



ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE 2024

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Your guide to the 79th edition of the
Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's legendary ocean race

MEET
THE FLEET

FEATURES
AND ANALYSIS

HOW TO
FOLLOW THE RACE

A scenic landscape featuring a dense forest of tall trees covering a steep hillside. The forest is reflected in the calm, dark water of a lake in the foreground. A person is seen swimming in the lake, creating a splash. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

No beach bus.
No parking inspectors.
No fish and chip queues.
Not on a postcard.
Not on your itinerary.
Not bad.

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COME DOWN FOR AIR

ANIA

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Share your Rolex Sydney Hobart story or get in touch via email – media@cyca.com.au

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CLUBHOUSE

The CYCA is open seven days a week. For the latest on opening hours, please visit our website.

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Alive sailing around the Organ Pipes in the 2023 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Photo: ROLEX / Kurt Arrigo.

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COMMODORE DR. SAM HAYNES

At the helm

As we approach the Boxing Day Start of the 79th Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, the excitement and activity around the CYCA and Sydney Race Village has been building in anticipation of another challenging and competitive race south.

This year's fleet is an eclectic mix of 107 entries from all states of Australia joined by six international participants. Boats range in age from the 120-year-old *Maritimo Katwinchar* to the JPK 11.80 *Bacchanal*, recently built on the NSW South Coast and destined for the U.S. after Hobart. Sizes range from 30-foot, (*Maritimo Katwinchar* and the Illingworth 30 *Kismet*), to three 100-foot thoroughbred maxis (*Master Lock Comanche*, *LawConnect* and *Wild Thing 100*) along with the more luxuriously appointed *Maritimo 100* - with a diverse range of racing and cruising designs in between.

There will be 23 intrepid double-handed entries competing in the 2024 edition.

Competitors range in age over seven decades and experience levels from first-timers through to salty stalwarts for whom the month of December only ever means one thing.

We have many past winners lining up again, including last year's Line Honours and IRC Overall victors, Christian Beck's *LawConnect* and Phillip Turner's *Alive*. The 2023/24 Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore champion *URM Group* will be out to better their close finish 2nd in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart. The fleet is awash with previous divisional winners and placegetters.

On paper, it is a truly open affair.

We are, as always, extremely grateful to Rolex for its continued support of the Sydney Hobart Race and to offshore sailing more broadly. Our close partnership with the Swiss timepiece manufacturer was formally renewed last year through to 2033 and we are absolutely thrilled to continue working with them to help promote the sport we are all so passionate about.



I'd also like to warmly thank Stephen 'Rowdy' McCullum, Tracy Matthews and the team of staff and volunteers at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania who work tirelessly as our Race Finishing Partners and make the celebrations in Hobart such a success.

Thanks also to our many other government and corporate supporters: NSW Maritime, Events Tasmania, City of Hobart, TasPorts, The Tasman, Devil's Corner, and Carlton and United Breweries.

A special acknowledgement also to new broadcast partner, the Nine Network, who will be televising the start of the Race on 26 December on both Channel Nine and 9Now and will be hosting a dedicated on-demand page for all our other Rolex Sydney Hobart race content. Global audiences will be able to watch all the action on the CYCATV YouTube channel.

The event itself would not be possible without the extraordinary contributions of the Board, management team and staff at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and to the many volunteers who help out each year. Thanks to Lee Goddard and the Race Committee, International Jury, media team, Gravity Media, HypeTV, SailMedia, IMG, and everyone else who makes it all happen.

I invite everyone to come down to the Club over December for our many social events in the lead-up and, if you're not competing, to join our spectator boat on the starting line on Boxing Day. If last year's Line Honours and Overall finishes are anything to judge by, it could be another race to be remembered.

As I and many of my TP52 *Celestial* team that won the Tattersall Cup in 2022 will be sailing as *Celestial V70* (on Jim Cooney's *Willow*) this year, I look forward to joining in the celebrations in Hobart when we arrive.

Wishing everyone a festive season ahead.

Dr Sam Haynes
Commodore ⚓



Welcome to Hobart

On behalf of the members of the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and the Hobart community, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, without doubt, the premier yacht race finish in the world.

For over seven decades, this race has held a place of deep significance in the hearts of Tasmanians. It's not just an event, but a tradition that showcases Hobart as a vibrant and dynamic maritime hub. The Rolex Sydney Hobart is widely regarded as one of the toughest ocean races in the world, testing the mettle of sailors across 628 nautical miles of some of the most challenging waters. The courage, skill, and endurance needed to reach Hobart's finish line has earned this race its iconic status, a source of pride for our community.

Each year, the race brings together not only competitors but also the broader Hobart community, infusing our city with excitement and a sense of connection. The race's steep history and importance to our island is a testament to the resilience and passion of all involved. We warmly welcome competitors, sponsors, friends, families, and volunteers, whose dedication and love of the sport make this race the extraordinary event it is. Together, we celebrate the spirit of adventure and camaraderie, and we look forward to sharing this unforgettable experience with you all.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to the major Tasmanian stakeholders who make this event possible. Our sincere gratitude goes to the Tasmania Police, Tasports, Hobart City Council and the Tasmanian Government, whose support and coordination are invaluable. A special thank you to Premier Jeremy Rockliff for his ongoing commitment to ensuring the race continues to thrive in Tasmania, bringing vibrancy, colour, and a sense of unity to our island each year.

In addition, I must highlight the strong collaboration between The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia. Together, we work tirelessly to fine-tune every detail of this magnificent event, ensuring it runs smoothly and continues to be a world-class spectacle. This enduring partnership between our clubs reflects a shared passion for excellence in sailing.

We also draw special attention to the incredible commitment from Rolex, whose unwavering support promotes and grows the sport of sailing on a global scale. Their dedication elevates the Sydney Hobart to new heights each year, making it an unforgettable experience for all involved.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the massive team of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to tending to the needs of competitors. From race management to the countless behind the scenes roles, these volunteers are the lifeblood of the event, and their efforts ensure that every sailor is supported throughout the race.

Welcome to Hobart,

Stephen McCullum
Commodore
The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania ⚓

Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo





Photos: CYCA Archives,
ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi,
Richard Bennett



History of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) began in 1944 when a group of keen sailors started meeting informally at a photographic studio in Sydney. With a boatshed secured in Rushcutters Bay, the yachtsmen set sail on a journey that shaped Australian yachting history.

In 1945, nine yachts gathered on Boxing Day for what was originally meant to be a leisurely cruise to Hobart, the spark of competition ignited amongst them. Storms and unpredicted routes caused the public to fear the yachts had been lost at sea, garnering mass media attention. When the smallest competitor Rani, 34.73 feet long, sailed into Constitution Dock on New Year's Day 1946, to a gathering of 300 plus people, their journey gave birth to what would become the legendary Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

Capturing the hearts of Australians and transforming into an international yachting classic, the Race quickly became an icon of Australian summer sport, ranking in interest alongside the Boxing Day Cricket Test and the Australian Open. Year after year, the race grew in stature, drawing competitors from around the globe.

In 1995, the 50th edition of the race, a record of 371 yachts started on Sydney Harbour. Over a hundred yachts tackle the maritime challenge year after year, from 100-foot maxi yachts to professionally crewed international TP52s, to Corinthian 30-foot racers.

The Sydney Hobart grew from humble beginnings to a global phenomenon, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race remain synonymous with the spirit of adventure and competition on the high seas. ⚓







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ALIVE
SINCE / 1877

Celebrating the Sydney Hobart Classic Yachts



A record 37 starters are expected for the sixth Sydney Hobart Classic Yacht Regatta (SHCYR), to be raced on the Harbour on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 13th to the 15th of December. The yachts will be competing for a set of historic trophies, each with a famous name association including with Solo, Balandra, Koomooloo and Plum Crazy.

To qualify each yacht has competed in at least one Sydney Hobart. The SHCYR's most qualified entry is, once again, Barcardi with a record 31 Sydney Hobarts to date, and racing south again in 2024.



Photos: Andrea Francolini





Also racing over the three day SHCYR will be Sydney Hobart winners Nerida (1950), Solveig (1954), Anitra V (1957) and Love & War (1974, 1978, 2004). Just as worthy of note are the line honours winners entered: Margaret Rintoul (1950 and 1951), Solveig (1953), Fidelis (1966) and Bumblebee Four (1979).

Gordon Ingate AOM, a CYCA member since 1949, will be sailing again in Jasnar, the yacht he raced to Hobart in 1950. In his 97th year Gordon is as competitive a racer as ever and it will be a bold classic yacht skipper who challenges Jasnar's call for room at a rounding mark.



Another notable starter is Peter Stern's beautiful Kintail, launched in Tasmania in 1936 and deceptively quick given her "I'm just a cruiser" persona. Kintail's best Sydney-Hobart result was in 1954, 2nd over the finish line, 1 hour and 14 minutes behind the legendary Kurrewa IV, and 4th on handicap. She had also placed 4th in 1947. Handicapper please note.

The Friday race is an "invitational" and does not count toward the Regatta pointscore. A pursuit start from the vicinity of Point Piper will see the fleet away on Saturday and the Sunday race begins from Cannae Point, the start line used for the first race in 1945. From Peter Shipway aboard Love and War, "the Cannae Point start never disappoints as a spectacle, with all of those magnificent boats, all that history, together around the starting line".

This year for the first time the Regatta includes a Saturday night BBQ in the Village on the hard stand at the CYCA. ⚓



THE JACKSON

OFFICIAL SPECTATOR VESSEL



**Where Only The Jackson Can Go
- Inside the Exclusion Zone -**

Watch the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race from where no other spectator can—The Jackson is the only vessel on the start line and inside the Exclusion Zone. Enjoy the race up close and in style with gourmet food and drinks.





The Sydney Race Village

The Rolex Sydney Race Village returns to the CYCA this December with fan-favourite events and re-imagined past favourites. The vibrant village offers the chance for competitors and spectators alike to engage in the exciting Sydney sailing community. With Boxing Day fast approaching, read on for more information about this year's events.

2024 Sydney Race Village Events:

The **QLD (Quiet Little Drink)** will be reenergised in a different format celebrating YSA alumni participating in their first Hobart race, women sailors reaching their 10-race milestone, and crew members marking their 25th, 40th and 50th races.

The **Women in Sailing Night** returns to the Rolex Sydney Race Village for the second year in a row, featuring a panel of talented women sailors. The 2024 event will feature professional ocean racer Stacey Jackson, accomplished local navigator Clare Costanzo from *Whisper*, and mother daughter co-skippers Annette Hesselmanns and Sophie Snijders onboard Double Handed entry *Fika*.

2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Skippers and VIP are invited to the Sydney Race Village for an exclusive cocktail party for the **VIP & Skippers Launch**.

A **Long Lunch** will be held in the Sydney Race Village on the weekend before the race, allowing current and past crews to gather, reminisce, and explore the docks to view this year's fleet.

Gather up your crew and head over to the Sydney Race Village for the annual **Crew Party**. Get to know other sailors from around New South Wales and the world.

Join us for **Family Day** in the Sydney Race Village following the Boxing Day Start. Watch the highlights of the Boxing Day broadcast and follow the live tracker.

The Sydney Race Village is also home to the Helly Hansen Race Merchandise Shop, Media Centre, and Information Centre.

RSVP online at cyca.com.au. [📍](#)



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo



SAVE THE DATE

SYDNEY RACE VILLAGE EVENTS

**5
DEC**

ANDOO TEAM AUSTRALIA WELCOME BACK RECEPTION

Welcome back Andoo Team Australia after their success at the UniCredit Youth and Puig Women's America's Cup. Meet the squad and hear about their experience at the historic international event.

**8
DEC**

CABBAGE TREE ISLAND RACE | SUNDAY SESSION (NEW)

Following the 172 nautical mile ACSBWPS race, join us in the Village for a post-race gathering. The evening is the perfect opportunity to listen to music, meet fellow sailors, crew members, and owners, unwind and share stories.

**13
DEC**

QUIET LITTLE DRINK (NEW)

The Q.L.D. (Quiet Little Drink) has been a cherished tradition for over 50 years. This year, we proudly celebrate those embarking on their 25th, 40th & 50th Race, 10th Race Women, and first-time YSA competitors. Join us in the Village to commemorate these achievements and help raise funds for the CYCA Youth Sailing Academy.

**13-15
DEC**

SYDNEY HOBART CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA

Celebrate the contribution of classic yachts to the traditions and history of the blue water classic. Join the sailors for a BBQ after racing on Saturday, RSVP on Humanitix. Commend the yachtsmen during the Sunday prizegiving immediately following racing.

**18
DEC**

WOMEN IN SAILING NIGHT

The women in sailing night returns to the Rolex Sydney Race Village for the second year in a row, featuring a panel of talented women sailors including professional ocean racer Stacey Jackson, accomplished local navigator Clare Costanzo, and the mother daughter co-skippers Annette Hesselmans and Sophie Snijders.

**20
DEC**

RSHYR VIP & SKIPPER'S LAUNCH

RSHYR VIP and Skippers will be invited to the Village for an exclusive cocktail event.

**21
DEC**

LONG LUNCH (NEW)

A Long Lunch will be held in the Sydney Race Village on the weekend before the race, allowing current and past crews to gather, reminisce, and explore the docks to view this year's fleet.

**22
DEC**

ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART ANNUAL CREW PARTY

Gather up your crew and head over to the Sydney Race Village for the annual crew party. Get to know other sailors from around New South Wales and the world.

**26
DEC**

FAMILY DAY

Join us for Family Day in the Sydney Race Village following the Boxing Day Start. Watch the highlights of the Boxing Day broadcast and follow the live tracker.







Photos: Ashley Dart and
Andrea Francolini

One Circular Quay Australian Maxi Championship

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) is delighted to announce a new partnership with Lendlease's luxury harbourside residential development One Circular Quay as Naming Rights Sponsor of the 2024 One Circular Quay Australian Maxi Championship.

The championship, now in its fourth year, is one of the highlights of the Australian sailing calendar. As the final hit-out before the Rolex Sydney Hobart, it is a celebrated event and a showcase for some of the world's greatest race yachts. It also serves as an important training opportunity for the elite teams and offers an opportunity for crews to test themselves against the best – and the right to claim bragging rights. The event is open to entrants ranging from 60- to 100-foot with a minimum IRC TCC of 1.450.

Results from a series of different races held over five days in early December determined the winners of the 2024 One Circular Quay Australian Maxi Championship across both Maxi and Mini Maxi divisions:

Cabbage Tree Island Race (1900hrs Friday 6 December) - the fifth and penultimate race in the 2024/25 Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore, a 172 nautical mile return trip from Sydney rounding an island off Port Stephens. This was a race for the 100-footers, which saw Matt Allen and James Mayo's *Master Lock Comanche*, Christian Beck's *LawConnect* and Grant Wharington's *Wild Thing 100* claim the top three spots on Line Honours and Overall (respectively).

MasterLock Comanche continued its dominance on Line Honours in all of the Passage Races held in varying wind conditions off Sydney Heads on Sunday 8 and Monday 9 December. Anthony Johnston's *URM Group* led Overall by one-point going into the final event of the AMC – the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge on Tuesday 10 December - an exhilarating sprint race around Sydney Harbour. Johnston was aware of how minuscule *URM Group*'s lead was going into the race.

"Miss out and we miss out," he said.

An incident between *Wild Oats X* and *URM Group* at the race start led to *URM Group*'s disqualification. Ultimately, the Oatley family's *Wild Oats X*, skippered by Mark Richards, was crowned the 2024 AMC champion. David Griffith's *Whisper* claimed first place in the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge, after the team's near perfect performance in strong southerly winds.

