



HYDRO TASMANIA
WILDWATER
ICF WORLD CUP 2009



24 OCTOBER TO 7 NOVEMBER 2009, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA



Hydro Tasmania
the renewable energy business

MEDIA RELEASE

GORGEOUS GORGE VENUE FOR FINAL WORLD CUP RACE

“Spectator Heaven with Wildwater Elites”

Friday, 6 November 2009



Tasmania
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Forestry Tasmania



The venue for the final race of the 2009 Hydro Tasmania ICF Wildwater World Cup – Cataract Gorge, Launceston - put on a sparkling display today with competitors basking in glorious sunshine for their final practice runs before tomorrow’s final, exhilarating race to decide who will win the 2009 World Cup.

Top of the rankings for the Women’s K1 event is Jessica Oughton who has dominated her class and is widely tipped to take out the 2009 World Cup for her division. Slovenians are maintaining their hold on two divisions with Nejc Znidarcic (pron. Nayts Zneedarcich) looking set to take line honours in the Men’s K1 World Cup, while his compatriot Jost Zakrajsek (pron. Yost Zakrashek) is the top-ranked athlete in the Men’s C1 section. Germany currently leads the Men’s C2 class but might have a fight on its hands with Czech team not far behind in the rankings.

Competitors found the course harder than first imagined and made full use of the two days’ practice to learn the lines and deal with some of the challenging sections it presented. Tomorrow, they will get two runs over the course with their combined times deciding the outcome of the sixth and final race.

Organisers for the 2009 Hydro Tasmania ICF Wildwater World Cup, Canoe Tasmania are delighted with preparations for tomorrow’s final race of the



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series – the Rapid Sprint.

Chair of Canoe Tasmania, John Borojevic, said that all the ingredients were in place for a final, fantastic race at the Gorge.

“The weather forecast is great and we are expecting spectators to arrive in their thousands to see who will win the 2009 World Cup tomorrow.

“We’ve hired a shuttle bus which is free for spectators and will operate continuously between the Bathurst Street car park and the Gorge from 9.45 until 5 tomorrow. Entry to the Gorge is by gold coin donation and spectators can see all the action on the big screen located adjacent to the basin lawns. First run is at 11am, second at 1pm with ceremonies and presentations scheduled for 3.30.

“Don’t forget to bring your cow bells to cheer on the competitors!” John said.

The Australian Men’s C1 paddler, Chris Schmidt was finally able to join his team yesterday only to suffer a dislocated shoulder at the first weir. Undaunted, Schmidt is determined not to miss any more races and confirmed himself as a starter for tomorrow’s rapid sprint

Wildwater Races are individual time trials down sections of rivers containing difficult rapids. Specially-designed kayaks and canoes are used to negotiate the natural features of the river: rapids; rocks; tight corners; and waves; in order to find the fastest route down. Strong mental and technical skills are required with top wildwater racers among the fittest athletes on earth. Paddlers from 26 nations competed at the 2007 World Cup.

Media Enquiries: Moya Deigan on 0409 067 788 between 3.30pm and 5pm today or 0400 075 202 from tomorrow.

For more information about the 2009 Hydro Tasmania ICF Wildwater World Cup go to:

<http://www.wildwatertasmania.canoe.org.au/>