



Paynesville Classic Boat Rally and Maritime Festival

March 1-3, 2024

Rally Update

A message from our event Manager

Hello Rally goers!

Rally 2024 is just around the corner now and is shaping up to be something special.

If you've been watching our Facebook Group, you may have seen that entrants are already on their way to Paynesville from Queensland, NSW, South Australia and Tasmania!

Our feature ship *Coral Trekker* will be setting sail from Sydney Harbour on 24th February, making her way down the east coast to Paynesville for our Rally and then on to the Geelong Wooden Boat Festival. *Coral Trekker* will be taking hourly sails out onto the lake during the day and dinner sails each evening on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Bookings can be made at

<https://sydneytallships.com.au/cruise/coral-trekkers-coastal-sailing-2024/>

And if you're looking for some adventure, join her on the leg to Geelong, or back to Sydney.

In the next few days you'll be receiving all your information about arrivals, registration, briefings and on water events. Please read all information carefully, and if in doubt, just ask one of our committee or volunteers when you get here.

On Friday night you will be able to collect your registrations, numbers for the Grand Parade (please do not attach these to your boat until after safety briefing on Saturday), collect any merchandise ordered and if you wish, stay a while and listen to Marty Woods tell tall tales and true of the Coral Trekker.

Saturday, dress up your boats, pull on your best boat shoes and get ready for the Grand Parade. We expect about 200 boats to take part, so this will be something spectacular. After the parade, kick back and enjoy the rally, go for a wander and meet other participants or relax to the melodies of our entertainers and grab lunch on the grass.

Over in Vendor Alley by the on-land boat display, you'll find vendors of all things boating related. Take a wander through our trailer-sailer section and then check out the classic car display!

Saturday night brings our dance, with the fabulous Uncles playing hits of the 60's 70's and 80's. Dress Nautical and get ready to rock!

Then Sunday our feature events include the Parade of Sail, a gorgeous fleet of sailboats making their way along the straits – a real treat to see them on the water together.

There's so much left unmentioned.... But that's okay we've attached a program for you with this newsletter!

A few housekeeping things before I sign off –

- Don't forget our great 'Best of' competitions
 - Best Presented Larger Vessel
 - Best Presented Smaller Vessel
 - Best Dressed Vessel
 - Best Larger Vessel Restoration [Phil Mowat Award]
 - Best Smaller Vessel Restoration
 - Best Dressed Crew
 - People's Choice [Gary Kenner Award]. Winner to be the boat with the most votes.



- All participants must register UPON ARRIVAL to sign in, collect your registration bag and be directed to your weekend position.
- Committee Members will be dressed in TEAL SHIRTS. Volunteers will be wearing RED. Please feel free to speak to either volunteers or committee members if you have any questions. At all times a committee members word is final, for the safety and flow of the event.
- There will be some food vans available for your arrival on Friday, particularly in the early evening. Restaurants, supermarkets and cafés will be open regular hours.
- Safety Briefings will be held each morning and before each water event. Please send only one person per boat to safety briefings, so everyone is able to hear information.

Well I think that's about it from me,

We can't wait to meet you all, some again and many for the first time!

Have a safe trip down, keep your eyes open for more emails, and we'll see you at the Rally!

Andrew Livingston
Event Manager

Invitation to join us at the Official Opening of the *End of an Era – The Last Gippsland Lakes Fishermen* exhibition

This year we're very proud to be honouring our longstanding fishing heritage with the special exhibition "**End of an Era – The Last Gippsland Lakes Fishermen**", in the Library Breezeway for the whole month of March.



This photographic exhibition captures the final weeks of small-scale commercial fishing in the Gippsland Lakes in the lead up to the fishery's closure in April 2020. It tells the stories of the last ten licence holders and their families, offering rare insight into the day-to-day life and history of the Gippsland Lakes commercial fishing industry.

Councillor Arthur Allen will be officially opening the exhibition at 3.30pm on Friday 1st on site, near the Library. We invite you to join us.

Steamer's Run St Ayles Skiff Raid

The inaugural Steamers Run, which took place in 2020, marked a significant event in rowing history on the Gippsland Lakes. Four St Ayles Skiffs embarked on a three-day journey from the Port of Sale to Paynesville, covering a total distance of 74km. A detailed account of this expedition was featured in issue #112 (Jan/Feb/Mar 2021) of the Australasian Amateur Boatbuilder & Kitboats magazine. For those interested in reading more about this adventure, the article is available for viewing on the SASCRAA website under 'Events & News' and 'Rowing Adventure Stories'.

This year the Steamers Run is back, bigger and better! Six skiffs, accompanied by their dedicated crews are poised to take on the challenge once again. However, this time, the route has been expanded to include an additional leg from Paynesville to Lakes Entrance, extending the journey to 100km over four days.

