

173RD AUSTRALIA DAY REGATTA 2009



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Notes from the President



From time to time I reflect on what challenges my busy life has presented. Without a doubt business has claimed a very large part of it with its associated highs and lows. Personal life has never been bereft of challenge with the highs and lows often painfully evident. The recreation of sailing though, also with its highs and lows, remains one of the most tangible pluses, in my opinion, in anyone's career.

Whether it be sailing alone in a tiny boat, or part of a campaign to win the America's Cup, nothing locks together the combination of man against nature alone, or as part of a team, better than sailing. The wind is often too strong or too light and occasionally perfect. Sometimes your own mind is not in the required frame to either enjoy the occasion or do well in competition. Sometimes you are completely relaxed and can see no problems anywhere. However, you almost invariably return home in an uplifted state of mind.

The aim of the Australia Day Regatta is to provide a happy platform for young and old to testify to and celebrate this wonderful country and hopefully return home in a happy state of mind.

It's working! What a joy to see yachts attending in increasing numbers.

There are all sorts of boats visible on the day but the increase in the numbers of the traditional boats is particularly pleasing. These mostly timber yachts are not purchased like a new car. They are sought after and cared for by men and women who put real time into their sport. They are often "custodians" of their boats, ensuring that they will survive for generations to come. The fact that they come in all shapes and sizes emphasizes the flexibility and fun of this infectious sport.

The almost miraculous recreation of the 18-foot historical skiff, representing sailing of an entirely different era and its Division in the event on Sydney Harbour is a sight to be seen. Congratulations to all involved.

The regional Regattas promote this celebration further. Smaller Yacht Clubs around the State are welcome to run an Event on this Day under the auspices of the main Committee.

It's working! Hundreds of small boats and classes are involved. The number of youngsters, attending the Sydney City Town Hall on Prizegiving Night reflect the popularity and prestige of a place in a race on the day.

Reflecting again, if the opportunity to sail on Australia Day assists in reinforcing the goodwill amongst men and women often found on a boat as it glides, without the use of fossil fuel, towards its destination, then the efforts of all involved are well worthwhile.

No matter where you sail on Australia Day I wish you a wonderful time, full of the best that sailing offers. – *Good Sailing*

Sir James Hardy
President, 173rd Australia Day Regatta



173rd Australia Day Regatta Schedule of Events



Monday, 26 January 2009

Sydney Harbour

- 1100-1800 City of Sydney Sesquicentenary Trophy Ocean Race, Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, Sydney to Botany Bay and return short ocean race. Starts north of Shark Island, finishes near the Flagship moored off Rushcutters Bay.
- 1300-1600 173rd Australia Day Regatta, Sydney Harbour, sponsored by the Commonwealth Private Bank. Conducted by Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron on behalf of the Australia Day Regatta Inc. Open to all classes of keelboats, old and new, fast and slow, small and large, spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions, and including boats from the RSYS, SASC, CYCA, RPEYC, MHYC, GSC and RANSA fleets. Special events include divisions for Catalina yachts and Modern and Historical 18-foot Skiffs.
- 1400-1800 Historical Skiffs – replicas of 18-footers of the 1920s and earlier – Sydney Flying Squadron
- 1430-1800 Lord Mayor's Cup for modern 18-footers – Australian 18ft Sailing League
- 1300-1700 Centreboard Regatta, Rose Bay – Woollahra Sailing Club

Botany Bay

- 1200-1600 Centreboard Regatta – Georges River Sailing Club
- 1200-1600 Centreboard Regatta – St George Sailing Club
- 1200-1600 Keelboat Regatta – Botany Bay Yacht Club & SSROC Councillor's Challenge
- 1200-1600 Catamaran Regatta – Kurnell Catamaran Club
- 1200-1600 Families Afloat Flotilla – St George Motor Boat Club
- 1200-1600 Centreboard Regatta – Yarra Bay Sailing Club

Brisbane Waters, Gosford

- 1350-1600 Keelboat and Centreboard Regatta, including Sailpast – Gosford Sailing Club

West Harbour

- 1000-1600 NSW Radio Yacht Association Regatta – Drummoyne Sailing Club
- 1300-1600 Centreboard Regatta – Greenwich Sailing Club
- 1300-1630 Centreboard and Twilight Keelboat Regatta – Greenwich Flying Squadron
- 1300-1700 Keelboat Regatta – Parramatta River Sailing Club
- 1300-1700 Centreboard Regatta – Hunters Hill Sailing Club

Lake Illawarra

- 1230-1630 Centreboard, Sailboard and Trailable Yacht Regatta – Illawarra Yacht Club

Lake Macquarie

- 1300-1600 Keelboat, Trailable Yacht, Multihull and Centreboard Regatta – Wangi Wangi RSL Sailing Club

Manly

- 1130-1400 Sailability Regatta – Manly Yacht Club

Pittwater

- 1300-1700 Keelboat and Dinghy Regatta – Avalon Sailing Club

Chipping Norton Lakes

- 1300-1600 Centreboard Regatta – Chipping Norton Lakes Sailing Club

Notice of Race for the 173rd Australia Day Regatta is available from the regatta website:

www.australiadayregatta.com.au or from the websites of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron and the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club.

At the Helm



One hundred and seventy two years is a long time to maintain a tradition for a young country like Australia, but it is often traditions that hold us together as we are constantly diverted by the pressures and pace of modern life.

On 26 January 2009 we will sail the 173rd Australia Day Regatta, a tradition begun in 1837. The regatta, originally known as the Anniversary Regatta, has been sailed each year despite the demands of World Wars or the distraction of hard economic times. Admittedly, the Regatta has sometimes had few participants and it was not always sailed on or near 26 January, but it has been sailed nonetheless.

