



1st February 2017

Best Ski Racers in Australia in Echuca - Moama

The best of Australia's ski racers will converge on the Murray River in Echuca – Moama on the 10th, 11th and 12th February 2017, as they compete in the 2017 Southern 80

Racing starts on Saturday morning at 9am with the social class boats on the water. Do not think that these skiers cannot ski fast! The first boat away is Reactor, towing Mick Kelly and Darren Purdom, who won the 16km short course in social last year in a time of 8:19. Can they do the same again? Or beat the record time for Unlimited Inboard Social of 7:32.

There are six competitors in the disabled class all with various disabilities. First away is Alex Handley skiing behind Top Gun F2, who has a dead arm, who set the record in this class in 2015 with 7:48, can he do the same? Jason Brown is next skiing behind Still Crazy and he is deaf. Followed by Chelsea Dingli who also has a dead arm, she is skiing behind Mad Ranga. Predator is towing Tyler Tannenberg who has physical impairment. Last away in the disabled class is 99 PC towing our first blind skier Ben Pettingill.

The youngest skiers on the water are amazing as they are determined to finish the course and they are well supported by the crowd, who are encouraging as they cross the finish line. Our youngest skier this year is four year old Finley Cox (and the youngest competitor in the Southern 80 ever!), he will be skiing the course with his cousin Kingston (7 years of age) with his Dad and Uncle in the boat cheering all the way. This is what ski racing is about – Family!

The Bakers Blitz starts at 2pm with last year's winner, The Mistress leading the field. Unfortunately, Zac Welch had a fall and broke his leg just after Christmas, so he has been substituted with Jake Vanzetta filling the gap – they must be the local favourites. All the of the Superclass are in with a shot, so following The Mistress will be Merc Force, the 2016 winner of the Bridge to Bridge ski race. Next Sapphire Racing, then Superman, 99 Psycho Clowns, Top Gun and Strike Force.

The older skiers are the last classes on the water on Saturday with the Veterans and Senior Social classes. The last boat away for Saturday is Still Crazy leaving at 3:43pm.

The best place to watch all the action is the finish line at Victoria Park. There will be live crosses to the start lines each day, so that you can see the teams start, along with them finishing. Entry to the Victoria Park Finish Line is \$35 for a weekend pass and \$25 for a day pass. They can be purchased online at www.southern80.com.au or at the gate.

Sunday and the racing starts at 8.30am with and again Reactor is first away in the Super Social Class, once again towing Darren Purdom and Mick Kelly. Following them with be a further 91 boats who make up some of the expert classes.

At 12.30pm will see the Superclass boats on the water, in the order that was determined from the placing in Saturday's Bakers Blitz. Boats leave at one minute apart, can they beat the record set in 2015 by Hellrazor, in a time of 29:43. We will all know on Sunday afternoon.

Some facts about the 2017 Southern 80

- 2 Boats are doing 4 runs over the weekend
- 220 boats from all over Australia are competing
- Biggest class is 60mph hour social
- New classes for 2017 Weekend Warriors (6 entries), Sub Junior Lites (9 entries)
- Oldest competitor is Barry James the driver of the Croc in Junior Girls Expert
- Oldest Male skier is John McKenzie skiing behind Run Again in 60mph social
- Most Victorian competitors come from Echuca then Pakenham
- Most New South Wales competitors come from Lower Portland and then Pitttown
- Don Gulley (Merc Force) will be competing against his brother Gerald (Strike Force) in Superclass
- Team Clog is all family team competing 4 times
- There are international competitors from Belgium, New Zealand

Come along and catch all the action on the waters of the Murray River – “See you at the Finish Line”.

Further Information Contact:

Julie Golledge

Moama Water Sports Club

0418147227

webmaster@southern80.com.au

Strategic partner



Major partners

