

# Poppette's return to the water culminates a restorer's labour of love



The destination of Poppette's last journey was to be an inglorious landing at the Maitland community dump.

It would have been a sad ending for the 14-foot wooden boat built early last century at Birkenhead.

When Trevor Jones heard about the intended plight of the boat, he made a bid and finished up with a labour of love that has taken many years to come to fruition.

The retired TAFE lecturer has completed a full restoration of the boat that he has christened Poppette, and it will make a much-awaited return to the water at Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic, to be held at Stansbury and Port Vincent on the weekend of 9 and 10 April.

With a vintage Stuart Turner motor to provide power from the past, the colourful little clinker will be a welcome showpiece of the event that celebrates the restoration and preservation of old-style craft.

Since its inception in 2003, Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic has grown to become a major attraction for enthusiasts and admirers of wooden and classic boats.

These vessels have been faithfully restored to keep afloat some of the great traditions of boat building.

The biennial event has also become a significant tourism feature on Yorke Peninsula attracting people from across Australia to parade their boats in the waters off the sister towns of Stansbury and Port Vincent, while drawing spectators to a variety of other water-based and shore-based events and attractions.

Trevor, 70, of Port Noarlunga South, has been a regular visitor to Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic in the past, but this is the first time he will enter his own boat.

"The boat was a real mess when I first acquired her with holes in the hull and evidence of an arson attack," he said.

“The restoration has been a very big job, but it has been worth the journey and I am very excited about the boat’s return to the water at the Saltwater Classic.

“I have only missed one of the events to date, and I can’t wait to be aboard Poppette among other enthusiasts of craft from the past.”

The South Australian Tourism Commission is the principal sponsor of the event, with on-water support from the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard and the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron.

The Hon. Leon Bignell MP, the State Minister for Tourism, said: “The State Government is very proud to support Yorke Peninsula’s Saltwater Classic.

“With some of South Australia's most spectacular coastline, Yorke Peninsula is the ideal place to go boating, so it is very fitting the main event in the program is the regatta from Stansbury to Port Vincent.

“Take time to enjoy the peninsula's incredible natural playground, the open water, the grand parades, the vintage vehicle displays, local craft and regional produce.”

For more information on Yorke Peninsula’s Saltwater Classic 2016, and associated shore-based activities in Stansbury and Port Vincent, go to the website [www.ypsaltwaterclassic.org.au](http://www.ypsaltwaterclassic.org.au)

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