



## **WORLD CHAMPIONS TO RACE AT THE 2024 SOUTHERN 80.**

In November 2023, six Australian ski racers achieved their dream of becoming World Champions. It culminated years of hard work and dedication, training on land and water, and enduring countless challenges. The historic moment took place in Gosford, NSW, where they were crowned as the best in the world.

We are thrilled that all six Australian World Champions competed in the 2023 Southern 80. We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming them back to Echuca/Moama for the 2024 race from the 9th to the 11th of February.

The World Champions and their boat teams are:

- Carter Robertson, who won in the Open Men's category while skiing behind Team 50 F1 with Brent Wisemantel and Evan Woolridge in the boat. Carter was the reigning World Champion in the Junior Boys class from the 2019 event.
- Brendan Tidswell, who won in the F2 Men's category while skiing behind The Dragon with Matt Smith and Ben Casey in the boat.
- Nellie McMillan, who won in the Open Women's category while skiing behind Strike F1 with David McMillan and Brett Armstrong in the boat. Nellie was the reigning World Champion in the Junior Girl's Class from the 2019 event.
- Emma Barnes, who won in the F2 Women's category while skiing behind HiJact with Jake Hinterhotlz and Sam Perry in the boat.
- Kohdi Cartledge, who won in the Junior Boys category while skiing behind Speed Lab with Darren Hitchcock and Jason Cartledge in the boat.
- Leilani Cartledge, who won in the Junior Girls category while skiing behind Gro Up F2 with Alex Handley and Ryan Wridgeway in the boat.

It's worth noting that Emma Barnes, Kohdi Cartledge, and Leilani Cartledge live in Echuca/Moama and consider the Southern 80 their home race. We can't wait to see them all in action again!

The Southern 80 returns to its normal time of the year for 2024 after a few years of date movement due to COVID and floods.

On Wednesday, 6th December, the Southern 80 was launched on the banks of the Murray at the finish line of the Southern 80 - Victoria Park Boat Ramp. Steve Shipp, President of Moama Water Sports Club, welcomed the ski racers, world champions, media, and local dignitaries to the event. The event took place next to the construction of stage 1 of a new boat ramp and disabilities access to the Victoria Park Boat Ramp. Better Boating Victoria and the Campaspe Shire Council are funding this long-awaited upgrade to the facilities.

Shipp specifically welcomed last year's winner of the Southern 80, Sapphire, and the crew of Tim Pickford and Brian Griffin to the event, wishing them all the best as they aim to make it three in a row in this year's Southern 80.

Join us for an exciting weekend starting on Friday, February 9th, 2024, with Breakfast with the Stars at Kerribee Sound Shell in Moama. The racing will take place on Saturday from Five Mile Reserve to Victoria Park Boat Ramp and on Sunday from Torrumbarry to Victoria Park Boat Ramp. Competitors can now enter the event by visiting [www.southern80.com.au](http://www.southern80.com.au). Spectators can purchase tickets from the same website.

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If you require any further information about this event, please contact:

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Attached with this – Photo of Sapphire from the 2023 event, Photo of the skiers from Sapphire, Lachlan Nix and Aiden Cuff. All photos to be attributed to Nicholas Rowland Photography.