When Australians travel today, they usually head for an airport where they are whisked at high speed to overseas destinations in relative comfort. Most give little thought to the long journey by sea to almost anywhere that was part of the Australian circumstance for so long.

The founders of modern Australia came by sea. Australia has always been a maritime nation and continues to be today as we depend utterly on the sea for our trade.

What more appropriate way, therefore, to celebrate Australia Day than by a Regatta on one of the finest natural harbours in the world. Of course, the Australia Day Regatta is also sailed on other waters in New South Wales and off the coast and over 700 competitors took part in the 2008 Regatta.

In addition to Sydney Harbour, they sailed on the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers, at Pittwater, Gosford, Botany Bay, Lake Macquarie, Lake Illawarra and Port Hacking in yachts of all sizes, from radio-controlled models to ocean-sailing veterans.

The Regatta has become a major event in the sailing calendar of New South Wales and the Management Committee recently decided that it should have its own burgee – it will be flown for the first time on Australia Day 2009. The design incorporates the colours of the Australian Flag, the Southern Cross and the Naval Crown. The latter is a symbol which dates back to ancient Greek and Roman times and it is intended to represent the maritime nature of Australia as well as the role of the Navy in the foundation of our modern nation. The new burgee is featured on the cover of this program.

Sailing is a great sport. It involves people of all ages from all backgrounds, develops teamwork and self-reliance – and it is fun. Sailing is part of the Australian way of life, and this year we also celebrate the success of our Olympic and Paralympic sailors who competed so well in the recent Beijing Games. The Australia Day Regatta Management Committee hopes that as many people as possible will take part in the 2009 Regatta throughout New South Wales and that we will see, once again, many young people amongst the winners at the Prize Giving at the Sydney Town Hall in March.

The Australia Day Regatta would not be possible without the support of many people – the yacht clubs which organise the various events, the volunteers who give their time throughout the year and on the day, our principal sponsor the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Private Bank and the advertisers in the programme.

In particular, the Australian Defence Force provides enormous support on the day, for the Regatta with the Flagship and the displays for the people of Sydney. The Regatta has long been associated with the Navy – since the earliest days – and we are proud that this relationship continues so strongly today. The Management Committee thanks everyone who helps to create such an outstanding event.

The Australia Day Regatta is a major part of the many celebrations throughout New South Wales and Australia on 26 January 2009. Come and join us on the harbour and celebrate in true Australian style. – *Happy Sailing*

John Jeremy
Chairman, Australia Day Regatta
Race Management Committee

Patron

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AW EDWARDS





Australia Day Regatta Sponsor's message

Edward Tait
Executive General Manager,
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On Australia Day, when we come together to celebrate all that is special about Australia, there is surely no event that better embodies our distinctive spirit and idyllic lifestyle than the Australia Day Regatta. And, unquestionably, there is no finer location for a celebration than the majestic panorama of Sydney Harbour.

In our island nation, sailing holds a special place. Each week, Australians take to the water in boats large and small, to enjoy the splendour of the waterways, to tackle the elements and to race each other in a spirit of mateship, fairness and fun that defines our national character. So too, on the world stage, Australian sailors have competed with distinction and achieved the highest honours in numerous classes.

For the sixth year running, the Commonwealth Bank, through Commonwealth Private Bank, is delighted to be the principal sponsor of the Australia Day Regatta, the world's oldest continuous annual sailing regatta.

On behalf of Commonwealth Private Bank, I wish you a most enjoyable Australia Day.



One Hundred Years Ago



The 173rd Australia Day Regatta 2009 program again reviews our famous regatta one hundred years ago – then known as the Anniversary Regatta 1909.

The Sydney Morning Herald of 27 January 1909 carried an extensive report of the Anniversary Regatta on Sydney Harbour under the heading:

“THE DAY WE CELEBRATE” – AN IMPOSING SCENE

Sharing the pages of this Wednesday edition, was another yachting story on the Sayonara Cup about to take place on Melbourne’s Port Philip, along with reports on the Sheffield Shield cricket match in which New South Wales had scored a record 815 runs in their match against Victoria, the wool sales, the reform movement in China, including trade and military matters, the Druids’ Procession and Picnic, and the salvage of the cargo of the barque *Falls of Halladale*, wrecked on the south coast of Victoria.

An extensive section of that day’s newspaper covered the shipping movements in and out of Port Jackson. In port at the time on her maiden voyage, was the liner RMS *Morea* of the P and O Line, which was the Flagship of the Anniversary Regatta.

This is what *The Herald* had to report about that regatta a century ago:

Men who have been long identified with Anniversary regattas speak of the one held yesterday as probably the greatest and most successful of the series. The weather conditions were perfect, the attendance was exceedingly large, the racing was well contested, and there was no hitch in the proceedings.

The scene was one of unending movement and ever varying beauty. Hundreds of sailing and rowing and motor boats dotted the harbour, with the 11,000 ton *Morea*, of the P and O Line, towering up at the central point for all taking part.

Heavily-laden ferry boats were ever moving from point to point and from bay to bay, and overseas vessels, berthed at the wharfs (*sic*) or anchored in the stream, framed the setting with long lines of gaily coloured flags that connected stem and topmast and stern.

The flagship was visited by 2000 persons, eager to inspect her appointments and to watch the racing and the scene from her spacious decks.

Both Western Australia and Queensland were represented in the sailing races, and a fair number of wins go (*sic*) north. The Queensland boat *Violet* carried off the double in the races for 14-footers, and the Sydney-owned *Myra* won the double for 10-footers.

