



FORMULA WINDSURFING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITOR INFORMATION

Sail Melbourne welcomes all Formula Windsurfers who have qualified to compete on the 2005 World Championships. This is sure to be one of the greatest Formula events ever with a terrific venue, exciting sailing conditions and excellent race / event management all focussed to ensure you have an enjoyable time here in Melbourne. The following information is provided for event competitors and their families/supporters to help you make your arrangements to compete in the event as easy as possible.

If you have any questions or require further assistance feel free to contact the Sail Melbourne office at any time.

ACCOMMODATION

The Event is being held in the Melbourne suburb of Elwood on Port Phillip Bay. Surrounding suburbs that have accommodation that are easily within walking distance are: St Kilda, Elwood, Elsternwick and Brighton so look for places in these areas if you want to be able to walk.

There are 3 different accommodation options:

1. Local hotels and hostels:

There are a number of low and medium budget hotels and numerous backpacker style hostels within ~3 kms of the venue (at the most).

Sail Melbourne recommend the following two to start with:

- The nearest and simplest is the 2-3 star Elwood Sands Hotel which is literally 100m from the club: www.elwoodsandsmotel.com.au (ask Steve Allen of Wojtek for a report!). Cheryl speaks Polish and is very friendly.
- Long and short stay, clean and well serviced, communal accommodation with full kitchen and cooking facilities, 2.5km from venue: 3 star Australia Wide Student Accommodation. www.austudent.com

There are a range of back packer style hostels in St Kilda – some of the names being: Base Backpackers, Ritz, Coffee Palace, St Kilda Lodge and Backpackers Centre Australia

There are a number of search engines for accommodation that are easily found on the internet – or just type in any of the following into Google: Back Packer Melbourne or Hostels Melbourne and you will get a range of results.

The Tourism Victoria website accommodation listings are a good place to start:

<http://www3.visitvictoria.com.au/displayObject.cfm?ObjectID=00099026-6FD9-1A6F-BFCD80C476A90000>

...but here are a few others:

<http://www.totaltravel.com.au/travel/vic/melbournearea/baysidesuburbsmelbourne/directory/hostels>

<http://www.tourisminternet.com.au/melbacc4.htm>

2. Short stay apartments:

If you do not want to stay in a hotel or with others and wanted a self-contained apartment for yourselves – you're looking for a Short Stay or Serviced Apartment to rent. These are a little harder to find and we probably recommend that you rent a car as well as these are usually a bit further from the venue.

Here are a few links to apartments I have found on the internet. None are 'recommended' as such but only because I have not visited them.

www.questapartments.com.au/search/fs_search.asp?state=2&loc=18

www.astonapartments.com.au/aston/index.htm

www.ozihotels.com.au/index.php

www.punthill-apartments.com.au/

www.shortstayapartments.com.au

www.dinglepartners.com.au/

www.realestateview.com.au

www.cityedge.com.au/

Suburbs that less than a 10 minute drive away with have apartments are: Melbourne (the City), St Kilda, South Yarra, Brighton, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Windsor, South Bank, Prahran. A bit further away but still OK: East Melbourne, Punt Hill,

3. Homestay program

Sail Melbourne conducts an accommodation program to billet sailors to stay with locals in their homes. Many local residents accommodate sailors for very reasonable rates in either a spare room in their houses, in a vacant unit or bungalow they may have out the back of their houses and occasionally residents provide the whole house as they are going away on holiday for a week or two.

More information and the forms to fill out to register for this program are on the homestay accommodation page on this website at: www.sailmelbourne.com.au/pages/homestayprogram

TRANSFERS

Sail Melbourne offers to pick up sailors and their equipment free of charge from the Melbourne Tullamarine (international) airport. Whilst wanting to provide this service to competitors this does not exactly mean that we will come out to meet every flight but will conduct up to three free shuttle runs each day to pick up sailors and their equipment in the 4 days leading up to the event.

To register your interest for this service please e-mail the Sail Melbourne office (info@sailmelbourne.com.au) with your exact flight arrival details as soon as you know them and we will prepare a time schedule. We greatly encourage sailors to arrive together and unite your arrival times as much as possible.

Further information will be posted on this website at a later date.

VISAS TO ENTER AUSTRALIA

Australia is quite strict about visas - all travelers to Australia must have a valid visa before boarding their plane and travelers to Australia cannot apply for a visa on arrival. To summaries very quickly – there are two possible visa options: an ETA (a 977 visa- electronic visa) or a paper visa (a subclass 456 visa). The appropriate visa for you to apply for will depend on their country of passport.

(1)The electronic short stay Business visa (ETA 977):

The ETA is an electronic or invisible visa and can be applied for online and issued the same day but it is not available for all travelers. ETA visas are available for people with passports of the following countries: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal , Republic of San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA, United Kingdom. If you are from any of these countries you can get your visa via the following page: www.eta.immi.gov.au

(2) The paper short stay Business visa -subclass 456:

If you are not from any of the countries listed above, you will need to apply for a short stay Business visa (456) at the closest Australian visa office to their current place of residence. Form 456 can be downloaded from the DIMIA website at: www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/456.pdf To find out where the nearest, appropriate visa office to you to lodge your visa application click here: www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas.htm If you need to apply for a 456 visa you are advised to apply for a visa well in advance of their intended date of travel – minimum 6 weeks before leaving.

