

To Jenny Oldland, YP Country Times

Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic 2016

Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic will return to the sister towns of Stansbury and Port Vincent in South Australia on the weekend of 9 and 10 April 2016.

Since its inception in 2003, the event has grown in stature to become a flagship feature on the national calendar for owners and enthusiasts of wooden and classic boats.

The event attracts big crowds to Stansbury and Port Vincent for the boating aspects of the weekend along with on-shore activities and displays including seaside markets, vintage cars and caravans, stationary engines from the past, local art, craft and produce.

The primary objective of Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic is to present a memorable, community-based event that:

- provides quality experiences for the growing number of people interested in the restoration and preservation of wooden and classic boats; and
- elevates the destination profile of Yorke Peninsula to maximise tourism visitation to the region.

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, which attracts more than 4,000 people, including 600 from interstate.

"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."

Stansbury and Port Vincent are two of the most appealing tourism towns on the eastern shore of Yorke Peninsula.

Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic Chairman, Colin Germein, said: "Both towns have a rich tradition in engagement between land and sea through historic grain trade from farms to ketches along with commercial and recreational fishing.

“Our event brings together boats of the style that once were moored in their hundreds around our coastline, many of them working vessels used by early fishermen long before the advent of trailer boats and powerful outboard motors.

“Many of these old vessels have been restored in a fashion that would make the early boat builders proud ... some under sail and others with engines showcasing power of the past including Simplex, Blaxland, Chapman, Stuart Turner and small diesels.

“An action-packed program is planned for the 2016 event and the organising committee is confident that participation levels and visitation over the weekend will set new records.”

A reception, including light dinner and refreshments, will be held in Stansbury for registered participants and crews on the evening of Friday 8 April. The following day (Saturday 9 April), wooden and classic boats will be on display along the Stansbury foreshore with the Seaside Markets in full swing.

Other attractions will include displays of vintage cars, motorbikes, caravans, and stationary engines.

In the early afternoon, vessels will be launched at the Stansbury boat ramp and a piper will signal the traditional two-hour Yorke Peninsula Saltwater Classic run along the coastline to the Port Vincent marina, where the craft will be moored overnight.

An official dinner for registered participants and their guests will be held in Port Vincent on the Saturday night.

The on-shore and on-water excitement from Saturday will be repeated in Port Vincent on Sunday (10 April) with a blessing of the fleet from the town wharf, a grand parade of boats and beaching of the vessels to allow a close up look at the beautifully restored craft.

Foreshore markets, vintage vehicles, caravans and other exhibits will bring colour and excitement to Port Vincent on the Sunday. The Royal Australian Navy Band is expected to provide musical entertainment at Port Vincent along with diverse displays and activities reflecting artistic and cultural aspects of life on Yorke Peninsula.

For more information, go to www.ypsaltwaterclassic.org.au