The participating skiffs and their respective affiliations are:

- *Cariad*: Gippsland Coastal Rowing Association/Walkerville
- *Fast Messenger*: Warrnambool Skiff Club
- *Da Mirrie Dancer*: Gippsland Coastal Rowing Association/Marlo
- *Covent Garden*: Royal Geelong Yacht Club
- *Thursday*: Coastal Rowing Williamstown
- *Bart Scheen/Mordy Skiff*: Mordialloc Sailing Club



In addition to crews and individuals from the Victorian St Ayles Skiff community, we're delighted to welcome participants from Franklin, Tasmania, and Denmark, Western Australia. *Cariad* has been allocated to the Denmark Rowers, while *Fast Messenger* will be manned by the Franklin/LBT crew. This year's Steamers Run is bound to be another memorable event. And the Skiffies will be giving you the opportunity to try out rowing for yourselves at the Rally.

Important information for boat entrants

Arrival

Boats may begin arriving from 3pm Friday unless prior arrangements have been made with James Frecheville. Ph 0412 979 824.

You will be notified of boat placement via newsletter on the Tuesday prior to the Rally. There will also be a map in the Yacht Club.

Registration

Register at the Rally Launch on Friday night from 6pm onwards and pick up your showbag and your pre-ordered items. (Late registrations are available at 8am on Saturday morning.) At the Yacht Club.

Please check your entry to see which event you have entered for the weekend – you must be registered in an event to participate.

Briefings

Compulsory briefing for all water-based events will take place in the Yacht Club as follows: (boats not entering the water do not need to be represented at briefings)

Saturday	0830	Speed boats
	0900	Grand Parade – first briefing – boats numbered 1-100, plus on-land display entries taking part. 1 person per boat
	0930	Grand Parade – second briefing – boats numbered 100 onwards. 1 person per boat
Sunday	0800	Parade of Sail – 1 person per boat
	0830	Speedboats
	1200	Bowie Medling Bang & Return

On-water boats

Please bring your own ropes and leave pens as you found them. DO NOT ADJUST EXISTING ROPES.

On-land display boats

Please consider public safety and provide towball and prop protection to prevent injury to pedestrians

Speedboats

The Grand Parade takes place on McMillan Strait which is a 5 knot zone. Please do not take part in the Parade if your boat cannot adhere to this limit.

Signage

Sandwich boards/display boards with photos and details of your entry are encouraged. They must not be "For Sale" signs and must not hinder pedestrian flow.

Separate "For Sale" signs are to be no larger than A4 and must be attached to the trailer if you are in the carpark or on the boat if in the water. Local boat trader signs are acceptable.

Departure

Boats must depart by 5pm on Sunday

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Friday, March 1st, 2024

- 3.30pm Official launch, **End of an Era - the Last Gippsland Lakes Fishermen** exhibition at the Paynesville Library Breezeway
- 4.30pm **Raymond Island Koala Trail** - guided tour. Gather at the Ferry park on Raymond Island. Book through our website.
- 6pm **Boat Registration** and **Meet & Greet** event in Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club
Drinks from the GLYC bar, background Music by **"Water & Rice"**

Saturday, March 2nd, 2024

- 9am **Official opening** followed by a **Classic Speedboat Demonstration** on Lake Victoria.
On the Esplanade Foreshore **Memory Lane** will be providing the music and **Nicholson Model Sailing Club** will be on display.
End of an Era - the Last Gippsland Lakes Fishermen exhibition at the Paynesville Library Breezeway
St Ayles Skiffs and **Kingfisher Dragon Boat club** - register your interest to try Paddling
- 9.30am **East Gippsland Symphonia** will be playing on the Pier 70 lawn
- 10.30am **Grand Parade** - McMillan Strait and 5 Knot Zone
- 12 pm Afternoon begins - **St Ayles Skiff & Classic Dinghy regattas** on Lake Victoria.
East Gippsland Symphonia performing on the Pier 70 lawn, followed by **East Gippsland Brass**
Bairnsdale Gentlemen's Choir - Sea Shanties at various locations around rally site
- 12.30pm Speakers Forum: **Denise Lamble - DA Gippsland Waratahs** - Dragons & Drums, how exercise, connection and positivity help breast cancer survivors via an empowering and life-affirming sport. At the Neighbourhood Centre
Esplanade Foreshore - **Nicholson Model Sailing Club** display continues.
- 1pm Grassy Point – a return of the popular **Bote Cote Quick and Dirty Boat Building Competition**
East Gippsland Brass will play on the Pier 70 Lawn
- 1.45pm **Matt Montemurro, Marine Mammals Foundation**, at the Neighbourhood centre - Gippsland Lakes Burrunan Dolphins Children's Workshop
- 2pm **Bairnsdale Gentlemen's Choir** will be on the Pier 70 lawn
- 3pm Speakers Forum: **Vanessa Spark, Safe Transport Victoria**, at the Neighbourhood centre - Changes in Marine Regulations, how to self-inspect an inflatable lifejacket and how to activate a flare
Classic Speedboat demonstration on Lake Victoria
East Gippsland Brass will be on the Pier 70 Lawn
- 4pm Speakers Forum: **Harry Bowman** - RAAF PT boat SAR 02-6 History on the Gippsland Lakes and Bass Strait. **At the Neighbourhood Centre**
- 4.30pm **Raymond Island Koala Trail** - guided tours. Gather at the Ferry park on Raymond Island. Book through our website

