



Action from the Barbados Worlds May 2012 Photos ©: Tom Gruitt / www.fotoboat.com

Fireballs to visit WA – 50 years young and still going strong

The International Fireball fleet will return to Western Australia in December 2011 through to January 2012 where Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club will host the 2012 World Championships.

The Fireball fleet is opening up new locations across the world for world championships, their recent visit to Bridgetown, Barbados for the 2010 Championships proving a big hit. The 2012 championships, the first world championships to be hosted by the MOFSC at their world class facility were launched in Mandurah on the 19th of June by the Deputy Premier of WA Kim Hames.

The event opens a big year for the Fireball fleet as 2012 is the 50th anniversary of the boat first launched in March 1962.

When Englishman, Peter Milne first designed the boat he had a few core values in mind – cheapness to build and maintain, simplicity to construct and race, unequalled performance on the racecourse and a striking design.

Fifty years on these core values still shine through. With over 15000 Fireballs being built to date the class remains one of the strongest traditional fleets and is sailed in over 40 countries around the world.

Recent World Championships have been dominated by UK based boats but in Mandurah the best Australian sailors will have chance to break the stranglehold. At the recent world championships in Barbados two Australian boats finished in the top 10, five all up in the top 20, and with new enthusiasm and youth entering the class, brought on by the upcoming worlds, the Australians are hoping for big things in Mandurah.

The Fireball fleet last held a major championship in Western Australia in 2001 when Fremantle Sailing Club hosted the Australian titles. Since then the fleet in WA has contracted but with the 2012 World Championships, it is hoped interest in this excellent dinghy will be re-kindled. To help the club promote the event the Fireball Association has purchased and re-furbished 2 boats to be loaned to the club for any interested sailors to try. The boats were officially handed over on Saturday 19th June at the launch of the 2012 Worlds.



Association boats at their launch in Adelaide 6th June 2010



2012 Worlds launch at Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club

50 years and 15000 boats doesn't lie, the Fireball offers excitement and great competition, see you in Mandurah to celebrate 50 years of great racing, and comradery.

To find out more about the class, arrange to try out a boat or keep up to date with plans for the upcoming worlds in Mandurah, WA visit www.fireballaustralia.org

See action from the recent Barbados Worlds on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0dIKs7wKu4&feature=related>

To keep up with the latest announcements regarding the event join the Facebook group. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=355085121289>