



TALENTED PAIR . . . South African boardsailing champion **WILLIAM TYSON** (left) and yachting star **MICHAEL GILES** were pleased to be back in windy Port Elizabeth after tutoring at a week-long yachting and boardsailing clinic, conducting in extremely calm conditions in Zimbabwe. Both sportsmen belong to the Algoa Bay Yacht Club. Picture: Jack Cooper

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PE EVENING

2 PE sportsmen missed the wind

By **LINDA SPARG**

TWO of Port Elizabeth's watersport stars have just returned from a week-long yachting and boardsailing clinic at Lake Chivero in Zimbabwe, where they were guest tutors.

South African boardsailing champion William Tyson and national Laser yachting championship bronze winner Michael Giles told how heartening it was coaching beginners — some as young as four years old — whose enthusi-

asm never flagged despite a lack of wind.

There were only about two hours of wind a day.

Tyson said: "The lake borders a national park and we saw hippos, buffalo, elephants and exotic birds.

"There were even some crocodiles sighted at the other side of the lake.

"Luckily no one was attacked!"

Giles, who will take part in the World Sailing Championships in the Canary Islands from June 5, said

there were about about 160 children and beginner adults at the clinic.

There were about 15 tutors.

Children were taught how to sail Optimists.

"An Optimist is a tiny, square boat, which looks like a sardine can but it's the best boat to learn on," Tyson said.

"All top Springbok yachtsmen started on Optimists. You can only compete in one up to the age of 15."

Most of the sailing at the clinic was done early in the morning or at night, when the change in temperature and resulting air currents produced something vaguely like the wind in PE.

Tyson, who is used to zipping across Algoa Bay like a demon with the wind on his back, said: "Zimbabwe is the most windless place in the world!"

Lake Chivero is about 20km west of Harare. The clinic took place at a yacht club at the lake and is organised annually by the Yachting Association of Zimbabwe.

Tyson said the tutors and participants in the clinic stayed in chalets or camped at the yacht club.

"It was good to see yachtsmen and women putting something back into the sport by sharing their skills with beginners," Giles said.