This year sees the two 100-footers that fought out the tightly contested Line Honours battle on the River Derwent in the 2023 Rolex Sydney Hobart resume their rivalry - *Master Lock Comanche*, (this year under Matt Allen AM and James Mayo) and Christian Beck's *LawConnect*. Grant Wharington's *Wild Thing 100* and Bill Barry-Cotter's *Maritimo 100* will challenge in the battle of the 100s.

With a strong performance from all competitors in the 2024 One Circular Quay Australian Maxi Championship, the Rolex Sydney Hobart is shaping up to be an equally close affair for both Line Honours and Overall. ⚓





the pre- start



History behind 2024 Sydney Hobart start cannon firers



By Greta Quealy

At 1300hrs on December 26, Simon Kurts will have a different view of Sydney Harbour from the one he usually experiences at the helm. Simon has the honour of firing the official start cannon for this year's Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1974 Sydney Hobart win of his yacht *Love & War*.

Simon, who has competed in 23 Sydney Hobarts on board *Love & War*, will this year watch his son Phillip steer the 51-year-old timber yacht out of the harbour.

It's the first time in the history of the Sydney Hobart that a third-generation family member has skippered the same yacht.

The boat's first owner, Simon's father Peter, skippered the Sparkman and Stephens 47 in its first of three Overall wins in the great race. Only two other yachts have won the race three times – *Freya* (1963, '64 and '65) and *Ichi Ban* (2017, '19 and '21).

Peter Kurts won the race again in 1978. He passed away in 2005, but his legacy continued, when veteran offshore sailor Lindsay May OAM skippered the boat to Overall victory in 2006.

The closest Simon has come to another win was in 2021 when he skippered the yacht to third Overall in 2021 in strong upwind conditions.

Phillip first raced onboard *Love & War* in the 2009 RSHYR as a teenager and has so far completed seven Sydney Hobarts.

He has fond childhood memories of watching his grandfather prepare the yacht, moored in Parsley Bay, Vaucluse, for racing.

"The yacht and Pete were one in my mind as a child. Some of my last memories of him before he passed were on the boat," Phillip said.

His father Simon will have his fingers crossed for *Love & War* crew's safe passage south. And maybe even a fourth win for the history books.

The final countdown

Firing the 10-minute warning signal for the 2024 RSHYR start is Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) Life Member John Winning Senior. Throughout his 40-year CYCA membership, Winning has generously donated his motor vessel JBW as the RSHYR radio relay vessel from 2005-2023.

Winning is also a highly experienced sailor in his own right. He has competed in seven RSHYR's, his most recent in 2022 aboard Line Honours winner Andoo Comanche, skippered by his son John Winning Junior. He is also a household name in the 18ft skiff world and won the JJ Giltinan World Championship and Australian Championship in 2000, among other titles.

George Snow, a CYCA member for 53-years will fire the five-minute preparatory signal. Snow has competed in 23 Sydney Hobarts.

Snow has long been recognised for his invaluable contribution to sailing. He introduced many sailors to the sport on board his yacht Brindabella, from 1992 to the early 2000s. Aptly named the "people's maxi", the Jutson 80 won RSHYR Line Honours in 1997 and broke multiple other blue water race records over the years.

It is fitting that these three sailors contributions to the sailing world are acknowledged by their involvement in a tension-filled 10-minutes before the start of what has to be the most spectacular yacht race in the world. ⚓



Photos: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi, ROLEX | Andrea Francolini



The Start



A diverse fleet of yachts line up each year on Boxing Day for the start of the Rolex Sydney Hobart. To accommodate the varied sizes and speeds of the competing yachts, four start lines are set up in Sydney Harbour.

Boats are assigned to each line based on their divisions. This strategic arrangement ensures a smooth, competitive and fair start for all entrants.

As the race begins, the yachts charge towards their respective turning marks. There are two inner turning marks and three outer turning marks, each designated according to the starting line of the yacht. This setup adds a layer of strategy, as sailors must navigate these initial course markers before heading out into the open ocean.

The southern most turning marks are assigned to smaller yachts, while the northern turning marks are in place for the larger yachts such as the maxis and mini-maxis.

This structured start not only organises the fleet but also sets the stage for the thrilling journey ahead, ensuring that each yacht, from the smallest cruiser to the fastest maxi, gets a fair and exhilarating send-off as they embark on the epic 628 nautical-mile race to Hobart. ⚓

Nine becomes the new Home to the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race



Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi,

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) is delighted to announce that it will be partnering with Nine's multi-platform media network as the new home to the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race (RSHYR) for the first time in its 79-year history.

The multi-year deal will include live telecast of the Boxing Day Race Start on the Nine Network's free-to-air television channel as well as building a dedicated presence on 9Now's live stream and video on demand service - as a repository for the Race's archival materials, pre-race interviews, Live Update shows, live streams, in-race content and race highlights packages.

Michael Stephenson, Nine's Chief Sales Officer and Managing Director - Local Markets, noted: "The Rolex Sydney Hobart is Australia's summer sporting icon and we couldn't be more excited to chart a new era for the race and its competitors through Nine's huge storytelling ecosystem. It aligns perfectly with our portfolio of world class sporting events and we look forward to partnering with the CYCA, their team and sponsors to grow the footprint of this extraordinary event across Australia."

After the unprecedented success of Nine's coverage of the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics and Paralympics, and its expertise in covering sporting



events within Australia, the CYCA is excited at the prospect of partnering with Nine to share the many facets of the race and its competitors with audiences in new and innovative ways - across a broad stable of television, digital, press, magazine, radio and podcast assets.

Gordon Bray AM, who has covered the race as a commentator across a 50-plus-year time period, looks forward to returning to the role with Nine Network alongside "the voice of the Sydney Hobart", CYCA Life Member Peter Shipway.

"My job is to support [Peter] and keep the excitement going and make sure everyone gets a real feel for what's happening," Bray said. "If we can put [the viewers] out on the water then we will have achieved what we set out to do."

Listen to Gordon Bray and Peter Shipway tell the story of the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart, starting with the Boxing Day broadcast, live at 1230 hours AEDT on Channel Nine! [📺](#)

WATCH THE TWICE DAILY LIVE RACE UPDATES

1000 and 1600 hours



available on NineNow
[Youtube.com/CYCATV](https://www.youtube.com/CYCATV)

Photos: SaltyDingo



How to Follow the Race

WITNESS THE START IN SYDNEY

From Private Vessels

Sydney Harbour is abuzz with activity on Boxing Day, hosting a spectacular display of boats. Private spectator vessels can enjoy the action from outside the exclusion zone but must remain cautious of their wake to avoid disrupting competing yachts.

If you're only watching the start and won't follow the fleet, position yourself on the western side of the harbour. Great vantage points for spectator boats include:

- Western side: Taylors Bay, Chowder Bay, Obelisk Bay, and North Head.
- Eastern side: Rose Bay, Nielsen Park, Watsons Bay, Camp Cove, and South Head.

From the Official Spectator Vessel

The official Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race spectator vessel, *The Jackson*, is a luxury superyacht offering unmatched views of the start. As the only spectator vessel permitted inside the exclusion zone, it brings you closer to the action than any other option. Scan the QR code below for ticket details.



From Land-Based Viewpoints

Sydney Harbour's headlands and bays provide excellent vantage points for the race start. Top locations include:

- South Head
- South Head Heritage Trail
- North Head
- Christison Park (Vaulcluse)
- Watsons Bay
- Lady Bay Beach
- Any other of the headlands in the Eastern Suburbs (e.g: North Clovelly, Maroubra, etc)



WATCH THE START FROM HOME

In Australia

The Boxing Day race start will be broadcast live on the Nine Network and streamed on 9Now, where you can also access on-demand video content.

Outside Australia

International viewers can catch the live broadcast on 9Now's web stream or on CYCATV via YouTube.

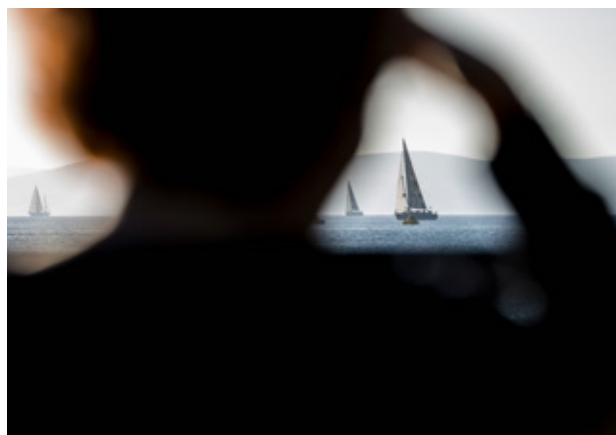


Photo: Andrea Francolini



FOLLOW THE RACE AFTER THE START

Twice-Daily Live Shows

Stay updated with live shows aired at 1000hrs and 1600hrs (AEST) on CYCATV via YouTube.

Line Honours and Overall Winner Coverage

Race organisers will broadcast the Line Honours finish, with timing dependent on weather conditions. An additional live stream may be held to celebrate the overall race winner.

Make sure to subscribe to the CYCA

Race Highlights and On-Demand Content

9Now will host a rich archive of race content, including pre-race interviews, live updates, in-race highlights, and post-race analysis.



Social Media Updates

For real-time updates and interactive content, follow the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race on Instagram, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter). Scan the QR codes below to join the action.



How to Subscribe to CYCA TV and Enable Alerts for Live Shows

- Visit CYCA TV on YouTube
 - Go to [CYCATV](#) or search “CYCA TV” on YouTube.
- Subscribe to the Channel
 - Click the red **Subscribe** button on the CYCA TV channel page.
- Enable Notifications
 - After subscribing, click the **bell icon** next to the Subscribe button.
 - Select **All** to ensure you receive notifications for all live shows and new uploads.



Ocean Crusaders J-Bird. Photo: Salty Dingo 2023

With so many ways to tune in, the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race promises to deliver thrilling moments to audiences everywhere. Don't miss a second of this iconic event!



The Route



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

From the breathtaking start in Sydney Harbour, the 628 nautical mile Rolex Sydney Hobart offers a thrilling journey through some of the world's most stunning and challenging waters.

The race kicks off with a Boxing Day parade: hundreds of spectator boats, buzzing helicopters, and thousands of onlookers lining the shore. The fleet then sails into the vast Tasman Sea, down the southeast coast of Australia, across the notorious Bass Strait, and along the picturesque east coast of Tasmania. Finally, they turn right at Tasman Island, navigate Storm Bay, and head up the River Derwent to Hobart.

What makes the Rolex Sydney Hobart race particularly challenging is the unpredictable weather. Sailors face everything from calm seas to powerful storms, requiring constant vigilance and tactical acumen. The winds can shift rapidly in direction and intensity, especially near Tasmania, turning the race into a true test of skill and endurance. The notorious Bass Strait, with its shallow waters and strong winds, as well as its proximity to the Southern Ocean, can whip up steep and difficult seas, adding to the race's formidable challenges.

The weather conditions each year play a major factor in determining the Overall winner of the race. The direction and strength of the wind will determine the yacht's speed and sail set up. Different types of yachts favour different wind conditions based on the yacht's build.

Participants often say the first and last days are the most exhilarating. The start is a grand event, while the final day sees crews battling to beat their rivals, eagerly anticipating the traditional Hobart welcome. The middle part of the race is a feast for the eyes, with yachts gliding past sparkling beaches, coastal towns and towering mountains, though often far offshore.

Bass Strait, nicknamed 'the paddock,' is infamous for its treacherous conditions. The east coast of Tasmania offers its own set of challenges, with fickle winds and massive cliffs. Even after rounding Tasman Island, the race is far from over. The final 40 miles to Hobart involve navigating tricky currents and unpredictable winds. As yachts approach the finish line at Hobart's Battery Point, they receive a legendary welcome, no matter the hour. Crowds gather at Sullivan's Cove, cheering the crews who are met with open arms by volunteers from the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. ⚓





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Photos: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo,
SaltyDingo, ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi

The Finish

As the yachts approach Tasman Island to round into the River Derwent, the final 40 nautical miles remain a crucial leg of the race. Cape Raoul marks the turning point as the yachts sail past Tasmania's famous Organ Pipes in Storm Bay. The yachts navigate past the Iron Pot Lighthouse, Australia's second oldest lighthouse, marking the official entrance to the River Derwent. Dropping wind conditions, paired with shifting breeze and river currents, make the final few miles an intense tactical challenge.

The yachts cross the finish line in front of Constitution Dock, off Hobart's Battery Point. Competitors receive a hero's welcome as crowds gather along the waterfront. The finish coincides with Tasmania's Taste of Summer festival, making it a perfect time for celebration and storytelling at the Hobart Race Village or the city's waterfront pubs. ⚓

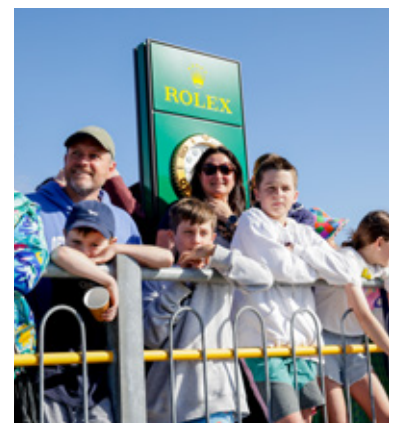


Photo: SaltyDingo



About the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania

The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania (RYCT) is proud to serve as the Finishing Partner of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race since the race's inception in 1945. The RYCT has served the yachting and sailing community on the River Derwent for over 135 years. Today, the RYCT has grown to a Club on the international stage, supporting a group of dedicated sailors through racing, cruising, social events, junior sailing, and training and educational opportunities.



Photos: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo,
SaltyDingo

Cheers, Chowder, and Champions: How to celebrate in Hobart during the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race



As the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race fast approaches, Hobart transforms into a vibrant hub for sailors and spectators alike, offering a packed programme of events and activities. Upon arrival, the first stop is the bustling Hobart Rave Village, where you can greet the Line Honours winner as they sail triumphantly into port. The atmosphere is electric, with live music and DJ sets keeping the energy high throughout the day.

For a touch of fun, get your face painted to show your race spirit, or gather your friends for a memorable photo with the iconic Rolex timepiece. Take a stroll along Constitution Dock and Kings Pier Marina, where you can meet the crews, hear their stories, and feel the camaraderie of the sailing community. If you're in need of a pick-me-up, grab a morning coffee or breakfast in the while enjoying the delicious flavours of Tasmanian food and beverages.



For those looking to explore more of Hobart, a walk through the Salamanca Markets is a must, and a trip to Mount Wellington offers panoramic views of the city and beyond. Adventurous spectators can take a seaplane over the River Derwent or hike the South Arm to catch sight of competitors as they round the Iron Pot and sail their final forty nautical miles to the finish line.

No visit is complete without a trip to the MONA Museum—take the MONA ROMA ferry for a scenic ride and immerse yourself in contemporary art. Meanwhile, history buffs will enjoy the Maritime Museum of Tasmania exhibitions.

