

# Hobson's Bay favorite in Australia Day regatta

More than 1000 of Melbourne's yachtsmen are off to Geelong this weekend for the annual Australia Day regatta.

A spokesman for the Royal Geelong Yacht Club said that entries are up on last year, with 38 yachts competing.

It is one of Melbourne's major regattas with events for Cadet dinghies, Flying Dutchmen, Etchells, Tumblarens, Dragons, Thunderbirds, H28s and Endeavour 24 classes as well as races for JOG and One, Two, and Three Division yachts.

The highlight of the weekend is the 'Advertiser' Trophy for IOR yachts, in teams of four from each entered club.

Hobson's Bay Yacht Club won the event last year and could well retain the trophy.

Bob Fell's Vitamin C, which dominated the event last year, heads the Hobson's Bay team again with Greg Finchett's Sinnerman, Barby Van Meurs's Sirocco and Cassablanca now sailed by John Ponton.

The Royal Yacht Club of Victoria team would appear to be the major threat to Hobson's Bay.

Ron Layton's Black Magic, Joe Becher's Apollo II, John Molloy's Great Scott and Bill Hale's Red William look to be a more formidable team on paper and must rank as favorite to win.

Lou Abraham's Challenge heads up a strong Sandringham team with Mayer Page's Spotlight, Ian Robinson's That's Life and Bruce Moore's Blue Moves.

The Royal Brighton team of Jack Sturrock's Fiona, John Taylor's Seaulater, Bill Currie's Damel and Alan Collins's Eastern Morning is also strong enough to provide an upset.

Twelve clubs have entered teams of four yachts for the two-race series. The first heat started off Williamstown at 8 pm last night and should finish at Geelong this morning.



The second heat is an around-the-buoys race at Geelong tomorrow afternoon. Each team may count the performances of its best three boats.

Another event which started last night was the first of the two-race Martini Trophy series for JOG yachts. They should also finish at Geelong this morning. The trophy will go to the yacht with the best points score for the two races.

This columnist rather fancies his chances in the chartered Farr 740 Farnatic. However, some of the top Victorian Joggers are among the other entries.

Ken Hills's Clickety Bits returns from the J24 Worlds in Sydney, Ray Stone's Endless Advice (apparently NOT named after his wife — we were wrong), Frank Hammond's Rush, John Hawley's Cripple Creek Ferry, Ian Tudball's High Roller, Steve Atherton's Moody Blue and Mike Thom's Mullberry to name just a few.

There is also a JOG event for club teams of three boats. Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron won last year but has not entered this time.

In another key event of this weekend, 26 yachts have entered the Mornington to Geelong race which starts this morning. One of the favorites is Bill Russell's Ferrari, fresh from a fine second in the JOG Nationals.

Has anyone been offered some cheap teakware lately? Caporn Yachts, Sydney-based teakware specialist, was burgled twice last

season, losing \$15,000 worth of tools and dressed teakware.

Mrs Eileen Caporn believes the culprit is from interstate and may be in the trade, as enough teakware was taken to stock a chandlery for some months.

The gear ranged from teak mouldings to stern platforms, cutlery racks, mirrors, handrails, doors and pinrails to vanity cabinets.

Anyone with any suspicion should call (02) 93 3399 as there is a sizeable cash reward.

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## Winner banned

Gundry Flyer ran the 1000 metres in 1:56.9 which clipped one and a half seconds off the race record held jointly by Reelman and Paleface Adios, but the time was still a second off the track record set by Victor Popular Alm earlier this season.

Popular Alm, who was pre-favorite for the race, had to be withdrawn early this week when he injured himself when being loaded on a plane to Sydney.

Gundry Flyer's win completed a back-to-back double for the stable. Last year Michael's father Frank trained Friendly Footnote who won the race when driven by Kevin Newman.

No excuses could be made for the beaten division. Double Agent worked hard in the early stage to head off Koala King, but wasn't equal to the pressure Gundry Flyer applied as soon as he got into the running line and began to force the pace.

The field went through the 800 metres in a sizzling 1:30 which proved too fast for all but the winner.