



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## **2019 SOUTHERN 80 SKI RACE – All set to go**

Entries are now closed for the 50<sup>th</sup> running of the world's greatest water ski race, the Southern 80.

Some 194 boats, equating to a massive 418 entries, are heading to the start line for the 2019 Southern 80 Ski Race which will run from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

The event commences on Thursday evening with the invitation only Official Launch Function at the American Hotel with all stakeholders including Strategic Investor, event partners and MWSC committee kicking off the weekend of action.

Friday morning and the attention turns to the NSW town of Moama for the Breakfast with the Stars. From 7.00 am, around 60 boats will gather on the lawns of the Kerribee Sound Shell to show their magnificent boats, mingle with the ski racing enthusiasts and size up the opposition. Breakfast is available to purchase from Beechworth Bakery with the stars of ski racing available for autograph signings from 7.30 am till 8.15 am – always a great hit with the kids as they head to school.

Friday night sees the inaugural Southern 80 Hall of Fame function. This event is open to the public and we encourage all supporters, former racers and lovers of ski racing to attend and support the amazing people who have contributed so much to the success of the Southern 80 over 50 races.

Thirty-four nominees have been put forward in this first year, with six to be inducted in the Southern 80 Hall of Fame. The function will be held at the Victoria Park Finish Line with an atmosphere of food trucks and a casual catch up with food and drinks available. The formal proceedings will start at 7.30pm. The event entry fee is \$10, which can be paid at the gate.

On Saturday morning, the 50,000 plus visitors to the region receive a special treat with the Southern 80 Static Display. With wonderful support from the Shire of Campaspe, we close off Hare Street in the Echuca CDB and display over 100 boats at their absolute finest. This is a free event to the public with shopkeepers, stall holders and sponsors welcoming all. Local radio partner Edge FM will also conduct an outside broadcast, with all the stars of ski racing's greatest show being interviewed and sharing all the latest news.

Saturday and the attention turns to the Five Mile Reserve in Moama for the start of the social classes at 9.00 am. The youngest members of the sport the Under 10's, start at 10:54 am as they start the trek to the Victoria Park Finish Line. The Bakers Blitz is the afternoon action, which will see the Superclass and the rest of the top 40 boats travel up the river in times around six to eight minutes, as they challenge for pole position for Sunday's racing.

Sunday and the show moves to the full 80 km course from Torrumbarry to Victoria Park Finish Line. Supersocial is first on the water of the 96 entries for the morning racing. 12 noon and the Big Boys, the Superclass boats, are on the water followed by the rest of the top 40 boats starting in the order that they finished on Saturday, along with the other 80 boats in the afternoon's racing.

The best place to watch all the action both days is at the Victoria Park Finish Line. Entry is \$25 per day or a weekend pass at \$35 is great value. Children under 15 are free. Gates open at 8.00 am. A range of food and drinks are available in the compound. Tap n Go is available at the gate and at the bar for the weekend. EFPTOS available onsite as well.

The Finish Line will once again feature the giant screen with live crosses as they start from Torrumbarry and Five Mile Reserve in Moama, sector timing and live interviews with all the competitors. The only place to see the Southern 80 from start to finish!!

Further information can be found on [www.southern80.com.au](http://www.southern80.com.au)

***"SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE"***

***Attached: Statistics about this event***

**For further information, please contact:**

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