



Dear Boat Owner,

Planning for the **2018 Yanmar/Wooden Boatshop Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong** is well advanced and we are now ready to receive entries.

Accordingly, I again extend a warm invitation for you to join us from the 10th – 12th March, 2018, for what promises to be our best festival in our twelve year history. The notice of race is now available.

Please refer to the NOR for entry fees. (Multiple entries by one owner will only incur the one charge.) All entrants will go in the draw to win prizes valued at \$4000.00. To enter visit <http://www.woodenboatfestivalgeelong.com.au>

Sponsorships and funding for all sections of the festival have been secured and we are again expecting a wide range of entries, covering on-water and shore based craft. We will be again holding our off the beach regatta from Eastern Beach along with the Victorian Cadet State Titles. We are expecting a great fleet of up to 5 Tall Ships to be on Corio Bay. This will be a great spectacle not to be missed.

Portarlington safe harbour will see the start of the festival on Friday 9th with a pre festival gathering for boats that wish to break up the trip to Geelong. There will be entertainment, Portarlington mussels, whisky tastings on the Tall Ships and breakfast will be available prior to the start of the Passage Race to Geelong on Saturday morning 10th. Sunday will see our racing program continue in Geelong with all classes on the water. The theatre will be operating for presentations and films. Our Wooden Boat Builders display will be expanded and there will be steam engines, model boats and many other displays as well as our kid's stage with Captain Jack Sparrow, Face Painting, buskers and heaps of activities. The Anglesea Sport and Recreation Club will be in attendance with several of their 100 year old rowing skiffs and we will see the St Ayles Skiffs racing once again in Geelong. The Bote - Cote Quick and Dirty boat building completion should again be a huge draw card.

Our social program is built around a BBQ on both Saturday and Sunday, as well as music and entertainment on both days, with a live band for our Rock and Roll night Saturday. The Royal Australian Navy Jazz Band will again be a major attraction along with our Busker's Festival and roving Sea Shantie Singers will be performing all weekend. Our Club Café will be open for breakfast and lunch and the popular **Presentation Dinner** will be held on the Sunday evening. Our adult maritime art exhibition and children's art completion will take place over the weekend and should not be missed.

We are extremely pleased to announce the 2018 Presentation Dinner guest speaker will be the renowned Sydney Skiff sailor and author, Mr. Ian Smith. Ian has recently released his book, "The Open Boat" which details the origin, evolution and construction of the Australian 18 ft Skiff. Entry to the dinner will be by pre-purchased tickets, which are available from the RGYC office when you register. Tickets are \$60.00 per head and as there are only 150 places, be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

Should you have any queries about the Festival do not hesitate to contact the RGYC on 0352293705. Make sure you visit our web site, <http://www.woodenboatfestivalgeelong.com.au> for regular updates and reports.

We look forward to seeing you in Geelong in **2018**.

Regards,
Stuart Dickson
(Chairman 2018 Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong)