



Monday, 15th January 2018

2018 SOUTHERN 80 SKI RACE – COUNTDOWN

The 2018 Southern 80 is getting closer, with under one month before the biggest and best ski race in the world hits the Murray River on February 9th to 11th 2018.

This prestigious race presented by the Moama Water Sports Club and sponsored by Destination NSW, has attracted 442 entries from the ski racing fraternity across Australia and internationally. Some 218 boats and over 1,000 competitors will be descending on the border towns of Echuca / Moama for the most prestigious race on the Australian Ski Racing Calendar.

Planning is well underway, with meetings held with the emergency management authorities and Ski Racing Australia to ensure a successful event for competitors and spectators alike.

The official Launch of the weekend, will be Thursday 8th February 2018 with an evening function at the American Hotel for dignitaries, sponsors and members of the Moama Water Sports Club.

Friday, the action starts early with the Breakfast with the Stars at the Kirrabee soundshell in Moama. Around 100 boats and teams will congregate from 7.00 am to 9.00 am and be on display to show off their beautifully prepared crafts. There will also be signings by some of the stars of ski racing from 7.45 am, perfect for the children on their way to school seeking autographs from their favourites.

Saturday morning there is plenty to see and do. The Total Tools Static Display, with over 100 boats takes place in the main shopping area of Echuca, Hare Street from 7.00 am to 12 noon. Official Merchandise will be available from Savage Force and a number of the teams will be selling their own merchandise.

Whilst the Total Tools Static Display is underway, the social classes, will be hitting the water at Five Mile Reserve, Moama. The racing starts on the water at 9.00 am for the Social Classes. Around 11.00 am make sure that you catch the Under 10's, these seventeen children are the future of our sport and to be congratulated on skiing the 20 km from Five Mile Reserve. They will all finish at the Victoria Park Finish line, which is where all the action will take place.

At 2.00 pm the exciting Bakers Blitz and the Presidents Dash get underway. 2017 Southern 80 winner Merc Force, will lead the top 40 boats down the river, which will determine the starting order for racing on Sunday.

Sunday February 11 will see the boats travel the full distance of the Southern 80 course from Torrumbarry Weir to the Vic Park Finish Line in Echuca – a distance of 80 km, with the first boats away at 8.30 am. The teams will be travelling the river and the 124 plus bends with speeds of up to 125 km per hour. There are 241 entries in the Sunday racing. The 'Big Boys' the Superclass start at 12 noon.

Vic Park Finish Line tickets can be pre-purchased online at www.southern80.com.au or at the gate on the weekend. Entry is \$35 for a weekend pass or \$25 per day. Children under 15 are free. Plenty of food and drinks are available at the finish line. A Giant screen will be showing all the action of the event at the Finish Line with live crosses to the Start Lines on both Saturday and Sunday.

"IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE FINISH LINE"

For further information, please contact:

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**IT'S ON!
IN NSW**

