

Lake Eyre Yacht Club



2019 Regatta

Cowarie Lakes – Kallakinna Creek
Cowarie Station
16-19th April 2019

Version 190412 < NOTE THIS DATE FOR CHECKING UPDATES

ABOUT:

The Lake Eyre Yacht Club's 2019 event is planned as a four day/five night regatta on Cowarie Lakes, Kallakinna Creek via the Warburton River at Cowarie Crossing. Two wheel drive access is available to Cowarie Crossing with boats and participants shuttled by power boats **2.8km** to the regatta camp on Cowarie Lakes. Dates have been chosen for the all state overlap in the April school holidays. The event is for Lake Eyre Yacht Club members, families and friends only. We extend reciprocal rights to members of other boating clubs. You may join the Club as a "Gunna" prior to the event, see our web site's Membership page.

WHERE?

Cowarie Pastoral Lease – Cowarie Pastoral Holding Trust

The camp site is on the east facing side of a sandy-clay dune overlooking Cowarie lakes. Lake bed here is firm. The site is exposed with no tree cover and facing east should allow flies to be relegated to your back. Dawn looks magnificent over a calm lake. Forecast at this stage shows easterlies starting at SE and moving to NE on the last day. The Club has arranged for the two wheel drive access to be graded prior to the event.

Presentation Night – Mungerannie Hotel – publican Phil

The presentation night will be held at Mungerannie Hotel on the evening of the day after race finish. This should the return shuttle and retrieving of boats before attending the dinner.

GETTING THERE

The Birdsville Track will not be open Mungerannie to Birdsville due to the Diamantina flood. Queensland participants will have to arrive via Lyndhurst. Cowarie Crossing is a day's comfortable drive up the Birdsville Track from Marree (315km). It is suggested that a lunch break be planned at the Mungerannie Hotel (fuel available). The Warburton River at Cowarie is accessed by public road 50km west of Mungerannie. The launch and retrieve location is accessible by 2WD (weather dependent).

In order to efficiently shuttle boats the 7km to the camp site all participants are expected to contribute – many hands make light work.

EVENTS

In keeping with the Club's fun approach to yachting in the outback events will be laid back and not run under strict racing rules with emphasis on enjoying the rare privilege of sailing in the desert. We are family/children/pet friendly and do not tolerate anti-social behaviour.

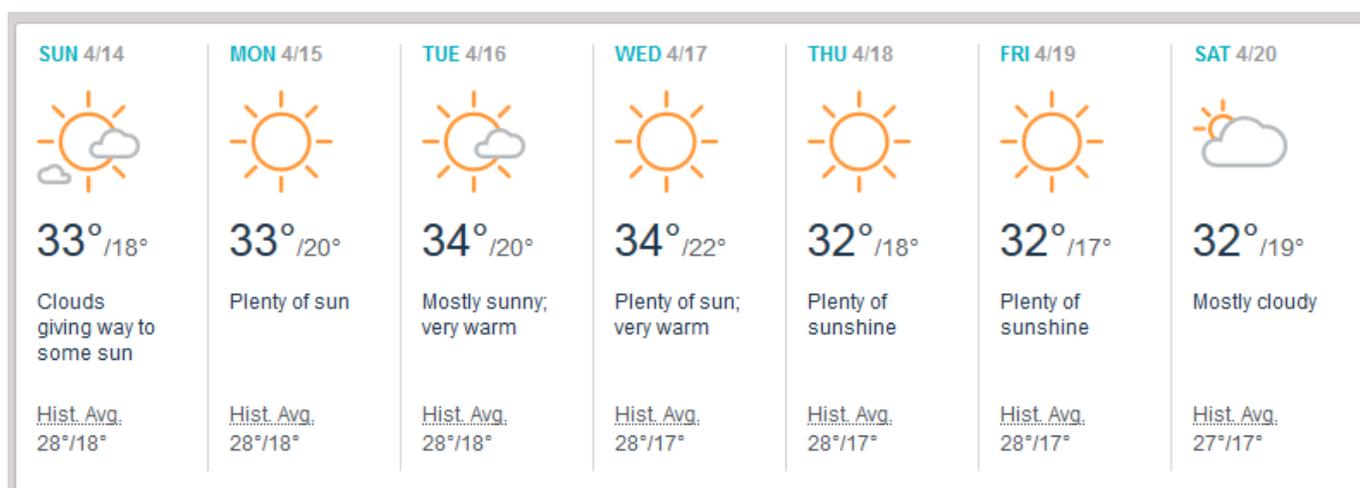
WHAT WILL BE SUPPLIED

- Bush camp area with pit toilet.
- Lake/river water for washing, boil for drinking.

WHAT DO I BRING?

