



## Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic

# New racing division

THE 2008 Lexus Lincoln Week Regatta will have more racing divisions than in previous years.

For the first time Etchells have been included in the Regatta with Boston Bay expected to present ideal sailing conditions for the fleet.

Etchells are a popular trailerable keelboat.

Easily handled by three or

four sailors, the stable sleek racing sloop attracts an enthusiastic following.

Competitors often find themselves racing with world-class sailors like Dennis Connor, Russell Coutts, John Bertrand, Vince Brun and Judd Smith.

The Etchell's class is fiercely competitive and the boat is one of the quickest light air dinghies on the water.

It's expected to be a battle of the Henshall brothers in this division, but Port Lincoln sailor Steve Kemp will be competing in Bohica and could cause an upset.

Also registered for the week are a strong racing fleet, Sydney 32's, Multihulls, sports boats, trailerables and cruisers.



**NEW:** Local sailor Steve Kemp will be sailing an Etchell in this year's Lexus Lincoln Week regatta.



## At the finish line

LOCAL man Jim Wright has coordinated the recording of official finishing times for the Lexus Bluewater Classic for the past 20 years.

From setting three stopwatches going simultaneously with the starting gun in Adelaide via phone link to keeping watch during the night for the first boat to approach the finish line, Mr Wright plays a

major role in making sure things run smoothly from a local perspective.

"I used to sail off the beach in Port Lincoln and I'm on the sailing committee, so I know the procedures," said Mr Wright.

"It's an interesting job."

He is in charge of setting up the finish line at around midnight on Friday, and keeps watch for the fol-

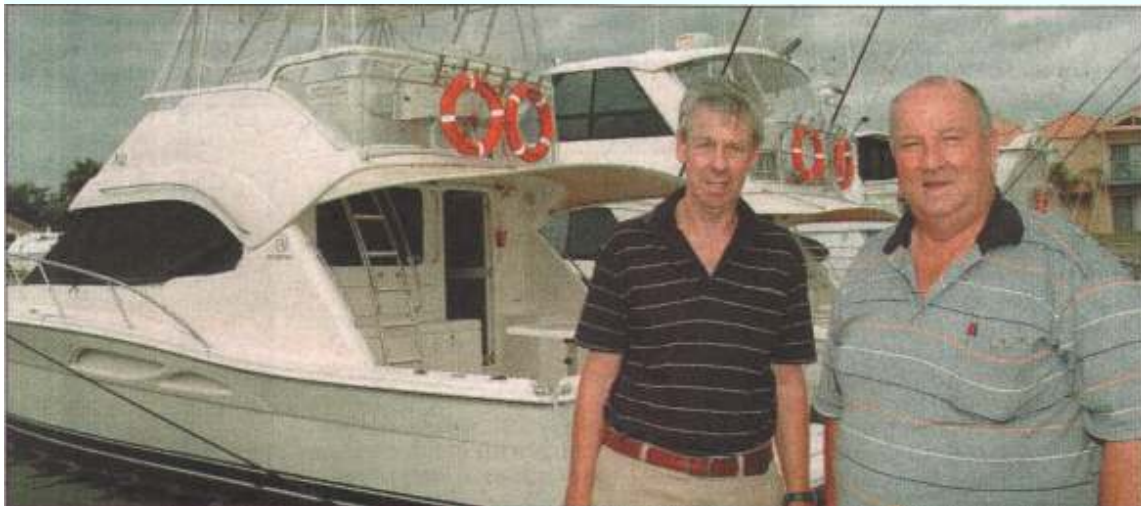
lowing six hours until the next team arrives to take over.

Until two years ago a caravan was set up at the end of the wharf to monitor a buoy moored about 30 metres away to mark the official finish line, but due to insurance costs a boat now anchors in the water with the official timekeepers on board.

With the first yacht usually making its way toward the finish line

around daybreak, Mr Wright said racing times all depended on wind direction and weather conditions.

Officials on board the cruiser record the finish time and name of each boat as it crosses the line, and relays the information to the regatta office where a computer system determines provisional results throughout the race.



**FINISH LINE:** Official timekeeper Jim Wright with Trevor Rowan and his 50 foot cruiser Legato, which will mark the finish line of the Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic.