



Introducing the Manawatu Power Boat Club Inc.

The Manawatu Power Boat Club Inc is an incorporated society established in 1962. 2012 will be our 50th year and we are very much looking forward to celebrating.

Before the current incorporated society was formed the club was known as the Manawatu Boating Club with a power boat section and a yachting section.

Many of the older boaties got started in the sport by racing their pleasure crafts. Today the sport has progressed to highly specialized high powered craft coming in many shapes and sizes. None of the people race professionally – we all have regular jobs, everything from shop assistants to electricians and mechanics. Many struggle year to year to get their boats onto the water never mind having spare cash to support the costs of running the regatta. But we all share a passion for boat racing and the social network that surrounds it.

The Manawatu Power Boat club races on a stretch of water at Whirokino, 5kms south of Foxton and 10kms north of Levin. Our club is one of the most active in the country with some 40 members and growing. Our membership comes from Wellington, The Kapiti Coast, Horowhenua, Manawatu and even as far away as Paeroa.

Approx. 30 years ago the Manawatu Power Boat Club put in their own boat launching ramp and have maintained it ever since. The public have free and unrestricted use of this ramp every day of the year.





The Sport of Power Boat Racing

Power Boat racing is a fast and exhilarating sport. In fact our club is home to the fastest Modified Hydroplane racer in Australasia – Steve Mathieson in Midnight – Steve Mathieson in Midnight reached a top speed of 138.189mph (222.393kph).

Steve Mathieson in “Midnight” setting his speed record in his 2lt Nissan powered Hydroplane in May 2011

A Variety of Boats race on the Whirikino River

Grand Prix Class which incorporates not only the monster Hydroplanes but also The Blown Big Block Inboard Racing Runabouts. Shannon’s Kent Dunlop in “Razors Edge” runs a 510 cubic inch Methanol Guzzling 20 foot Skiff imported from Australia. This Boat is capable of Speeds up to 150mph in the right conditions.



Grand National Hydroplanes driven by V8 motors and throwing up huge rooster tails of water as they thunder down the river. Our very own Jamie Knight will be out in his Grand National Hydroplane ‘The Phantom’ defending his title against ‘Scorpion’ as they scream around the course coming in close to the bank and wetting any unsuspecting spectators!

Series 3000 racing inboard hulls limited to 3000 cc. Our own Paul Robertson will be out in “Going Going Gone” to retain his Sally Nagel Memorial trophy which took him some 15 years to win against Lakeland club’s Steiner’s in their boat ‘Misty Blue’. Sure to be a close contest.





The Tunnels Formula 1 down to Formula 3. These boats are outboard and are super swift turning on the spot at the corners. They will be out to defend the Gold Cup the major prize of our regatta. Steve Hughes having won the 40th anniversary trophy last year narrowly beating his son Sam Hughes who went on to win the overall New Zealand Power Boating supreme prize the 'Glenvale Driver of the Year'. Steve however has history on his side having won 7 times. Can he make it 8.

Clubman's Manawatu Power Boat Club has been working tirelessly over the winter months searching out old boats and recruiting new members. This class was big in the 1980's and is having a resurgence this year with some 12 boats on the water. It is an inexpensive way into the sport with most of the second hand boats costing less than \$2500 and they run on the smell of an oily rag with a 25HP outboard powering them.



This is excellent news for the future of racing at Manawatu. Not only have we gained some new adult members but an extra 3 new junior members aged 12-15 years.

We have ambitious plans to grow the sport further. Next year we expect some of this year's clubman's class drivers will want to step up to other classes of boat as naturally they'll want to go faster. This will ensure a natural progression allowing more youth into the sport.



The Gold Cup

Our major regatta each year is the Gold Cup Regatta. This year it is being held over Wellington Anniversary Weekend, 21st & 22nd of January 2012.

This weekend traditionally attracts up to 30 boats with more expected this year due to the resurgence of the clubman's class of boat. Manawatu Power Boat Club is hosting the Clubman's North Title.

Our feature event the **41st Gold Cup**. This is one of the most sort after cups in Power Boat racing in New Zealand. Boats come from as far away as Auckland and Christchurch to try and take the cup home. Our club is also hosting the Formula 3 North Island Title.

Our own trophies contested each year are:

- Sally Nagel Memorial Trophy
- Ross Knight Memorial Trophy
- Bob Dunlop Memorial Trophy
- Carl Augustine Memorial Trophy. This year being contested for the 60th time. Steve Mathieson from Team 13 has won the last 12 years and is after his 13th. Lucky or not?



As a 'not for profit' organization we are very reliant on Sponsorship funds to run this Regatta.



As you can imagine safety for all is a major concern in a sport such as this and that is where our major costs are incurred. Specialist Rescue Craft, Diver and on Shore Paramedics are all Essential requirements for the Regatta.

Additional funds are needed for advertising the event to ensure maximum spectator attendance. Our spectators come from Wellington, The Wairarapa, Kapiti Coast, Horowhenua, Manawatu and Wanganui regions.

Sponsorship funds are especially important this year as last year we lost our clubrooms to arson and earlier this year somebody finished the job by stealing our plastic 22,000 litre water tank. This leaves us having to hire all the equipment needed to run the regatta and we donate to the Tararua 4 wheel drive club as they come along to help launch the boats.

Below - the result of arson before we had to clean up the mess. Right – our beloved launching tractor didn't survive snapping in two because of the extreme heat.