For a taste of local culture, visit Mures for their famous seafood chowder, or make a day trip to Bruny Island for pristine landscapes. As the excitement of the race continues, don't miss the chance to cheer on the finishers at the Race Village, or enjoy the spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks to ring in 2025. 🍷



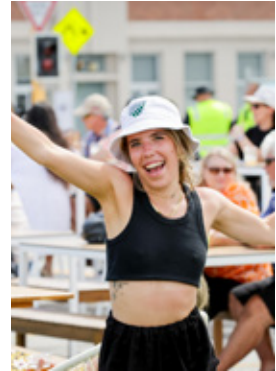


Hobart Race Village





Photos: SaltyDingo





Enjoy Tasmania's finest at the Hobart Race Village. The Rolex Sydney Hobart Race Village offers a wide range of festive activities fit for the whole family. From Q&A with sailors fresh off the race course to oyster and wine tastings by the Devil's Corner Bar and live music by local artists to face painting every morning for the kids and grandkids, there's something for everyone! ⚓

Photos: SaltyDingo



Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi

**RICHARD BENNETT
PHOTOGRAPHY**

**DEVIL'S CORNER BAR
PRESENTED BY BROWN
BROTHERS**

DAQURI ISLE

KAKI LIMA

**LITTLE ISLAND WAFFLE
COMPANY**

KUNG FU CANTEEN

CULINARY KITCHEN

**JASMINE'S KITCHEN
TASMANIA**

ROBBIE'S PIZZA

HELLY HANSEN

FRIED AND LOADED

ELEMENTS OF



TRUE CHARACTER

MEET YOU AT

Devil's Corner
TASMANIA



The 2024 running
is the 79th edition
of the race for
everyone.

The 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo



Hopes and dreams on the line for 79th Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

Every year, the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race (RSHYR) attracts an array of competitors, eager to make history in one of the most challenging events on the international offshore racing calendar.

The 79th edition of the 628 nautical mile race has a cracking lineup to bolster its stellar reputation.

On 26 December, 107 yachts will assemble on four different start lines on Sydney Harbour before the race gets underway at 1300 AEDT. This year marks the seventh time this century that over 100 entries have participated in the race.

This year, Simon Kurts, owner of three-time George Adams Tattersall Cup winner *Love & War*, will fire the starting cannon – a tribute to the important role his yacht has played in the rich history of the Sydney Hobart and in line with the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's tradition of celebrating winners from 50 years prior.

The 2024 fleet has its fair share of Sydney Hobart veterans ready for new challenges. All six Australian states are represented, along with six overseas-based yachts. In its fourth year, the Double Handed Division continues to grow, with a record 23 entries. Once again, the fleet has a strong quota of woman trailblazers.

Out front

Shortly after 0800 hours on 28 December 2023, after 1 day 19 hours 3 minutes and 58 seconds of racing and an epic battle in Storm Bay and the River Derwent, Christian Beck's *LawConnect* beat John Winning Jr's *Andoo Comanche* across the finish line for Line Honours by a nerve-racking 51 seconds.

The *Andoo Comanche* crew were disappointed and doubted they would get a shot at redemption. Winning had decided not to skipper the yacht for a third year, so the VPLP Verdier 100ft Maxi boat was not expected to be available in 2024.

But earlier this year, many of the former crew breathed a sigh of relief following the announcement that four-time George Adams Tattersall Cup winner Matt Allen AM and dual Etchells World Champion James Mayo would helm the yacht for its eighth Sydney Hobart under the name *Master Lock Comanche*.

"It's not like the Olympics. Second is not a silver medal," Allen said in reference to last year's result. "The crew was ecstatic when we said we were going to keep the boat and do another race to Hobart. To allow them to give it another go from last year.



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

Get acquainted with the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race fleet. From redemption stories, defending champions, Corinthian crews and a growing Double Handed fleet – this year’s event is shaping up to be a race for the ages, writes Greta Quealy.

“But also, the sailing community in Australia was so positive about the boat staying in the country. People love the boat. I think it’s the most famous racing boat in the world,” Allen said.

Allen, winner of the Tattersall Cup for IRC overall in his Botin52 *Ich Ban* in 2017, 2019 and 2021, and on Lou Abrahams’ *Challenge* in 1983, has turned his attention to lifting the John H. Illingworth Challenge Cup, (awarded to the Line Honours winner), for the first time in a highly decorated offshore sailing career.

Allen said he was “raring to go” after a two-year hiatus from the Rolex Sydney Hobart. In the past, Line Honours has been tantalisingly close, after his Jones 70, also named *Ich Ban*, crossed the line in second place in 2006. He said he hopes *Master Lock Comanche*, will go one better.

For James Mayo, 2024 marks his first Sydney Hobart since achieving the double-whammy (Line Honours and IRC Overall) on board Bernard Lewis’s maxi *Sovereign* in 1987.

That’s not to say that Mayo hasn’t been busy in the interim. In March, he and fellow *Master Lock Comanche* crew members Graeme Taylor and Richard Allanson won the Etchells World Championship in Fremantle.

Allen described *Master Lock Comanche* as a formidable racing “machine” and a “beast”. It has claimed Line Honours in the Sydney Hobart four times and holds the race record for completing the course in 1 day 9 hours 15 minutes and 24 seconds in 2017 under the ownership of Jim and Kristy Clark. The yacht aims to claim its fifth Line Honours this year.

But a boat is nothing without an amazing crew. Allen praised the in-sync nature of the crew, who have sailed on and off together throughout the years. He described his relationship with Mayo as a “terrific” partnership.

He said the crew had the ability to “minimise the boat’s weaknesses”.

“The yacht thrives in reaching conditions, but the crew aim to make the boat as fast as [they] can in all conditions,” Allen said.

The key to beating *LawConnect* was to “make sure we make enough distance while we’ve got a bit of breeze”, Allen said.

But the *LawConnect* team aren’t having any of it. The 2023 title holders are determined to defend their 2023 Line Honours win. Christian Beck and his crew’s hard work finally paid off last year after six previous attempts to hold the winner’s trophy aloft on his 100-footer Juan K 100 Custom. This year his crew includes tactician and watch captain Chris Nicholson and boat captain Ty Oxley.

Chris Nicholson put last year's win down to a faultless race.

"Maybe you only get a few races like that in your life where you haven't made many mistakes at all from start to finish. And the [2023 race] was one of them," Nicholson said. "So now we're trying it again."

Ty Oxley said he was counting on crew consistency - most of this year's crew were on board in 2023 - and minor "one percent" changes to the boat, to lead to another victory.

"The other years we've done a few major modifications," Oxley said. "This year has been more about the one-percenters and getting those last little bits fine-tuned."

"It's little things, like putting an extra jammer in for outboard leads, changing the spinnaker blocks, the way they lead in. Those little things that add up to the bigger picture at the end of the day."

Grant Wharington's *Wild Thing 100* will join the mix in the maxi fleet for the second year running. The former Botin 80 *Stefan Racing* finished sixth on Line Honours in 2023. It was a huge achievement considering the yacht had undergone major modifications in the five-month lead-up to the race, the most notable - a 20-foot hull extension.

It might be a stretch for *Wild Thing 100* to keep up with *Master Lock Comanche* and *LawConnect* as its mast hasn't been updated since the hull modifications, but with Wharington's can-do attitude, anything is possible. Joining him on board for her second ride to Hobart is Wharington's 22-year-old daughter Georgia and his 28-year-old son Oliver, for his fourth Sydney Hobart.

A fourth maxi joins the fold this year, but it's a little different from its fellow 100-footers. The 2012 Oyster 100, *Maritimo 100* has an in-boom furling main, furling reacher and jib, sock spinnaker and two saloons. Owner Bill Barry-Cotter said he has found the perfect balance between comfort and speed.

At 114-tonnes, the luxury maxi *Maritimo 100* is unlikely to overtake its fellow giants. But the ability to hit 16-knots of boat speed on a broad reach in 16-knots of wind is bound to see the yacht, which Barry-Cotter bought in Newport, USA earlier this year, speed to Hobart.

Barry-Cotter doesn't do things by halves. His second entry in this year's race is *Maritimo Katwinchar*. The 32ft ketch built in 1904 is the oldest yacht entered in the race, and this year it will feature in the Double Handed Division skippered by Sydney Hobart veteran Michael Spies and Peter Vaiciurgis.



The fight for IRC overall: the mini maxis

Last year, Phillip Turner's Reichel/Pugh 66 *Alive*, skippered by Duncan Hine, won the iconic Tattersall Cup for a second time. *Alive* is only the second Tasmanian yacht to achieve this honour, joining 1947 and 1948 Tattersall Cup winner *Westward* in the annals of history. It was also the fifth win for a Tasmanian-owned boat.

Alive first won on IRC Overall in 2018. Competing in his ninth Sydney Hobart, skipper Duncan Hine would love nothing more than to repeat last year's win. If *Alive* wins back-to-back, it will become only the third boat to achieve this feat.

Hine is realistic but also hopeful about *Alive*'s chances.

"Who wouldn't want to win?" he said. "If it happens, I'll be over the moon. I'm hoping for a fantastic [Sydney] Hobart. But the truth of the matter is, if that doesn't eventuate, I'll learn to accept it."

"If we can win our division, it's up to the weather gods as to whether we can win overall."

Hine credited much of the 2023 win to the yacht's capacity to handle a range of wind strengths and transitions compared to some of the smaller yachts, like the Botin 52 *Caro* (Max Klink), which placed 23rd on IRC overall last year compared to third in 2022.

Photos: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo,
ROLEX | Andrea Francolini



The *Alive* crew is comprised of experienced competitors. Hine plans to race onboard *Alive* in the Melbourne Osaka Cup (the 5,500 nautical-mile double-handed yacht race starts in Portsea, Melbourne in March 2025). Adrienne Cahalan, who last year celebrated the greatest number of Sydney Hobarts raced by a woman, is back on board as navigator.

Four other mini maxis are eyeing the top spot, with Anthony and David Johnston's *URM Group*, skippered by Marcus Ashley-Jones, arguably *Alive*'s biggest rival.

"They're on the ball," Hine said. "They've done a lot of work on the boat – it's very quick. It's going to keep us on our toes."

The Reichel/Pugh 72 Maxi *URM Group* finished third on Line Honours and second in IRC Overall in 2023, closely losing to *Alive* after a tricky leg up the River Derwent.

But the momentum has been building all year for *URM Group*'s 2024 Sydney Hobart comeback. It won the 2023/24 Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore (ACSBWPS). It also had a strong start to the 2024/2025 ACSBWPS, winning line honours in the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, Flinders Islet Race (88nm) and Bird Island Race (83 nm), and placed second to *Master Lock Comanche* in the Tollgate Islands Race (260nm).

It's a family affair aboard *URM Group* for this year's race, with five of the Johnston brothers on board.

Another mini maxi hot on the tail of *Alive* is Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's (CYCA) Commodore and 2022 Tattersall Cup winner Sam Haynes' is skippering the Volvo Open 70, rebranded from *Willow* to *Celestial V70*. Haynes won the Tattersall Cup on his TP52 *Celestial* in 2022. *Willow* last raced the Sydney Hobart in 2022 and placed fifth on Line Honours.

Other contenders amongst the mini maxis include CYCA Members David Gotze's Reichel/Pugh 63 *No Limit* and David Griffith's Judel/Vrolijk 62 *Whisper*. Gotze, a recipient of this year's Australian Sailing President's Award and known by his crew and fellow CYCA members for his warm smile and calm presence, is no different from his peers – he wants to win. The *No Limit* crew will go out guns blazing to beat their best result from 2019 – seventh on IRC overall. Meanwhile, *Whisper* will look to finish off its 2024/2025 ACSBWPS on a high note, after it placed third on IRC Overall in the Flinders Islet Race and second in the Tollgate Islands Race, currently tied for second in the Overall ACSBWPS standings. And most recently, David Griffith and his crew made waves at the 2024 One Circular Quay Australian Maxi Championship, claiming second Overall on IRC and first Overall on IRC at the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge.

More Tattersall Cup contenders

But it's not just mini maxis nipping at *Alive's* heels.

The Tattersall Cup is anyone's game. A fan favourite and three-time Tattersall Cup winner *Love & War* is back, with owner Simon Kurts' son, Phillip, at the helm. The 51-year-old S&S 47 placed 30th on IRC Overall in last year's race, and 3rd in IRC Overall in 2021. The team hopes for strong southerly winds in Bass Strait to get an advantage over their modern racing yacht competitors.

In the Double Handed Division, Rupert Henry's Lombard 34 *Mistral* is another yacht for Rolex Sydney Hobart observers to clock. Last year, Henry and co-skipper Jack Bouttell placed sixth on IRC Overall, first in Double Handed IRC and first on Line Honours in the Double Handed Division. And in July, Henry placed second on IRC Overall to first place fully-crewed *Voltstar Yeah Baby* (Louis and Marc Ryckmans) in the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race.

This year Henry will sail with Frenchman Corentin Douget. It is Douget's first Rolex Sydney Hobart, but the winner of the 2022 Class40 Championship (a series of double-handed races predominantly in Europe competing on the one-design class) is familiar with short-handed offshore racing.

"I always try and sail with somebody that's better than me," Henry says admirably of his friend and co-skipper.

Henry is optimistic about their chances on an IRC Overall win.

"Of course it's possible. It's not about a Double Handed boat winning. It's about a little boat winning," Henry said. "We represent the biggest proportion of new boats and modern architecture in the fleet. So, it's highly possible that a little boat can with the [Sydney] Hobart if it gets the right weather."

Henry, who led on IRC Overall for "two-thirds" of last year's race until "a sudden change on the Tassie coast" said he had confidence in *Mistral's* ability to sail well in all wind conditions.

"But what we don't want is the weather to change against us. If we get a change where one part of the fleet gets downwind conditions and we get more upwind conditions, that's just insurmountable," Henry said.

Over the next few weeks, the crews will keep a close eye on the weather forecast which often can make or break a yacht's chances at claiming IRC Overall. Each boat is different, but generally the big, fast and light boats, like *Alive*, perform well in a range of conditions whereas the heavier boats, like *Love & War*, power through upwind conditions. Smaller yachts, like *Mistral*, are versatile but need consistency with the rest of the fleet to stay at the top of the leaderboard.

Twenty-two yachts will join Henry and Douget in the Double Handed Division. Seven of the yachts are in the race to qualify the 2025 Melbourne Osaka Cup. There are three all-female teams, compared to one in 2023.

Wendy Tuck and Meg Niblett are on *Gizmo*, Saskia Groen-In't-Would and Maud Demazure are on *Celeste* and Annette Hesselmanns and Sophie Snijders are on *Fika*. There are also 16-women owners or skippers/co-skippers in the total fleet.



Mother and daughter duo take on Sydney Hobart

Hesselmans and Snijders are the first mother-daughter duo to compete in the Double Handed Division in the race's history aboard their Najad 1490 *Fika*. The race will put them in good stead for the trek to Osaka in March.

Hesselmans said her partnership with her 26-year-old daughter felt natural after the pair, along with one other, delivered the Redford 12.2 *Red Jacket* home from Osaka, Japan, in 2018. Hesselmans raced on board *Red Jacket* in the 2018 Melbourne Osaka Cup with her husband Gerard Snijders, to place seventh on Line Honours.

Hesselmans said she and her daughter were on the same page when it came to sailing.

"We both share such a love for sailing and for the ocean, and after doing the delivery back from Japan, we have trust and respect for each other as sailors," Hesselmans said. "It seemed to be so natural to do all of this double handed sailing together."

"Being mother and daughter, we can work those things out. We really complement each other when we're on the water together."

Hesselmans said she'd like winds just forward of the beam, to challenge their competitors with "fancy spinnakers" to get an advantage in their sturdy but heavy 48-foot racer-cruiser.

Hesselmans said it was heartening to see so many women in the race this year.

