

Introduction

In February 2007, the waters of South Australia will again play host to the state's premier yachting event.

On Friday February 23, over 80 yachts will line up to compete in the 58th Blue Water Classic, Adelaide to Port Lincoln Yacht Race. The race is the lead up to the Lincoln Week Regatta, sailed on the picturesque waters of Boston Bay, arguably some of the best sailing waters in the world.

The event attracts both racing and cruising yachts from around Australia including a multi-hull fleet.

The series starts in Adelaide and finishes in Port Lincoln with a six-race regatta. Port Lincoln is the rapidly developing "regional capital" of the bustling Eyre Peninsula region. Its buoyant economy is supported by the productive agricultural hinterland and the innovative aquaculture and fishing industries.

The Blue Water Classic is one of the nation's oldest yacht racing events and has grown to become an icon on the national yachting calendar.

The Lexus Bluewater Classic

This Years Event consists of the 150 nautical miles Blue Water Classic
The Adelaide - Port Lincoln Yacht Race.

The cruising fleet starts at 10am on Friday morning and the racing fleet starts at 3pm at Port Adelaide's, Outer Harbour.

Next comes a short dash along Adelaide's northern beaches to the popular beachside entertainment precinct of Semaphore. Here the fleet rounds a buoy just off the jetty cheered on by hundreds of enthusiastic observers, and heads southwest to Port Lincoln.

The course takes the fleet through some of South Australia's most notorious, yet spectacular, sailing waters. The fleet sails through Investigator Strait and skirt the treacherous Southern Ocean before heading northwest to Dangerous Reef. The final leg from Donnington lighthouse to the finish line in Port Lincoln can see the race results change many times as tired crews try to pick the many wind shifts and gusts in picturesque Boston Bay.

The finish of the race on Saturday signals the start of arguably the toughest part of the event - Port Lincoln hospitality.

Lexus Lincoln Week Regatta

Now you've just sailed all the way from Adelaide (at least), why the hell would you NOT want to stay on and take in the array of delights and activities on offer in Port Lincoln? Yes, Port Lincoln, birth place of Olympic Gold medalist Dean Lukin, home to Australia's biggest fishing fleet, THE place for deserted islands, secluded beaches and unbelievable fishing. Then there's the palate pleasing local wines and the world's greatest seafood. Seafood! Seafood so fresh it's still twitching. Oh and Makybe Diva's owners live here too and we now have a work of art right on the foreshore to celebrate the enormous achievements that wonderful mare accomplished. And we have sharks too, BIG ones. (It can't all be good!).

But most importantly for us yachtie types, its home to the biggest natural harbour (Boston Bay) in OZ, hand made for what ever type of sailing gets you off: flat water, good winds, and a huge, deep, safe expanse of salty H2O. The 32nd Lincoln Week Regatta is an absolute must do for anyone with a boat in the area at the time. Lincoln Week Regatta starts on Monday, the 26th of February 2007 the day after the Q.L.D. (quiet little drink) at the Port Lincoln Yacht Club organized to celebrate and award the competitors of the Adelaide to Port Lincoln Yacht Race.

The clubrooms are ideally situated on the foreshore of the main beach. The PLYC is within walking distance of local cafes, restaurants, banking, the town's post office and the major shopping precinct.

Formed in 1931, with the major objective being "To Foster a Love of the Sea..." the then Port Lincoln Yachting Club eventually constructed their clubhouse in 1953. Today sees an enthusiastic group of sailors participating in a variety of classes. Holdfast Trainers, 420's, Sharpies, Lasers, Mosquitoes and a healthy salability fleet adorn the beach and adjoining lawn area on most weekends during the sailing season.

The administration and general running of the club including on water coaching, support vessels and staff, start boats and race officials is all voluntary. The only paid staff being the ever patient bar manager, Pippa.

A healthy fleet of keel boats including 6 highly competitive and state of the art Sydney 32's are berthed at the Lincoln Cove Marina, 10 minutes drive from the club. During the Lincoln Week Regatta, activities such as pre race briefings and the presentation of the day's winners are run on the boardwalk of the Marina Hotel, less than a stones throw from the keel boat berths.

There will be several new classes competing in the event this year with a major draw card being the National sports boats and Trailables Titles to be run in conjunction with the regatta.

There will be the uncompromising win at all costs Racing Division with Adelaide based Adelaide/Lincoln Race, Lincoln Week Regatta stalwart Secret Men's Business (Geoff Beottcher) heading the list of big boats competing in the regatta. Skandia Wild Thing is interested at having another crack at the Adelaide/ Lincoln race record but it's hard to pin her down for Lincoln Week participation. This year's sponsor Lexus will be there again for the week with their Sydney 38, keen starters after a taste of Port Lincoln hospitality and superb racing on flat water last year.

The 6 (so far) Sydney 32's will as usual be conducting their race within a race routine providing both entertainment and spectacle for all involved. These boats race each other all season in their own "One design" division come rain or shine and will represent serious competition to all participants in the Racing division

The Adelaide based J24 sailing class will be assembling en mass to do battle out on the fabulously flat waters of Boston Bay too in yet another first for Lincoln Week adding even more spark and colour to an already buzzing event.

In its second year the Cruising Fleet will once again be part of the competition participating in less arduous "round the cans" racing. In the case of Lincoln Week that will also mean round the islands, coves and beaches in the Bay ensuring that new comers get a good look at the stunning coastline and natural beauty of the area during the course of the race. Weather permitting; the fleet will be witness to as many local treasures as possible during the races. The cruising division is ideal for trailer sailors or fixed keel boats not into the rigors of windward-leeward racing. It's still competitive with an arbitrary handicap system and some kite work but nothing too strenuous with an emphasis on **FUN!**

The entries list on the PLYC website at this moment also shows 3 multihulls are registered for Lincoln Week. This will again be another first for the regatta and shows the interest visitors have in sailing on this magnificent expansive harbour.

The whole week is designed to cater for the specific needs of yachties whether competitive, cruising or somewhere in between. This regatta has the reputation of being one of the friendliest in Australia so why not toss off those mooring lines get a bunch of mates together and come on down South in the last week of February and see what all the noise is about.