The race for yachts, 10 metres and over, was won by *Awanui*, owned by Mr A C Saxton, and regarded as one of the fastest yachts on Sydney Harbour. The *Awanui* conceded 6 minutes to *White Wings*, and beat her by 40 seconds.

Petrel, champion for the last seven years, won the race for yachts under 10 metres, with *Magic*, a boat of English design, imported by Mr J O Fairfax, second.

(*Awanui* was built in New Zealand by A C Sexton and during the 1908-1909 season she won both the RSYS and PAYC championships, the Balmain and Anniversary Regatta class events, in total scoring ten firsts and two seconds in 15 starts. She was then sold to Walter Marks and renamed *Culwalla III* as his challenger for the Sayonara Cup in 1910. On her way to Melbourne, via Hobart, she won the Bruny Island Race and then regained the Sayonara Cup for the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. – *Editor*)



R.M.S.

Photo supplied

Eileen and *Maritana* won the races for 18-footers. The West Australian boat *Elma* took part in the race for 14-footers, but capsized during the morning race, and failed to gain a place in the afternoon.

At the luncheon on the Flagship, and at which some 150 representative men were present, the toast "The Day We Celebrate" was happily proposed by Judge Backhouse, and was responded to by the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Wade.

The Herald continued with a report on the official Anniversary Day Regatta luncheon aboard the liner *Morea*, with Mr E Trelawny and Captain Broun of the P and O Line, entertaining many notable gentlemen of Sydney, including the Premier, the Lord Mayor; Alderman Allen Taylor, along with the Chief Railway Commissioner, the President of the Harbour Trust, Judge Backhouse and Judge Rogers and Mr G E Fairfax,

Judge Backhouse, in proposing "The Day We Celebrate", said the guests were gathered to do honour to the true sport – boating. Judge Backhouse said the breath of civilisation came to Australia with the air of the ocean, and it was not to be wondered at, with the ocean so close at hand, and with so perfect a climate, that the people of Sydney revelled in regattas in some form or other.'

The eminent judge pointed out that rowing contests in Sydney Harbour dated back to May 16, 1818, when a four-oared crew, got together by Captain Piper, beat crews drawn from the ships in port. By 1837, Sydney had celebrated the colony's foundation with the first Anniversary Regatta.

As for the sailing, *The Herald* reported that the breeze had come in fresh from ENE in the morning, but in the afternoon veered to the NE. The presence of visiting dinghies from Queensland, Western Australia as well as Ballina, Botany and Port Macquarie, had enhanced interest in the 14ft and 10ft races.

Reporting on the two-boat race between *Awanui* and *White Wings* in the Yachts, 10 metre and over, handicap, over a course from Kirribilli down to Manly and back, The Herald commented: A splendidly contested race, the interest being sustained throughout, as it was not until the actual end of the race could the result be

guessed. Both carried jackyard topsails, and looked their best. It was a hard stern chase for *Awanui*, and to gain victory no chance could be missed.' *Awanui* got the gun by just 40 seconds.

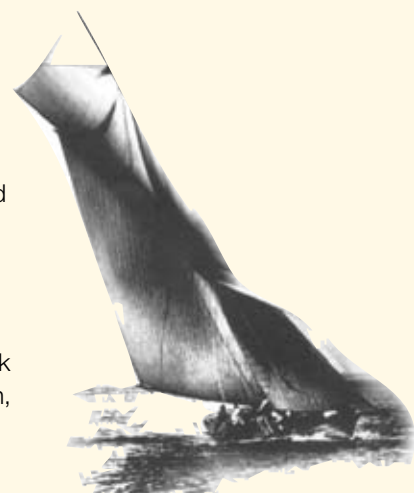
The race for Yachts, 10 metre and under, attracted five starters, with the champion yachts of the previous seven regattas, Mr C Trebeck's *Petrel*, the scratch boat – and the eventual winner. The Herald reported that Mr Trebeck had "sailed a remarkably fine race in *Petrel*, easily disposing of all opposition, except in the case of the limit boat *Meteor*, skippered by Mr Roy Stevens, which held pride of place until approaching Manly, where *Petrel* took the lead and sailed away to victory.

There were also rowing and motor boat races to entertain the spectators on the water and around the shores of Sydney Harbour to make the 1909 Anniversary Regatta 'an imposing scene', as *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported.



MOREA

by John Jeremy



AWANUI

Perpetual Trophy and 172nd Australia Day Regatta Medal winners

Perpetual Trophies and Medals won in the 172nd Australia Day Regatta were presented at the Sydney Town Hall in March, where winners were guests of the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Councillor Clover Moore, at the prizegiving.



Australian 18-footer Sailing League

City of Sydney Lord Mayor's Cup: GOTTA LOVE IT 7 – Steve Jarvin

Handicap: RWD TECHNOLOGIES – Oliver Merz

Avalon Sailing Club

Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club Trophy (Yacht Non-Spinnaker, Hcp): FEARLESS – Pierre Cassis

Yacht Non-Spinnaker, Scr: YOUNG GENERATION – Norm Field

Yacht Hcp: SATCHO – Peter Kidner

Australia Day Council Youth Sailor's Trophy (Flying 11 Hcp):