For more information on Visas and what is involved either download the attached **PDF fact sheet** or visit the Department of immigration and Multicultural Affairs website at: www.immi.gov.au/business/iecn.htm

EQUIPMENT STORAGE

Equipment will be securely stored, free of charge from Friday December 9th – Sunday December 18th 2005.

The host of the event Elwood Sailing Club has offered to store competitors equipment before the event for a minimal fee so sailors can train and practice at the venue from Sunday December 4th 2005. The costs for this service have been kept to a minimum and cover the running costs only. For more information on this storage service please contact the Elwood Sailing Club on worlds@elwoodsc.com

Alternatively - we are offering to Formula Windsurfing Teams (or a group of 10 individuals) the opportunity to rent one of only 5, 20ft containers right in the middle of the rigging area to store your equipment in and use as your base during the event – for around \$US2.81 per rider per day! Further details are on the attached PDF letter below. If you are interested and to secure one before they run out – contact Sail Melbourne on info@sailmelbourne.com.au

Team container details PDF

Did we mention grass rigging areas! – yep – the whole thing is lovely grass!

RACING PROGRAM

As the Notice of Race details, the World Championships will be raced from December 13th – 17th 2005 with measurement and registration on the December 12th.

There is also a pre worlds event that is open to all sailors qualified or not (also the Australian Championships) to be raced on December 10th and 11th 2005 with registration and measurement on December 9th 2005. So this pre event will give you the perfect opportunity to get up to speed and test with the local conditions.

Entries for the World Championships are to be directed to IWA, entries to the Australian Championship (pre event) are to be sent to Sail Melbourne. A separate Notice of Race will be posted for this event by the end of September 2005 and entries will be accepted online on the Sail Melbourne website.

RS:X RACING AFTERWARDS – BRING YOUR GEAR OR GET IT HERE!

Sail Melbourne is also the organiser of the ISAF Grade 1 Olympic and Invited Classes Regatta being held at Sandringham Yacht Club just 5km away from Elwood over January 7th – 14th 2006. This event is also the Oceanic Championships for the new Neil Pryde RS:X and will be the first ISAF Grade 1 event to include the new Olympic Class. There is also a Warm up event for the RS:X on January 5th and 6th 2005.

So here's a plan – either bring your RS:X gear with you if you have it, or buy it over here (details below), and then stay on in Melbourne after the Formula Worlds and train and practice on the RS:X for 3 weeks and then do the first ISAF Grade 1 event in the class to really see how you shape up – couldn't be easier!

If you do not have RS:X gear but want to give it a good go you have two options:

- 1) Buy it over here. We have arranged priority supply of the gear from Neil Pryde and it will be available to buy from Sailboard Headquarters (SHQ) which is just 500m from the Sandringham Yacht Club and the water. For more info: www.shq.com.au
- 2) Apply to Neil Pryde for charter gear. They have made 10 full sets of the RS:X gear available for charter to Formula Windsurfers after the World Championships. You can rent their gear for 4 weeks, train, test and get up to speed before the ISAF Grade 1 event and then give it back to them! To lodge your interest to charter their gear e-mail: Ailsa Angus, International Manager RS:X Racing Class on: aangus@neilpryde-rsx.com

Sail Melbourne is working with a few clubs to arrange short term, secure storage of your RS:X equipment between the Formula Worlds and the ISAF Grade 1 Oceanic Championships for the RS:X so this will all be taken care of as well!

...AND ALL THIS IN THE WORLDS MOST LIVABLE CITY

The suburb of Elwood and more specifically St Kilda is one of the trendiest areas in Melbourne... these areas are the life of the city and this event is right in the middle of it! Look at any guidebook for Australia and St Kilda is one of those places they say you have to visit!

Cafés bars, restaurants, live music, entertainment... you want it and we've got it right on the doorstep of the event! Check out these websites for a start:

That's Melbourne – Music and Nightlife - www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/info.cfm?top=259&pg=2191

City Search Guide – www.melbourne.citysearch.com.au

Official Tourism Victoria Website – information and detail on things to do in the whole state:
www.visitvictoria.com.au

The venue naturally provides an excellent racing arena – with clear viewing for the public, a busy promenade full of roller bladders, walkers and bikers, an excellent beach with plenty of women working on the tan, people swimming and no shortage of activity – this is THE PLACE FOR A WINDSURFING EVENT!

Combined with 12-17 knots of cross/onshore sea breezes every day and the racing will be superb!

If you ever had any doubt about coming to Melbourne for this event you're crazy – this is one event you'd be MAD TO MISS!

If you want any further information or details on the event and how to get here then contact Sail Melbourne: info@sailmelbourne.com.au or have a look around the website as there is plenty of information there to help you as well: www.sailmelbourne.com.au

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