



Presented by



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MEDIA RELEASE

2018 Festival of Sails Information

Key Facts

- Australia's oldest sporting event and designated a major event in Victoria
- Geelong's largest event, last year more than 100,000 visitors bringing an economic benefit of more than \$12million
- Australia's biggest celebration of sailing and the largest annual yachting regatta in the Southern Hemisphere
- The Passage Race opening event is the oldest ocean race in Australia
- Combines first-class racing with a day and night festival which draws 110,000 people to the Geelong waterfront.
- Held annually around Australia Day, organised by the Royal Geelong Yacht Club
- A key part of the Australian yachting calendar attracting participants from around the world - the combination of flat water and reliable summer winds produce exceptional sailing conditions on Corio Bay
- Highly competitive and diverse, catering to all levels of sailing from high performance racing machines to family cruisers and junior sailors
- Something for everyone: sailing action, on-water activities, family friendly activities, live music, free entertainment and plenty of fun
- Older than Wimbledon, the Ashes, the Melbourne Cup, the modern Olympics and the America's Cup
- Truly a world-class event for Geelong - combining history with tradition, the very best of sailing, family activities, top entertainers and a day and night festival.

The 2018 Festival of Sails

- Starts on Australia Day, **Friday January 26**, and runs through to **Sunday, January 28**
- **304 boats – the biggest fleet since 2012**, and more than **2,500 competitors** participating
- The **175th anniversary** of the first running of the iconic Melbourne to Geelong Passage Race
- Coincides, for the first time, with the **Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race**
- Aussie music legends **Ross Wilson** and **Mental as Anything** headlining the Australia Day line-up.
- Attracted some of Australia's elite yachts and crews, such as Ray Roberts returning with his latest Team Hollywood and Matt Allen's Ichi Ban, fresh from their triumph as winners of the 2017 Sydney to Hobart
- A diverse range of other vessels mixing with grand prix racers on Corio Bay, from family cruising boats to multi-hulls and dinghies.

Passage Race

- The spectacular Melbourne to Geelong Passage Race represents the official start of the regatta, on Australia Day, starting off from Williamstown at 9.30am
- With more starters than the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the dramatic event involves boats of all sizes representing the majority of divisions competing at the Festival of Sails
- The 34 nautical mile Passage Race is an unforgettable sight with a huge fleet of yachts charging from the northern end of Port Phillip Bay to the waters of Corio Bay. This year around 300 boats will take part
- Dating back to 1844, the Melbourne to Geelong Passage Race has been running for 175 years this year.

Waterfront Festival

- A free community event offering a range of activities through the day and night including a stellar entertainment line-up to complement the racing
- Market stalls, live music and entertainment, carnival rides, a variety of food options and the annual Australia Day waterfront fireworks display.
- Kids are encouraged to discover sailing with *Come & Try* activities on Eastern Beach
- Thrillseekers can enjoy the exciting *Land Rover Double Terrapod* display, a simulated off-road driving experience, the *VR Regatta* virtual reality game and remote control laser boats
- The Regatta Village at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club will have day-long entertainment and a variety of food options. Entry is for ticket and event pass holders only after 5pm.
- Entertainment is free, but after 5pm wristbands are needed to enter the yacht club precinct and the Regatta Village.
- Due to unprecedented demand, the free ticket allocation for access to Regatta Village has been exhausted. There is plenty of entertainment on Steampacket Gardens and Transvaal Square that does not require a ticket
- There will be 24 food vendors across Steampacket Gardens, Transvaal Square, Regatta Village and Eastern Beach.

Festival Highlights

Australia Day – Friday, January 26

10am	Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
12:30pm	Royal Australian Navy Band perform	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
3:00	RAAF Roulettes Thrilling Air Display	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
6:30	Passage Race Presentations	Regatta Village
6:45	Andrea Marr & The Funky Hitmen perform	Regatta Village
7:45	Nathaniel's Marvin Gaye Show performs	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
9:15	Ross Wilson & the Peaceniks perform	Regatta Village
9:15	Spectacular Fireworks Display	Geelong Waterfront

Saturday, January 27

	Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
10am	Camel Rides	Eastern Beach & Beach Reserve
11:20	Viewing for start of CEGORR Women's Race	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
2:15pm	Kieran T perform	Regatta Village
3:30	Pete Chapman performs	Regatta Village
6:30	Daily Festival Race Re-cap	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
6:45 & 8	Eugene Hamilton & The Money perform	Regatta Village
9:15	Mental As Anything perform	Regatta Village
11:00	Steve Boyd's Rum Reverie	Regatta Village

Sunday, January 28

	Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
10am	Camel Rides	Eastern Beach & Beach Reserve
11:20	Viewing for start of CEGORR Men's Race	Steampacket Gardens & Main Stage
1:00pm	Darcy Fox performs	Regatta Village
2:00	Nigel Wearn performs	Regatta Village
3:00	Safari Motel performs	Regatta Village
5:30	Festival Race Presentations	Regatta Village

Full program: <http://festivalofsails.com.aup/full-schedule-of-events-and-activities> or on the Festival of Sails app, available from the App Store and Google Play.

Racing information

- The 2018 festival fleet is broken into 15 divisions:

Rating Series (IRC/AMS)

S80s

Cruising, AMS

Cruising, Spinnaker

Cruising, Non Spinnaker

Classic Yacht

International Etchells

JLLL Class

Sports Boats

Super 11s

Multihulls

Sydney 38s

Trailable Yachts

Off The Beach

Miscellaneous

- The sailing action of the Passage Race and the S80s division can be followed live with *TackTracker*, both on mobile devices and big screens at the event
- The Festival of Sails event app provides up-to-date information, race schedules and photo galleries.

All race results: <http://www.topyacht.net.au/results/2018/fos/index.htm>

Full racing schedule: <http://festivalofsails.com.au/seaside-regatta/race-documents/full-race-schedule>

Major presenting partners

- The 2018 Festival of Sails is presented by Rex Gorell Land Rover
- The Waterfront Festival is sponsored by Geelong Connected Communities
- The Australia Day Fireworks display is proudly presented by Festival of Sails.

www.festivalofsails.com.au