

FIREBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hosted by the Royal Geelong Yacht Club



2024.fireballworlds.com

www.rgyc.com.au

www.visitgeelongbellarine.com.au

February 5th - 16th, 2024

FIREBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS GEEELONG

On behalf of our Australian Fireball Sailors (IFAA) I'd like to welcome your interest about the next Fireball World Championship to be held at Royal Geelong Yacht Club (RGYC), near Melbourne, Australia.

The organising team comprising RGYC and local IFAA leaders are going full steam ahead to make arrangements for an exciting and well planned regatta. They are leaving no stone unturned to have great race management, reliable end to end boat transport logistics, accommodation and transport information that provides plenty of options and a social program to cater for sailors and their family and friends.

When we held the Australian Championship at RGYC in Feb 2019 we found most people could stay within walking distance of the club. There were plenty of restaurants and pubs just 1-2 blocks away from the club. The environment created a great opportunity to do some post race socialising at the club and then wander off in groups to explore and taste the variety of options available for dinner.

During the regatta we experienced everything from light and tricky shifting breezes, champagne sailing at 12-16 knots and stronger winds.

The nearby coast, home to Bell's Beach surfing and the Great Ocean Road offers a wealth of holiday options for people able to extend their stay to enjoy a longer visit to Australia in summer.

We look forward to welcoming you to Geelong.

Heather Macfarlane
Fireball International Rear Commodore Australasia



WELCOME TO GEELONG

On behalf of the Royal Geelong Yacht Club, I would like to express our interest in welcoming all athletes, officials, volunteers, support staff and guests to Geelong for the Fireball World Championships.

Geelong, Victoria will be a perfect venue to host the Championships with Corio Bay being an ideal amphitheatre for viewing all courses, whether from the water or the land. After sailing, Geelong and the Bellarine offers exceptional experiences with its events, attractions and Cafes and Restaurants.

We look forward to having the opportunity to welcome you to our Club and the Geelong region, and wish all athletes success in the competition.

Stuart Dickson

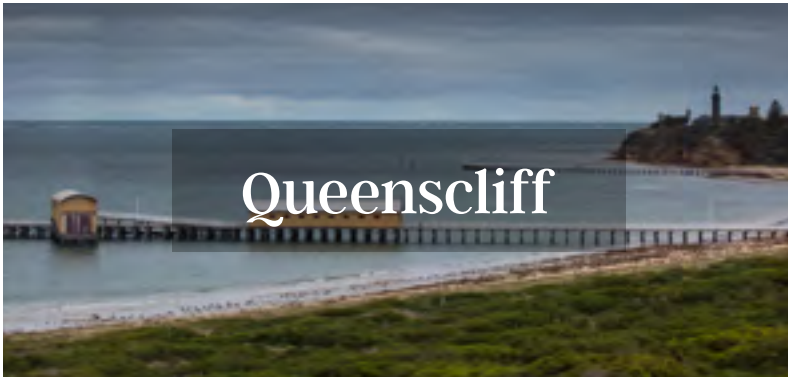
Commodore
Royal Geelong Yacht Club

GEELONG FAST FACTS

- 1 hours drive from Melbourne (capital of the state of Victoria)
- 235,000 population
- Ancestral home to the Wathaurong people

GEEELONG&THE BELLARINE

From the hills to the coast and every hot spot in between.



Please click on the destinations above for more information.

HISTORY OF GEELONG

Geelong was first surveyed and declared a town in 1838 with a local population of 545. The city's humble beginnings were founded in the rich pastoral hinterland and the prosperity of the local wool trade well into the 20th century.

By the 1850s, Geelong was swept up in "gold fever", becoming the principle seaport for the gold industry around Ballarat. The city's population ballooned to more than 23,000 people, making Geelong the fourth largest town in Australia.

In the later half of the 19th Century, as the gold prosperity declined, Geelong turned its attention to emerging industrial development. The city became the major trading port for the export of wool to Britain and textile industries flourished along the Barwon River.

Following the establishment of Phosphate Coop and Ford Motor Company, other international and national manufacturing industries moved to Geelong.

Historically, Geelong was a busy port for both exports and imports. Tall ships, tramps steamers, bay ferries and more recently cruise ships have berthed at Railway, Cunningham and Yarra Piers to load and unload their cargo. However, like many old city docklands, changing times and the revolution in handling sea cargo brought an end to their commercial relevance.

Ready to welcome you and your delegates to the Geelong Waterfront are the Baywalk Bollards. The Bollard Trail stretching from Limeburners Point in the east to Rippleside Park, features more than 100 characters who comically tell the story of Geelong's history.



SAILING IN GEELONG

As a port city sat astride the exceptional waters of Corio Bay and the Bellarine Peninsula, Geelong is considered one of the gems in Australian sailing. With a proud maritime history that dates back to the inception of the Royal Geelong Yacht Club in 1859, the iconic foreshore precinct has played host to a range of world championships and iconic sailing events.

