

**STAGE SET FOR POWERFUL OFFSHORE  
ACTION AT BOTANY BAY**

The stage is set for a powerful display of offshore racing when teams take to the waters of Botany Bay for tomorrow's round four action of the ACME Fibreglass Supplies Australian Offshore Powerboat Series tomorrow at midday.

A huge crowd turned out for round three of this year's series last week in Newcastle, and the same is expected when Botany Bay plays host to these impressive offshore racing vessels tomorrow.

Capable of reaching speeds exceeding 200km/h, the offshore boats come with a price tag of anywhere between \$50 000 all the way to \$1 million, depending on what class you wish to race in.

Offshore racing dishes up a variety of unpredictable elements that can have an overwhelming bearing on the results on race day, as the Newcastle crowd witnessed last week in winds of up to 30 knots.

The ACME racing team flipped their boat on lap three of the Newcastle Challenge, resulting in the temporary stoppage of race proceedings until teams again braved the rough and windy conditions for a second race.

Smorgon Steel managed their first finish of the season last week in Newcastle, and are hoping to go one better with a podium finish this week in Sydney.

"We have made a few changes to the boat again this week, and hope to go one better and really have a red hot crack this week", said Simon Isherwood of Smorgon Steel.

"We have made a few small changes to the drive line and expect the boat will be better for the run last week.

"It's just a matter of getting it right and we can start to think about pushing for a top three finish, something we haven't really been able to think about yet this series."

Smorgon will need more than a solid performance to finish in front of an impressive fleet of Class One boats in round four. Maritimo, SIMRAD, and AFT, have dominated the opening three rounds of this years series, consistently finishing in the top three.

Kwozzy Racing is hoping for another rough race this week in the Class Three-4 litre field in Sydney, after having some problems with their gear selector in round three.

"The boat had a few teething problems with the gear selector, but its all been rectified and we should give it a really good shake this week," said Adam Nicolls.

“We are hoping for some choppy conditions tomorrow, the boat really settles in the rougher waters, and with new sponsor Mcguiars Car Care on board we want to put on an impressive showing.”

Red Australia had their first race of the season last week, and have had to make some repairs for round four.

“We blew a gear box last week, so we’ve replaced that and the boat is running much more comfortably, should have a really good result this week,” said Steve King.

Antony DeFina is back on board for Thycon this week in the National A class to take on Advantage Marine and Piranha after being absent from round three proceedings.

Testing and Practice will take place between 3:30pm and 4:30pm this afternoon, with all teams launching boats from the lower car park of the St. George Motor Boat Club, Wellington Street Sans Souci.

Racing will kick off at midday on Sunday 14 May, with best vantage points at Brighton Le Sands beachfront or around Dolls Point and the mouth of the Georges River.

ACME Fibreglass Supplies are the proud sponsors of this years series, with good support from AFT and nautilus Marine Insurance Agency.

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