



SVITZER

Work Boat Convoy 2026: Sunday 26 October. Instructions and Information for Participants

Information for Captains, Masters, Skippers and Crew participating in the Work Boat Convoy at Balmain Regatta 2026 is provided below.

1. **Date/time:** Balmain Regatta is on Sunday 25 October 2026. The Convoy is the first event for the day with sailing events to follow. The start time is **1130 sharp. (We will be underway for 1-1.5 hours).**
2. **Marshalling Area.** Please arrive at the Marshalling Area at Birchgrove **by 1100 at the latest**. The Marshalling Area is shown on the Course Map and will also be indicated by a Balmain Sailing Club (BSC) burgee (yellow cross on black) flying on the roof of a tall Victorian terrace.
3. **Svitzer water cannon display:** The display will take place in front of the Club House from 1110 to 1125. Enjoy.
4. **VHF.** Each boat will require a working VHF radio (or hand held). Please have your VHF on when you arrive. Regatta Officials will provide instructions on VHF. **The working channel for the Regatta is VHF 72.**
5. **Format.** A tug from event sponsor, Svitzer, will lead the Convoy. Parameters as follows:
 - a. Maximum speed <6 knots set by the Svitzer lead tug to avoid excessive wash and to keep the convoy together;
 - b. Maintain safe distances at all times.
6. **Courses.** There are two courses:
 - i. **Main Down Harbour Course:** The Convoy will start at the Balmain Sailing Club at **1130 am sharp** before sailing events depart. The main Down Harbour Course will proceed around Cockatoo Island to Fort Denison before returning to finish at Cockatoo Island. The Course Map is attached.
 - ii. **Optional Inner Harbour Course for Small/Slower vessels:** A shorter course confined to the Inner Harbour has been established for smaller or slower vessels that do not wish to venture to Fort Denison. The Course Map is attached. If you wish to remain on the Inner Harbour, please start at the rear of the convoy.
7. **Order of Procession.** A **Staged Start** has been introduced to provide greater separation between vessels. Note:
 - i. A safety buffer of **30m** is required behind the Svitzer lead (pace) tug (grouped with other large commercial tugs). Please remain **30m** behind the Svitzer lead tug at all times as this boat is **setting the maximum speed**. **The lead tug will operate a water cannon for the outgoing leg of the course to Fort Denison to lead the way;**
 - ii. Once the lead tug is underway, the Club starter will call up the following divisions for separate starts:
 - Division 1: Boats larger than 50 ft;
 - Division 2: Boats under 50 ft;
 - NOTE: If multiple large tugs are present, these will be called up to follow the lead boat before Division 1. Please man your radio at the start;
 - Division 1 and 2 will follow the lead boat down the course. Convoy boats fit in where comfortable and safe. It would be nice for vessels with common background (eg, Navy, Nicholson Bros, Stannard Bros, HL, AWBs) to group together;
 - iii. At Goat Island, boats wishing to remain on the Inner Harbour proceed into White Bay and re-join the Convoy on the return leg. The lead boat for the short course will display a BSC pennant (black with yellow cross);
 - iv. Slower, smaller and less manoeuvrable vessels (and those taking the Inner Harbour Course) please bring up the rear.
8. **Start & Finishing Line.** The start and finish, as shown on the Course Map, will be between the Committee Boat displaying a Black and Yellow BSC Burgee and a BSC Yellow inflatable buoy set approximately in front of the BSC Clubhouse. The start will be announced on the VHF Channel 72 and will be indicated by a powder cannon and/or loud horn from the Committee Boat.
9. **Safety!:**
 - i. Ensure you have all the requisite safety equipment in working order for your vessel;
 - ii. Abide by all navigation rules;
 - iii. Safety of all involved takes priority. Navigate with caution while in proximity of other vessels and ensure safe distances and clear communications are maintained;
 - iv. Note that the Workboat Convoy is a part of a larger Balmain Regatta programme. Several sailing events will follow the Convoy. The Regatta Programme can be viewed at: <https://balmainsailingclub.com/balmain-regatta>;
 - v. Maintain safe distances at all times.



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10. **Awards.** The following awards will be presented at the Club after the Regatta:
- A most handsome perpetual trophy for the overall 'winner'.
 - Best Dressed Award. We encourage you to dress your boat (eg, flags, etc). A prize will be presented for best dressed or best presented vessel.
11. **Presentation, Party and Moorings.** The presentation/BBQ/party (from 1 pm) will be held at the Club after the event. We encourage you to attend. Some moorings can be arranged by the Club. Please advise by return email or phone call if you would like help arranging a mooring to help you attend the event. Please come back to the Club after the event. If coming by road the club is at Water Street Birchgrove.
12. **Finally,** there is no entry fee for the event but if you feel inclined feel free to make a donation to Balmain Sailing Club bank details are as follows: BSB: 032020 Account: 105359. To those of you that made donations last year-thank you.

Thank you for your support. Please feel free to contact the undersigned if you have any queries or would like any assistance.

Regards,
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Conditions of Entry

- Participants in *The Workboat Convoy* acknowledge that the event involves boating on public waterways and are aware of the hazards involved. The hazards include, but are not limited to, condition of participant's boat, equipment, moorings, wharves, boat ramps, commercial operations, and actions of participants, spectators, organiser's personnel and weather conditions. By participating, entrants believe they have sufficient competence and experience to participate safely.
- By participating, each participants, their executors, administrators, next of kin and assign as follows:
 - WAIVER, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE** from any and all liability for death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, and all other foreseeable risks or claims or actions of any kind, whatever and however occurring, which they at any time had or have as a result of or in connection with, directly or indirectly, their participation in and travelling to and from the Convoy, the following persons or entities: Event organisers; Event Sponsors; volunteers; community organisations; and all State, Federal and Local Government authorities in which the Event may be staged and their (its) respective officers, directors, employees, independent contractors, representatives, agents and volunteers.
 - Participants **INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS** the persons or entities mentioned in paragraph 2a above from any and all liabilities, claims or actions whatever or however caused, arising as a result of or in connection with, directly or indirectly, their participation in and travelling to or from the Convoy.
- Participants agree that their entry into the convoy is voluntary, and that they are responsible for the control, safety and insurance of their vessel and also for the safety of all persons aboard for the duration of the Convoy.