



Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic

70 yachts for sailing classic

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

This Friday, February 22, around 70 yachts will line up to compete in the 59th Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater 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 multihull fleet.

The course takes the fleet through some of South Australia's most notorious sailing waters. The fleet sails through Investigator Strait and skirts 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.

This year's Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic promises to be a spectacular battle, with some fierce competition to take out the race.

Last year's champion Miles Stephens is hoping to once again claim the trophy, having chartered Sydney 32 Slap'n'Teakle from Peter Teakle for this year's competition.

On board will be Port Lincoln Yacht Club Commodore Ben Kelsey, who will be competing in his 13th consecutive Adelaide to Lincoln race.

Mr Kelsey started sailing in Holdfast Trainers 23 years ago and progressed through the junior ranks into sailing Sharpies.

However, once a year he takes the opportunity to sail on board a keelboat

for the Adelaide Lincoln race.

Grant Wharington will be determined to take the race record on Skandia Wild Thing, with a mixed crew including some Port Lincoln locals and former Crows captain Mark Ricciuto on board.

The 2008 race will be the last Lincoln race for veteran Dick Fidock in his Beneteau 40.7 As Good as it Gets.

Mr Fidock has been a strong competitor and staunch supporter of Adelaide to Lincoln races over many years.

This year he will have a race on his hands with True North also a Beneteau 40.7 owned and skippered by Andrew Saies.

Saies will be looking to better last year's second place, and having finished fourth in the 2007 Sydney to Hobart and third in Geelong the crew is set to put up a fierce competition.



SPECTACULAR SAILING: Reverie, As Good As It Gets and Team Lexus sailing in Boston Bay in last year's Lexus Lincoln Week regatta.

Photograph courtesy Sharpshooting Photography.



Welcome the boats into Boston Bay

CRUISING into Boston Bay from the early hours of Saturday morning and throughout the day, the arriving yachts are a spectacle to observe.

Visible from the foreshore and town jetty, the boats race to the finish line near the end of the Port Lincoln wharf, which will be marked by Trevor Rowan's cruiser Legato, and then make their way to the jetty, dropping the

sails in the final leg as they finish their journey.

The sight is one that is fascinating for both yachting enthusiasts and those less experienced in the sport of sailing.

It's well worth venturing down to the jetty to witness the fleet as it arrives, with a sausage sizzle provided by Rotary throughout the day and a display of prestige Lexus vehicles on the foreshore.

Races and fun for regatta week

THE Lexus Lincoln Week Regatta is a week of racing and social events in and around Boston Bay, the biggest natural harbour in Australia.

The 33rd Lincoln Week Regatta will attract many visitors to the region, with events held throughout the week a great attraction for both competitors and spectators.

The Standard Racing Division will provide some serious competition that will deliver entertainment and spectacle for those following the races, while the cruising division is aimed at less

rigorous racing that is still competitive but with an emphasis on having fun.

There are several social highlights during the week including a rest day on Sunday to give the competitors and supporters an opportunity to enjoy Port Lincoln's great hospitality, and Megga's barbecue held at Spalding Cove in the Port Lincoln National Park.

The Lexus Lincoln Week Regatta is designed to cater for the specific needs of all yachties involved, from competitive to cruising or somewhere in between.