Each year RGYC presents a huge Summer of Sailing including Festival of Sails, Wooden Boat Show and Off the Beach Championships. While championships are returning now, the signature event that demonstrates RGYC hosting capabilities saw the world's best sailors take to Geelong's waters, including the 49er, 49erFX, Nacra 17 and Laser Master 2020 World Championships.

Offering more than just idyllic sailing, Geelong is often called "The Gateway City" due to its central location, surrounded by some of Victoria's iconic tourist regions such as the Bellarine Peninsula, the surf town of Torquay, the Great Ocean Road and the Great Otway National Park.

"It's one of Australia's hidden gems for racing for all different types of classes. It really is great sailing – I always enjoy my time here." - Glenn Ashby, America's Cup Skipper



THE ROYAL GEE LONG YACHT CLUB

An outstanding sailing venue

Nestled in the heart of Geelong's historic waterfront, the Royal Geelong Yacht Club is home to a number of iconic sailing events. The Festival of Sails is the largest keelboat regatta in the southern hemisphere and oldest sporting event in Australia, whilst the biennial Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong is a celebration of maritime culture and history.

The Club regularly attracts high-performance sailing events at a world, national and state level. Leveraging its extensive club facilities with direct access to first class sailing conditions on Corio Bay, the club has hosted the Melges 24 World Championships, the Viper World Championships, International 14 World Championship and the Superfoilers over the past few years. In addition, over the 2019/20 sailing season, RGYC was the epicentre of sailing, with its 'Summer of Sailing' hosting the Cadet National Championship, the 49er / 49erFX / Nacra 17 World Championships and Laser Masters Championships. RGYC hosted the boatpark, yacht club, competitors' hub, and fanzone for supporters from around Australia and the world.



TRANSPORT & ACCESS



BY ROAD

In under an hour, you can drive from the city of Melbourne to Geelong via the Princes Freeway or from Melbourne Airport via connections from the Western Ring Road and Tullamarine Freeway. The new Geelong Ring Road gives you faster than ever access (just over an hour) to Torquay and the Great Ocean Road and beyond. All major car rental companies are represented at Avalon Airport and within the Geelong and Great Ocean Road region. The [Melbourne Airport Sky Bus](#) travels to the Docklands stop to Southern Cross Station and from there, you can travel by rail or by sea.



BY AIR

Geelong is serviced by two major airports. [Avalon Airport](#) is 20 minutes from Geelong and [SkyBus](#) will get you from the terminal to central Geelong. The trip from Melbourne Airport takes an hour and [Gull Airport Service](#) offer a shuttle to and from central Geelong and Werribee. Or you can pick up a rental car at either airport and make your own way to the region.



BY RAIL

Regular rail services operate between Melbourne's Southern Cross Station and Geelong, and buses connect central Geelong with the suburbs and villages of The Bellarine.

Check out timetables at [Public Transport Victoria](#).

If travelling by train or public transport bus you will need a [Myki](#) travel ticket. These can be purchased at your point of arrival in Victoria and topped up if needed during your stay.



BY SEA

If you're travelling from the east Victorian coast there is simply no better means of travel than aboard the [Queenscliff- Sorrento Ferry](#). Ferries run on the hour, every hour, every day of the year. Another exciting way to get to Geelong from Melbourne by sea is via a cruise on [Port Philip Ferries](#).

Victoria Area Map



Geelong Area Map

Corio Bay

CORIO BAY

Corio Bay is one of the premier locations for sailing in Australia, comprising an area approximately 4nm x 2nm of clear flat waters.

The predominant southerly sea breezes give the best possible sailing conditions. These reliable and consistent winds, combined with low swells and minimal tidal flow ensure that each race is a true contest of sailing skills.

Geelong
(RGYC)

Limeburners Point
(Boat Ramp)

Corio Bay





WHERE TO STAY & THINGS TO DO

The Geelong city area and surrounding suburbs have a huge choice of places to stay, from the luxury of our magnificent waterfront, the indulgences of some of our heritage bed and breakfasts, right down to simple and cheap camping grounds. There is something to suit everyone's taste and budget and many are conveniently located close to our best attractions and events and are still only minutes from our region's best beaches.

For a range of information on where to stay go to:
www.visitgeelongbellarine.com.au/accommodation

For a range of information on things to do:
www.visitgeelongbellarine.com.au/things-to-do

SHOPPING & EATING

Geelong has an amazing array of restaurants ranging from the silver service down to some of the best pizza and burger joints. A huge selection of international cuisines can be easily found, and our pub scene is vibrant and full of energy. Whether you are after a quiet post race dinner, an ice cold beer and a meal with friends, or simply an amazing coffee and brunch, you will never be far from what you're looking for in Geelong.

A few favourite areas to explore:

Waterfront Precinct - Steampacket Gardens

The Steampacket Gardens are at the heart of Geelong's waterfront precinct. Surrounded by first class restaurants such as the Wharf Shed Tavern, The Edge and Sailors Rest, Steampacket Gardens provide a great spot for a meal, drink or coffee a mere 50 metres from the Royal Geelong Yacht Club.

