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2010 Etchells New South Wales Championship

State championship title on the line for Etchells class

The upcoming 2010 Etchells New South Wales Championship, being hosted by Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron on the 26th – 28th of February, will be used by many competitors as a warm up to the 2012 Etchells World Championship, which will also be hosted by Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

Entries have been received from as far afield as South Australia with Jason Ward's *Concubine* and Chris Pratt's *La Vie Dansante* joining the New South Wales, Victorian and Queensland boats expected to be competing in the fleet which will be taking advantage of the opportunity to sail offshore, off Sydney heads, on the waters where the 2012 World Championship racing will be conducted.

A number of teams who raced at the recent 2010 Etchells Australian Championship at Lake Macquarie will be appearing at the NSW titles later this month, including Victorians Graeme Taylor's *Maggie*, who finished third in the 2010 Australian Championship and Ian Johnson's *Banana's in Pyjama's* who finished just behind Taylor in fourth.

"We had a great time sailing in the Nationals up at Lake Macquarie and I'm looking forward to sailing offshore off Sydney Heads. I really enjoy offshore sailing in Sydney and am hoping to take advantage of the opportunity to get some time on the race course that we will use for the NSW titles and the 2012 Worlds. I am sailing with Wharo and Mothy who I have sailed with for about 12 months and are the team I am hoping will be with me for the 2012 Worlds as well", commented Taylor who will be sailing with his Nationals crew of Grant Wharington and Steve 'Mothy' Jarvin.

It is anticipated over 45 teams will enter the 2010 Etchells NSW Championship and the fleet will be peppered with former Etchells World Champions, America's Cup, Olympic and Volvo Ocean Race sailors all vying for the 2010 NSW Etchells Champion title.

2000 Olympic gold medallist Tom King and the crew of *Iron Lotus*, who finish seventh in Lake Macquarie will be on the start line along with Julian Plante's *North Star* who will be representing the Pittwater Etchells fleet having finished in the top ten at the Etchells Australian Championship.

Supporting the 2010 Etchells NSW Championship are Zhik, Tacktracker, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron and Positive Image Innovation.

For more information or details for entry please go to <http://www.etchells.org.au/sydney/states/>

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