

The Ultimate Endurance Challenge
Hydro Tasmania Three Peaks Race
Conducted by the Port Dalrymple
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Love this challenge

RACE BACKGROUND

The Hydro Tasmania Three Peaks Race, now in its eighteenth year, is a four-day test of sailing skill and running endurance around Tasmania's scenic East Coast.

The Race starts on Good Friday (6th April 2007), at Beauty Point north of Launceston, on the Tamar River, and finishes in Hobart on the Derwent River.

During the race, teams of two runners have to complete three marathon-length runs which include scaling Mt. Strzelecki, on Flinders Island in Bass Strait, Mt. Freycinet, at Coles Bay on Tasmania's East Coast, and Mt. Wellington in Hobart.

The course, which comprises about 140 km of running and 600 km of sailing, is testing and passes through some of Australia's most rugged and beautiful scenery.

The Three Peaks concept was inspired in the United Kingdom some 28 years ago by Welsh mountaineer and seaman Major H. W. (Bill) Tilman. The original race was organised by two Welsh doctors, Rob Haworth and the late Merfyn Jones.

They planned a sailing course from Barmouth in Wales, to Fort William, Scotland, with runners scaling the highest mountains in Wales, England and Scotland.

In 1989, expatriate Tasmanian Martin Pryor saw the potential for this event in Tasmania and brought the concept to Australia after competing in the British race two years earlier.

A number of innovative features of the British Three Peaks Race have been transferred to the Australian event including boat sponsorship and acceptance of mono and multi-hulled yachts.

The Hydro Tasmania Three Peaks Race is governed by innovative rules specifically published by the organising committee that allow yachts to be rowed, propelled by human-powered propellers or towed by human power in addition to the usual sailing.

Entry is open to any well-found yacht, either monohull or multi-hull, with a minimum hull length of 8.5 metres crewed by five persons over the age of 18.

In addition to the Main Racing Division, there is the Cruising Division and the Fully Crewed Division. The Cruising Division provides yachts with a motoring allowance and the ability to take in excess of the normal five members of the team.

The Fully Crewed Division is ideal for owners of offshore racing yachts wanting to take their usual complement of crew rather than be sailing short-handed. This Division has some restrictions on the sailing course yachts can take at Flinders Island and requires Fully Crewed Division yachts to round Tasman Island on their passage to Hobart. These requirements remove some of the navigational challenges that the Main Racing Division can face when choosing to select a short-cut in Franklin Sound or through the Denison Canal at Dunalley.

Further information:

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