"The more women out there, the better it is because then nobody looks at it like it's unusual, it's just part of sailing," Hesselmans said. "I'm really excited there are all-female teams and proud to be part of that. It's one thing to be a female crew on a boat but female ownership takes it to the next level."

Photos: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo,
ROLEX | Andrea Francolini, SaltyDingo



The TP52 contenders

Another woman skipper and two-time Jane Tate Memorial Trophy winner, Annika Thomson is back on TP52 *Ocean Crusaders J-Bird* with co-owner and husband Ian Thomson. This is the third Sydney Hobart in the yacht under their ownership, the second fully crewed.

The electric-powered yacht promotes clean yachting to the sailing community. The crew hopes to improve on fourth position on IRC in its division from last year.

New Zealand boat *Caro* will be one to watch, having placed third on IRC Overall in 2022. Since its 2021 launch, it finished first on IRC Overall in the 2023 Rolex Fastnet Race and has placed third Overall in the 2022 Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) Transatlantic Race. And it recently put its competitors on notice when it placed first on IRC Overall in the Bird Island Race.

Caro will be in good company, with five other 52 footers (not all TP52s), which, according to Duncan Hine, pose the biggest threat to *Alive*.

"The TPs are probably our biggest threat in conditions that suit us because they suit the TPs as well. And the handicaps certainly give them a bit of an advantage," Hine said.

The JV TP52 *Smuggler* is back for its fifth Sydney Hobart under the ownership of Sebastian Bohm. The boat has been on an upward trajectory all year, placing third on line honours in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, third on IRC Overall in Tollgate Islands Race and first in the Flinders Islet Race. The crew will take that positive momentum all the way to Hobart.

Damian Parkes' *Denali* is back, looking to better a 37th in IRC Overall and give *Smuggler* and *Caro* a run for their money. And Michael Firmin's Infinity 52 *Zeus* will turn heads as the flashy blue hull flies by its competitors on foils.

Centennial 7, the former *Celestial* and previous winner under the ownership of Sam Haynes, is one of the six international yachts representing five nations. The others are *Caro* (NZ), Geoffrey Hill's Santa Cruz 72 *Antipodes* (Hong Kong), Ronald Epstein's JPK 11.80 *Bacchanal* (USA), Richard Fromentin's JPK 11.80 *Cocody* (France), and David Treguier's Sydney 38 *Poulpito* (New Caledonia).



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo



Mid-fleet contenders

Another competitor which showcases the talent of female and youth sailors is Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club's (RPAYC) *Pretty Woman*. Owner and CYCA's 2023 Ocean Veteran of the Year Richard Hudson, said he was proud to be part of an all-Corinthian crew and that more boats should adopt this format.

This year, eight of the 12 crew heading to Hobart are under-30 and five are women. That might be the secret to how the Farr 45 placed first on Corinthian



Photos: SaltyDingo

IRC and third on Corinthian PHS (they took first place in in 2022) in last year's race. Hudson would like to dominate both these divisions as well their division on IRC, where they placed second last year to Damien King's *MRV*.

Three of Hudson's crew members, Sarah Parker, Juliet Costanzo and Jemma Hodgson were on the winning team at the Australian Women's Match Racing Championship at the CYCA in October.

Hudson said: "They're good sailors and they never give in. They'll drive the boat like it's stolen too."

Other mid-fleet contenders include the Peterson 44 *Bacardi*, affectionately dubbed the 'Bus', which is in its 31st Sydney Hobart. Like *Pretty Woman*, *Bacardi* fosters new offshore sailing talent. After retiring from last year's race due to hydraulic back stay failure, owners Brett Averay, Darren Hunter and Cosmos Papatsaras said they were looking forward to completing the race with 19-year-old Ollie Van der Slot on board.

Another boat to look out for is Bruce Taylor's Reichel/Pugh Caprice 40 *Chutzpah*. The highly experienced crew, who have more than 240 Sydney Hobarts between them, aim to improve on a 2023 third place in IRC Division 2. The Victorian entry, with Taylor's son Andrew on board, hopes for a strong upwind forecast come Boxing Day. And twins Louis and Marc Ryckmans on Akilaria RC2 *Volstar Yeah Baby* aim to repeat their 2024 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race victory on IRC Overall in this year's Rolex Sydney Hobart.



The stage is set

So, the stage is set for another spectacular Rolex Sydney Hobart.

The race has a magical hold on so many of its competitors, who, return year after year. What is it about this race that makes it so special?

According to *Master Lock Comanche's* Matt Allen, it's the beauty of the unknown:

"Anyone who's done the race as many times as I have, has had sensational runs up Storm Bay and up the Derwent," Allen said. "And also had some terrible experiences, being becalmed at times, or being hit by a southerly front at Tasman Island.

"I've had a bit of everything over the years, and you just hope it's going to be one of those better years that you can have a nice enjoyable sail all the way to the finish line." ⚓

Photo: ROLEX | Andrea Francolini



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Photos: ROLEX |
Andrea Francolini



Women in the Rolex Sydney Hobart

by Greta Quealey

An “epic” female line up

Over the last decade, an increasing number of women have participated in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, and the upwards trend continues in this year’s race.

In 2023, 121 crew members in the fleet of 103 were women. Ten of the yachts were owned and/or skippered by women, up from seven in 2021 and three in 2018.

This year, with the race in its 79th edition, at least 120 women have signed up for the 628 nautical mile journey to Hobart, displaying their skills from skippers to mainsheet trimmers to navigators. Included in that number are 16-women owners or skippers/co-skippers.

Trophies up for grabs

Women have been racing in the Sydney Hobart since the race’s second instalment in 1946, when Jane Tate became the first woman to complete the 628 nautical-mile event on board *Active*.

Since 1994, the Jane Tate Memorial Trophy has been presented to the first female skipper over the finish line. Last year, for the second consecutive year, Annika Thomson, co-owner and co-skipper of the TP52 *Ocean Crusaders J-Bird* won the prestigious award. Thomson and her husband Ian, founder of the environmental not-for-profit organisation Ocean Crusaders, are back for their fourth race aboard the TP52. Amberly Middleton, Phoebe Reedman, Laura Thomson and Annie Eastgate will also join Annika.

The Queensland-based sailors have become more familiar with the boat, since the husband-and-wife team first raced the yacht in the 2021 Sydney Hobart (in the Double Handed Division). They aim to better their best result of fourth on IRC in their division in 2023.

“I’m looking forward to the race, it’s such a thrill,” Thomson said. “We know the boat and crew much better. We’re looking forward to the sail down with all our friends and having a great time.”

Double Handed sailors

In 1975, the first all-female team raced on board *Barbarian*, led by Vicky Willman. The Barbarian Trophy is presented to the fastest yacht on corrected time with an all-female crew in the IRC Overall Division. For the first time in the race's history, this year the trophy hopes to be presented at the prizegiving ceremony in Hobart.

The all-women Double Handed sailors will no doubt be keen to take home the Barbarian, including world-renowned offshore sailor Wendy Tuck and her 25-year-old co-skipper Meg Niblett on *Gizmo*, Saskia Groen-In't-Would and Maud Demazure on *Celeste* and Annette Hesselms and her daughter 26-year-old Sophie Snijders on *Fika*.

Jiang Lin is another female Double Handed skipper and boat owner racing with co-skipper, François Guiffant. The Sydney-based sailor will be working to improve upon last year's impressive 12th place on IRC Overall and third on IRC Double Handed in the JPK 10.30 *Min River*.

Other women Double Handed co-skippers include Shona Forsyth on *Sailor Moon* and Teresa Mitchell on *Verite*.

Meet the navigators

Three women have earned the honour of sailing 25 Sydney Hobarts in the 79-year history of the race: Adrienne Cahalan OAM in 2016, Felicity Nelson in 2021, and Vanessa Dudley in 2023.

In 2023, Cahalan navigated the Reichel/Pugh 66 *Alive* to victory on IRC Overall. This race marked Cahalan's third Overall victory and 31st Sydney Hobart – the most Sydney Hobarts to have ever been raced in by a woman sailor. For five of those 31 races, Cahalan navigated the late Bob Oatley's *Wild Oats XI* to take Line Honours. She was also aboard *Nicorette* when it won Line Honours in 2000. This year, Cahalan returns as *Alive*'s navigator to assist the Tasmanian yacht's crew in their quest for back-to-back victory.

But it won't be easy, especially with fellow Sydney sailor Alice Parker back in *URM Group* navigator's chair. In 2023, Parker navigated *URM Group* to a close second place.

The Reichel/Pugh Maxi 72 has had a dream run-up to the big race south. It claimed first prize in the 2023/24 Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore (ACSBWPS) and is in contention for the 2024/25 ACSBWPS win, just behind the TP52 *Smuggler* and the Judel/Vrolijk 62 *Whisper*. David Griffith's *Whisper* is also joined by a woman navigator, accomplished Sydney-based sailor Clare Costanzo.

Although Parker is relatively new to the navigator role compared to veteran Cahalan, she has proved her mettle. In an interview in the Hawkesbury Post in February, *URM Group*'s skipper Marcus Ashley-Jones described Parker as "one of the best navigators in Australia, if not the world".

Photos: Ashley Dart,
Andrea Francolini



The Sydney class

In 2021, Felicity Nelson became the second woman to complete 25 Sydney Hobarts. But she didn't stop there. Nelson, co-owner of the Sydney 36 *Supernova* with partner Alex Seja, will this year compete in her 28th race. The Sydney sailor aims to crack the top three in their division on IRC, in which they placed fifth in 2023.

Manly Yacht Club's Lisa Callaghan will compete on board the yacht she co-owns, the Sydney 38 *Mondo*. Callaghan was stoked to finish her first Sydney Hobart last year after gear failure caused *Mondo*'s retirement in 2022. This year the crew will look to better fifth in their division on IRC.

Another Sydney 38 with a woman co-owner/co-skipper is the South Australian entry *clockwork*. For this year's race, co-skipper Mary Ann Harvey will no doubt draw from the experience gained from *Clockwork*'s jam-packed racing schedule over the past year. In 2024, the yacht has competed in the Adelaide to Port Lincoln Race, the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Race and Hamilton Island Race week, to name but a few.

Oroton Drumfire - teeming with talent

In 2018, professional ocean racer Stacey Jackson skippered an all-female crew on the Reichel/Pugh 66 *Wild Oats X* in the hopes of capturing the George Adams Tattersall Cup.

The crew narrowly missed the win and placed second to *Alive*. If a crew of impressive all-female sailors on a loaded yacht like the mini maxi *Wild Oats X* can almost win one of the most challenging offshore sailing races in the world, the sky's the limit.

This year, Jackson will compete in her 17th Sydney Hobart aboard the Hoek TC78 *Oroton Drumfire*. She will be joined by four other women sailors in the crew of 17. They are Carolijn Brouwer, Jessica Watson, Jane Vicars and Katy MacDonald.

Fellow 2018 *Wild Oats X* crew member and 1998 World Sailor of the Year, Brouwer, from the Netherlands, a star in her own right, joins the stellar star-studded line up.

Watson, best known for her solo, non-stop world circumnavigation in 2009/10, brings her extensive offshore knowledge to the team. The Queenslander will enjoy the spacious *Oroton Drumfire*, after last year's Sydney Hobart aboard the Sparkman and Stephens 34 *Azzurro*.

Don't be deceived by the modern classic yacht's good looks – *Oroton Drumfire* can power through the waves and was in best form in the ACSBWPS Bird Island Race in November, placing ninth on IRC Overall and eighth on Line Honours. And in last year's Sydney Hobart, it won on PHS Overall, thriving in heavy upwind conditions.

MacDonald, a highly experienced offshore sailor, skilled Royal Yachting Association instructor, and a main sheet trimmer aboard *Oroton Drumfire*, can't wait to work with her "epic", as she described them, crew members to defend their top spot on PHS. This is MacDonald's third Sydney Hobart, her second on *Oroton Drumfire*. It's a full-circle moment for the 28-year-old, who was mentored by Jackson as part of the Magenta Project Mentoring Programme.

"It's really nice sailing with a lot of incredible accomplished female sailors, to be part of that handful of women as well as having an all-round fantastic team to sail with," MacDonald said. ⚓

All-women crews

1976 - Barbarian, Vicki Willman

1989 - Belles Long Ranger, Christine Evans

1992 - Ella Bache, Adrienne Cahalan

1992 - Nadia IV, Kerry Goudge

1993 - Telecom Mobilenet, Kerry Goudge

1994 - Brightstone, Teresa Borrell (first all-women New Zealand crew)

1994 - Telecom Mobilenet, Kerry Goudge

1994 - Qantas New Zealand, Gail Melrose

1995 - WOW - Nortel, Kerry Goudge

1995 - Mortgage Choice, Amanda Wilmot

2001- Amer Sports Too, Lisa McDonald

2017 - Climate Action Now, Lisa Blair

2018 - Wild Oats X, Stacey Jackson

2022 - Currawong, Kathy Veel & Bridget Canham, Double Handed

2023 - Currawong, Kathy Veel & Bridget Canham, Double Handed (RET)



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Summer events *in* Hobart

Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 2024	26 Dec 2024
Tasmania's Taste of Summer	28 Dec 2024 – 4 Jan 2025
New Years Eve on Hobart's Waterfront	31 Dec 2024
Hobart International	4–11 Jan 2025
Sandy Bay Regatta	27 Jan 2025
Lunar New Year Festival	2 Feb 2025
Australian Wooden Boat Festival	7–10 Feb 2025
Tas Wine Fest	8–9 Feb 2025
Royal Hobart Regatta	8–10 Feb 2025
Festa Italia	16 Feb 2025
Salamanca Market	Every Saturday



The John H. Illingworth Challenge Cup



Line Honours is awarded to the fastest yacht to complete the course, a coveted prize pursued by the biggest and fastest yachts.

The John H. Illingworth Challenge Cup is presented to the Line Honours winner, named after the skipper of the inaugural race winner *Rani*. Captain Illingworth is credited with suggesting that the leisurely Christmas cruise to Hobart become a race instead.

In 1982, *Condor of Bermuda* beat the New South Wales yacht *Apollo* by a mere seven seconds for the Illingworth Challenge Cup, marking the closest Line Honours finish in Rolex Sydney Hobart history. In 2023, *LawConnect* beat defending champion *Andoo Comanche* by 51 seconds after a race-long fight of cat and mouse.

The Oatley family maxi *Wild Oats XI* holds the record for the number of Line Honours victories with 9 wins, including four consecutive victories from 2005 through 2008.



The Quest for Line Honours



Photos: ROLEX |
Andrea Francolini.
Salty Dingo



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Hobart Hacks: Expert Wisdom to Sail, Laugh, and Finish Strong

Knowledge comes, wisdom lingers - or so the saying goes. And if there's one place where wisdom sticks around like a barnacle, it's the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

Curated by none other than race legends Lindsay May and Vanessa Dudley. With over 75 races combined the pair has enough little tricks up their sleeve for the whole fleet. This list is their humouristic take on how to survive the journey and arrive in Hobart laughing (eventually).

From keeping your gear dry, dodging seasickness or knowing where the last bag of snakes is hidden, here are eleven expert tips to help you cross the finish line with your sanity and sense of humour intact.

1) Lindsay May: Know where everything is

In rough weather, every little task feels like an epic quest. Avoid a wild goose chase for "misplaced" spinnaker sheets or winches by labelling everything - from spare batteries to your secret chocolate stash. Make a sail stowage plan and keep it visible. Temporary labels for race day? Brilliant. Waking a tired crew member to ask where the snatch blocks are? Not so much.

