



2020

Guidelines for Judging Classic Wooden Dinghies

Introduction

South Gippsland Yacht Club is hosting and managing a regatta for classic and historic wooden dinghies over the Australia Day Weekend. The Yacht Club is greatly assisted by the Inverloch and District Lions Club, the Inverloch Rotary Club, the Inverloch Historical Society and the Wooden Boat Association. The local business community and some yachting industries provide the essential financial support to bring the Regatta to fruition.

The Regatta exhibits examples of wooden dinghies once sailed around Victorian and Australian beaches but now quite rare and also recognises the origins of the International Moth Class, a dinghy developed by Len Morris in Inverloch in 1928, which is now sailed around the world. In applying the term "Classic" to wooden dinghies it is intended that they are wooden dinghies that played a role in the early development and evolution of dinghy sailing. The hulls would be of wooden construction and made using materials and techniques used in the period of the dinghy. The rig and sails would also be of the type, material and sail plan of that time. The Regatta is promoted as part of an overall theme of Inverloch's maritime and seaside activities akin to those of the Inverloch Regatta Days that commenced about 100 years ago.

The Regatta is about the display of wooden sailing dinghies, both on the beach and the water, to enthusiasts and the general public. To bring attention to the specific qualities of the boats, and their history, prizes are awarded in various categories of wooden dinghies. The Yacht Club appreciates the generous support of the Lions and Rotary Clubs in providing the awards.

Mandatory Requirements

To be eligible for awards a boat must meet the classic wooden dinghy criteria below, enter and sail in the main scheduled events, that is, the Invitation Race, the Regatta Race and/or the Social Sail.

The hull must be of wood and using traditional construction techniques. The spars should be of wood but may be of aluminium if it was used in the early period of the class. Sails should be of the original material but can be of Dacron but not of composite materials such as reinforced Mylar.

The Awards and Guidelines

The Inverloch Rotary Club awards metal plaques to the winning boat owner in each category, which can then be mounted on the boat.

It is not possible to lay down all the specific rules for judging boats, which is why a panel of judges are appointed. The guidelines are provided merely to give a clear delineation between the award categories that have been established.



The display of woodwork using clear finishes and visible building techniques is considered desirable as is sail making techniques with fabrics that are no longer used. It is understood that glues, paints and other finishes are now of a higher quality than when many of the classic dinghies were originally built and it is accepted that restorations and new builds will use these improved materials so long as they do not detract from the traditional appearance.

Clear finishes which display the craftsmanship and beauty of the wood is preferred. A panel of six judges will be appointed to assess the boats and decide the winners of the awards.

Inverloch Rotary Club Plaques

The Rotary Club Awards are given in the following categories.

Best Sailing Dinghy in Original Condition

This would be an original boat from a specific class and may be a dinghy of historic significance by virtue of it being the first or near first of its type, a representative of a class, or period of the class, not otherwise well represented. The dinghy might also be considered of historic significance by virtue of its racing history or the person that sailed the dinghy. It is not expected that the boat and/or sails in this category would be in pristine condition, however the boat/sails may be in pristine condition.

Best Presented Sailing Dinghy

This would be the most attractive dinghy from a class in original or restored condition. A new build may be eligible but it would need to be built using traditional materials and using traditional methods. An original or restored boat would trump a new build of similar condition or finish.

Best Presented Sailing Boat

This category is for sailing boats that don't fit within the original dinghy sailing classes but are nonetheless good examples of maritime woodwork. That is, boats such as all timber cat boats, sharpies, clinkers and sailing canoes. The Ian Oughtred and North American classic designs with lug or gaff rigs have become very popular with home builders over the last two or three decades. Some of these are not unlike the boats recorded in early photographs in Inverloch around the 1900's.

Best Moth in Original or Restored Condition

The Moth has a special place in Inverloch's history and over time has evolved with many different designs. This category is open to Moths in original condition, restored Moths and new builds to early designs. An original or restored boat would trump a new build of similar condition or finish.

Best Presented Australian Sailfish

This would be the most attractive Australian Sailfish in original or restored condition. A new build may be eligible but it would need to be built using traditional materials & using traditional methods. An original or restored boat would trump a new build of similar condition or finish.

These awards are presented by the Commodore and Rotary President, fellow sailors and sponsors.



Inverloch and District Lions Club Perpetual Trophy

The Lions Club perpetual trophy for the overall best boat for the Regatta is determined by the judging panel selecting a boat from the winners of the previous categories.

The presentation is by the President of the Inverloch and District Lions Club and the Commodore of the South Gippsland Yacht Club.

People's Choice Award

The winner of the 'People's Choice' award is guided by the public registering their appreciation of boats by placing ribbons on the stays.

Ribbon Values

Gold - 3 points; Silver - 2 points; Bronze – 1 point

The boats are scored by tallying the number of ribbons and the value of the ribbons on each boat. The presentation of these awards is by the Commodore of the South Gippsland Yacht Club.

Rotary Club of Inverloch Classic Wooden Dinghy Youth Trophy

The trophy is awarded to the young sailor who has most successfully sailed a classic wooden dinghy during the Regatta.

Awarding and presentation of this trophy is by the Inverloch Rotary Club in consultation with the Commodore of the South Gippsland Yacht Club.

