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FROM: INVERLOCH WINDSURFING CLUB

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Cold Enough For You?

Winner Announced in Brass Monkeys Speed Challenge

This winter has seen some very cold and wet conditions with weather that tempts most people to rug up and stay inside. Not so for a group of mad windsurfers at Inverloch, who took to the waters of Anderson Inlet in search of the fastest speed on the coldest day.

The Brass Monkeys Speed Challenge was created by the Inverloch Windsurfing Club, as part of a range of activities, which encourage and promote the sport of windsurfing year round.

For those brave (or crazy) enough to head out, the challenges of sailing through the chills of Winter were met with some great rewards.

"There are days when you are the only one on the water," says IWC Vice President, Mick Green, "the water temperature is around 9 degrees, the air temp is not much more, and the wind chill is biting. You certainly know you're alive!".

Winter provides an opportunity to avoid the congestion of the Summer months where the population of Inverloch swells to almost epic proportions. "The nice thing is that you get the place to yourself" says Mr. Green, "its just you, your board and the wind. Mind you, it is good to have a heater that works in the car for the trip home!".

In order to ensure that anyone could participate, scores were calculated by an interesting method. "We devised a ratio system where competitors submitted their fastest speed for any given day. We then subtracted the air temperature and divided the amount by the wind speed. This encouraged participants to seek out the really cold days" says Mr. Green.

This year's winner was Simon Chambers, a resident of Blind Bight on Westernport Bay. Simon, or "Moondo" as he is known, obtained a speed of 25.75 knots, on a 12.5°c day with a 15 knot breeze. Simon's result did not take into consideration the wind chill, which was estimated at around 6-8°c on the day that he sailed. "It was particularly chilly " says Mr. Chambers, "definitely cold enough to freeze.....well, you know the saying, hence that's where we got the name Brass Monkeys from"

For those not familiar with the sport, speed sailing is a relatively new aspect of sailing that involves windsurfers collecting data about their speeds via GPS. The type of information that is recorded includes the fastest speed for the session, the fastest nautical mile and the longest session. Sailors then up



load the data to a website, where they compete with other sailors from all over the world.

Meanwhile, back on the Inlet, the temperatures start to rise with the approach of Summer, and although the thick wetsuits will be packed away and replaced by board shorts, the crew of slightly unhinged sailors eagerly await the change of season and the next icy Antarctic blast.

“It really is a lot of fun,” says Mr. Chambers, “especially when your hands are as blue as the water!”

The Inverloch Windsurfing Club was established in 2009 and aims to bring windsurfers of all ages and abilities together through recreational and social activities based around Inverloch, Victoria. The majority of our members are located in South Gippsland and the southeast suburbs of Melbourne but enjoy the pristine waters of Anderson Inlet

More information:

www.driftmedia.com.au/IWC

Facebook Group: Inverloch Windsurfing Club

ATTACHED IMAGES

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Caption: “IWC President Doug Hocken treads a fine line between control and chaos during the speed challenge”

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Caption: “Inverloch Windsurfing Club was establish in 2009 and aims to get as many people as possible on the water at Inverloch”

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Caption: “Simon “Moondo” Chambers- Winner of The Brass Monkeys Winter Speed Challenge”