



Barrie Beehag Ski Race Classic
MEDIA RELEASE
4th November 2006

The inaugural Barrie Beehag Ski Race Classic is to take place on the Murray River at Echuca / Moama on Saturday 18th November 2006.

The ski race is brought to you by the Moama Water Sports Club the home of the Southern 80 the largest water ski race in the world.

Barrie Beehag a long time resident of Echuca and life member of the Moama Water Sports Club has been recognised for his love of the family sport of water ski racing, with this race carrying his name.

This year Barrie lost his fight with cancer, which makes it appropriate that gate takings and any profits from this event are donated to the Anti Cancer Council.

The event starts on Saturday 18th November with Briefing at the Deep Creek Marina for all the crews at 8.30am. Entry to the Marina is by gold coin donation. At the Marina spectator area, food and some drinks will be catered for by the Echuca Apex Club.

Following the briefing all boats will be launched, travelling out of the Marina to Perricoota Boat Club sandbar, upstream of the Marina. Once all boats are in position, racing is anticipated to start at 11.30am. Dropping the flag will be Tony Beehag one of Barrie's son's.

Some other members of Beehag family will be competing in the event in the Unlimited Class, in the boat Stockbroker – which will be named BBB (Barrie Beehag's Boat) for the event. BBB and Beehag family go hand in hand, with the Southern 80, in fact, son Craig won the event in 1979 skiing behind the Tack.

In the Barrie Beehag Ski Race Classic, Craig will be driving Stockbroker / BBB with his brother-in-law, Dale Haw observing. Skiing will be Roy Turner, (Craig's other brother-in-law) and family friend Mark Boyer. They will be sentimental favourites.

The Barrie Beehag will have only seven classes competing with entries capped at 105 and with around 100 entries received, there promises to be plenty of action on the water.

The seven classes include Unlimited, 8 Litre, MOC, 6 Litre, SMOC, Juniors and 60 mph. Boats have been seeded and the first 20 boats will leave 1 minute apart, with the following boats leave at 30 second intervals.

Once the boats have left the Perricoota Boat Club sandbar they head to the Torrumbarry Weir, where they will stop and wait for all the boats to be accounted for. Whilst waiting, the Gunbower Lions Club will be providing a BBQ food and drinks for the crews and spectators.

The return journey will then begin with the boats returning to Deep Creek Marina.

The overall winner would be expected to come from the Unlimited class with boats such as Hellbent, Chief, Fastcash, Tha Bat, Gassa, Blown Budget and others all competing for the prestige of being the first winner of the Barrie Beehag Ski Race Classic.

At the conclusion of the event, presentation of the trophies will take place at the spectator area at Deep Creek.

For further information about the event, contact the Moama Water Sports Club on 03 54806754 or www.southern80.com.au