



## International One Metre starts in stormy conditions

The International One Metre (IOM) National Championships commenced today at Montrose in windy conditions.

The most popular class of radio sailing, the IOM championships have 52 entrants from every Australian State, as well as New Zealand and the United States.

Wind speeds averaged 27 knots and gusted to 40 knots, making conditions difficult for skippers. As expected, yachts sailed with the smallest rigs available but still provided some exciting action as they surfed along downwind at speed on the swell. On upwind reaches yachts were almost flattened.

After four races the best national skippers are quickly showing they are the ones to beat. Greg Torpy (Qld) is in first place on 5 points, followed by Ross Bennet, WA (6) and Paul Jones, NSW (6).

Tasmanian skippers are led by Lisa Blackwood in 6<sup>th</sup> place (12 points) followed by Rod Jackman, John Cole-Cook and Chris Wood in 14,15 and 16 place.

The internationals are starting to match local skippers with Philip Pryde (NZ) in 7<sup>th</sup> and Paul Johnson (NZ) in 10<sup>th</sup>.

There is not much change in the wind pattern predicted by the Bureau for the next two days, with lighter conditions possible on Sunday, the last day of competition.

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