2) Vanessa Dudley: Stay ahead of the game pre-race

The Hobart starts the day after Christmas, unfortunately not your liver's recovery time. Resist the siren call of rich foods, festive drinks and a late night. Starting hungover and sleep-deprived is a one-way ticket to seasickness and crew unpopularity. Pace yourself - this race is hard enough without battling your own bad decisions.

3) Combined: Take care of your gear

Your gear bag is not waterproof by magic, wrap everything in plastic and label it like it's your most prized possession. Trust us, nothing sparks chaos like 20 identical wet-weather jackets in a pile. Clip your sea rug to your bunk unless you want it impersonating a bilge sponge. And don't treat the boat like a black hole for gear. Beanies, gloves and toothbrushes left unattended might not resurface until Hobart, or ever.



4) Lindsay May: Keep the boat dry

This should go without saying, but don't climb into your bunk wearing wet weather gear unless you *like* sleeping in a swamp. Pumping the bilge isn't glamorous either, but every litre of water is another kilo slowing you down. Less water, more speed, so grab that sponge and channel your inner janitor.

5) Combined: Keep yourself dry and warm

Short hair dries faster, keeps you warmer and makes your bunk less swampy. Hats are lifesavers too, just don't lose them to the wind. Use a neck towel or "turtle" to block icy spray from sneaking down your collar and layer up with thermals. Thermal socks, scarves and beanies are the Holy Trinity of Hobart comfort. You'll look ridiculous, but you'll be dry and warm, priorities, am I right?

6) Vanessa: Don't treat the boat like a giant kitbag

Keep your personal gear and clothing in your designated space, no exceptions. Put down a beanie or sailing glove "just for a moment," and it'll vanish, guaranteed. A loose item should go straight into your bag or pocket, even if you plan to use it again soon. A tidy boat is a happy boat and much less likely to spark a game of "Has anyone seen my ..."

**7) Combined: Keep well fed and hydrated**

Eat properly, even if you feel seasick, trust us, pasta is better to throw up than bile. When boiling the kettle, stash the extra hot water in a thermos for quick cup later. And here's a hack: write down everyone's tea and coffee orders. You'll be a galley hero and avoid tea-spiracy-level chaos.

8) Lindsay May: Seasickness survival

Seasickness ruins everything, especially for the person stuck cleaning up. If you're prone, start with Travelcalm at the first hint of queasiness. Lindsay swears antacid tablets help balance your stomach too. Oh and jelly snakes aren't a meal apparently, sorry.

9) Combined: Don't break yourself or the crew

Moving around below deck in big seas? Hold on tight or risk becoming a human pinball. Most injuries happen down below, so keep one hand for the boat. Bumps, bruises and broken bones are not the crew vibes you want.

10) Vanessa Dudley's Bonus tip: Keep the spirit alive

The Sydney Hobart is long, unpredictable and totally unforgettable. Whether you're leading the fleet or clawing your way back from behind, keep racing hard all the way. Ignore the fact that these tips make it sound terrifying, it's actually awesome and you'll be back for more before you know it. Good luck and have fun!

11) Lindsay May's Bonus Tip: Cherish the journey and time spent at sea with friends

In preparing this article the most frightening aspect was not the recollection of tough races but just how quickly the milestone of 50 years was achieved. When you think of past Hobart's many of them begin to meld into each other, but the most difficult and horrendous events are clearly recalled as are the amazing characters you have sailed with! ⚓





Cocody - the Longest Delivery

After conquering the RORC Caribbean 600 with a 1st place in IRC One and securing 1st in IRC and 2nd Overall in the RORC Transatlantic, this determined crew is now focused on their next big goal - the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

Comprising mainly of French offshore sailors, many active in the Figaro circuit, the team has embarked on an epic 15,000-nautical-mile journey to Sydney, which included the RORC Transatlantic, making theirs the longest delivery ahead of the race.

Starting in Malta, they've sailed through Lanzarote, Grenada, Panama, the Marquesas, Tahiti, Tonga and Nouméa and are set to arrive in Sydney by mid-November, ready to take on the challenge.

1. Malta → Lanzarote (1600 nautical miles)
2. RORC Transatlantic race from Lanzarote, Grenada (3000nm)
3. Grenada → Panama 1200nm
4. Panama → Marquesas Islands (French Polynesia) 7500 nm
5. Marquesas Islands (French Polynesia) → Tonga (2200 nm)
6. Tonga → Nouméa (1000nm)
7. Noumea → Brisbane (1000nm)
8. Brisbane → Sydney (500nm)

Long-Distance Sailing and the Journey

Q: After covering 15,000+ nautical miles, what has been the most memorable or challenging part of the journey?

A: The most challenging part was crossing the Panama Canal. It was our first time going through the canal and without this crossing, our Sydney Hobart project would have ended. However our most memorable moment was the RORC Transatlantic Race. 10 minutes before the race we made the decision to take a northerly route, sailing in much stronger wind than the southerly route option. It wasn't a pleasure party and it was really tough, we were the only boat that took that option and we got rewarded in the end. Battling six-meter waves through the day and night was hard and we ended up having to slow down the boat to avoid breaking it. Getting the win in this race was our favourite part of the journey.

Q: Can you talk about where you stopped along the way?

A: We sailed from Malta to Lanzarote, Grenada, Panama, the Marquesas Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Nouméa, Brisbane and finally to Sydney.



Q: What inspired you to take on such a big delivery ahead of the Sydney Hobart?

A: It was a personal challenge to cross half of the world and a commitment to reduce our carbon footprint. The human adventure aspect was just as important, this trip is a once in a lifetime experience.

Q: How has sailing through regions like the Caribbean and Pacific prepared you and the crew for the Rolex Sydney Hobart?

A: Sailing in the Caribbean was a wonderful experience with breathtaking scenery and crossing the Pacific was long and magnificent. However, this journey wasn't really a preparation for the Sydney Hobart because we were in vacation mode.

Preparation and Experience

Q: What were some of your favourite stops along the way, like Grenada, Panama, or Nouméa?

A: Each island was unique and every stop felt like a fantastic discovery. It's impossible to pick a favourite as they were all magnificent.

Q: After winning the RORC Transatlantic Race and Caribbean 600, what lessons are you bringing into the Sydney Hobart?

A: Never underestimate English sailors!

Q: How have you prepared Cocody after such a long delivery to ensure she's ready for the race?

A: Despite covering so many miles, Cocody is still extremely well-prepared, just as she has been for all the races we've participated in.

Q: How do you balance preparing for a long delivery with getting ready for a major race?

A: Once we arrive in Sydney, Cocody will go to a shipyard for a month to be fully prepared. We have two crew members staying on board to handle all necessary repairs.

Sailing Philosophy and Crew

Q: How has the crew dynamic evolved after such a long journey? Has it strengthened your bond before the race?

A: We've been sailing together for a long time and we're all very close, you always make strong connections with people you spend a lot of time with offshore.

Q: How do you keep the crew motivated and race-ready after so much time at sea?

A: Due to family and professional commitments, there have been many stages with different crew changes. But we're always happy when we're at sea.

Reflections and Looking Forward

Q: How does arriving in Sydney feel compared to your other sailing achievements?

A: This will be our first Sydney Hobart with Cocody and we know it's a very difficult race. Our main goal is to reach Hobart.

Q: What are your expectations for the Sydney Hobart and how do you think Cocody's unique preparation will set you apart?

A: There will be many famous and beautiful boats in the race, so we don't expect to be more prepared than the best. However, our crew has sailed together for a long time and that could be an advantage. ⚓



Lucky number three

Winning the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race is a feat reserved for legends. Claiming the Tattersall Cup twice cements your name in history. Achieving a three-peat is entering truly elite company. But winning four times? That's uncharted waters - a milestone no yacht has ever reached in the race's 79 year history.

Only one contender currently shows the potential of this extraordinary achievement: *Love & War*.



Photos: Andrea Francolini



Photo: ROLEX | Daniel Forster

Built in 1973, this legendary yacht first won in 1974, followed by its second in 1978 and then a remarkable third win in 2006. Over five decades, Love & War has been one of the most formidable competitors in the Great Race South and the start of the 79th Sydney Hobart once again opens that door to a potential fourth victory.

Despite her years, this iconic yacht continues to defy expectations, driven by something deeper than just fine craftsmanship or good fortune.

The answer lies in the Kurts family.

Three generations of Kurts have taken the helm of Love & War in her quest for glory. First skippered by Peter Kurts - who had her built to represent Australia in the Admiral's Cup - the torch was passed to his son, Simon Kurts. Now, Simon has entrusted her to his eldest son, Phillip.

"This year is Phillip's race," Simon says. "He has the team behind him and plenty of Hobarts under his belt on this boat. I know he's ready." Simon shared from Love & War's cockpit.

He continues: "The maintenance is constant, but it's all about keeping her in top form. Before the race all we have to do is take off the roller furler, put on the racing forestay, and she's transformed into a pure racing boat. The preparation hasn't changed much over the years - it just keeps rolling on."

After 50 years of Hobarts, we'd imagine you would get the hang of it indeed.

Simon also reflects on the evolution of the crew. "The original team from 1974 are still around, but they don't race on the boat anymore. We've always had a tradition of bringing young sailors on board. Since the 50th Hobart, we've taken someone from Sydney Rigging for their first race. It's a way of keeping the spirit alive and sharing the experience."

Despite the changes in crew, Simon says the boat itself remains true to its origins. "Love & War is a hard boat to sail—it needs a lot of power—but we've kept her as close to the original as possible. We've also made sure she's comfortable and dry downstairs. We even bring along pre-made home-cooked meals to keep everyone going."

When asked what makes the boat so special, Simon doesn't hesitate. "Under a number 3 headsail and a full main, she's in her element. There's just something about her - she's a joy to sail. Every Hobart is tough sailing, but it's always worth it and arriving in Hobart is a goosebumps moment, finishing is the best feeling."

The legacy of Love & War isn't just written in the history books - they are memories to those who sailed her to victory. Crew members from her three triumphant campaigns recall the moments that defined each race: the highs and the lows. Their stories offer a glimpse into what it Love & War is all about.



1974 - through the eyes of Peter Shipway

After Love & War's first Hobart race in 1973, Peter Kurts was so disappointed with the result that on arrival in Hobart he immediately sacked 7 of the 10 crew...

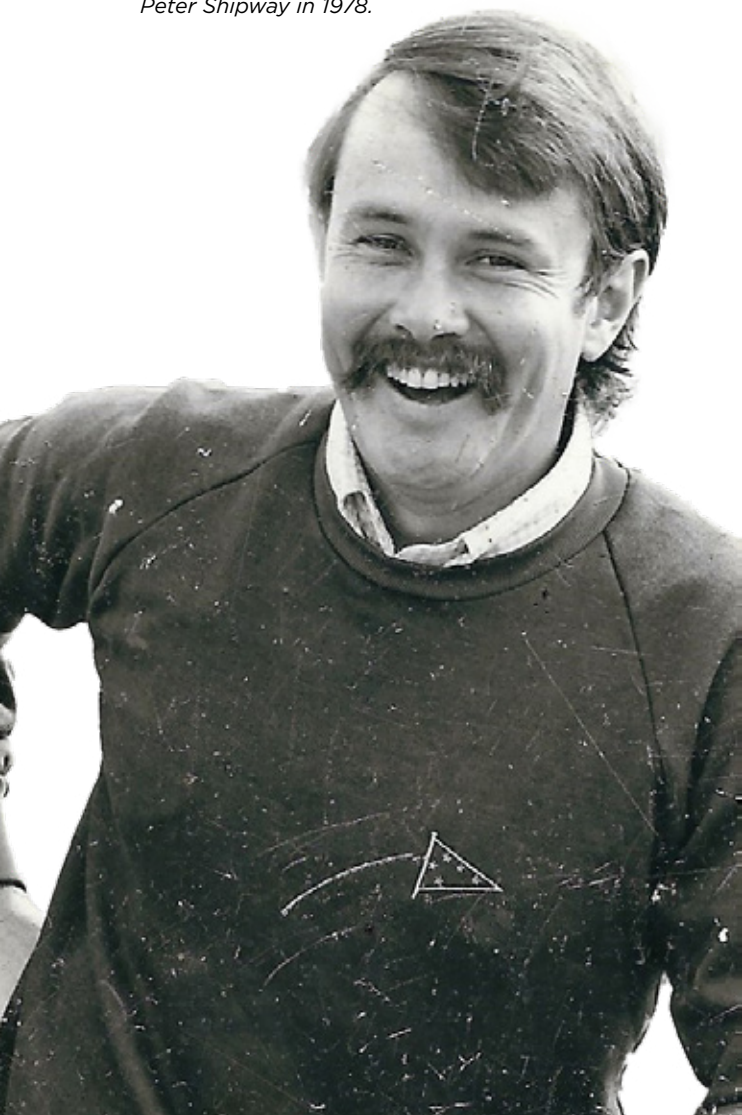
Fortunately I survived the cut!

Prior to the start of the 1974 race, Love & War's navigator, the legendary Magnus Halvorsen warned the crew forcefully "that we must not get jammed on the Tassie coast", meaning don't make an early landfall regardless of the weather.

Bumblebee 3 having just arrived from her builders in the USA was the red-hot favourite for Hobart, having cleaned up in all the lead up events.

Halvorsen's words were very prophetic. Bumblebee 3 made an early landfall high up on the Tassie coast and ran out of breeze, totally becalmed, while Love & War, 40nm out to sea, was romping along in a 25 knot westerly and made landfall well south of Maria Island and went on to win the race by over 2 hours.

Peter Shipway in 1978.



However, victory was almost snatched from us just a few miles from the finish. In 25 knots plus winds screaming down from Mount Wellington, the victory assured skipper, Kurts ordered the storm spinnaker to be set. Kurts would never ever relax, no matter how far he was ahead, always driving the yacht to the maximum, hence the call to set the spinnaker.

The boat took off fast approaching the shoreline before the skipper realised his folly and the spinnaker was dropped just metres from disaster.

The rest was history and victory was secured! Kurts' immortal words at the finish "We have to try harder", that was always his mantra, no matter where he finished, first or last.

1978 - an account by Peter Shipway

1978 was the year Love & War secured its second victory and Kurts said before the start: "if we can keep in touch with Margaret Rintoul 11 (the original Ragamuffin) we have a great chance of winning the race."

So it came to pass that, in a light weather race, seven yachts broke away from the pack late on the second afternoon and made it into Bass Strait, while the remainder of the fleet were becalmed north of Gabo Island.

Those seven yachts were Helsal, Apollo. Anaconda, Casablanca, Constellation, Margaret Rintoul 11 and Love & War and by the next morning they had put on over 50 miles on the rest of the fleet who were still becalmed on the far NSW south coast.

Love & War was the lowest rating of the group and she kept Margaret Rintoul 11 in sight for the remainder of the race, to once again prove Kurts pre-race words of wisdom correct.



Lindsay May accepting the Tattersall Cup in 2006. Photo: ROLEX.



Photo: Andrea Francolini



2006 - words by Lindsay May

In 2005 before the race started, I reminded Simon (Kurts) that his old man was certain that Love & War could win a record equaling third Hobart race, but Simon's response was, "I'm not ready for it yet".

In 2006 I tried again to get Simon motivated, but his sons Philip and Michael were competing in Australian national championships in Melbourne and Simon needed to be with them. I asked if I could charter the boat but he responded, "A Kurts doesn't charter boats". A one liner straight out of the Peter Kurts' playlist.

