



Roo returns at the helm of former yacht race winner

WHEN the yachts in the Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic start sailing into Boston Bay next weekend former Crow and Port Lincoln Hotel lessee Mark Ricciuto will be hoping to be one of the first across the line.

Mr Ricciuto will compete in the Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic from Adelaide to Port Lincoln next Friday on board Grant Wharington's 98-foot yacht, Skandia.

He decided to compete after speaking to friend and retired Collingwood player Nathan Buckley who sailed in this year's Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Skandia returns to the water for its first major offshore race after being badly damaged during the Sydney to Hobart in January.

The super-maxi lost the top section of her mast on her way to Hobart but still managed to finish the race under a 'jury rig'.

Port Lincoln Yacht Club commodore Ben Kelsey said it was great news Skandia was competing in this year's race because the boat was a major draw card and a crowd favourite.

"With Roo onboard it will add another dimension to the event which in recent years has continued to grow in popularity,"

Mr Kelsey said.

"Roo's connection to Port Lincoln is widely known with the establishment of his new hotel, the Port Lincoln Hotel, that opened in December and we are hoping that other high profile South Australians will take his lead and challenge themselves by sailing in our great event."

About 70 yachts have registered for the event so far and organisers expect this number to surpass last years' when 80 yachts took part.

The race starts at the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron at 3pm next Friday, February 22 with entrants sailing through the night and finishing in Boston Bay on Saturday.

During the day, the boats will tie up at the town jetty where Rotary will be cooking a sausage sizzle and Lexus of Adelaide will have a display of vehicles on the foreshore.

The race is followed by Lexus Lincoln Week, with racing in and around Boston Bay from Monday, February 25.

To register for the Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic and the Lexus Lincoln Week, visit www.plyc.com.au