

RUSSELL INGALL TO RIDE THE WAVES WITH OFFSHORE LEGEND

V8 Supercar ace Russell Ingall will take to the waters of Botany Bay on Sunday with offshore legend and Class One competitor Bill Barry-Cotter, prior to round four of the ACME Australian Offshore Powerboat Series at Botany Bay.

Having completed the necessary training at Miami Pool on the Gold Coast last month, Ingall is set to be treated to the thrills of offshore racing first hand, reaching speeds of up to 250km/h when he is strapped into the cockpit of Barry-Cotter's Maritimo tomorrow morning.

Ingall is set to reciprocate the ride by taking Barry-Cotter for a blast in his Caltex Falcon at similar speeds around the Queensland Raceway in July.

"I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to the ride," said Ingall.

"Bill is a legend in the racing and boat building business and Sunday is going to be one hell of an experience."

Barry-Cotter, who is a multiple national Class-1 champion, will then return to the shores to drop off Ingall and pick up his son Tom Barry-Cotter before heading back out to compete in the Offshore Powerboat Botany Bay Classic to begin at midday tomorrow.

"It is always fantastic to have people go for a ride in the Class-1 Maritimo, especially someone the caliber of Russell, who has created a career out motorsport," said Barry-Cotter.

The series also received another boost with news defending champions Ross Willaton and Luke Durman will be able to substitute their SIMRAD boat for a spare vessel and continue in the series, giving them hope of defending their 2006 Class- 1 title.

The Simrad vessel was badly damaged when it caught fire during last weeks racing at Newcastle, and it will be substituted for a Maritimo boat that was entered in the 2006 series.

"It's great to be back in the hunt, and I'm just glad we get the chance to continue in the series because ultimately we just love to race so it's fantastic to still have the chance to do that," explained Simrad throttleman Ross Willaton.

Botany Bay will be treated to amazing scenes tomorrow afternoon as the nations most powerful offshore boats ride the waves at high speed, and some rough conditions and high winds forecast crowds are in for a show.

“We saw in Melbourne with some unpredictable sea conditions what can happen in offshore racing, many boats will get airborne throughout the day as they crash through the waves and it really is an awesome spectacle for the fans”, explained Race Director Russell Embleton.

Up to twenty boats will take part in racing across 5 different classes with best vantage points at the Brighton Le Sands beachfront when racing commences at midday.

EVENT DETAILS

Venue: Cooks River Boat Ramp – then Botany Bay

Address: Mutch Avenue, Kyeemagh

SUNDAY MEDIA SCHEDULE

7.30am: TV crews arrive for camera mountings (Pencil cams) on boat

8.15am: Boat craned into water

9am: Russell Ingall attends driver briefing

9.20am: Breathalyser test

9.30am: Russell Ingall strapped into boat

9.35am-9.45am: News crews travel from boat ramp to beachside positions on Botany Bay for action shots

9.45am-10.15am: Boat runs on Botany Bay at speed

10.30am: Boat arrives back at boat ramp

10.35am: One on one interviews with Russell Ingall and Bill Barry-Cotter

12 noon: Racing Botany Bay Classic Offshore Powerboat Event

MEDIA CONTACTS

Ann-Marie Cook – Maritimo Racing – 0419 700 918

Garry Nash – Australian Off-Shore Powerboat Club – 0412 814 183

Brett Murray – BAM Media – Russell Ingall – 0418 760 066