- An off the beach sized yacht with appropriate safety gear as required by SA Marine Authority.
- Canoes and tinnies also permitted.
- Life jackets must be worn at all times in remote areas.
- Outboards are allowed on yachts but must not be used when racing.
- While 2WD is OK with care a 4WD is preferred, particularly when towing.
- Campers and off road vans are OK.
- Trailers are often the weakest component. Consider beefing yours up and carry spare parts.
- Camping gear, gas cooking gear, food and **drinking water** for 4 nights at camp + 3 days in vehicle.
- GPS makes it harder to get lost.
- UHF handheld (waterproof or in waterproof bag). Channel 13 for club use, channel 4 for station emergency contact. UHF in vehicle an advantage.
- Satphone will be available but the more the merrier.
- Adequate clothing and bedding for temperatures from 18 to 30 degrees.
- Wetsuits, if you feel the cold, and spray jackets
- Hats and sunscreen
- Strong bags for rubbish and recyclables. Rubbish must be taken to Marree tip and cannot be disposed of in any way during trip. Recyclables left at Clubhouse. Penalties apply.

NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE A WARM WEATHER EVENT



In April camping conditions are much warmer with an average minimum of 16 and average maximum of 30. Discomfort ruins a holiday so be prepared:

- Insects – flies and mosquitos - can be a real problem. Bug report - flies “can carry you away” very few mosquitos, maybe a few sandflies and various other non-biting night insects.
- Face fly nets are essential and allow two handed boating.
- A double bed insect net or netting sided gazebo would make life much more enjoyable.
- We are hoping to take the Club’s shade pavilion over.
- Lightweight full cover clothing for sun and insect protection, particularly in the evening
- Proper sun hat with tie, sunscreen essential
- Sunglasses essential and take a spare pair.

On the up side:

- You won’t come anywhere near freezing to death. In fact it is beautiful to sleep under the stars.
- Water temperature will be above 20 degrees – light weight or no wetsuits!
- You can easily have a swim to wash or cool down.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

This event is not intended to run at a profit. Main costs will include:

- Camping fee per vehicle (collected for Cowarie Station) – \$30/night
- Camping fee (\$10 pp) or accommodation fee at Mungerannie Hotel for 1 – 2 nights
- Entry fee \$30 per boat to supply fuel for and reward volunteers who help with racing and safety.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- We are looking for tinnie owners to help with boat shuttle, support and recovery.

IMPORTANT:

- There will be no casual access. All attendees and spectators must submit an entry form for each vehicle/boat and are subject to the same fees paid before entry.
- Participants must remain for the entire event. Access tracks may be closed, or open in one direction only, at certain times for safety reasons. Penalty fees apply for other times.
- Free camping is available at the Clubhouse before and after the Regatta. If you prefer a room Marree town and Mungerannie Hotel accommodation needs to be booked early.
- No firearms may be taken onto leases.
- No standing timber to be damaged.
- It is suggested participants purchase a bag of firewood as very little is found in this area
- Cooking/heating comfort fires only - NO BONFIRES as firewood and the environment is precious.
- Grouping of camps is mandatory to reduce firewood use and promote a community spirit.
- No generators. Solar panels, modern low power fridges and LED lighting are preferred.
- Children and pets are welcome but remember this is not a tourist resort. As there are many unfamiliar dangers in the desert they must be supervised by their parents/owners at all times.
- As is normal for adventure activities a liability waiver is required to be signed at registration.

TIMETABLE:

... 13 April	14 April	15 April	16 April	17 April	18 April	19 April	20 April
... Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Saturday
Early bird camping at the Clubhouse, Marree	Committee Meetings	Drive to Cowarie Crossing (4 hours) Launch boats. Shuttle to camp.	Event Day 1	Event Day 2	Event Day 3	Event Day 4 Rear Admirals Mug	Shuttle, retrieve boats etc.
	BBQ & Briefing at LEYC Marree Slides/movie evening						Presentation evening Mungerannie Hotel (1 hr from finish)

AND MORE...

The area is rich in history and has a number of locations of heritage significance:

- The area is the traditional country of the Dieri and Wangkangurru and is on one of Australia's major indigenous trade routes that extended from the Gulf of Carpentaria to the Flinders Ranges and beyond.
- The iconic Birdsville Track and its pastoralists, drovers and mailmen.

To appreciate the historical significance and to maximise the personal experience of a visit to this area it is recommended that all participants read (or view) the following:

- *Land of Mirage* George Farwell
- *Back of Beyond* (DVD) Hellyer
- *Where Seasons Come And Go* Eric Bonython ISBN 0 958 9388 0 6

Ask your local librarian for help to borrow the books. They are also often found in second-hand bookshops.

MAKE A HOLIDAY OF IT

There is much to see and do in the wider area of NE South Australia either from a touring or boating perspective. Participants can be provided with information on request on how to make a complete holiday based on our event.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

The Club needs help to run this event and we treasure and reward our volunteers. We are looking for:

- Race officials (starters/timers) and a person experienced with *Sailwave* handicapping software.
- Tinnie owners