Little Malop Street

The Little Malop Street precinct is emerging as Geelong's coolest spot to eat, drink and relax in downtown Geelong. Quality options both day and night to come and sample some of Geelong's finest restaurant, bar and coffee establishments.

Pakington Street

Pakington Street in West Geelong is Geelong's centre of cosmopolitan lifestyle and multiculturalism. The street is jam-packed full of boutique shopping, cafes, fresh produce and some of the city's best pubs, bars and restaurants. Being less than half an hour stroll from the city centre and easily accessible via the city bus services, Pakington Street is a must for anyone looking for a bit of style and relaxation.



THE GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE

Geelong is often called “The Gateway City” due to its central location, surrounded by some of Victoria’s iconic tourist destinations.

Torquay & the Surf Coast

Dose up on surf culture at Torquay, the home of Bells Beach and birthplace of iconic brands Rip Curl and Quiksilver. The official start point of the Great Ocean Road, Torquay is Victoria’s surfing and beach worship capital.

Great Ocean Road

Set off on your own Great Ocean Road adventure and experience one of the world’s most scenic coastal drives. See the towering 12 Apostles, get up close to native wildlife, and take in iconic surf breaks, pristine rainforest and misty waterfalls as you go.

The Bellarine Peninsula

From the hills to the coast and every hot spot in between- the Bellarine Peninsula has it all. Spend a day hiking in the You Yangs or touring between dreamy coastal towns such as Port Arlington, Barwon Heads or Queenscliff. Known for it’s makers and growers, the region has a vast range of wineries and micro breweries to explore. From the hills to the coast and every hot spot in between- the Bellarine Peninsula has it all.

Great Otway National Park

Feel humbled amongst the ancient giants of the Otways Ranges. The striking cool temperate rainforest of the Great Otway National Park boasts one of the highest rainfalls in the state with waterfalls flowing year-round. Walkers of almost any ability can trek around the Otways, discovering the Great Ocean Walk, waterfalls, lush forests, cliff top walks, heritage and coastal trails. Whether you go inland or hug the rugged coast, the Otways is a place for adventure, romance and discovery.





ROYAL GEELONG YACHT CLUB MAJOR EVENTS SHOWCASE

The 2019/20 sailing season was huge for the Royal Geelong Yacht Club through its line-up of major events, sailing and club activities, facility redevelopment projects and inclusive programs. As a result, RGYC were awarded the 2020 Australian Sailing Club of the Year.

RGYC hosted six successful major events. See below for more information on the individual events.

Cadet National Championship

RGYC hosted Australia's best youth sailors over the new year for the Linked Building 2019/20 International Cadet Class Australian Championship.

Festival of Sails

One of the oldest sporting events in the state of Victoria and the largest keelboat regatta in the southern hemisphere, the Festival of Sails provides three days of world class sailing on Corio Bay. Held over the Australia Day long weekend the event lights up the Geelong waterfront with free live entertainment, a wide variety of market and food stalls and activities for the whole family.

49er / 49er FX / Nacra 17 Oceania Championships

The 49er, 49er FX and Nacra 17 Oceania Championships, incorporating Sail Melbourne and Australian National Championships, was held at RGYC in the lead up to the World Championships. Some of the world's best sailors in each class competed on Corio Bay.

49er / 49er FX / Nacra 17 World Championships

2020 saw the world's best sailors in the 49er, 49er FX and Nacra 17 classes take to Geelong's waters with a World Championship on the line. This was also the athletes final bids for a berth at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong

The Wooden Boat Festival is a celebration of maritime culture, history and all things relating to the design, construction and sailing of wooden boats, and incorporates community activations with local schools, cultural groups and businesses. The event also attracts a range of historic tall ships to Corio Bay.

Laser Masters Oceania & Australian Championships

The 2020 Laser Masters Oceania & Australian Championships included sailors 35 years and older competing across the Standard, Radial and 4.7 Laser categories at RGYC.

Laser Masters World Championship

Following on from the Oceania and Australian Championships, the 2020 Laser Masters World Championship planned to bring together the world's best Laser sailors. This was our only event affected by COVID-19 restrictions and unfortunately was cancelled in line with Government guidelines.

OTHER GEELONG MAJOR EVENTS

In addition to the sailing events hosted at RGYC, the Geelong region hosts some of Australia's best events and there is usually something happening every weekend. Our biggest event is the biennial Australian International Airshow. The multicultural Pako Festa held every February is our biggest free local event attracting around 100,000 visitors.

Geelong major events:

[Festival of Sails](#)

[Geelong Revival Motoring Festival](#)

[Great Australian Beer Festival](#)

[Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race](#)

[Ironman Geelong](#)

[Pako Festa](#)

[Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach](#)

[National Celtic Festival](#)

[Avalon Airshow](#)





RESOURCES

2024.fireballworlds.com

www.rgyc.com.au

www.visitvictoria.com.au

www.geelongaustralia.com.au

www.visitgeelongbellarine.com.au

www.festivalofsails.com.au

www.woodenboatfestivalgeelong.com.au