FRUSTRATION – Shaun & Julian Hannon

Flying 11 Scr: A PIECE OF THE ACTION – Declan Rohr & Alex Patterson

Manly Junior Novice, Scr: SURGE – Imi Murray & Nel Bate

Manly Junior, Scr: FULL THROTTLE – Michael Koerner & Sam Nesbitt

Optimist: TRICKY TRICKS – James Brewer

Laser Radial Scr: 185826 – Carla Doune-Sexton

Laser Radial Hcp: LIGHT & HASTY – Cameron Edwards

Laser Scr: SILKY – Stuart Holdsworth

Laser Hcp: IFY – Martin Cross

Open Dinghy Scr: AUS 37 – Richard Scarr

Open Dinghy Scr: ACE – Tim Forbes-Smith & Malcolm Parker

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Botany Bay Yacht Club

Open Scr: BELLA – Nick Crisson
 Endeavour Scr: HAUL 'N' COAL – Grant McKellar
 Etchells Scr: NO MERCY – Burke Mella
 Councillors Challenge: HAUL 'N' COAL – Cr Brian Troy

Chipping Norton Lakes Sailing Club

Senior Hcp: I'LL BE BLOWED – Max Hubbard

Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

The City of Sydney Sesquicentenary Ocean Race Trophy
 (Ocean Pointscore PHS): VELOCITY – Brian & Sandra Carrick
 Ocean Pointscore IRC: ABOUT TIME – Julian Farren-Price
 Short Ocean Pointscore PHS, Div 1: UPPER NORTHSHORE –
 Andrea Holt
 Short Ocean Pointscore PHS, Div 3: ZEPHYR –
 James Connell & Alex Brandon
Geoff Lee Ocean Race Trophy (Fastest boat overall):
 TOYOTA AURION V6 – Ian Short

Georges River Sailing Club

Sabot One-up, Hcp: PLANIT S – Dylan Passmore
 Sabot Two-up, Hcp: TOP SECRET – Lauren Cini
 420, Hcp: NOT JUST BLONDE – Alexander Conway
 Laser, Hcp: TIME – Andrew Maher

Gosford Sailing Club

Yacht, Div 2: SGIAN DUBH – Phil Owens
 Yacht, Div 1: BLUE CHIP – Geoff Dilworth
 Fireball: SYNDICATE – Andrew Munyard
 Flying 11: TTTKA – Erin Millar
 Etchells, Hcp: THE JIMMY MUDGE – David Slingsby
 Laser, Hcp: IMAGINE ART GRAPHICS – Mitch Buckingham
 Laser Junior, Hcp: SAIL OZ – Blake Poole

Greenwich Flying Squadron

Twilight Red, Hcp: ELLEN – Peter Davies
 Twilight Blue, Hcp: MIND OF MATTER – Peter Francis
 Twilight Green, Hcp: RED OCTOBER – Greg Hartnett
 Twilight White, Hcp: PEA JAY – David Dossetor
 Div 1, Hcp: CAVSAV – John Veale
 Div 2, Hcp: SCORPIO – John Moffat
 Etchells, Hcp: SERENDIPITY – Richard Joy
 Sabot, Hcp: AJAX – Henry Sheppard

Hunters Hill Sailing Club

Sabot, Hcp: BLUE PETER – Kaela Sparre
 NS14, Hcp: STEALTH – Finnian Alexander/Ian Alexander
Hunters Hill Council Trophy (Intl Mirror, Hcp):
 STANLEY CROCODILE – Lachlan Gilbert
 Laser Radial, Hcp: GNIOG – Ben Mackay

Illawarra Yacht Club

Doug Prosser Trophy (Juniors, Scr): Ryan Lindsay on behalf
 of all Illawarra YC winners



Kurnell Catamaran Club

Division 1, Hcp: DIGITAL TOURING GUIDE – Glen Billington
 Division 2, Hcp: TAIPANIC – Peter & Julia Backhouse
 Cruising, Hcp: MANYANA – Tony Wainwright

Manly Yacht Club

Sailability, Scr: LION HEART – Wane Black/Ivan Denemy

NSW Radio Yachting Association

Soling One Metre, Scr: SOLING ONE METRE –
 Rodney Williams
 A class, Scr: THE SORCERER – Gary Declauzel
 RC Laser, Scr: RC LASER – Ronald Notter
 EC12, Scr: EC12 – Ross Audsley
 10R, Scr: 10R – Allan Bicknell
 10M, Scr: 10M – Brad Gibson
 Marblehead, Scr: Pat O'Brien

NSW Sabot Association

Hood Sailmakers Trophy, Sabot One-Up, Scr:
 TWEAK – Marcus Whitley
Northam Family Trophy, Scr: NEED FOR SPEED –
 Kurt & Matthew Lang

Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron

Switzerland Insurance Australia Day Challenge Cup
 (Division 1, Hcp): 10 – Ian Oatley
Davidson Family Trophy (Division 2, Hcp): HICK-UP – Bill Ure



RANSA Trophy (Division 2, Hcp): ANTARES –
 Costas Rozakis/Anthony Tyson
HV Dangar Memorial Cup, Centenary of Federation Medal
and Australia Day Council Trophy (Traditional, Hcp):
 REVERIE – John Barclay
 Non Spinnaker, Division 1, Hcp: FIDELIS – Nigel Stoke
 Non Spinnaker, Division 1, Hcp: INDEPENDENCE –
 Bob Bundock
Catalina Trophy (Catalina Division, Hcp):
 MAGNIFICAT – John & Robyn Hancox
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Trophy (Yngling, Hcp):
 YERTLE – James Hawkins/Andrew Howe
 International 5.5, Hcp: PALADIN – Gordon Ingate

Perpetual Trophy and 172nd Australia Day Regatta Medal winners



Red Ensigns to fly

Each yacht competing in the 173rd Australia Day Regatta will be asked to fly the maritime version of the Australian flag – the Red Ensign – from their backstay during the event.

