



All aboard for the 2011 Wooden Boat Festival

The twelfth SA Wooden Boat and Music Festival will be officially opened by the Governor of South Australia His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce next Saturday, February 26 at 12.30pm at the Goolwa Wharf.

The SA Wooden Boat Festival is designed to showcase the enjoyment and pride of owning a wooden boat, celebrate the return of normal water levels to the wonderful river and - in conjunction with major sponsor AvJennings and River Breze - highlight the lifestyle and environment that this part of the river can offer.

There will be over 200 wooden boats to see and an exciting on-water program will provide a great visual spectacle, whilst on shore a wide range of displays and exhibits will keep attendees interested.

The Woodstock Wine Pavilion will be a must to visit, with the excellent Woodstock Wines from McLaren Vale available to compliment food from HQ Cuisine, Cafe Lime, Loose Goose and the ever popular Woodstock Coterie.

The ArtBeat Puppet Palace will present a diverse program of puppet shows with performers taking time out from the Adelaide Fringe Festival to perform.

There will also be music on in the Woodstock Wine Pavilion, featuring new and old favourites including the Hillbilly Hoot, Tamarisque, The Bridgeland Brothers and keep your eyes peeled for the Navy Band.

Visit the Ngarrindjeri cultural tent, see the fireworks on Saturday night, or visit the Ecostar Outdoor Cinema showing the classic movie 'Storm Boy'.

Watch the launching of 'Hideaway'. Restored by Armfields after many hours of work, the original boat featured in Stormboy. HideAway will have an official launching at 2.15pm on the Sunday.

Of course you will also be able to take a cruise on the iconic Paddle Steamer Oscar W,

or purchase a ticket for the Steamranger to travel to Victor Harbor, Port Elliot and Middleton.

Arriving and departing by train will be a great way to avoid parking congestion that might arise in Goolwa.

Another great attraction will be the presence of a very large contingent of Navy personnel from Goolwa's adopted 817.

Some 80 sailors and two Sea King helicopters will be in town.

A Freedom of Entry ceremony officiated by the Governor will take place on Saturday morning, a memorial service and sunset ceremony on Saturday evening, and helicopter rescue demonstration on Sunday morning.

Watch the TAFE Rough And Ready Boat Building and Sailing Competition, starting at 2.30pm on Saturday.

Teams of two aspiring boat builders will construct their craft out of a minimum of materials including plywood, wire, cable ties and Sikkaflex to a point where they think it might complete a rowing and sailing course on Sunday at 1.40pm.

While you're at the festival, don't forget to visit the merchandise tent for a great range of clothing in new colours and styles, and a range of souvenirs at great prices.

With entry being free, why not support the festival and buy a memento of this great weekend.

A big thanks goes to all the sponsors, volunteers, supporters, registered boat owners and exhibitors and all the people who assist in this exciting Festival.

No alcohol is to be carried into the festival; gates will be supervised and security will be present.

There will be road closures, including roads to the wharf and also the main street, Cadell Street between 10am and 11am on Saturday, February 26.



TAKING IT IN: Willunga resident Don Chapman shows his son Felix some of the boats on display at the March 2009 Wooden Boat and Music Festival.

SUPER SOLAR: Victor Harbor resident Ben Doley received a trophy for the solar boat challenge at the 2009 Wooden Boat Festival.

