



NEWCASTLE CRUISING  
YACHT CLUB



# MEDIA RELEASE

## INTERNATIONAL RACING SAILS INTO NEWCASTLE

Tuesday 25 January, 2011

International racing returns to the Hunter next month when Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC) hosts the Thrifty New South Wales State Etchells Titles. (11 – 13 February, 2011)

The three day tournament will see a fleet of at least 40 yachts competing off Newcastle, attracting more than 120 competitors and their families to the region.

“The Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club is proud to be hosting this major sporting event and we are extremely grateful to Thrifty Newcastle for making this possible,” NCYC Rear Commodore, Paul Gleeson said.

“Etchells racing is internationally recognised as a showcase of the world’s best skippers including sailing greats Dennis Connor and Australia II skipper, John Bertrand who we believe is hoping to compete in Newcastle along with reigning World Sailor of the Year, Tom Slingsby.”

Other confirmed entries include Grant Wharington, skipper of Sydney to Hobart maxi, Wild Thing and current Irish National Champion and former Etchells World Champion, Peter McNeill.

Etchells are a strict one design, three or four crew keel boat with a length of 30’6”. Uniformity is strictly controlled by an international association.

“Etchells sailing relies solely on the skill and experience of the skippers and their crew,” Mr Gleeson said.

“The boats are identical, sails are identical, a crew weigh in is required before competition starts to ensure no vessels exceed the class weight restrictions and once the yachts are launched hulls are unable to be cleaned to gain a competitive edge.”

A number of vantage points from Newcastle to Merewether will allow spectators to witness three days of racing and NCYC will be hosting a range of social events for competitors, families and spectators.

A daily media boat will be available for vision / photo opportunities throughout the tournament and regular racing updates will be distributed.

*For more information or to organise an interview with club officials please call:*

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