



## 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 weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The Yacht Club is greatly assisted by the Inverloch and District Lions Club, the Inverloch Rotary Club, and the Wooden Boat Association. The local business community and some yachting equipment businesses provide the essential financial support to bring the Regatta to fruition.

The Regatta exhibits examples of wooden dinghies once sailed in large numbers around Victorian and Australian beaches but which are now quite rare. The Regatta also aims to highlight the origins of the International Moth Class, a dinghy developed by Len Morris in Inverloch in 1928 and now sailed in international competitions.

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 and enter and compete in the main Regatta Race or, subject to agreement by the Judging panel, at least one of the main scheduled events. The hull must be of built of wood using traditional construction techniques. The spars should be of wood but may be of aluminum 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 plaques to the winning boat owner in each category, which can then be mounted on the boat. In addition, a category mug will be awarded so you can relive the moment over a coffee! 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.

### 1. Best Presented Racing Dinghy of an Australian Design

This award is presented to a wooden racing dinghy of Australian design. The well-known classes such as Gwen 12s and Vee Jays have been regularly seen at the regatta but other classes such as Rainbows, Skates, 12 ft Cadets or Payne Mortlock Canoes would be equally considered for this award. There are too many designs to make a complete list. Moths and Sailfish are not eligible for this award since they have their own category awards.

The judges will look for classic appearance and authenticity to the original design and the class history. The quality of maintenance and/or restoration work including materials used in construction and the woodworking workmanship are considered. Originality and condition of spars, sails, cordage and fittings and the details of paint and varnish work are all part of the assessment.

The age, history and patina of experience of the boat are also relevant to the judge's decision. A boat does not have to look brand new to win this award, although if it is a highly accurate and authentic new build of a historic class using traditional materials and methods, it may well do so.

### 2. Best Presented Racing Dinghy of a non-Australian Design

This award is presented to a wooden racing dinghy of non-Australian design. At past regattas we have seen excellent examples of 12 square metre (heavyweight) Sharpies, Mirrors and Herons, designs which belong in this award category. Other popular classes such as Finns, OK dinghies, National E's or GP14's are eligible for this award along with many other overseas designed classes which have been sailed in Australia over the years.

The judges will look for classic appearance and authenticity to the original design and the class history. The quality of maintenance and/or restoration work including materials used in construction and the woodworking workmanship are considered. Originality and condition of spars, sails, cordage and fittings and the details of paint and varnish work are all part of the assessment.

The age, history and patina of experience of the boat are also relevant to the judge's decision. A boat does not have to look brand new to win this award, although if it is a highly accurate and authentic new build of a historic class using traditional materials and methods, it may well do so.

### 3. Best Presented non-racing/traditional design Sailing Boat

This category is for sailing boats that don't fit within the original racing 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.

The judges will look for classic appearance and authenticity to the original design. The quality of maintenance and/or restoration work including materials used in construction and the woodworking workmanship are considered. Originality and condition of spars, sails, cordage and fittings and the details of paint and varnish work are all part of the assessment.

The age, history and patina of experience of the boat are also relevant to the judge's decision. A boat does not have to look brand new to win this award, although if it is a highly accurate and authentic new build of a historic design using traditional materials and methods, it may well do so.

### 4. Best Presented 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 with a significant racing history in the class would be considered highly qualified for this award, even above a new build of similar condition or finish.





As with the above awards, authenticity, workmanship and originality along with the boat's history are the key considerations in deciding this award.

#### 5. 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 with a significant racing history in the class would be considered highly qualified for this award, even above a new build of similar condition or finish.

As with the above awards, authenticity, workmanship and originality along with the boat's history are the key considerations in deciding this award.

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

#### 6. Rotary Club of Inverloch Classic Wooden Dinghy Youth Perpetual 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.

### **Inverloch and District Lions Club Perpetual Trophy - Best Boat Overall**

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 winner of this award is considered by the judging panel to best represent the ideals of the regatta in terms of:-

- authenticity to the aims and style of its design,
- workmanship in construction restoration and maintenance and originality of sails, spars and fittings
- historical significance of the boat, particularly in its racing history

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

### **Inverloch and District Lions Peoples' Choice**

The winner of this award is the boat that receives the most ribbons tied to its rigging by members of the public and fellow entrants as a show of their favourite boat of the event. The winner is selected by judges tally of Ribbons which will be available from SGYC over the 2 days (conditions apply).

The presentation of these awards is by the Commodore of the South Gippsland Yacht Club.

