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DATE: 26/10/2011

FROM: INVERLOCH WINDSURFING CLUB

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**Fast, frenetic and freezing  
Winner Announced in Brass Monkeys Speed Challenge**

Imagine the following Winter's day. The rain is pelting down, the temperature hasn't broken double digits and the wind is howling and so numbingly cold. It sounds like a great day to be inside, right? Well, not so for a group of keen windsurfers at Inverloch, who took to the waters of Anderson Inlet and beyond in search of the fastest speed on the coldest day.

Now in it's second year, 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 all 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.

"This year, we have seen some of the most awe inspiring conditions," says IWC Vice President, Mick Green, "we have hail, rain, sleet and several days where the wind has hit 50 knots, which is over 90 kilometers an hour!"

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

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. "We also included an away game, whereby competitors had to sail a session somewhere more than 100 kilometres from the Inlet."

This year's winner was Inverloch local- Dan Poynton.

"Personally, I love the competition. A lot of the activities & events our club runs is based on social sailing, but this \$3 monkey just brings on white line fever with me.. hahaha" said Dan, "The inclusion of an away game saw sailors looking at many new and interesting places to sail- all with the view of finding the coldest temperatures. Several sailors headed to Mt Buller, I ended up in Ballarat, and one even started to plan a trip to Tasmania!"

The event was not without drama, with several spectacular crashes, broken equipment and one sailor having to ditch his rig during a violent storm.



“Its all part of participating in an extreme sport” says IWC Club president, Doug Hocken , “the speed challenge is at the more dangerous end of the sport, but the competitors are all experienced sailors, who know what they are doing. It’s not something many people will ever experience- the rush of the wind and water, and the freezing conditions, but it’s highly addictive”

Dan continues, “There was one session that stood out for me this winter. It was a freezing day down at Sandy Point, i was the only one there. It was just an amazing feeling blasting along the inlet that day, the mountains of Wilson's Prom in the background, big grey clouds, it really was just an awesome feeling. Just me, my gear and nature's elements in full force. The warm feed and a beer at the Fish Creek pub on the way home wasnt bad either.”

Back to the last week of the competition, where some high jinks and mischief saw the end result in doubt. Mr Hocken continues: “Dan was leading the race but went on holidays three days before the competition ended. He was travelling to a place that didn’t have great phone or internet coverage, so a few of the other competitors thought it might be funny to suggest that he might have been beaten at the last minute by a mystery sailor. Dan spent the first few hours of his holiday frantically trying to check the scores to make sure he was still in the lead!”.

The Brass Monkeys Speed Challenge is one of many events and activities organized by the Inverloch Windsurfing Club This year the Club is hosting a series of free events and come and try days, which allows the local community to access this challenging but highly addictive sport. For more information, please contact Doug Hocken on 0417 382 650, or visit the website- <http://inverlochwindsurf.org.au>

**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:

<http://inverlochwindsurf.org.au>

Facebook Group: Inverloch Windsurfing Club

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ATTACHED IMAGES

dan\_on\_water.jpg

Caption: “Local Inverloch resident Dan Poynton, taking part in the IWC Brass Monkeys Speed Challenge”



Dan\_and\_simon.jpg

Caption: "Dan Poynton (on left) received the esteemed 2011 trophy from 2010 Brass Monkey champion- Simon "Moondo" Chambers"