



## **Royal Geelong Yacht Club's Wooden Boat Festival is on again in 2014.**

### **Meet Special Guest Renowned Solo Circumnavigator and Author Jill Knight**

Here's some news for all wooden boat owners and enthusiasts. The Royal Geelong Yacht Club will once again be hosting the Whyte, Just & Moore Lawyers Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong next year, and they need plenty of wooden boats to attend.

The 2014 Festival will take place over four days from **Thursday March 6th to Sunday March 9th** and, as with previous occasions, will be an opportunity for the public to get amongst wooden boats old and new, as well as fascinating onshore displays of nautical equipment, brassware, rope making and lots more. Best of all, the festival will feature wooden boat builders demonstrating traditional crafts like caulking and steam bending. As in previous years, public entry to the event will be absolutely free with an entry fee of \$45 (plus GST) for all exhibitors.

Out on the water there will be plenty of action. Royal Geelong Yacht Club will be hosting the Heron Victorian Titles as a part of the festival. As well, yachts will race around set courses in and out of Corio Bay, competing for many sponsored trophies. Timber powerboats will engage in baffling navigation exercises. And at the dock, all vessels will vie for awards in a magnificent concours d'elegance, while on land there will be music, food, drink, and roving entertainers. The RGYC theatre will screen evocative old time movies and historic pictures that show how life on the water used to be. There'll be heaps for the kids too, including a treasure hunt and face painting and a visit from Pirate Captain Jack Sparrow.

"In 2012 we ended up with over a hundred boats," says Stuart Dickson, festival chairman and himself the proud owner and builder of a wooden yacht. "We had classic yachts, some built over 100 years ago. Cauta boats, Tumlarins, a tall ship, speed boats, dinghies, you name it. We're trying to make 2014 even more special."

Speaking of special, the 2014 festival special guest is author and wooden boat legend Jill Knight. Jill circumnavigated the globe, with only her cat for company, in a 120 year old, 47 foot gaff cutter called Cooee. She is internationally acclaimed and recognised as an author, a long distance cruising sailor, and an authority on wooden boat maintenance.

It is perhaps appropriate that Royal Geelong Yacht Club, established in 1859 and the oldest in the bay, throws a party attracting all sorts of wooden boats from all over the country, in a celebration of the incredible craftsmanship that goes into creating boats out of timber.

"It's grown so much over the years, and it's just keeps getting bigger and better," says Stuart Dickson. "2014 will be huge, I can promise you that."

Anyone interested in finding out more can ring Stuart Dickson on 0417379860, email [stuardt@adrec.com.au](mailto:stuardt@adrec.com.au), or visit [www.rgyc.com.au](http://www.rgyc.com.au)

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