



Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic 2-3 April 2022



Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic returns to the waters off Stansbury and Port Vincent on the weekend of 2 and 3 April 2022.

Like countless other major and community events, the Saltwater Classic has been in "hibernation" because of restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally scheduled for early 2020, and again in 2021, the organising committee agreed on several deferrals in the interests of public health. But, it is now all systems go for April 2022 by which time we all hope the serious impacts of the pandemic will be in our wake.

Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic is a special event for enthusiasts and admirers of wooden and classic boats. These vessels have been faithfully restored by their owners to keep afloat some of the great traditions of boat building.

We know participants and supporters of Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic in the past are very keen to get back into the swing in our sister towns to enjoy an event that celebrates old-style boating and the maritime heritage of our region. And we look forward to welcoming newcomers to showcase their restoration skills.

The organising committee comprises an enthusiastic and visionary group of people from Stansbury and Port Vincent who are working hard to present the 2022 event in a most enjoyable format with some exciting new dimensions

As in the past, there will be a welcome reception for participants on the evening of Friday 1 April. The focus will be on Stansbury on the following day with a fascinating array of wooden and classic craft on display along the foreshore as the award-winning Stansbury Seaside Markets and other attractions are in full swing.

In the early afternoon, the boats and crews will be on the water for the traditional 12-nautical mile run from Stansbury to Port Vincent.

The official regatta dinner will be held in Port Vincent on the evening of Saturday 2 April and the next day the fleet can be inspected in the Port Vincent marina and during parades in the bay with excellent viewing from the wharf area and along the foreshore.

Members of the organising committee in Port Vincent are planning some interesting maritime themes for the foreshore displays on Sunday.

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Negotiations have been mounted to again attract the Royal Australian Navy Band to the 2022 event in Stansbury and Port Vincent and it is hoped the Metropolitan Fire Service maritime fire-fighting vessel MV Gallantry will present a spectacular display in Port Vincent on the Sunday.

In past Saltwater Classics, South Australia's flagship One & All has been a centrepiece and we are also striving to have the vessel back again in 2022.

People attending the 2022 event will be able to enjoy local produce, arts and crafts and view a fascinating range of vintage engines, cars and motor bikes.

Since its inception in 2003, Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic has been principally sponsored by the South Australian Tourism Commission through its Regional Events Fund, and it is also proudly supported by the Stansbury and Port Vincent Progress Committees, local businesses, the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard.

In 2016 and 2018, the Saltwater Classic won South Australian and Yorke Peninsula Tourism Awards of Excellence promoting the region as a wonderful tourism destination.

Brooke Liebelt, Yorke Peninsula's Tourism Manager, said it was great news that the Saltwater Classic had overcome challenges of recent times to be back on the tourism agenda in 2022. "This is fantastic news and it presents the opportunity for people to participate in and enjoy one of the best community-based events in our region," she said.

The most recent Saltwater Classic in 2018 attracted an estimated 5,500 visitors to Stansbury and Port Vincent to enjoy diverse displays and activities with a visitor survey indicating a mix of regional, intrastate, and interstate people, along with some overseas tourists who were in the region and who chose to visit Stansbury and Port Vincent to experience the on-water and on-shore attractions.

Every effort is being made to build on the success of past events and updates, along with entry forms and other vital information, will be progressively posted on the website www.ypsaltwaterclassic.org.au and on our Facebook portal.

We look forward to welcoming participants and other visitors to the next very special edition of Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic in 2022.



Pictures: Carters Captures