

MURRAY'S BAY SAILING CLUB



MEDIA RELEASE - 19 December 2011

The World is Arriving Nearly every day we have teams arriving in New Zealand, and we love it! We have 48 countries officially registered and 210 young sailors competing for the new World Champion title.

The Facebook page is updated daily to welcome the arriving teams.

Most teams arriving want to go straight into training. And now they can.

Yesterday (Sunday 18 December) all the 25 brand new coach and rescue boats were blessed and launched. These boats will be used by the many different coaches before the regattas and will serve as rescue boats during the regattas. But after the OptiWorlds these boats will be distributed around New Zealand and will be used for many years to come to train the future champs.

"Many organisations have been instrumental in this legacy" says Kevin Brown, one of the OptiWorlds organisers. "The Lion Foundation has provided the biggest part of the grant making it possible to purchase these boats. Southern Pacific provided the hulls, Enduro made the trailers and Napier company Erikson Honda supplied the outboard motors. They were all part of a successful tendering process and have been great to work with" says Mr Brown. Furniture company Big Save provided the space to store all these brand new boats until they were needed.

Tourism Minister Chris Tremain was present at the launch and acknowledged the significance the OptiWorlds has for the region, and for New Zealand. "This is such an important event in the lives of many young people. We wish you all the best of luck, but most of all a great time in New Zealand".

"The OptiWorlds has now arrived" says Pete Dawson, Chairman of the OptiWorlds, "and we would like to recognise the overwhelming support given to this regatta by our many sponsors and supporters. Some are large and some are small but you have all been so generous in helping us fund this rare opportunity to host this world class event. Contributions have come from all around the country and we wish to acknowledge the support of The New Zealand Government both Central and Local, the various Charitable Trusts, Corporate New Zealand, Suppliers and Napier Businesses, Napier Sailing Club, the New Zealand Yachting Community and the many individuals who have volunteered so much of their time".

Apart from the racing, there are many other activities organised for the public. Yachting New Zealand have provided a number of Opti Dinghies and the public is invited to have a go themselves. There will also be a Farmers Market on Monday 2nd January.

The public is invited to come down to the Sound Shell in Napier for the Official Opening Ceremony on 31 December 5pm. Watch the racing on the beach on Hardinge Road, or come down to the Fan Zone at the Napier Sailing Club for replays of the races and mixing with 48 nationalities.

www.optiworldsnz.com

30 December 2011 - 10 January 2012

Opti Worlds Vital Stats:

The boat: a safe and simple dinghy that is one of the world's most popular designs

The racing: 9 days of Championship racing

The competitors: around 210 sailors aged between 11 and 15 years

The countries: teams from 48 nations including reigning Champs Thailand

The host club: Napier Sailing Club, Napier, New Zealand

Famous sailors that have started out in Optis include: Ben Ainslie

The big sponsors: Vodafone, New Zealand Major Events, Hawke's Bay Tourism, SPARC, City of Napier, Air New Zealand, the Radio Network, EuroCity Napier, Victoria Cruising Club, Lion Foundation

The technology: GPS tracking and live video coverage online - real time

The website: www.optiworldsnz.com

The Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/optiworldsnz2011>

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