The following day Simon rang me and said, "Linds, I'd like to give you the boat for Hobart" and he did. The boat came with all certifications up to date, all I had to do was pay the entry fee, arrange the insurance and return the boat to Sydney.

For crew I started with those who raced on Love & War before. There were so many excuses; I am the best man at a wedding, I've had shoulder surgery, my daughter is getting married, my mother-in-law coming to stay, I am retired or want to be at my beach house, and so on. So I went to the old Brindabella crew and put together a fantastic team.

The rest is history, but we were incredibly fortunate during the race.

Coming off the shore at Shoalhaven Heads we sailed into the East Australian Current flowing at 4 knots and held this for 15 hours. About 40nm south was an anticlockwise eddy (a loop of current that is cut off from the main current). As we headed towards the adverse northerly flow on its eastern edge we got a miraculous 50° wind change. We tacked onto port and intersected the south flowing segment of the eddy and held that 2 knot current for 24 hours.

In the middle of Bass Strait there was a clockwise eddy and we nailed that with 1knot current for another 16 hours. Added all up we had about 120nm of current assist.

The tracker had us hours ahead on handicap and the crew was starting to get cocky until I reminded them that we would be at Tasman Island around midnight and we know that is a notorious no wind zone in a south-easterly wind regime.

Rounding Tasman at 0200hrs we had good steady breeze and reached across Storm Bay entering the Derwent River around 0700hrs. There should not have been any breeze in the Derwent at that hour of the morning.

As we approached the finish line, I called Simon, but I couldn't speak. Through the phone I heard: "Linds I think you're gonna win this". I'm sure we were both in tears as the hooter sounded and we knew we had sailed Love & War to a record equaling three overall wins, with two hours to spare.

Half an hour later, as I was being interviewed by throngs of reporters, I looked out onto the river, and it was a glass-out. Zero wind.

If ever there was a miracle, this was it.

It might sound crazy, but I believe that Peter and his brother Monsignor Philip played a big hand in our luck. As the saying goes, "good teams have all the luck" and I had a fabulous team.

As Love & War prepares to set sail once again, her legacy hangs in the balance. With a storied past and a determined crew, she definitely appears ready.

Only one question remains: will she seize the moment and stand alone as the first-ever four-time Tattersall Cup winner? We do not hold the answer, all we can do is find out. 🍀



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The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, together with the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania,
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The crown jewel of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, the Tattersall Cup, embodies the race's rich history and competitive spirit.

First presented to the race winner in 1946 by the estate of George Adams, and later engraved with Rani as the inaugural race winner, this trophy has become the ultimate prize in blue water sailing. The silver trophy boasts intricate details: mermaids, grapevines and seahorses, topped with a mermaid summoning the race victor.

For over 75 years, this trophy has been awarded to the yacht with the best-corrected time over the 628 nautical-mile course, now determined by the IRC rating system. The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia proudly displays the Cup, while winners receive a medallion of their triumph.

Only eight yachts have claimed the Tattersall Cup more than once, including legends like *Freya*, *Love & War*, *Ichiban* and *Alive*, highlighting the elite calibre of competitors in this iconic race.

Photos: Ashley Dart, ROLEX,
ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi,



Chasing Glory: the Battle for Overall Victory

A few of the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart competitors in contention for Overall victory



2024 ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE BY THE NUMBERS

107 1

Entrants 30 fter

4 973 5

100 fters

Competitors

52s

3 120 YRS 23

all-women
crews

Age of Oldest Competing Yacht

Double
Handers

6 15 K NM 78

International
Entrants

Longest Delivery
to Sydney

Competitors
under 50 ft

14% 1300 HRS 12%

Women
Owners/Skippers

Boxing Day Start Time

Women Crew



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BOAT NOTES

A list of entries and boat profiles.



BOAT NOTES



ACTIVE AGAIN

SAIL NO: JPN4321
CLASS: IRC
LOA: 16.5m
DESIGNER: Rob Humphreys (UK)
YEAR BUILT: 2010
TYPE: Humphreys 54
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4
OWNER: Stephanie Kerin
CLUB: Wynnum-Manly Yacht Club, Qld
CREW: Stephanie Kerin (3)

- Skipper, Andrew McDermott - Navigator, Stephen Kerin (3), Erin Cowley, Luke Derwent (3), Solomon Foster, David Green, Matthew Hart, Christopher Johnson (6), Stephen Kerin (3), Gus McKay, Bill McTavish, James Robinson, Jamie Rowe, Scott Townsend.

Active Again is a Humphreys 54 built by Hakes Marine in New Zealand and launched in late 2010. This full carbon yacht features a lifting keel and recently raced in the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race.

Active Again raced in the 2019 Sydney Hobart. Previously, when she was known as KLC Bengal 7, her racing history includes a 58th place finish in 2016, a retirement due to mainsail damage in 2015 and a 12th place finish in 2012. The yacht has been actively campaigned in Japan and Asia, achieving numerous victories.

Kerin has a strong racing background herself, having competed in the 2016 and 2015 Rolex Sydney Hobarts with her previous DK46, *Dekadence*. In 2016, she finished 53rd overall, earning the Jane Tate Memorial Trophy as the first female skipper to finish, a special achievement for her and her husband, Stephen, who are both originally from Tasmania.



ALIVE

SAIL NO: 52566
LOA: 22.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Reichel/Pugh (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2005
TYPE: Reichel/Pugh 66
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 9
OWNER: Phillip Turner
SKIPPER: Duncan Hine
CLUB: Derwent Sailing Squadron, TAS

CREW: Duncan Hine (7) - Skipper, Adrienne Cahalan (31) - Navigator, Logan Andresen (5), Gavin Brady (14), Max Brennan, Christopher Cowan (1), Nick Egnot-Johnson, Shane Gaddes (10), Sean O'Rourke (6), David Swete (1).

After securing her second Tattersall Cup victory in 2023, Phillip Turner's *Alive* is back for another shot at the prestigious trophy in the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. She is only the second Tasmanian yacht in the race's history to win the Tattersall Cup twice, sharing this achievement with *Westward*. Earlier this year, *Alive*, with usual skipper Duncan Hine, continued her winning ways by taking victory in the ORC division of the 2024 Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race as well as winning the Gold division at Hamilton Island Race Week. *Alive* first claimed the Tattersall Cup in 2018 and came close to back-to-back wins in 2019, ultimately placing fourth overall while clinching honours in Division 0.

ADVANTEDGE

SAIL NO: PD147
LOA: 14.3m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Jim Inglis (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 1994
TYPE: Inglis 47
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3
OWNER: Andrew Jones
CLUB: Port Dalrymple Yacht Club/Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Tas

CREW: Andrew Jones (1) - Skipper, Nicholas Smart (1) - Navigator, Josh Clark (1), Max Cottier (2), Fynley Harding (1), Josh Jones (1), Nick McElwee (1), James McIndoe (1), Brent McKay, Lachlan Prescott (1), Michael Smart (1), Lucas Upton (2).

As one of the nine Tasmanian entries in this year's Rolex Sydney Hobart, the Inglis 47 is gearing up for its third consecutive race south. Many crew members are well acquainted with the challenges of Bass Strait crossings, having successfully completed several Melbourne to Hobart races. With their combined experience and determination, this talented team is poised to make a strong impression on the journey ahead, making them a crew to watch closely.



ANOTHER CHAPTER

SAIL NO: B71
LOA: 13.4m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2004
TYPE: Beneteau First 44.7
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Neil Sargeant/Greg Clinnick/Greg Blanch
CLUB: Royal Brighton Yacht Club, Vic

CREW: Greg Clinnick (3) - Skipper, Peter Demura - Navigator, Mateusz Byrski, James Dickens, Tommy Dickens, Leigh Imbesi (1), Cathal Mahon, Julie McKay (1), Josh Stuchbery, Elsa Swetenham.

Another Chapter was bought by Neil Sargeant and Greg Clinnick during Covid lockdown. The Beneteau 44.7 was formerly Christine. Her owners renamed her, as the Victorian pair felt they had 'another chapter' in their racing careers after Clinnick sold his previous boat, the Sydney 38, *Audacious*. *Another Chapter* has done all the ORC majors and won the slow and tricky 2023 King Island Race. Finished third in November's Melbourne Devonport Race. Clinnick will skipper the yacht in the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**ANTIPODES****SAIL NO:** GBR2888L**LOA:** 22.0m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Bob Smith (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1997**TYPE:** Santa Cruz 72**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Geoffrey Hill**CLUB:** Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Hong Kong**CREW:** Geoff Hill (20) -

Skipper, Alan Tillyer (1) - Navigator, Damien Armstrong (1), Angel Balladares (2), Adam Brown (35), Ralph Carlier (38), Timothy Donnellan, Clyde Freeman (19), Stuart Hutchison (1), Larry Jamieson (37), Anthony Jurd (3), Bradshaw Kellett (31), Tim MacGillivray (11), Craig Malouf (11), Cornelio Olis (2), Natasha Parker (2), Roger Segovia (2), Craig Simpson (23) Geoff Hill's Santa Cruz 72 will return for its third Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, after debuting in 2022. The yacht holds the current race records for the Darwin to Dili and Darwin to Ambon Yacht Races. The 2023 race brought milestones for two crew members. It was owner Hill's 20th race south and Lindsay May's 50th consecutive race - an incredible achievement for May. During the 2023 race, Antipodes was 62nd overall last year.

Compared to current 72-footers, *Antipodes* is significantly heavier, having been designed in the 90's as an offshore racer-cruiser. Since rebuilding the boat in 2019, the team has sailed over 250,000 miles, including competing in iconic races such as Antigua Race Week and the Rolex China Sea Race. Hill campaigned Antipodes in Asia from 2012-2020, as well as in Northern Australia.

ARIEL**SAIL NO:** A140**LOA:** 12.6m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2010**TYPE:** Beneteau First 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 7**OWNER:** Ron Forster/Phil Damp**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** Phil Damp (6) - Skipper

Ariel is making a return to the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race after taking a break in 2023. In the 2022 race, she achieved an impressive third place in IRC Division 4. However, her experience in 2021 was less fortunate, as she retired on the first night with mainsail damage.

**AUDACIOUS****SAIL NO:** SA332**LOA:** 11.8m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2002**TYPE:** Sydney 38**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 8**OWNER:** Stuart Johnson**CLUB:** Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron, SA

CREW: Stuart Johnson (1) - Skipper, Glen Barker (1), Paul Craig (2), Peter Guilhaus, Angus Johnson, Darren Lowe, John Mortimer (1), Kieran Schortz, Matthew Stephens (1), Simon Turvey.

South Australian Stuart Johnson has entered his Sydney 38, Audacious, which last competed in the race in 2019. The boat normally competes in South Australia, participating in events such as the Island Cup, Haystack Island Race, Orontes Race and the Adelaide Port Lincoln race.

AVALANCHE**SAIL NO:** 2400**LOA:** 12.3m**CLASS:** IRC/Double Handed**DESIGNER:** Robert Hick (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2015**TYPE:** Hick 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 4**OWNER:** James Murchison**CLUB:** Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, NSW

CREW: James Murchison (15) - Skipper, James Francis (14) - Skipper

This year marks the yacht's fifth Sydney Hobart and the fourth with owner James Murchison. Launched in 2015, the Hick 40 first competed that same year, with its designer, Robert Hick, on board.

Racing double handed in the 2022 and 2023 races Murchison returns with Francis as his co-skipper again. Following last year's Hobart, Avalanche participated in the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, where it finished eighth in IRC Division 1 and 12th in the DH division.



BOAT NOTES



AWEN

SAIL NO: NZL10750
LOA: 18.3m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Owen Clarke (UK)
YEAR BUILT: 2002
TYPE: IMOCA Open 60
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: David Hows
SKIPPER: Sharon Ferris-Choat
CLUB: Southport Yacht

Club, QLD

CREW: Sharon Ferris-Choat (1) - Skipper, Rob Barton, Rachel Bruce, David Buxton, Roelof Holwerda, Bryan Jones, Jenn Kendall, Vitali Klopot, Carl Lamb, David Moreland, Simon Stevens, Michael Westen(2).

The IMOCA Open 60 yacht *Awen* is a high-performance ocean racing vessel. Originally launched as *Ecover 2*, it has competed under various names, including *Mutua Madrileña* and *Central Lechera Asturiana ESP 23*, before becoming *Awen*. She is owned by David Hows and will be skippered in her first Sydney Hobart by Canadian born Sharon Ferris-Choat, who represented New Zealand at two Olympic Games.



BACCHANAL

SAIL NO: USA1180
LOA: 11.80m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Jacques Valer (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2024
TYPE: JPK 11.80
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Ronald Epstein
CLUB: Corinthian Yacht Club, USA
CREW: Ronald Epstein

- Skipper, Tom Barker (17) - Navigator, Marcus Canestra, Shane Guanaria (15), John Hunter-Hamilton, Mark Langford (3), Declan McGranahan, Keiran Searle (7 at least), Daniel Williams (12)

Bacchanal's inshore and offshore crew comprises of Australian, American and British sailors, including owner, Ronald Epstein. His JPK 11.80 was built by JPK Pacific in Nowra, NSW and launched in November. Her crew, who will have only a short time to get to know the boat, were thrilled to start competing in Australia in November, placing sixth overall in her maiden event, the CYCA's Bird Island Race and she finished sixth, the smallest of the top six boats, putting her rivals on notice. JPK yachts have had outstanding success at major international races and her owner and crew have shared many a podium place with Epstein's previous yachts.

BACARDI

SAIL NO: SM377
LOA: 13.4m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Doug Peterson (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 1978
TYPE: Peterson 44
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 30
OWNER: Brett Averay/Darren Hunter /Cosmos Papatsaras
CLUB: Sandringham Yacht Club, Vic

CREW: Brett Averay (11) - Skipper, Matthew Richards (3) - Navigator, Daniel Gallagher, Darren Hunter (2), Marcus Korobacz (6), Terry Kourtis (5), David Oliver (9), Cosmas Papatsaras (2), Lorraine Smith (4), Oliver Van der Slot
The 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart will be Bacardi's 31st race, continuing her record of the boat that has done more Hobarts than any other yacht. Remarkably, she has completed all but two of her 30 Hobarts - in 2010, she lost her rig in heavy seas and in 2023, she suffered damage to her backstay hydraulics. Bacardi is a familiar sight on the dock in Hobart, where her 30 battle flags will proudly fly, celebrating her achievements.

Built in just five months in the back of Middle Brighton Motors by first owner, John Gould, Bacardi was designed for the 1979 Australian Admiral's Cup trials. Her best result came in 2006, when she finished second overall to the legendary three-time winner, Love & War. Other notable results include third in 2001 and fourth in 2000. She was also one of the finishers of the infamous 1998 race.