St George Sailing Club

Moth, Scr: SKYWALKA – Luka Damic
Manly Graduate, Hcp: PHOENIX – Brian Reeves
Skate, Hcp: RANDOM HEADS – Hayden Pauley

Sydney Flying Squadron

Victor and Viney Emerson Trophy (Historic 18' Skiffs, Hcp):
MISTAKE – Harold Cudmore

Wangi RSL Amateur Sailing Club

Division 1, Hcp: CHICKEN RUN – Rod Davis
Division 2, Hcp: FORMULA PYE – Peter Wilson
Division 3 Non Spinnaker, Hcp: MORE WAR GAMES –
David Leask
Division 4, Multihull, Hcp: IMAGINE – David Miles
OK Dinghy, Scr: DUNE BUGGY – Tim Davies
OK Dinghy, Hcp: IN THE BLACK – Frank Prater

Yarra Bay 16' Skiff Sailing Club

Skyrider, Hcp: ORICA – Tom Quealy
Sabot, Hcp: SKYWALKER – Maxine Gernes
Multihull, Hcp: HOO ROO – Neil Moxham
Monohull, Hcp: CAMEL TOE – Ewan Duckworth
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The Flagship – HMAS *Stuart*

Flagship of the 173rd Australia Day Regatta will be HMAS *Stuart*, carrying on a tradition in which the Royal Navy, Royal Australian Navy and Merchant Marine vessels have played a focal role since the first regatta in 1837. The earliest events of the Anniversary Regatta (as it was then known) included sailing and rowing matches between Royal Navy ships on the Australian Station. The Royal Australian Navy, formed following Federation, followed this tradition with many spirited contests on Sydney Harbour.

Many well known passenger liners operating between Britain and Australia often took on the role of Flagship of the Anniversary Regatta if they happened to be in Sydney at that time.

With support from the shipping companies, the Anniversary Regatta organisers invited prominent Sydney political, civic and business leaders and their partners to be entertained afloat on Anniversary (Australia) Day with lavish lunches, entertainment and onboard dances. Some may even have watched yacht, sailing skiff and rowing races.!

Lesser citizens celebrated the arrival of Captain Arthur Philip and his Royal Navy ships in Port Jackson by paying for a fun day on smaller excursion steamers or enjoying picnics on the fore-shores of the Harbour to watch the sailing and rowing races.

While the Navy these days does not directly participate in Australia Day Regatta events, the officers and crew of HMAS *Stuart* will again play gracious hosts to the President of the 173rd Australian Day Regatta, eminent yachtsman Sir James Hardy Kt OBE and his guests, who will include the Chiefs of the Australian Defence Forces, senior executives of the Commonwealth Private Bank, the Regatta sponsors, and their invited clients, along with Commodores of major yacht clubs, civic leaders and members the Regatta Advisory Council and Management Committee.

HMAS *Stuart*, which was Flagship for the 2006 Regatta, will be the focal point of the 173rd Australia Day Regatta and other aquatic events on the Harbour. Other Australian Armed Services Australia Day activities will include dramatic flyovers by an RAAF FA-18, and by four Hawk 127s, spectacular parachute drops by members of the Army's *Red Beret* unit and other Defence Forces displays ashore and in Farm Cove. A Navy Sea Hawk helicopter will also fly the Australian flag over the Harbour.

HMAS *Stuart* is the third ship to bear the same name in the Royal Australian Navy and is the sixth ANZAC Class Guided Missile Frigate to be built by Tenix Defence Systems at Williamstown, Victoria. The original *Stuart* was one of the famous "Scrap Iron Flotilla" of destroyers, which served with great distinction in World War II, including running supplies to Tobruk.

The current *Stuart*, dubbed the "Tartan Terror", has seen service in the Gulf several times, including the dramatic rescue of seven US sailors injured during a sea-borne attack on an off-shore oil terminal near Basra in the northern Persian Gulf in 2004. *Stuart* has recently returned from another tour of duty in the Middle East. Captain of HMAS *Stuart* on Australia Day 2009 will be Commander Andrew F Masters RAN.

Other Harbour activities will include the famous Ferrython from Fort Denison, around Shark Island and return under the Harbour Bridge, starting at 11am, Navy Search and Rescue displays in Farm Cove and Athol Bight, Best Dressed Vessel lunchtime picnics at Farm Cove and Athol Bight, the Tall Ships Parade starting at 3pm, Jazz on the Water in Pyrmont Park, and Darling Harbour fireworks in the evening.



Photograph:
Royal Australian Navy







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*Ian & Hugh Treharne wish all competitors
in the 172nd Australia Day Regatta a great
day of sailing and celebration.*

172nd Australia Day Regatta 2008...from the Starting Boat

Race Officer: Charles Maclurcan (timer)

Flags: Andre Van Stom

Recorder: David Davis

The 26th of January 2008, as we have become accustomed, presented the Starting Team and competitors with clear skies and a satisfactory breeze.

Once again the Starting Team set sail in *Gitana* to position the start line approximately two hours before the first signal. We chose our position north of Clarke Island and east of the flagship allowing plenty of room for the competitors.

To our dismay some of the participants of one of the many flotillas of boats, ignoring the detailed Operational Order of the Day, shortcut the Official route and proceeded directly through our line. As the special Commonwealth Bank Buoy disappeared from view behind a myriad of varying hull sizes we hoped that it would still be present after the onslaught.

Ten minutes later we were relieved to see it reappear and we were able to commence the 50 minute start procedure. Over 100 yachts sailed in 10 Divisions. The starts were generally clear with one competitor disqualified for a being a lot too early and another suffering a 30 second penalty for being just a little too early.

The finishes were exciting and as there were only three persons on the Starting/Finishing Boat this year we needed intense concentration to record the finish times. Numbers on some boats were particularly difficult to read and a few flew sails with numbers not related to their entry form.

