



**Barrie Beehag Ski Race Classic  
MEDIA RELEASE  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

A fantastic day of water ski racing was held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, as the inaugural Barrie Beehag Ski Race Classic was held at Deep Creek Marina.

The day was conducted by the Moama Water Sports Club with assistance from the Perricoota Boat Club at Deep Creek.

The outright winner was previous Southern 80 winner – Hellbent, expertly driven by Mark Cranny, with Damien Matthews observing and skiers Daniel Campbell and Grant Patterson in a time of 23:30.

The inaugural event was watched at the Deep Creek Marina by at least 500 spectators, with many more day campers taking the opportunity for a day out – lined the banks of the Murray between Deep Creek Marina and Torrumbarry Weir.

Racing started at 11am with Hellbent the first to make the trip to Torrumbarry Weir. They completed the first leg in a time of 11:37. In the 60 mph class there were a number of falls in the start area, which meant that more boats missed their starts. This saw them try to play catch up along the river. 11 boats developed boat troubles along the way and did not make it to Torrumbarry Weir. Once all the 97 boats had been accounted for the return trip started.

The return trip saw the field dwindle even further 10 boats not completing the return trip. The race distance of 60 kilometres was covered 65 teams with around 30 teams not finishing the race mainly to engine problems.

At the conclusion of racing the winning teams of the 7 classes were presented with medallions by the Beehag family of Tony Beehag, Kay Turner, Craig Beehag, Bridgette Haw. Barrie Beehag was a stalwart and original founding member of the Moama Water Sports Club. Sadly he lost his fight with cancer in June. During the presentation his wife Fran thanked the competitors for their support of the event held in his honour. Fran reminded the silent crowd that “Barrie felt that he was not the most popular person in ski racing, but the support shown for this event – he would have truly been proud.”

A most popular win was held by the team of Cinders. The wooden Rivercraft boat Cinders is well known in ski racing circles as the driver Lenny Retallick has been around forever. He has been racing in excess of 40 years and has been a past winner of the Southern 80 (or Southern 50 as it was known then). The competitors gave Lenny a round of applause when he was on the podium accepting the medallions for his win the 6 Litre class with observer Peter Ralph and skiers (who have been around for ever too) Wayne Duggan and Gavin Arnott.

In the 60mph class in which the boats are not allowed to exceed 60 miles per hour – 5 boats were disqualified for exceeding the limit. This class designed for the new comers to the sport and families wishing to have fun competing in the sport was widely supported with 13 entries in this event.

Overall a successful event was held by all. Full results and photos from the event can be found on the Southern 80 web page by following the BB Ski Race Classic button at [www.southern80.com.au](http://www.southern80.com.au)



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**Class Winners**

**Class 1 Unlimited Inboard / Outboard**

Hellbent **Driver** Mark Cranny **Observer** Damien Matthews  
**Skiers** Daniel Campbell, Grant Patterson  
**Time Up** 11:37 **Time Back** 11:53 **Final Time** 23:30

**Class 2 8 Litre Inboard**

Exertion **Driver** Rick Richardson **Observer** Anthony Giddens  
**Skiers** Kane Powell, Rick Love  
**Time Up** 12:38 **Time Back** 13:06 **Final Time** 25:44

**Class 3 MOC Outboard**

BL Marine **Driver** Damien McGlynn **Observer** John Baumgurtel  
**Skiers** Shaun James, Jason Hartley  
**Time Up** 14:53 **Time Back** 14:41 **Final Time** 29:34

**Class 4 6 Litre**

Cinders **Driver** Lenny Retallick **Observer** Peter Ralph  
**Skiers** Wayne Duggan, Gavin Arnott  
**Time Up** 13:58 **Time Back** 13:55 **Final Time** 27:53

**Class 5 SMOC Outboard**

Stalker **Driver** Brad Groves **Observer** John Lumus  
**Skiers** Mark Williams, Andrew Morgan  
**Time Up** 14:54 **Time Back** 15:04 **Final Time** 29:58

**Class 6 Juniors Boys / Girls**

Revenge **Driver** Travis Cuff **Observer** Jeff Howard  
**Skiers** Aiden Cuff, Ben Pearse  
**Time Up** 15:17 **Time Back** 15:11 **Final Time** 30:28

**Class 7 60 mph**

Backfire **Driver** Glenn Poyser **Observer** Alex Johnstone  
**Skiers** Nick Poyser, Ryan Payne  
**Time Up** 19:14 **Time Back** 18:45 **Final Time** 37:59