



## News Release

22 November 2007

### RACE BACKGROUND

In 1989 a group of five enthusiasts introduced to Australia a race that has become world renowned as one of the great challenge sports known as the Hydro Tasmania Three Peaks Race. It is a four day test of sailing skill and running endurance around Tasmania's scenic East Coast that will celebrate 20 years of this competition.

The Race starts on Good Friday (21<sup>st</sup> March 2008), at Beauty Point north of Launceston, on the Tamar River and finishes in Hobart on the Derwent River.

During the race, teams of two runners have to complete three marathon-length runs which include scaling Mt. Strzelecki, on Flinders Island in Bass Strait, Mt. Freycinet, at Coles Bay on Tasmania's East Coast, and Mt. Wellington in Hobart.

The course, which comprises about 133 km of running and 620 km of sailing, is testing and passes through some of Australia's most rugged and beautiful scenery.

The adventures of mountaineer and seaman Major H. W. (Bill) Tilman inspired the Three Peaks Race concept. The original race, first run in 1970, was organised by two Welsh doctors, Rob Haworth and the late Merfyn Jones. It covered a sailing course from Barmouth in Wales, to Fort William, Scotland, with runners scaling the highest mountains in Wales, England and Scotland.

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In 1989 expatriate Tasmanian Martin Pryor saw the potential for this event in Tasmania and brought the concept to Australia after competing in the British race two years earlier.

A number of innovative features of the British Three Peaks Race have been transferred to the Australian event including boat sponsorship and acceptance of mono and multi-hulled yachts.

The Hydro Tasmania Three Peaks Race is governed by innovative rules specifically published by the organising committee that allow yachts to be rowed, propelled by human-powered propellers or towed by human power in addition to the usual sailing.

Entry is open to any well-found yacht, either monohull or multi-hull, with a minimum hull length of 8.5 metres crewed by five persons over the age of 18.

In addition to the Main Racing Division, there is the Cruising Division and the Fully Crewed Division. The Cruising Division provides heavier and slower yachts with a motoring allowance and to be able to take more than the standard five members of the team.

The Fully Crewed Division is ideal for owners of offshore racing yachts wanting to take their usual complement of crew rather than be sailing short-handed. Yachts in this Division are required to sail a prescribed sailing course at Flinders Island and to round Tasman Island on their passage to Hobart. These requirements remove some of the navigational challenges that the Main Racing and Cruising Divisions can face when choosing to take a short-cut in Franklin Sound or the shorter passage through the Denison Canal at Dunalley.

**Further information:**

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