

Attention Southport Yacht Club Members:

The **Gold Coast Outrigger Canoe Club** are proud to be hosting the Outrigger "National Changeover Championship" over the weekend of the 25th & 26th June 2016. To assist with the race, I am requesting any semi displacement / planing vessels to volunteer their boats and their weekend to this great fun event. This is a huge event with crews from all over Australia and overseas expecting to compete, so about 70 planing/ semi displacement vessels will be required each day for the event, including bow riders, bayliners, centre consoles, sport cruiser, sundancer, sports fishing boats, monohull and multihull performance and speed boats, as well as rubber ducks (IRB's) etc.

The race consists of Outrigger canoes paddling offshore, racing from both Kingscliffe and Greenmount Beach (Saturday and Sunday respectively), in through the Gold Coast Seaway, and finishing off the Broadwater Parklands. (Please find attached the race Program). These 42km & 32km marathon paddles respectfully takes approx 3hrs to complete, and requires escort boats to run alongside the racing canoes enabling crew changeovers every 20 min or so.

Escort boats required will therefore need to have the ability to do about 15knotts, legally carry a minimum of 5 P.O.B. (preferably 6 including the driver), manoeuvre easily, and have access for a swimmer to get out of the water.

Each Outrigger crew will pay for your entire fuel bill for the event (Approx \$200 /day), and perhaps a driver too if needed. This is a truly fun day out - and a great opportunity to do something completely different!

To explain responsibilities further: Each outrigger team is made up of 9 or 10 crew, with 6 of them in the 6 man canoe (OC6) racing, and the other 3 or 4 resting, drinking, and eating on the escort boat. Every 15-20min, the escort boat drops the relief paddlers who are rested and fresh, into the water ahead of the canoe, which is then steered toward them. Paddler replacements involve exit and entry to the canoe directly from the water while the canoe is under way and doing about 6 knotts (this is called a *water change*). The relief paddlers grab, and climb in on the outrigger arm ("ama") side of the canoe, as those they are replacing roll out into the water on the opposite side. The canoe does not stop. The escort boat stands off while this is happening, and it is a great spectacle! The escort boat then picks up the "old" paddlers in the water for their turn to rest. Once all are aboard you catch up to your canoe, staying with them, while not impeding or offering your wash to others until the next changeover is due! Check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOc6pO9k0vk> for a "changeover" and <https://vimeo.com/24447275> for the full race experience (fast forward to 2:30 to see the escort boats and changeovers).

If I have sold you on this great day out, and you are able to help - please contact me via office@oceaniamarine.com or 0405 490 285. I will then keep in touch with you until closer to the date, pair you with a team, and they will offer you a deposit to secure you for their escort boat for the event, and communicate with you from there!

Thank you for your consideration and help! If you can think of anyone else who may be interested, your help in passing this on would be greatly appreciated! I look forward to hearing from you!

Regards,

Helen James

President - Gold Coast Outrigger Canoe Club