Once the finishing sheets were reconciled, we phoned the figures back to the RSYS and by the time we returned to the Club the results were calculated and posted on the Web. Again the results were close, with just a few seconds separating some places.

Judging by the tone of the visitors to the start boat at the end of the day, it had been great fun all round.

My special thanks to my crew and to the RSYS Sailing Office for providing excellent backup on the Day.

Charles Maclurcan



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Around the clubs



Bound for Botany Bay

With its historical connections to the visit of Captain Cook in the *Endeavour* and the initial anchorage of the First Fleet, Botany Bay plays a significant role in the commemoration of Australia Day.

The Australia Day Botany Bay Regatta Committee (ADBBRC) was established in the mid nineties with a charter to foster water-based activities as a lead-up to Australia Day and on Australia Day itself.

Volunteers from the various sailing clubs, representatives from NSW Maritime, the AVCGA and other interested persons, under the auspices of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) manage this committee.

Activities organised by the committee for Australia Day 2009 are:

- Navigators Cup
- Australia Day Regatta
- Councilors Challenge
- Families Afloat

The Navigators Cup is a yacht race that starts at the Captain Cook Buoy in Botany Bay and rounds a mark off Bondi before finishing at Port Hacking. This event commemorates the three great navigators, Cook, Phillip and La Perouse, and is sailed as a lead-up to Australia Day.

The Australia Day Regatta on Botany Bay encompasses all Botany Bay and Kogarah Bay clubs: Kogarah Bay Sailing Club (Sailability), Botany Bay Yacht Club, St George Sailing Club, Georges River Sailing Club, Yarra Bay 16ft Club and Kurnell Catamaran Club.

The Bass and Flinders Cup is awarded to the fastest boat on the day. The regatta, sailed around Botany Bay with each club providing rounding marks, generally attracts more than 150 yachts providing quite a spectacle.

The Councilors Challenge is sailed in conjunction with the Botany Bay Yacht Club component of the regatta. SSROC councilors and council employees are invited on BBYC boats and encouraged to participate in crewing on the day.

Families Afloat comprises a parade of boats progressing from Kyeemagh, along the Brighton and Ramsgate waterfronts to Kogarah Bay where prizes are determined for the best-dressed crew. Boats are encouraged to stay on and view the fireworks provided by Kogarah Council.

Prizes for all events are awarded at the presentation night and generally presented by the Committee Patron, Her Excellency Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW.





VJs Clareville – A Grosvenor, *Southern Cross*; Les and Eileen Vaughan, *Flash*; Harold and June Vaughan, *Defiant*, pre WWII

Avalon celebrates 70th season

Avalon Sailing Club, which again will fly the flag for the 173rd Australia Day Regatta on Pittwater, has celebrated its 70th year of activity during 2008.

The club was formed in 1938, but the concept can be traced back to 1932 when Jim Vaughan bought a block of land just to the south-west of the Clareville Park and built a holiday home and boatshed.

His sons, Les, Harold and Ken were keen VJ sails with the Middle Harbour Skiff Club but were just as keen to sail on Pittwater.

Jim Vaughan and other local sailing enthusiasts formed the Avalon Sailing Club in 1938 and Jim donated a magnificent silver cup for the annual VJ Championship and provided the first starters boat, the launch *Raleigh*.

The first winner was in the 1939-40 season was *Defiant*, sailed by Harold Vaughan, later to become a champion in many other classes, including the Yacht World Keelboat.

To commemorate the 70th year of Avalon Sailing Club, Jim's son Les, 93, and his wife, 94, and extended family including their son, the well-known vexillographer John Vaughan, were invited to a club house barbeque at which he was presented with the precious 1941-46 minute book proving that racing continued through the years of World War II.

The minute book is embellished with hand drawn illustrations of sailing courses and even a drawing of a rigged VJ.

Former Commodore and historian Norm Field, a regular competitor in the Yacht division of Avalon SC's Australia Day Regatta, has written a fascinating and factual account of Avalon Sailing Club 1932-1963, with a copy also presented to the Vaughan family.



Les and John Vaughan present WWII Minute Book to Club Commodore – 3 August 2008.
Photo: Joanna Vaughan

Eudoria – a classic yacht

The Classic Yachts division of the Australia Day Regatta is a living reminder of the earlier days of sailing on Sydney Harbour, when yachts were built of wood and 'hoisted a spar" (gaff riggers) or were built to the metre rule, a design rule introduced internationally in the early 1900s.

In the late 1930s World War I veteran George Griffin became most impressed with J Class yachts, Ranger in particular. George subsequently designed and built for himself *Julnar*, a 37-foot harbour racer on J lines. She was very successful and in 1948 Norman Way commissioned Jim Perry to build *Eudoria*, a slightly beefed up version.

This new yacht was constructed to a very high standard and is beautifully maintained by her present custodian John Sturrock. John is a Director of the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club and *Eudoria* is moored directly off the Club premises in Mosman Bay.

In 1962 Norman sold her to Doug Sturrock senior and later, in 1980, John took over her management and continued to race her at the Middle Harbour Yacht Club.

Eudoria was scratch boat in Division I of this club for nearly forty years. She is raced with the SASC on occasions and John is looking forward to competing in the next Australia Day Regatta. – Bill Gale





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120126 Taren Point Rd
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Saturday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Newcastle
61 Darby St Newcastle 2300
Ph: 02 4926 3636 Fax: 02 4926 1191
Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Host Clubs on Australia Day 2009

Many yacht and sailing clubs contribute to the success of the Australia Day Regatta, not only in conducting the traditional regatta on Sydney Harbour but in organising and conducting regattas to mark Australia Day on other waterways in New South Wales, from Lake Macquarie in the north to Lake Illawarra in the south and inland to the Chipping Norton Lakes.

