

KEEN INTEREST IN OCEAN YACHT RACING

Port Lincoln benefited with nation-wide publicity from the Queenscliff-Port Lincoln yacht race over the Christmas-New Year period.

The blue water yacht race, which is becoming a classic, was sponsored by the Port Lincoln Yacht Club, Port Lincoln Tuna-

rama and W. D. & H. O. Wills.

It is an appetiser for the Tunarama Festival to follow later this month.

Nine yachts, seven from SA and two from Victoria, crossed the starting line at Queenscliff (Vic.) at 4 p.m. on December 26 to race the 550 miles to Port Lincoln.

Brilliant

Canopus started brilliantly and led the fleet through the Rip at the entrance to Port Phillip.

At dusk on the first night Canopus held a slight lead over Kareelah with Pelorus and Four Winds II together a short distance astern.

Cooinda was about a mile to seaward, with Achernor, Rufus L. and Marina finding the light conditions difficult. Ailsa, which started late, overtook these three boats during the night.

In Touch

Canopus and Kareelah drew away from the fleet and were never out of sight of each other for the entire race.

Calm Conditions

After the calm conditions of the first 24 hours, in which the yachts only covered about 60 miles, the wind gradually increased from the south west to south and provided ideal sailing conditions for the next two days.

The yachts were running under spinnakers for many hours and this enabled

under spinnakers for many hours and this enabled them to cover the 300 remaining miles to Back-stair's Passage in fast time.

At this stage Kareelah held a narrow lead over Canopus, about 30 miles ahead of Cooinda. Four Winds II was a further 15 miles astern and Pelorus a similar distance behind

under spinnakers and Cooinda a similar distance behind Four Winds II.

Ailsa was slightly ahead of Marina, with Achernor and Rufus L. still well behind crossing Lacede Bay.

As yachts were sailing along the north coast of Kangaroo Island the wind freshened to 40 mph from

Kangaroo Island the wind freshened to 40 mph from the north west, giving the yachts a difficult beat to clear Althorpe Islands for the final leg to Port Lincoln.

During this blow Ailsa ran to shelter off Kingscote and anchored for the night, only to find themselves aground the following morning. This put Ail-

selves aground the following morning. This put Ailsa out of the race and she did not complete the course.

Canopus overtook Kareelah in the heavy conditions with precise navigation and held the lead to an exciting win by only 19 minutes in 100 hours of sailing.

A huge crowd gathered on the jetty to welcome the yachts which arrived at

approximately 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, December 29.

Coolinda arrived at 9 a.m. the following morning with Four Winds and Pelorus finishing at 4 p.m. that afternoon. Marina crossed the line four hours behind Pelorus.

Archer finished at 5 a.m. on January 1 and Rufus L. at midday.

Presentation

The mayor (Mr. P. L. Puckridge) presented the trophies at a well attended gathering on Monday, January 3, at the Port Lincoln Yacht Club.

The skipper of Canopus, Mr. Jack Williams, was presented with many trophies including the Wills Perpetual Trophy for the best corrected time, the British Paints Trophy for fastest time and the navigator's trophy.

The team of Canopus, Kareelah and Coolinda were presented with the Matthew Flinders Challenge Trophy for interstate competition.

All competing boats received an inscribed plaque from W. D. & H. O. Wills denoting their entry in the race.

Social Events

The visitors were entertained at a cabaret on Saturday night and a highly successful picnic at Monument Beach on Sunday.

A short race was held on Monday after the presentation. This was won on handicap by Pelorus, with visiting Adelaide yacht boat taking fastest time.

MAYOR PRESENTS TROPHY

ENSCLIFF TO PORT LINCOLN OCEAN YACHT RACE



● The Mayor, Mr. P. L. Puckridge (left) presents the Wills Perpetual Trophy to Mr. Jack Williams (right) owner of South Australian yacht Canopus which scored an exciting win in the Queenscliff - Port Lincoln yacht race. At rear is Port Lincoln Yacht Club Commodore, Mr. D. Bassham. Positions of the yachts were plotted on the large sign in the background, which was displayed in a Tinsman Terrace shop window during the race.



MAYOR

