



Plain sailing for bosses

Bill Nicholas

THE Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic leaves from the Royal South Australia Yacht Squadron on Friday at 3pm, with the yachts arriving in Port Lincoln's Boston Bay on Saturday.

The Lexus Lincoln Week Regatta, which has tripled in size over the past few years, will follow, with racing in and around Boston Bay.

It is the 59th Bluewater Classic and key competitors include Grant Wharington and his super maxi, *Skandia*, and Martin Riley's *Raw Nerve*, a multihull from Melbourne.

Skandia will be crewed by some of the Women on Water team as well as many local sail-

ing identities including David Buckland, Steve Kemp, Tim Cowen, Geoff Boettcher and retired Crow, Mark Ricciuto.

Several local business heavies are joining the race. They include Dr Andrew Saies, who is facing his 16th Lincoln race, and his third in *True North*.

An orthopaedic surgeon at Sportsmed SA, Saies has been managing director since 1995. The practice employs 250 staff and is the largest private sports injury clinic and hospital in Australia.

Ray White and Loan Market CEO Nick George is sailing his new boat *Exile* in his 10th race to Lincoln. Another new boat owner is Keith Finch, in

Rapid 1.

Finch founded Rapid Haulage in 1977 with just one truck. It's now a family-owned business with three depots, 64 people and more than 100 vehicles.

Graeme Footer, a life member of the CYCSA and a past president and commodore, owns *Marnico*, a 15.3m sloop rig yacht. The yacht was designed in New Zealand to Graeme's specifications and was built in Perth in 2000/01. It has since been a participant in all Bluewater Classics except 2003.

Footer is a director of Footersville, a family business in Adelaide, and has been involved in an abalone farm on

Point Boston for many years.

Footer and his wife Gay sail *Marnico* to the Pacific but Mediterranean ports are now their stomping grounds, with a 54m *Sun Odyssey DS* based there, where they spend Australian winters cruising.

Footer has been sailing for 30 years and as *Marnico* is an ocean yacht, has done his racing with Dick Fidock and Graham Williams.

He participated in a Sydney to Hobart aboard Fidock's boat *Dictator* in 1994 and will crew with Dick on *As Good As It Gets* in Monday's races on Boston Bay.

