing at offshore events for many years and is the current Australian Class One Champion.

Red Bellies Racing had an impressive race in front of a home crowd at Newcastle, and are looking to consolidate on their round three win after a slow start to the season in the Class Three-six litre field.

Two brand new Mercury engines would have given the Red Bellies team of Bruce Sanders and Colin Craven a fair bit of confidence going into the Newcastle race, and Bruce is chasing further performance from the boat in Sydney.

"There are still some things we can do to entice more speed out of the boat and we only took it to 6100rpm during the Newcastle race and its capable of 6700rpm."

"We weren't running the performance fuel we will use in Sydney and the boat was still being run in with the new engines.

"The conditions were so rough in Newcastle that we have had to make some minor repairs to the underneath of our boat where it has cracked from hitting the water so hard."

Hogs Breath has dominated the Class Three- four litre field this year, setting a fast pace that rivals have been unable to match at this stage.

Throttleman Paul Fowlds really enjoyed Newcastle and is looking forward to Sydney in the hope it will dish up a similar set of racing conditions.

“The Newcastle course was quite tricky and the wind was a real factor out there, but that’s what offshore racing is all about!” said Paul Fowlds.

“From my point of view the rough conditions tend to make the throttleman work a little bit harder, so it was fantastic on the weekend.

“The adrenaline was really pumping and Gibbsy and I had a ball out there, it’s what offshore racers really look forward to.”

Round four action will kick off at midday on Sunday 14 May, with the Botany Bay Classic to be staged in Sydney.

Best viewing points for Sunday’s action will be along the Brighton Le Sands beachfront, with the mouth of the Georges river a great place for locals to view from spectator boats.

St. George Motor Boat Club will be the home of the offshore race teams on Saturday 13 May, and all participating vessels will be on display for public viewing during the day.

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.

For Further Information contact:

Garry Nash  
Communications Manager  
AOPC

(03) 9596 9011  
0412 814 183