



SOUTHERN 80 - TOP 40

Media Release

April 27th 2022

Australia's top 40 water ski race teams will descend on Echuca/Moama from May 13th to the 15th to compete in the Southern 80.

Starting at 2 pm on Saturday, May 14th, the first of the Top 40 will face the starter's flag at the Five Mile reserve in Moama. Sydney based Richard Manning and Brett Armstrong in the boat Argo, towing sons Jack Manning and Zak Armstrong. This team will lead the rest of the Top 40 at two-minute intervals, till the Superclass teams where the gap will be three minutes counting down to boat 1.

Boat 1 will be Superman - will it be the black boat or the blue boat? Wait till race day to find out which one? The black boat is a 23 foot Force hull with a 550 cubic inch Twin Turbo engine, or the blue boat has a 21 foot Force hull with a 1650 Mercury package. This very experienced team has Darren McGuire from Dubbo and Steven Robertson from Sydney in the boat. Skiers are Daniel Cotton, and Daniel Graziano from Sydney are looking to make two in a row. The team has been coming together as a team to the Southern 80 since 2009.

There are several local teams in the Top 40; they include:

- Stalker Echuca based – leaving at 2:06 pm boat number 37
- Sportspage, Moama based – leaving at 2:12 pm boat number 34
- Agrovation, Shepparton based – leaving at 2:34 pm boat number 23
- Elm St, Echuca based – leaving at 2:42 pm, boat number 19
- Agitator, some teams from Echuca, leaving at 2:48 pm, boat number 16
- Doindough, Echuca based – leaving at 3:00 pm boat number 10
- The Mistress, Echuca based – leaving at 3:08 pm boat number 7
- Sapphire F1, Echuca based – leaving at 3:23 pm, boat number 2

Minister for Tourism and Sport Stuart Ayres said the Southern 80 was poised for an exciting weekend of racing that would provide a welcome injection to the Echuca/Moama visitor economy.

“The Southern 80 is an internationally recognised water-skiing event and plays a substantial role in bringing visitors to this wonderful part of NSW.

“With the race attracting more than 1,000 competitors, 180 boats and thousands of spectators, the Murray River region is going to come to life over the event period, providing a major boost for the local visitor economy.

“The NSW Government is committed to bringing world-class events like the Southern 80 to our regions to achieve our goal of making NSW the premier visitor economy of the Asia Pacific.”

To catch all the action, the place to be is the finishing line at Victoria Park boat ramp, under the new Dhungala Bridge in Echuca. Entry to the finish line area is \$35 for the weekend and \$25 for the day, with children under 15 free. There will be a big screen, with action from the start and finish lines, food and drinks available, children's activities and

We welcome you to Echuca/Moama from May 13th to 15th. Further information www.southern80.com.au or follow us on Facebook @southern80 or Instagram @southern80skirace

For further information regarding this event, please contact Moama Water Sports Club Office on 03 54806754 or for further communications, Julie Golledge – webmaster@southern80.com.au 0418147227

ATTACHED:

List of the top 40 teams.

Photos of both Superman boats

- Blue Boat (1_SupermanA.jpg)– photo credit – Julie Golledge
- Black Boat (DSC_5648a.jpg) – photo credit – Nicholas Rowland