

2011 OCEANIC WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIP

27th December – 31st December 2010

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The 2011 Oceanic Windsurfing Championship is being held on Lake Illawarra, Wollongong, NSW with the event control centre based at The Illawarra Yacht Club. This event brings together three of the main windsurfing classes;-

- RSX – the Olympic class for the last Olympics and the upcoming London Olympics.
- Techno – the international Youth class and recognised feeder class for the RSX
- Raceboard – the original longboard class updated with the latest technology

The combination of the three classes at the one event promises to be the largest windsurfing regatta held in Australia for many years.

Competitors from Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, Asia, and possibly Europe are expected to attend, including former Olympic competitors.

The event features both male & female sailors and age categories ranging from juniors (U15) to masters (O35).

The Illawarra Yacht Club has a long history associated with windsurfing, beginning as a division of the club in the late 70's. As well as producing national and international windsurfing champions the club has hosted some large windsurfing events, including the 1992 Windsurfer One Design world championship, and the 2009 and 2010 Raceboard National and Oceanic Championships.

Lake Illawarra is a large estuary compared to others on the NSW coast. It is also unusual in that despite a surface area of 35 square kilometres, it has a maximum depth of only 3.5m with a significant area of the lake being less than 1m in depth. The average lake depth is 1.9m. The Lake has a relatively long and shallow sea entrance which allows only small tidal variation to occur. Recent major civil work has widened the lake entrance leading to increased water exchange and improved water quality.

Although essentially a closed inland waterway the wave generation due to winds can produce a rough lake surface. Winds blowing from the south can produce a steep, short frequency chop that challenges a windsurfer's board handling skills and makes for exciting racing.

Conditions expected during the championship are for winds SE to NE, with an average maximum (at 3pm) speed of 7 – 16 knots; water temperature 20°C; air temperature 17 – 30°C. Stronger winds are regularly experienced, particularly the well-known "Southerly Buster" in which wind speeds can reach 40 knots.