BLUE MOON

SAIL NO: 4876
LOA: 16.4m
CLASS: PHS/ Double Handed
DESIGNER: Joe Adams & Graham Radford (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 1989
TYPE: Adams 16.4
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Ken and Tristan Gourlay
CLUB: Tamar Yacht Club, Tas

CREW: Ken Gourlay (2) - Skipper, Tristan Gourlay - Skipper
Blue Moon is an Adams 16.4, purchased by father and son duo Ken and Tristan Gourlay. Between them, they've cruised the Mediterranean, Caribbean, North Pacific and made several trips around the South Pacific, yet both still agree that Tasmania offers the best cruising - and they are not the only ones who think so. They've also competed in numerous Tasmanian offshore races, including the Three Peaks, Launceston to Hobart, Melbourne to Hobart and the Sydney Hobart. Notably, they secured line honours racing Double Handed in the 2004 Melbourne to Launceston. The 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart will also qualify them for the 2025 Melbourne to Osaka race.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**BLUE PLANET****SAIL NO:** AUS110**LOA:** 9.9m**CLASS:** IRC/Double Handed**DESIGNER:** Alan Johnstone (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2022**TYPE:** J/99**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Chris O'Neill**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia/Greenwich

Flying Squadron (NSW)

CREW: Chris O'Neill (5) - Skipper, Michael 'Tom' Johnston (4) - Skipper

In the growing fleet of J/99s, Professor Chris O'Neill and Michael Johnston are preparing for their third consecutive Sydney Hobart, racing in the Double Handed division. In the 2023 race, the team narrowly missed breaking into the top five of the IRC Double Handed leaderboard. Since then, they've shown consistent form, finishing second in their division, third in IRC Corinthian and first in PHS Corinthian in the 2024 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast. Their steady performance in the 2024/25 Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore has resulted in fourth place overall after the Gold Coast, Flinders Islet, Tollgate Islands and Bird Island race.

**BOWLINE****SAIL NO:** 10447**LOA:** 13.4m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2005**TYPE:** Beneteau First 44.7**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Ian Roberts**CLUB:** Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron, SA**CREW:** Ian Roberts (2) - Skipper, Peter Hutchison (2) - Navigator, Reid Bosward (2), Melanie Bushby (2), Anthony Pennington (2), Nick Smith (4).

Ian Roberts last graced the race with Bowline in 2022 and placed 79th overall, after sailing her to 33rd in their first Sydney Hobart in 2021. A former winner of the Haystack Island race in South Australia, the Beneteau First 44.7 has been campaigned in club races in SA for the last three seasons both inshore and offshore. Crew have been selected for their experience and aptitude for offshore races, some with over 40 years' experience and others who have just begun to sail offshore, fulfilling the owner's commitment to stimulate offshore racing programs in local waters. The boat is the former Le Billet, which had a good track record.

**CALIBRE 12****SAIL NO:** 7777**LOA:** 12.0m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2005**TYPE:** Cookson 12**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** Richard Williams**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** Richard Williams

(6) - Skipper, Stuart Addison (4) - Navigator, Richard Arthur, Barton Bennison (4), Nick Black (3), McKeira Cumming, Fergus Forbes (8), Orla Gray, Stephanie Lyons (4), Kate Warren.

Calibre 12 did her second Hobart with Richard Williams as owner last year and finished 19th overall, fourth in Division 3 and third Corinthian IRC. In 2022, shortly after Williams bought the Cookson 12, they were fifth overall for second in IRC Division 1 and second in Corinthian IRC Division. Now he and the crew are back to try again, having started 2024 with 28th overall in the Sydney Gold Coast Race and fifth overall to claim the Division 2 win in September's Flinders Islet Race.

**CARO****SAIL NO:** CAY52**LOA:** 15.9m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Botin Partners (ESP)**YEAR BUILT:** 2021**TYPE:** Botin 52**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Maximilian Klink**CLUB:** Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, NZ/Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK**CREW:** Maximilian Klink (7) - Skipper, Jules Salter (5) - Navigator, Justin Ferris (8), Ryan Godfrey (17), Cian Guilfoyle (3), Harry Hall (3), Wade Morgan (18), William Parker (10), James Paterson (12), Jono Swain

Launched in 2021, Caro has been one of the most impressive yachts to be campaigned offshore. Skippered by Swiss yachtsman, Max Klink.

This year they will return for their third Sydney Hobart after finishing the Hobart third overall in 2022 and ninth overall for third in Division 1 in 2023, after winning the Rolex Fastnet Race earlier in 2023. Caro also topped her division in the 2023 Rolex Middle Sea Race and she raced in the CYCA's 2024 Bird Island Race in November and won by seven minutes to URM Group. These results make her one of the race favourites again this year.

BOAT NOTES



CELESTE

SAIL NO: NED5900

LOA: 11.7m

CLASS: PHS/Double Handed

DESIGNER: Sparkman & Stephens (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 1974

TYPE: Nautor Swan 38

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Saskia Groen-In't-Woud

CLUB: Southport Yacht

Club, Qld

CREW: Saskia Groen-In't-Woud – Skipper, Maud Demazure (1) – Skipper

Celeste is Hull 001 of the S&S Nautor Swan 38s, co-skipped by Saskia Groen-In't-Woud (the owner) and Maud Demazure. They are participating in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race as both a competitive venture and a delivery and qualifier for the 5500 nautical mile double handed Melbourne to Osaka race in 2025.

CELESTIAL V70

SAIL NO: ITA70

LOA: 21.5

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Juan Kouyoumdjian (ARG)

YEAR BUILT: 2007

TYPE: Volvo Open 70

NUMBER OF HOBART: 4

OWNER: Jim Cooney/ Samantha Grant

SKIPPER: Sam Haynes

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Sam Haynes (13) – Skipper, Alex Nolan (16) – Navigator,



CYCA Commodore, Sam Haynes, has entered Willow, a Volvo Open 70, renaming her Celestial, in deference to the name of his previous yachts. These included his TP52, which won the 2022 Rolex Sydney Hobart and finished runner-up in 2021. Haynes, a Sydney veterinarian, is supporting the Assistance Dogs Australia (ADA) charity, of which he is a Director. It will be sponsored by Sydney Bulldog Clinic (an initiative of the Sydney Animal Hospitals where Haynes is a director and proprietor) specifically for these breeds' health and welfare.



CENTENNIAL 7

SAIL NO: 9535

LOA: 15.9m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Judel/Vrolijk (GER)

YEAR BUILT: 2011

TYPE: TP52

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4

OWNER: Ernesto Echaz

CLUB: Subic Bay Yacht Club, Philippines

CREW: Ernesto Echaz

– Skipper/Navigator, Teodorico Asejo, Ridgely Balladares, Rubin Cruz, Whok Dimapilis, Al Bryan Dulay, Bernard Floren, Harry Kim Lumapas, Jeanson Lumapas, Richly Magsanay, Joel Mejariato, Louie Perfectua, Nico Sanchez, Stephen Tan, Emerson Villena

This yacht, recently purchased by Ernesto Echaz and renamed *Centennial 7*, was previously *Celestial* and won the 2022 Rolex Sydney Hobart when owned by Sam Haynes. This will be its first race under new ownership. Echaz has a long history in offshore racing, having owned many yachts under the name Centennial. Echaz won the 1998 China Sea Race and the 2008 Rolex China Sea Race with *Centennial 2*, a Sydney 46 racing cruiser designed by Australian Iain Murray. Echaz also owns *Centennial 3*, a Davidson TP52, designed by the same naval architect who created New Zealand's first America's Cup-winning monohull.

CHANCELLOR

SAIL NO: 6834

LOA: 12.6m

CLASS: PHS

DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 2010

TYPE: Beneteau First 40

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 8

OWNER: Ted Tooher

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Ted Tooher

(16) – Skipper, Matthew Bryant (1) – Navigator, Linda Bell, Kurt Brauteseth, Timur Celik, Tim Fisher, James Horne, Karl Kloppenborg (1), Joshua Kwong, Emmanuella Noble, Michael Peters, Michael Ward (5).

Ted Tooher, who last took Chancellor south in 2021 but retired with sail damage, racks up his 16th Hobart this year. Prior to this boat, Tooher had a Beneteau 47.7 of the same name and before that, he owned this same Beneteau First 40 and raced in the 2010 (37th) and 2011 (60th) Rolex Sydney Hobarts.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**CHUTZPAH****SAIL NO:** R33**LOA:** 12.3m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Reichel/Pugh (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2007**TYPE:** Caprice 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 16**OWNER:** Bruce Taylor**CLUB:** Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, Vic**CREW:** Bruce Taylor

(42) – Skipper, Kingsley Piesse (40) - Navigator, Lincoln Attersall (6), Peter Fletcher (36), Gavin Gourley (36), James Permezal (36), Paul Sandles (20), Ian Taylor (22), Andrew Taylor (30), David Watson (25)

Bruce Taylor's *Chutzpah* is undoubtedly one of the most experienced teams heading south each year, boasting no fewer than 240 Hobart races among its crew of 10. The Caprice 40, built for downwind conditions, will be hoping for more of that, even though she won the 2018 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in upwind conditions! In the 2023 Hobart, Taylor achieved a solid result, finishing third in IRC Division 2. This performance followed a successful run in previous years, including a third in IRC Division 2 in 2022, 11th overall for a Division 2 win in 2021 and 16th overall for second in IRC Division in 2018.

**CIAO BELLA****SAIL NO:** SM888**LOA:** 15.0m**CLASS:** PHS**YEAR BUILT:** 2015**TYPE:** Hanse 505**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Karl Onslow**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** Karl Onslow (5)

– Skipper, Brett Eagle (7) -

Navigator, Brett Eagle (7),

Andrew Ebbott (8), Amber French, Olivia Gates, Ken Hanna,

Simon Hanning (1), Stirling Keen (1), Stephen Prince (9),

Ellen Sijtsma (1), Gregory Spears (1), Sophie Verow (1).

This will be *Ciao Bella*'s third Sydney Hobart. Last year she finished third in PHS, Division 2. Owned by Karl Onslow, he and the *Ciao Bella* team have been competing in the CYCA's Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore and the Club Marine Ocean Pointscore, clocking in serious training time throughout the season in their efforts to get the best out of the boat and crew. One of their best results this season has been finishing third in PHS in the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race.

**CINQUANTE****SAIL NO:** 5038**LOA:** 11.8m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2002**TYPE:** Sydney 38**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 6**OWNER:** Kim Jagger**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** Kimberley Jagger

(37) - Skipper, Robert Thomas (31) - Navigator, Michael Bencsik (26), Alex McWilliam (5), Matthew Rockell (2), Chris Rockell (24), Twila Rosiewich, Neil Tavener (19), Andrew Taylor (20), Charlie Watts (2).

Owner Kim Jagger will head south for his 38th race as he and his team look to defend their 2022 Sydney 38 win with *Cinquante*. Since purchasing the Sydney 38 in 2018, Kim has made sure he has one of the best prepared Sydney 38s around. The yacht also won its division under its previous owner, Victorian Ian Murray, in 2008. Over the years Jagger has incorporated highly experienced yachties and supported young sailors in their pursuit of getting into offshore sailing as a strong supporter of the CYCA's Youth Sailing Academy.

CLOCKWORK**SAIL NO:** 3838**LOA:** 11.8m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2001**TYPE:** Sydney 38**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Andrew Lloyd/ Mary Ann Harvey**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia, SA**CREW:** Andrew Lloyd (2) - Skipper, Guy Wogan-Provo

(3) - Navigator, Mary Ann Harvey (2), Michael Burvill (1),

Adrian Edmonds, Mary Ann Harvey 2 (2), Adam Henry, Kurt

Humphries, Tom Ibbott, Kerry Parker (1), Katrina Prince (1).

Launched in 2001, *Clockwork* is one of the Sydney 38s making the journey south. Based in Adelaide, the yacht has travelled around to our race and others. Led by owners Andrew Lloyd and Mary Ann Harvey, the boat has been participating in what they regard the seven challenging events on the race calendar, including the prestigious Rolex Sydney Hobart, Port Lincoln Race Week and many of the northern regattas including Hamilton Island Race Week. They have almost reached full circle as they head towards the 79th Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.



BOAT NOTES



COCODY

SAIL NO: FRA53081
LOA: 11.8m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Jacques Valer (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2018
TYPE: JPK 11.80
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Richard Fromentin
CLUB: Centre Nautique de Laurient, France

CREW: Richar Fromentin – Skipper, Steve Taylor (7) – Navigator, Thomas Dinas, Damien Fleury, Thau Guilcher, Pierrick Letouze, Alexis Loison (4), Steve Taylor (7), Quentin Vlamynck.

Cocody secured first place in IRC Division One at the 2024 RORC Caribbean 600 and second overall to win their Division in the RORC Transatlantic Race. One of Richard Fromentin's major objectives now is to win their division in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. They will have the same designed but brand-new *Bacchanal* to pace with. The crew, predominantly comprising French offshore sailors, includes several active on the Figaro circuit. Sailing the yacht to Sydney, Cocody and her crew have covered more miles than any other to get to the start of our race.

CRYSTAL CUTTER III

SAIL NO: 6661
LOA: 11.9m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Bruce Farr (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2008
TYPE: Beneteau First 40.7
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3
OWNER: Charles Parry-Okeden
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Adam Leeming (3) – Skipper, Charles Parry-Okeden (3) – Navigator, Matthew Beale, Mike Cullen (3), David Fair, Damian Fox (2), John Moorhead, Daniel O'Sullivan (3), Jonathan Ward (2), James Wentworth (3).

Crystal Cutter III is a Beneteau First 40.7 built in 2008. She is a regular competitor across the many regattas in Sydney, including the CYCA Winter Series; ACBWPS and Rolex Sydney Hobart. The 2024 race will be the fourth for Charles Parry-Okeden and his crew since purchasing the former Tomoka in 2019.



CYAN MOON

SAIL NO: B47
LOA: 14.3m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Groupe Finot (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2003
TYPE: Beneteau Oceanis 473
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2
OWNER: Wayne Arnold Seaward
CLUB: Royal Brighton

Yacht Club, Vic

CREW: Wayne Arnold Seaward (2) – Skipper, Leigh Johnston (4) – Navigator, Nick Bourke, Louise Cotter (5), Margaret Findlay (2), Mark McAllister (2), Ian McGrath, Claire Pritchard (1), Luke Robinson, Dylan Shaw.

Cyan Moon is a Beneteau Oceanis 473 owned by the Seaward family from Melbourne, Victoria. The boat will participate in the race for a third time, having so far raced in the 2022 and 2023 editions. In the 2022 race, Cyan Moon won PHS overall from 18 yachts, but had the misfortune of retiring last year, due to rig damage. Seaward and his crew are ready for redemption in the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart.

DARK AND STORMY

SAIL NO: G69
LOA: 11.4m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 1993
TYPE: Iain Murray Custom 37
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3
OWNER: Tobias Swanson
CLUB: Royal Geelong Yacht Club, Vic

CREW: Tobias Swanson – Skipper, Christie Hamilton – Navigator, Robert Archbold, Christie Hamilton, Adrian Hawkes, Renee Portlock, Tommaso Mattia Pretto, Brittannie Probst, Matthew Robinson (1), Stephen Ryder, Melissa Warren.

Tobias Swanson's Dark and Stormy is no stranger to offshore yacht racing. Having competed in the Melbourne to Hobart Westcoaster in 2023 and finishing third on PHS. Darky & Stormy has done three Sydney Hobarts – 2016, 2017 and her last in 2019 with the former owners. Swanson's crew is diverse in its make-up, with four female crew members and an international sailor among his team.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**DASHER+FISHER
HOW BIZARRE**

SAIL NO: S13
LOA: 11.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Reichel/Pugh (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2008
TYPE: Seaquest RP36
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Scott Robinson
CLUB: Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, Vic

CREW: Scott Robinson (4) - Skipper, Peter Amarant - Navigator, Glenn Bailey, Mark Geyle, Stephen Reddish, Sean Supanz(1).