Local civic and municipal authorities also support these regattas and the Australia Day Regatta Inc is appreciative of their contribution to the success of these events.

Host Club mailing addresses:

Australian 18ft Sailing League
PO Box 42 Double Bay NSW 2028
Greenwich Sailing Club
PO Box 5110 Greenwich NSW 2065
Parramatta River Yacht Club
PO Box 227 Gladesville NSW 2111
Avalon Sailing Club
PO Box 59 Avalon Beach NSW 2107
Gosford Sailing Club
PO Box 187 Gosford NSW 2250
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron
PO Box 484 Milsons Point NSW 2060
Botany Bay Yacht Club
44 Endeavour St Sans Souci NSW 2219
Hunters Hill Sailing Club
PO Box 11 Hunters Hill NSW 2110
St George Motor Boat Club
22 Riverside Drive Sans Souci 2219
Chipping Norton Lakes Sailing Club
21 Whelan St Chipping Norton NSW 2170

Illawarra Yacht Club
Pox Box 148 Warrawong NSW 2505
Wangi RSL Amateur Sailing Club
PO Box 100 Wangi Wangi 2267
Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
New Beach Rd Darling Point NSW 2017
Kurnell Catamaran Club
PO Box 255 Caringbah NSW 2229
Woollahra Sailing Club
Vickery Ave Rose Bay NSW 2029
Georges River Sailing Club
PO Box 111 Sans Souci NSW 2219
Manly Yacht Club
PO Box 22 Manly NSW 1655
Yarra Bay 16ft Sailing Club
PO Box 198 Matraville NSW 2036
Greenwich Flying Squadron
PO Box 5092 Greenwich NSW 2065
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Their final regattas

A. Geoffrey Lee AM OAM
1928-2007

Brian G Northam
1933-2005

The Australia Day Regatta lost two of its hardest working former chairmen of the Management Committee, with the passing within the past 12 months, of Geoff Lee AM OAM and Brian Northam.

Both made a significant contribution to retaining the Australia Day Regatta as the major aquatic event on our National Day, 26 January, and retaining its status as the oldest continuously held sailing regatta in the world. Both had been recognised by being elected Life Members of the Australia Day Regatta.

Their memories will live on, as both men donated significant trophies for the Regatta and its associated events – the Geoff Lee Trophy for Line Honours in the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's offshore race from Sydney Harbour to Botany Bay and return and the Northam Family Trophy for the Sabot Two-up division race conducted on Australia Day by the NSW Sabot Association.

Geoff was an active participant in sailing and scouting for most of his life of 79 years. He gave back as much – and much more – than he ever received, as an honorary administrator, fund-raiser and as a personal benefactor to these and many other cultural activities and charities, projects as diverse as the restoration of the historic sailing ship *James Craig* and the Australia Day Regatta to financial and fund-raising support for the Scout movement.

Geoff was a keen sailor whose support for the sport went far beyond the blue water. He was a longtime member of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and a former Rear Commodore of the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club.

Over the years he owned 12 sailing boats, seven of which were called *Taurus*. *Taurus IV*, however, was not a yacht but a real Taurus – a half tonne Charolay bull presented to him by his good friend and fellow yachtsman Bob Oatley.

Brian Northam was a member of the crew of *Gretel*, Australia's first challenger for the America's Cup in 1962, and in the study of his home was a large black and white photo of *Gretel* surfing on an Atlantic roller to pass the US defender *Courageous* and win the second race of Australia's inaugural challenge for the 'Auld Mug'. Brian was the spinnaker trimmer in that historic win.

Brian was actively involved in Sydney's yachting and maritime activities for most of his adult life, serving as President of the Sydney Heritage Fleet from 1988 to 1991. He also served as Chairman of the Australia Day Regatta Management Committee for several years in the 1990s.

Brian was a son of the late Sir William ('Bill') Northam who won Australia's first sailing Gold Medal when he skippered the 5.5 metre class yacht *Barrenjoey* to victory at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. Brian was closely involved in the restoration of his father's yacht to compete in the Classic Division of the 5.5 Metre World Championship held in Sydney.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s Brian was active in ocean racing, sailing his East Coast 31 *Humdinger* in two Sydney Hobart Races. He had been a member of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron since 1948 and in the early 1970s convinced the Squadron to introduce an Annual Cruise, based on the New York Yacht Club's Annual Cruise, in which Brian had participated.

While he had retired from active participation, Brian maintained a close interest in the Australia Day Regatta. The Northam Family Trophy is competed for each year by young sailors in the Sabot two-up class.



Geoff and Judy Lee aboard
Kookaburra



Supporters of the 173rd Australia Day Regatta

The 173rd Australia Day Regatta Management Committee wishes to express its sincere thanks to all who will have contributed to the success of the 173rd Australia Day Regatta – the sponsors and supporters, the volunteer race officers, but most of all those who will participate on Sydney Harbour and many other New South Wales waterways.

For the sixth year, the sponsor of the world's oldest continuous sailing regatta is the nation's great financial institution, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, through Commonwealth Private Bank. We thank Commonwealth Private Bank, not only for its ongoing support but also for its considerable help in the production of the official program for the 173rd Australia Day Regatta.

We also acknowledge the long-time supporters of this historic event, especially the Royal Australian Navy and, in particular, the captain and crew of *HMAS Kanimbla*, the Royal Australian Air Force and members of No 3 Squadron and the *Roulettes*, the Royal Australian Army and its *Red Berets* unit, the Australia Day Council of NSW, the Lord Mayor of Sydney and the Sydney Ports Corporation.