- 5pm **The Voyage of the Aegre** - Meet the author, Nick Grainger and learn of his daring voyage in a small Shetland boat. **In the Yacht Club**
- 7.30pm **Saturday Night Dance** in GLYC featuring “**The Uncles**” – Nautical Theme.
Drinks from GLYC bar, nibbles provided **SOLD OUT**

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

- 8.30am **Raymond Island Koala Trail** - guided tour. Gather at the Ferry park on Raymond Island. Book through our website
- 9am **Classic Speedboat Demonstration** on Lake Victoria
Matt Montemurro - Marine Mammals Foundation children's workshop in the **Neighbourhood Centre**
Music by **Moore Fiddling Around** at Neighbourhood Centre and **Memory Lane** near Pier 70
End of an Era - the Last Gippsland Lakes Fishermen exhibition in the Paynesville Library Breezeway
- 10am **Parade of Sail** - McMillan Strait
- 11am Speakers Forum: **Dr Kate Robb from the Marine Mammal Foundation**, at the Neighbourhood Centre. **Research Update for the Gippsland Lakes Burrunan Dolphins**
- 11.30am **Kingfisher Dragon Boats** and **St Ayles Skiffs** at the sailability pontoon, Grassy Point - rowing and paddling public tryouts.
Music from the **East Gippsland Training Band** and **Bairnsdale Secondary Band** on the Esplanade
- 12.30pm Speakers Forum: **Russell Mullett - GKLaWAC** at the Neighbourhood centre - **GunaiKurnai Ancestral Connection to Tarli Kar Tor (Gippsland Lakes) History and associations**
- 1pm **Bowie Medling Bang & Return** - off the beach near the boat ramp.
Music from **East Gippsland Brass**
- 1.30pm **Classic Dinghy Regatta** and **Bote-Cote Quick & Dirty Boat Building Competition** - off the beach near the boat ramp
- 2pm Speakers Forum: **Vanessa Spark, Safe Transport Victoria**, at the Neighbourhood Centre - **Changes in Marine Regulations**, how to self-inspect an inflatable lifejacket and how to activate a flare
Raymond Island Koala Trail - guided tour. Gather at the Ferry park on Raymond Island. Book through our website
Music by **Bairnsdale Gentlemen's Choir**
- 2.30pm **Raffle draw and trophy and award presentations** on the Foreshore
- 3pm **Classic Speedboat Demonstration** on Lake Victoria.
Music by **East Gippsland Brass**
- 4pm **Rally end**



Want to get involved? Why not volunteer!

Our volleys have a great time attending the Rally, while helping us put the party together. It takes around 70 volunteers to help the Rally run like clockwork. Areas include water-based assistants, road management, runners, information and public assistance, and plenty more.

If you have a special skill or interest, let us know and we'll see how we can best use your skills. You can register your interest on our website – www.paynesvilleclassicboatrally.com.au – or simply phone our coordinator, Kerry, on 0439 662 993 or email us at paynesvilleclassic@gmail.com or email us at paynesvilleclassic@gmail.com

The boats

This year, instead of printing a traditional program, we've gone digital with our Boat Catalogue, accessible directly on our website. Not only is this more eco-friendly, but it also offers you a highly practical and interactive tool for navigating the event.

Accessible on both desktop and mobile devices, the Boat Catalogue is fully searchable, allowing you to find specific boats with ease. Simply type in your boat's name or keywords such as 'skiff' or 'cota' to discover relevant entries.

To experience the functionality firsthand, head over to our website and navigate to the Boat Catalogue section. From there, you can explore the diverse range of boats participating in this year's rally and access detailed information about each one. We'll continue to add boats right up until the Rally.

We're confident that this digital approach will enhance your overall rally experience and provide you with a convenient way to access essential information on the go. Give it a try and see for yourself how seamless and practical it truly is!

At the Expo

 Luxfords Marine	 Big Bears Donuts	 Bairnsdale & District Woodworkers
 Ace Marine	 Coffee Trix	 CFA
 Boating Industry Association	 Doin' Dumplings	 Paynesville Maritime Museum
 Boatcraft Pacific (Bote Cote)	 Five Stars Food Trailer	 Gippsland Lakes Classic Boat Club
 Fairytale Magic Entertainment	 Little Balls & More	 East Gippsland Photographic Society
 Frecheville Heaney Boats	 Melting Momentz	 Coast Guard
 Grae's Auto & Marine	 Neirbos Eats	 Rover Scouts
 Luxfords	 Paynesville Lions Club	 Safe Transport Victoria
 Mariners Cove	 Perky Grind	 Paynesville Sea Scouts
 Metung Hot Springs	 Slinky Spuds	
 Palms Resort	 The Naked Spud	
 Paynesville Hotel	 The Paynesville Hotel	
 Sail Cycle & The Artful Knot	 The Travelling Squid	
 Vic Boat Haulage		
 Wacky Wombat		

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