



MEDIA RELEASE

SA Wooden Boat Festival another sail-away success

30 April 2019

The 2019 South Australian Wooden Boat Festival delivered a stunning array of beautiful and interesting wooden boats and showcased the Fleurieu region in spectacular style over the weekend. Estimated numbers of between 16,000 - 18,000 people over the two days and over 140 participating wooden boats saw the festival reach capacity three weeks prior to the event.

There were countless stand-out attractions at the weekend, including the Grand Parade providing spectators the opportunity to view a wide range of boats, all shapes and sizes in action on the water. Our flagship P.S. Oscar W, as well as visiting historic paddle steamer boats, the Mayflower and P.S. Marion offered patron cruises on the Murray River.

The layout of events along the historic Goolwa Wharf Precinct enabled visitors to get up-close to inspect the boats and interact with the owners who proudly spoke about their boats. There was action a plenty with races of the largest fleet of restricted 21 historic racing yachts and a range of other vintage sailing boats. Model yachts were also on display and radio controlled yacht demonstrations.

Some eight fearless competitors battled it out in the Rough-and-Ready boat construction competition and sailing of the constructed boats, directed and commented by the inimitable Robert Ayliffe. An offering of musical talent was provided including the Navy band and Gumbo-Ya-Ya in the main marquee, while patrons enjoying a variety of local food and wines.

This year saw an extended scope along the Goolwa foreshore from Armfield Slip, down to the Goolwa Aquatic Club on Barrage Road. Armfield Slip was well-attended on the edge of the Goolwa Wharf Precinct where boat building, blacksmith and woodturning skills were demonstrated to the awe and wonder of crowds.

The sustainable Pirate Trail was a hit with children and families and saw a Glenelg North family win the fantastic holiday prize for four people to Kangaroo Island. A new element for the bi-annual event was having a dedicated Boats-For-Sale area, which proved to be great success for those in the hunt and looking to set sail on their own boating adventure.

The evening festivities included the beautiful Fairy light Parade of boat lights proceeding along the same route as the Grand Parade. The ever popular fireworks spectacular topped off Saturday evening. Another huge draw card to the SA Wooden Boat Festival is without a doubt the attendance of the Navy 808 Squadron with helicopter demonstrations and fly overs, Sunset Ceremony and entertainment from the talented Navy Band. Council and committee members are extremely grateful for their time and effort and commitment to their relationship with the township of Goolwa.

All in all, the Goolwa Wharf Precinct put on a fabulous display of all things boating amidst a display of perfect autumn weather. Preparations are already being considered for the next festival in two years time.