We also appreciate the on-going support of our advertisers, Winning Appliances, Rintoul of the AW Edwards Group, Macdiarmid Sails, Treharne Moorings, Constellation Wines, Aussail Pathfinder Marine, Catalina Yachts and Coursemaster Marine.

Yacht and sailing clubs

The Committee also acknowledges the co-ordinating yacht and sailing clubs and class associations:

Australia Day Botany Bay Regatta Committee, Australian 18-Foot Sailing League, Avalon Sailing Club, Botany Bay Yacht Club, Catalina Association of NSW, Cavalier 28 Association, Chipping Norton Lakes Sailing Club, Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, Georges River 16ft Sailing Club, Gosford Sailing Club, Greenwich Flying Squadron, Greenwich Sailing Club, Historical Sailing Skiffs Association, Hunters Hill Sailing Club, Illawarra Yacht Club, Kogarah Bay Sailing Club, Kurnell Catamaran Club, Manly Yacht Club, Middle Harbour Yacht Club, NSW 49er Association, NSW Radio Yachting Association, Palm Beach Sailing Club, Parramatta River Sailing Club, Royal Australian Navy Sailing Association, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Royal Motor Yacht Club (Broken Bay), Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club, St George Sailing Club, St George Motor Boat Club, Sabot Sailing Association of NSW, Sydney Amateur Sailing Club, Sydney Flying Squadron, Wangi Wangi RSL Sailing Club, Woollahra Sailing Club, Yarra Bay 16ft Sailing Club.

The Regatta Program

The 173rd Australia Day Regatta program was compiled and produced with the assistance of:

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ADR Management Committee member Contributors:

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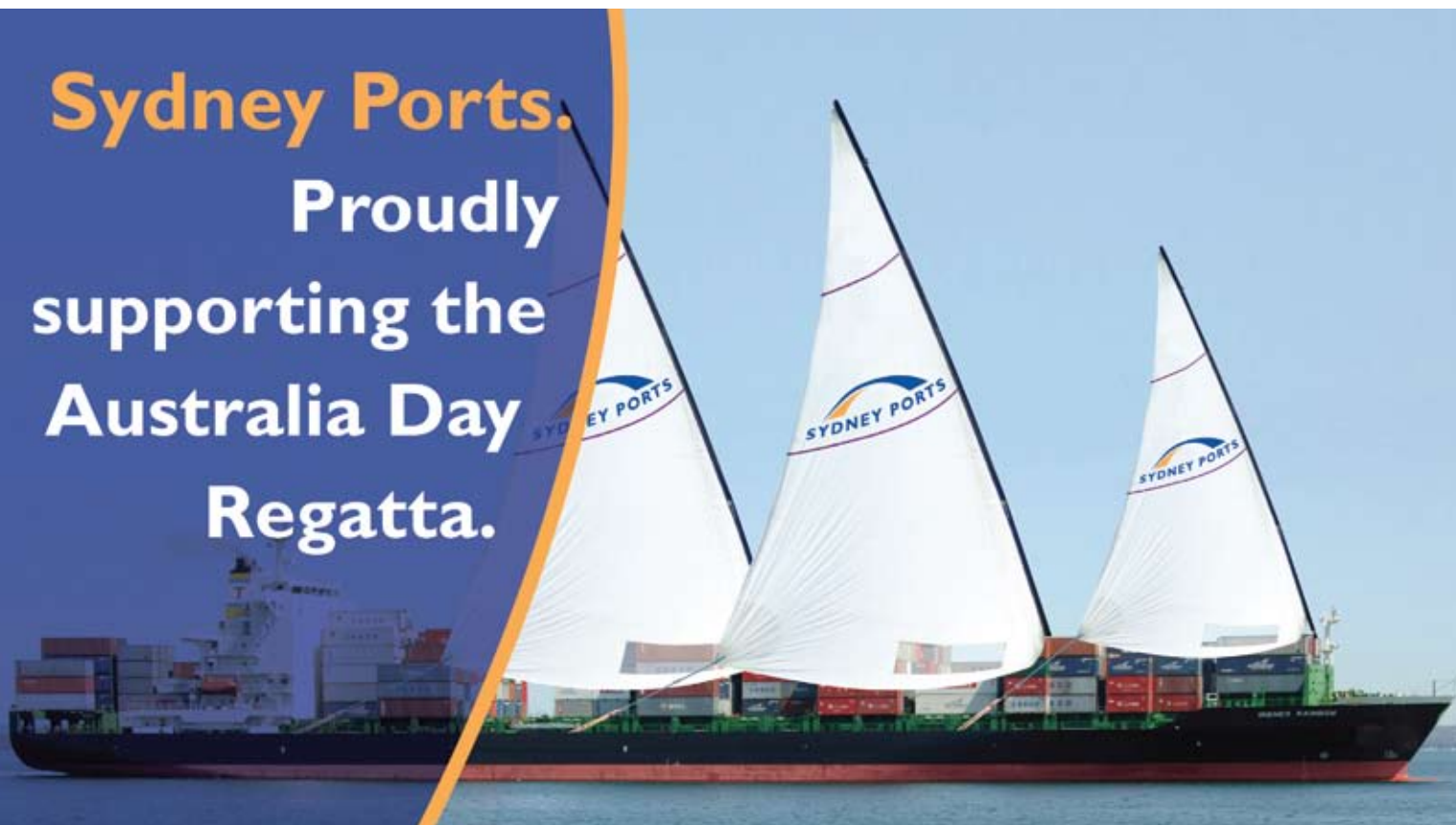
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