

24-26 January 2026 | Geelong



Rough and Ready Boat Building Competition: Festival of Sails 2026

Terms & Conditions

About the Competition

The Challenge

Inspired by the Australian Wooden Boat Festival's **Rough & Ready** style boat-building challenges, this event puts your team's creativity, teamwork and sense of humour to the test.

With only basic materials, a strict time limit and plenty of imagination, teams of 4-6 people must design and build a vessel that (hopefully) floats, and then race it for glory on Corio Bay.

The Rough & Ready Boat Building Challenge is less about perfection and more about participation, problem-solving, showmanship and having a great time both on and off the water.

The Schedule

Saturday, January 24 | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Building Day

Construct your vessel under expert guidance.

Strict construction limit: 4 hours within this window.

Sunday, January 25 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Painting Day

Turn your 'drab' wooden shell into a 'fab' floating work of art.

Monday, January 26 | 11:30 AM

Race Day!

The Parade: Teams carry their vessels to the water in a lively procession (costumes

encouraged!).

The Race: Two crew members launch the boat and race for ultimate bragging rights on Corio Bay.

Materials & Equipment

Materials Provided — The ‘Rough’ Part

- Plywood
- Epoxy glue
- Flat head nails
- Cable ties
- Cleaning supplies (gloves, rags, vinegar solution)

What You MUST Bring — The “Ready” Part

Propulsion

One carbon-neutral item per person.

Suggested: Oars, paddles, sails

Permitted: Frying pans, shovels

Safety Gear

- One approved life jacket per person (RGYC may assist on request)

Tool Kit

- Hand saws **OR** battery-operated jig-saw / drill (*maximum 2 of each - NO circular saws*)
- Drill or awl (manual or battery)
- Markers
- Ruler / tape measure
- Side-cutters (maximum 2 pairs)
- Bailing bucket (*highly recommended*)

Team Requirements

- Teams must consist of **4-6 members**.
- At least **one adult (18+)** is required to assist with supervision and construction.

- Only **two team members** are permitted on the vessel during the race.

Construction Rules

- **Materials:** Only tools and materials listed above may be used. No outside templates or pre-cut kits.
- **Timing:** All construction must be completed within the designated **4-hour build limit** (or at the Judges' discretion).
- **Propulsion:** Outboard motors are strictly prohibited. Boats must be powered by **NON-CARBON FUEL** methods only (oar, sail, paddle, frying pan, etc.).

Safety & Conduct

- **PPE:** Safety gloves, goggles (where required) and closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times during build and race activities.
- **Life Jackets:** Approved life jackets must be worn correctly by the crew throughout the entire race.

On-Water Conduct

- Paddles must **not** be used to strike other boats or crews.
- Bailing buckets are for removing water from **your own** boat only. They must not be used to fill other boats or thrown at competitors.

Fair Play

- Crews may not be jettisoned to save weight.
- Crews may not undress or attempt to distract other teams (*Yes, this counts as cheating!*)

Judging & Awards

- The race winner is the **first team to cross the line with all parts of their vessel and crew intact.**
- Judges reserve the right to award additional points for:
 - Style
 - Bribery (*in the form of charity donations or humour*)

- Spectacular failures

The Judges' decision is final.

Prizes

Cash prizes to support your community group or future projects:

- **1st Prize:** \$1,500
- Bonus Awards:
 - *Best Teamwork*
 - *Most Creative Design*

Clean-Up & Liability

- Teams may keep their vessels after the race but must remove them from the site.
- If leaving a vessel behind, teams must fully disassemble it and clean all debris.
- Teams are responsible for managing glue spills using the provided vinegar solution to prevent slip hazards.
- Participation is at your own risk. Event organisers (Royal Geelong Yacht Club and Festival of Sails) accept no liability for structural failures, mishaps, or unintended swimming.

Changes to Terms:

The organiser reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions as necessary, with prior notice provided to participants.