



2010
*U.I.M. WORLD GRAND PRIX
CHAMPIONSHIPS*

-MEDIA RELEASE- 1st September 2010

Lake Mulwala Power

The 2010 Lake Mulwala Power Festival has received a massive boost to the program. As well as the World championships for Grand Prix Hydroplanes being conducted, event organisers have secured the running of the "Marj Watson" – an Australasian Unlimited Unrestricted Displacement Championship.

This is comparable to having the Australian Formula One Grand Prix and the Indy 500 on the same weekend at the same venue. Race fans are in for a huge treat.

The Marj Watson Trophy, like the World Championships, has never been run at Lake Mulwala before. The 'Marj' as it is known in racing circles is by far the most sought after trophy on the Australasian race boat calendar for the displacement class boats and it is the undisputed crowning glory for the B.A.D boat drivers.

B.A.D Boats or Blown Alcohol Displacement boats as they are correctly known are unlimited and unrestricted displacement boats. In a way they look similar to your average fast ski boat in appearance, but in actual fact are nothing like. These boats have huge supercharged V8 Chevrolet engines that use methanol (alcohol) as fuel. These engines produce up to 2000hp and propel these missiles of the water up to 150mph (230kph) in little more than 10 seconds whilst they compete side by side, only inches apart over four fast and furious laps.



Australian Power Boat Association (VIC)  *Boating Industry Association*



2010
*U.I.M. WORLD GRAND PRIX
CHAMPIONSHIPS*

Marjorie Watson - the lady, used to own the North Wollongong Hotel which was a favorite meeting place for drivers and crews from the Illawarra Speedboat Club. Marj became well known to the boat racers and was well liked and respected. She developed a strong interest in the club, headquartered at Kanahooka, NSW.

One year, around 16 Aussie enthusiasts travelled to New Zealand to watch the Griffith Cup, and amongst the 16 were race boat legends Ernie Nunn, Arthur Baker, Keith Swift (APBA Referee) and Marj. Whilst on the trip, Arthur and Marj realised that there were no Australasian Trophies for Unlimited Hydroplanes and Unlimited Displacement boats. When they came back home, Arthur established the A.E. Baker Trophy for Hydroplanes and Marj did the same for Unlimited Displacements. Later on Marj sold her hotel and worked for a while at the St George Motor Boat Club before moving to Victoria where she died in the 90's.

On the Marj Watson Trophy, the first winner recorded is A. Bowcher in 1965 with the boat
HI FI.

Last years winner, Brett Sheppard, will be back to compete in his BAD boat 'Unleashed'. Sheppard is in fact is looking to make this year his third victory in a row to elevate his status as a genuine superstar of BAD boat racing.

Previous champions will be out in force to make Sheppard's chase for the title difficult. Young gun Troy Marland in his yellow missile aptly named 'Madness' has won the "Marj" himself 3 times in a row from 2002-2004 and has the title of the youngest ever to win at the age of just 23 years.



Australian Power Boat Association (VIC)





2010
*U.I.M. WORLD GRAND PRIX
CHAMPIONSHIPS*

At the opposite end of the scale is the wily and cagey veteran of the sport Tony Walsh. After a well earned retirement of some years Walsh is back in the green machine 'The Real Thing' to try and add to his list of Marj victories. Walsh was unbeatable for a time and also is a four time winner over the 98-01 seasons.

In total over a dozen teams with their magnificent machines and the gladiator drivers will be chasing the crown for the 2010 Marj Watson Trophy.

Now in its fourth year the Lake Mulwala Power Festival is a family friendly water sports event with plenty of adrenalin pumping on water action. The event also has numerous on land attractions with markets stalls, trade displays of various outdoor leisure and boating equipment along with gourmet food facilities and wine tasting areas. The kids are able to witness the junior classes of power boating the BIA Formula Future class of tomorrow's champions and water ski and jet sprint boat displays.

Witness all this and the World's fastest automotive boats - the Grand Prix Hydroplanes doing battle for the 2010 World Championship. This makes this an event you must not miss. Keep the last weekend of November 25-28 free and head to Lake Mulwala, Yarrowonga.

For further information and bookings contact
Sun Country Tourism on 1 800 062 260

Be there....
Ends.



Australian Power Boat Association (VIC)

