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Young sailors to join dads in classic

TOM ZED

TWO young South Australian sailors will take their dads along for the ride in the Adelaide Bluewater Classic race to Port Lincoln today.

Jonno Bannister, 22, will be joined by his father Kim onboard Sydney 38 Another Challenge.

Jonno, a top skiff sailor who raced in the Sydney to Hobart last year, grew up sailing at Goolwa Regatta and Adelaide yacht clubs.

Kim, who still races at Goolwa, may have been sailing longer but will have to defer to his son, who with six Adelaide Bluewater Classics and three world championships under his belt, will skipper the boat. Kim will be making his debut in the offshore series.

Junior Port Lincoln Yacht Club yachtsman of the year Georgie Kemp will join her

father Steve onboard Skandia in her Adelaide Bluewater Classic debut.

Georgie, who recently competed onboard a 36ft keel boat in the Australian Youth Match Racing Series in Perth, has been looking forward to sailing aboard the 30m super-maxi Skandia.

South Australian yacht True North, which finished fourth in its class at the 2007 Sydney to Hobart, has been chartered by Sydney based skipper Bill Meicklejohn for the race.

Event co-ordinator Matt Gryst said he hoped the 150 nautical mile race would attract more interstate yachts and crews in the future.

"We'd love more of the bigger interstate boats to come over because it's a really vibrant week of sailing," he said.