



**-MEDIA RELEASE- 18 July 2009**

## **The Lake is Rising!**

Yes, you heard it right! Lake Mulwala is rising.

Situated on the majestic Murray River between the two border towns of Yarrawonga and Mulwala, water sports enthusiasts and race boat fans need not be alarmed.

In fact the recent drawdown of the lake to empty stage has not occurred since 2002. This drawdown allows for works on the Weir Gates, and other major works to be possible for the official authorities in and around the lake.

The Lake was lowered to 5.4m below Full Supply Level. The refilling of Lake Mulwala has commenced, and during the past week the water level increased by 1.1 m to 3.4 m below FSL. A similar rate of rise is expected during the coming weeks, but will depend on inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. To assist with the refilling of the Lake, the release from Yarrawonga Weir has been temporarily reduced.

The Lake has to be filled for the commencement of the irrigation period (by 15th August) as it is the storage pond for the longest irrigation system in the Southern Hemisphere. The Murray River continues to flow in its natural course.

If you have never seen Lake Mulwala empty it is an amazing and eerie sight! You still have a few weeks left to marvel at the amazing landscape from the foreshores or book a scenic flight and capture some unique aerial snaps.

To think that this is usually a pleasure play ground for outdoor activities such as social boating, fishing, water skiing on a beautiful open lake with only the remnants of many dead river gums in the distance! It is also home of the high profile international Lake Mulwala Power festival which features the world's fastest power boats flying over the water at speeds of up to 270kph. One would not believe it possible that such varied activities occur only meters above.

Scattered on the floor of the empty Lake you can see remnants of massive cut down Murray River Red Gum stumps, an array of fallen trees, early dam walls built by our pioneers and even a sunken paddle steamer, the P.S.Pilot, whose paddle wheels were retrieved, restored and are actually on display next to the Yarrawonga Mulwala Visitor Information Centre.

However, come November the annual Lake Mulwala Power festival roars to life once again.

Lake Mulwala Power festival has a vision not only to showcase the best powerboat racing in the country, but is also expanding the outdoor leisure show component which comprises a market, stalls, outdoor leisure sites, boat displays, model boat activities, caravans and more outdoor interests along with on shore entertainment for the whole family. A full program of boating action and exhibitors will be revealed closer to the November Festival.

Be sure to diarize and keep free the last weekend in November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> and head to Yarrawonga Mulwala for a great weekend of adrenalin flowing action and top entertainment for all the family.

For further information don't hesitate to contact the Yarrawonga Mulwala Tourism office – 1800 062 260

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### **Lake Mulwala Power**

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**-MEDIA RELEASE- 15 May 2009**

## **Official Announcement – Bigger and Better.**

Yarrawonga Mulwala Tourism and the Victorian Speedboat Club are proud to announce that this year's spectacular Lake Mulwala Power festival will once again be held on the last weekend in November showcasing the annual Yarrawonga Gold Cup in its third year running.

After last November's successful event this year is planned to go bigger and better again. Now you might ask, 'how was last year's event a success when the New Zealanders came over and took 'our' Cup back to land of the long white cloud by defeating the Aussies on home water'? With a great outdoor expo, many stalls and excellent powerboat racing and a bumper crowd both the Yarrawonga Mulwala Tourism and the Victorian Speedboat Club could only brand the event as a huge success.

Well, we still have the Yarrawonga Gold Cup and to compliment the high standard expected with the Power Boat Racing, this year, Lake Mulwala Power has secured the next best thing until the Aussie race boat teams can bring back 'Our' Griffith Cup. The first round of the Australian Grand Prix Hydroplane Championship will be held on the Saturday.

The next best thing is the "Hayes Wood Trophy" and we can't lose this one! In fact this is the Australian Championship for Unlimited Unrestricted Powerboats and always remains in Australia, rotating throughout the nation. This will be the first time the beautiful waters of Lake Mulwala will host the 'Hayes Wood". Yet another coup for Yarrawonga/Mulwala!

Raced close to shore on a short oval circuit around buoys, these high speed Grand Prix Hydroplanes and Blown Alcohol Displacements are the fastest boats in the world at over 270kph. In addition over 10 other classes will be contesting various titles including the Formula Future Class for the kids. In all, over 50 teams and their magnificent racing machines will be on display.

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