

**SIMRAD REGAINS AUTHORITY AT BOTANY BAY**  
**OFFSHORE POWERBOAT SERIES**

SIMRAD pairing Ross Willaton and Luke Durman have notched up their third win of the ACME Australian Offshore Powerboat Series this afternoon in an impressive display at Botany Bay.

The win extends the overall SIMRAD series points lead to 350 with two races remaining, and Ross couldn't be happier with his efforts in, especially in Luke's first season.

Today's Botany Bay Classic produced a fierce race between the SIMRAD and AFT teams, before SIMRAD put the foot down and were able to consolidate on what has been an impressive first four rounds.

In a tit for tat battle for first position, the lead changed hands four times before SIMRAD were able to regain ascendancy during the tenth lap and power home to make it three wins from four starts this year.

"It was a little bumpy heading out before the race, but we knew we were in with a really good chance today," said Ross Willaton of SIMRAD.

"The lead changed so many times that it was anyone's race really, especially with all the experience in the AFT cockpit.

"Muddy and Steve are very experienced and although Steve has only had a couple of races in that particular boat, he has got some really good steering skills."

Powered by two V12 Lamborghini engines, AFT put their 920 horse power per engine to good use, opening up a small gap on SIMRAD during the first lap.

"We were able to open up a small lead early on, but we encountered a few small glitches during the race," said Peter McGrath, AFT.

"The SIMRAD boat hosed us down and we lost all communication in the cockpit at one stage, so it was really hard yakka.

"A fuel pump shut down with two laps to go so we had to switch the spare, so that caused us to slow down and we eventually were overtaken by Luke and Ross."

Class Three- six litre again saw the Red Bellies team show who is boss, with the defending champions making it two wins on the trot.

Today's win see Red Bellies pair Bruce Sanders and Colin Craven take first position in the race for the Class Three-six litre title, now holding a 300 point lead over NAVMAN.

“The boat ran like a dream today, its just keeps getting faster and faster,” said Bruce Sanders of Red Bellies.

“After NAVMAN pulled out of the race we tried not to put the boat under to much pressure, but it’s really smokin’ at the moment, we got it up to around 160km/h out there today.”

Hogs Breath have dominated this years Class Three-four litre field, but today saw the emergence of Kwozzy, who were hot on the heels of their Hogs Breath counterparts.

“Kwozzy had a great race today and really challenged us, “said Paul Fowlds, Hogs Breath.

“After our problems with the alternator were fixed we were able to pull away and get the win.”

Kwozzy have recently invested in two brand new Mercury 200xs engines, and today the Kiwi Aussies decided Botany Bay was the perfect stage to open them up and really put some pressure on Hogs Breath.

“We bounced out of gear at one stage and almost flipped her over, we were standing side on, it was great!”said Adam Nicolls of Kwozzy.

“We will change the props for next race and see how we go, I want to win a race before the season is out.”

Advantage Marine had a terrific Botany Bay Classic, at one stage fronting the Class Three-four litre field.

Don McClymont and his Advantage Marine team built their boat from scratch and Don couldn’t be happier with the way it is performing at the moment.

“We slowed down towards the end cause we didn’t want to have to do another lap, but the boat is in great shape”, said Don McClymont.

“Every time I race a think I’m going to damage it, but it just won’t break, it was great to be in front of the four litres at one stage!”

Cyclone 1900 rounded out today’s winners, taking out first position in the production class.

ACME Fibreglass Supplies are the proud sponsors of the 2006 Australian Offshore Powerboat Series, with good support from AFT and Nautilus Marine Insurance Agency.

The AOPC also welcomes aboard new sponsor Walker Property Development

The series now moves to Queensland with round five at Mooloolaba on 1 & 2 July and Round six at the Gold Coast on 8 & 9 July.

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### **OUTRIGHT ROUND RESULTS (PROVISIONAL)- BOTANY BAY CLASSIC**

1. SIMRAD	Ross Willaton/Luke Durman	1hr 8mins 2 secs
2. AFT	Peter McGrath/Steve Jellick	+ 17secs
3. MARITIMO	Bill/Tom Barry-Cotter	+2mins 37 secs
4. RED BELLIES	Bruce Sanders/Colin Craven	11 laps
5. HOGS BREATH	Paul Gibbs/ Paul Fowlds	10 laps

### **CLASS WINNERS- BOTANY BAY CLASSIC**

Class One	SIMRAD	Ross Willaton/ Luke Durman
Class 3-6 litre	RED BELLIES	Bruce Sanders/Colin Craven
Class 3-4 litre	HOGS BREATH	Paul Gibbs/Paul Fowlds
National 'A'	ADVANTAGE	Don McClymont/ Nick Purvis
Production	CYCLONE 1900	Greg Walters/ Geoff Licari