A Reichel/Pugh designed yacht; this SeaQuest RP36 was built in Dubai and launched in 2008. With only 12 of these yachts ever built, including six in Australia, they are unique. Dasher +Fisher How Bizarre now sails out of Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron in St Kilda, Victoria. The current owners purchased the yacht in February 2015 and have strung together an impressive record of race results. In 2024 they secured 1st overall in AMS, 1st in PHS, and 5th overall in ORC in the ORCV Melbourne to Devonport Rudder Cup. 1st in AMS, 1st in PHS, and 3rd in ORC (Division 2) in the ORCV Melbourne to Devonport Rudder Cup, amongst other successful races.

**DENALI**

SAIL NO: 52569
LOA: 15.9m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Judel/Vrolijk (GER)
YEAR BUILT: 2007
TYPE: TP52
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3
OWNER: Damien Parkes
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW
CREW: Damien Parkes (38)

- Skipper, Daren Castle (5) - Navigator, Matthew Cassidy (15), Thomas Constable, Max Fisher, Tony Hakim (1), Chris Hills (4), Keanu King, Wayne Kirby, David McClean (13), Geoff Nash (2), Annemarie Parkes (2), Matthew Parkes, James Pinnington

Damien Parkes' yacht, originally designed and built as Matador for the TP25 MedCup circuit, underwent significant structural updates to meet offshore standards after he purchased it. The yacht made its Sydney Hobart debut in 2021 but retired with extensive hull damage.

Parkes and crew have raced in several events in Queensland, including the inaugural GCCM Gold Coast Mackay Yacht Race. However, the boom broke on Day 1, but undeterred, Parkes confirmed they would continue the race under trisail, earning them special recognition for seamanship.

**DISKO TROOPER_
CONTENDER
SAILCLOTH**

SAIL NO: AUS99
LOA: 9.9m
CLASS: IRC/DH
DESIGNER: Alan Johnstone (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2020
TYPE: J/99
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2
OWNER: Jules Hall
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club

of Australia, NSW

CREW: Jules Hall (5) - Skipper, Jan Scholten (19) - Skipper Jules Hall's *Disko Trooper_Contender Sailcloth* returns to the racetrack for the first time, having competed fully crewed in 2023 and Double Handed in 2021. Hall, along with co-skipper Jan 'Clogs' Scholten, made history by winning the inaugural Sydney Hobart Double Handed division in 2021 and were second Double Handed crew to finish. In 2023, Hall partnered with offshore ace Wendy Tuck and four CYCA Youth Sailing Academy sailors and alumni and placed 22nd overall.

For this year's race, Hall has reunited with Contender Sailcloth's Jan Scholten, once again competing in the Double Handed division and taking on the best in the fleet. This year, *Disko Trooper_Contender Sailcloth* won the Double Handed division in the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore's Flinders Islet Race.

EXTASEA

SAIL NO: G10007
LOA: 15.2m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Bruce Farr (NZ)
YEAR BUILT: 2004
TYPE: Cookson 50
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 10
OWNER: Paul Buchholz
CLUB: Royal Geelong Yacht Club, Vic
CREW: Dustin Popp (2) -

Skipper, Luke McGregor (1) - Navigator, Andrew Burggraaff (2), Georgia Delaney, Mick Doherty (1), Peter Ford, Conall Green, Simon Gunner (1), Christopher Howe (1), Matthew Morrow (1), Charlie Ryan-Kane, Lawson Shaw (4), Tim Waller (1), George Young

Paul Buchholz will be back for his 13th journey south in 2024 after sitting out in 2022. The Cookson 50 should be well positioned if classic Hobart conditions prevail. The veteran Victorian offshore sailor has previously had huge success in the offshore discipline, and over a period of 14 years, dominated the local offshore sailing scene in Victoria, winning every race with his previous yacht, a DK46.

Between 2011 to 2015 the team took Line Honours in the Melbourne to Hobart Yacht Race four times. Having now owned the yacht for years, Paul and his team will be looking for a strong result in this year's race.



BOAT NOTES



FIKA

SAIL NO: RQ490
LOA: 14.9m
CLASS: PHS/Double Handed
DESIGNER: Judel/Vrolijk (GER)/Eric Segerlind (SWE)
YEAR BUILT: 2001
TYPE: Najad 1490
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Annette Hesselmans

CLUB: Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Qld

CREW: Annette Hesselmans (1) - Skipper, Sophie Snijders - Skipper

Mother-daughter duo Annette Hesselmans and Sophie Snijders will do the Rolex Sydney Hobart in preparation for the 2025 Melbourne to Osaka Double Handed Yacht Race. Hesselmans brings experience from the 2019 Hobart race and the 2018 Melbourne to Osaka double-handed yacht race with her husband, which led her to transition from a nursing career to running Paper Sailors Rock, a sail training school.

FLYING FISH ARCTOS

SAIL NO: 7551
LOA: 15.2m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Graham Radford (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2001
TYPE: Radford 50
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 17
OWNER: Flying Fish Sailing
CLUB: Middle Harbour Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: George Martin (7) - Skipper, Mathew Ackroyd (3), Paul Harvell, Andrew Howard, Michael Irwin, Sarah Jane Pell, Alexis Poole, Roy Quaden, Deb Steele, David Temperley (1), Sven Uthicke, Kelvin Wells.

Flying Fish Arctos is the flagship yacht in the Flying Fish offshore training fleet. Arctos is a strong and powerful cutter rigged yacht that was built to race around the world. This year's crew will include a number of veterans from previous years, as well as an international crew of trainees competing in the race as a personal challenge.



FRUIT SALID 3

SAIL NO: RQ334
LOA: 12.6m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2013
TYPE: Beneteau First 40
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2
OWNER: Mark Drobitko
CLUB: Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Qld
CREW: Mark Drobitko (3)

- Skipper, Sam Johnson (2) - Navigator, Mile Ellery (3), Neil Everson (7), Thorsten Maertens, Tom Robinson, Michael Welsby (2)

Mark Drobitko placed 22nd in the 2021 Rolex Sydney Hobart and contested events up north this year. He bought Fruit Salid in the UK in 2016 and sailed it to Australia, arriving in late 2017. Passage highlights included first place in the 2016 ARC+ Atlantic Crossing, Caribbean Sea cruising, Grenada Race Week, Panama Canal transit, Pacific Ocean and her owner enjoying life at sea. The Beneteau 40's crew are working towards the boat's third Sydney Hobart campaign. Drobitko intended to name his boat 'Fruit Salad', but a few drinks later and with the paint brush out, the spelling changed... The Fruit Salid crew warmed up for the Hobart in Easter's Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race.

GEORGIA EXPRESS

SAIL NO: 6333
LOA: 10.9m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 1993
TYPE: Mumm 36
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2
OWNER: Sebastian Hultin
CLUB: Middle Harbour Yacht Club, NSW
CREW: Sebastian Hultin

(2) - Skipper, Lorenzo Riches (1) - Navigator, Christopher Bealey (2), John Crockett (4), Abelardo Nishida, Ed Rigby, Alessandro Schioppetto.

Georgia Express, hull no. 1 of the Mumm36s, returns to the Hobart for a third time lucky, as she retired from her only two Sydney Hobarts to-date. Before Sebastian Hultin bought Georgia Express, she competed internationally, then spent the next years sailing in Queensland where she received a custom keel. Hultin purchased Georgia Express in April 2023 from Andrew Forbes who joined him and the crew from the Stella Polaris campaign and competed in the RSHYR 2023. Georgia Express has received several safety upgrades and is now ready to tackle another offshore season.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**GIZMO**

SAIL NO: 99
LOA: 10.8m
CLASS: IRC/Double Handed
DESIGNER: Andrieu Yacht Design (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2016
TYPE: Jeanneau Sun Fast 3600
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4
OWNER: Robert Drury
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club

of Australia, NSW

CREW: Wendy Tuck (16) - Skipper, Meg Niblett (1) - Skipper
 The yacht, previously known as *Mister Lucky*, returns for its fifth time to the race. The yacht was recently purchased by Rob Drury, who renamed the boat, *Gizmo*. Originally not planning on competing in the 2024 RSHYR himself but saved the day for Wendy Tuck and Meg Niblett who found themselves without a yacht 60 days out from the race. The yacht owner will therefore not be competing himself. But has selflessly loaned the yacht to the women. The yacht has been purpose designed for short handed sailing and previously competed in the Hobart and the double handed Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race.
 Tuck was the first female skipper in the Clipper Round the World Race.

**HIP-NAUTIC**

SAIL NO: 7811
LOA: 10.1m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Andrieu Yacht Design (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2020
TYPE: Jeanneau Sun Fast 3300
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2
OWNER: Jean-Pierre Ravanat
CLUB: Derwent Sailing

Squadron, Tas

CREW: Jean-Pierre Ravanat (3) - Skipper, Dylan Gore - Navigator, Sam Cottrell-Davies, Anna Cottrell-Davies, Jacques Demange, Jack Hamer.

Jean-Pierre Ravanat and Drew Meincke raced this yacht double handed last year and placed 43rd overall and sixth in the double handed division after being one of the first night retirements in the 2022 race, when the yacht suffered mainsail damage. This year the yacht will race fully crewed for the first time. Hip-Nautic was launched by Ravanat in late 2020. She is a Sun Fast design like Gizmo, designed short-handed sailing. Ravanat is a seasoned sailor and skippered his yacht to third under IRC in the 2020 Launceston to Hobart. Hip-Nautic won IRC Division 2 and won the Double Handed Division of the 2022 Gladstone Ports Corporation Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race.

HAPPY WANDERER

SAIL NO: 43218
LOA: 14.9m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: John Corby (UK)
YEAR BUILT: 2002
TYPE: Corby 49
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 6
OWNER: Leander Klohs/Donald Graham
SKIPPER: Daniel Cannon
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club

of Australia, NSW
CREW: Daniel Cannon (1) - Skipper/Navigator, Justin Bain, Josh Cook (1), Featherby, Samuel Foale (1), Hamish Johnston, James Keane (1), Andrew Marr (2), Greg Marshall (1), Max Pemberton (4).

Happy Wanderer formerly known as *Limit/Vamp/Abbotts Vamp*, is a Corby 49 designed and built by John Corby and team in 2002. Renamed *Happy Wanderer* for the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Race in support of the Wandering Warriors, a charity that provides tertiary education and mentoring opportunities for Australian Defence Force veterans. The charity is also building a network of companies that are committed to creating employment opportunities for ex-ADF veterans. The crew consists of amateur sailors from across the country led by Dan Cannon. Most of the team previously raced together in 2019 with Damien Parkes onboard Denali (renamed *Happy Wanderer*), placing ninth in PHS.

**INDIGO II**

SAIL NO: 211
LOA: 15.1m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Reichel/Pugh (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2008
TYPE: Marten 49
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Darryn Purdy
CLUB: Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Qld
CREW: Darryn Purdy (1)

- Skipper/Navigator, Don Cameron, Max Cossey, Samuel Edwards, Chris Evans (3), Sally Garrett, Jonathan Gravit (1), Nick Hollingworth, Peter Macarthur (7), Ian Marsden, Braeden McHugh (1), Tony Poolman.

Since Darryn Purdy acquired *Indigo II* nearly two years ago the crew has been diligently building their racing program. They have participated in several offshore races in Queensland, including the City to Surf and Brisbane to Gladstone races. High profile yachtswoman Stacey Jackson is heavily involved with the preparation of the boat and crew, although she will race on *Oroton Drumfire* for the Rolex Sydney Hobart. *Indigo II*'s crew includes three Kiwis, several Brisbane locals and one sailor from Adelaide. The crew's composition showcases the strong friendships and long-standing relationships among its members.



BOAT NOTES



INUKSHUK

SAIL NO: SA982

LOA: 11.6m

CLASS: IRC/Double Handed

DESIGNER: Hank Kaufman (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 1989

TYPE: Northshore 38

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2

OWNER: Robert Large

CLUB: Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron,

SA

CREW: Robert Large (5) - Skipper, Stuart Watson - Skipper South Australian Robert Large will be racing south on his beloved Inukshuk for a third time in the Double Handed Division for a third time. He missed the 2023 race but with Cameron Boogaardt, finished the 2022 race 12th double handed in IRC after retiring from the 2021 race. In 2021. Inukshuk (meaning a structure of rough stones stacked in the form of a human figure - traditionally used by Inuit people as a landmark that symbolises safety, hope and friendship), placed fourth in Division 2 of the 2024 Adelaide to Port Lincoln race.



JOURNEYMAN FLAT WHITE

SAIL NO: 1696

LOA: 12.2m

CLASS: PHS

DESIGNER: Graham Radford (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 1995

TYPE: Radford 12.2

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3

OWNER: Jen Linkova

SKIPPER: Geoffrey Tomlins

CLUB: Queensland Cruising

Yacht Club, Qld

CREW: Geoffrey Tomlins (8) - Skipper, Gabrielle Purchas - Navigator, Kim Dowdney (2), John Hodgkinson, David Miller (1), Matthew Van Galen (4).

In her owner's absence, Geoff Tomlins will skipper the former Red Jacket, bought by Jen Linkova, who renamed the Radford 12.2 Flat White and sailed her to DH PHS eighth overall in the 2021 Rolex Sydney Hobart. Journeyman Flat White did two Sydney Hobarts before Linkova bought her, retiring in 1998 and placing 10th and winning its division in 1999 when owned by Ron Lally.

JOKER X2

SAIL NO: M133

LOA: 13.3m

CLASS: IRC/Double Handed

DESIGNER: Rod Johnstone (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 2007

TYPE: J/133

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Grant Chipperfield/Peter Dowdney

CLUB: Manly Yacht Club/Sandringham Yacht Club, Vic

CREW: Grant Chipperfield (3) - Skipper, Peter Dowdney (18) - Skipper

Joker X2 is a Melbourne based J/133 that is campaigned double-handed. The yacht was imported from the UK two years ago by her co-owners, Grant Chipperfield and Peter Dowdney, who have been building toward competing in the double handed 2025 Melbourne Osaka Cup.

The pair placed fourth in the DH division of the 2021 Rolex Sydney Hobart with Chipperfield's previous boat, Joker on Tourer. Joker X2 is a faster model that won the 2023 Melbourne to Port Fairy Race and was third double-handed in IRC in the 50th Westcoaster in 2022 and won the double handed division of the 2024 Melbourne to King Island Race. The 79th Sydney Hobart will serve as the duo's qualifier to the Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race which starts in March.



JUPITER

SAIL NO: MYC99

LOA: 9.9m

CLASS: IRC/Double Handed

DESIGNER: Alan Johnstone (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 2021

TYPE: J/99

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Ian Smith

CLUB: Manly Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: Ian Smith (1) - Skipper, Lincoln Dews (3) - Skipper

Jupiter has been steadily building its double handed campaign over the past 16 months, with the goal of becoming the fastest J/99 in Australia. Owner, Ian Smith and co-skipper, Lincoln Dews, are focussed on a serious challenge in the Double Handed division of the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Jupiter's recent achievements include being crowned overall winner of the 2024 Pittwater to Coffs Harbour Race, securing 3rd in IRC Division 3 in the 2024 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race and first place in the Double Handed Division of the CYCA's Lion Island Race.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**JUST FARR LOVE**

SAIL NO: R201
LOA: 15.5m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 1996
TYPE: Farr 51
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Scott Lovell
CLUB: Tamar Yacht Club/ Port Dalrymple Yacht Club, Tas

CREW: Scott Lovell – Skipper, Robert Brunning – Navigator, Ross Smith – Navigator, Mandy Barden, Brian Cottnam, Tim Freeman, Rick Haines, Mitchell Ranson.

Just Farr Love is a 51ft fast cruiser. Built by Binks Yachts in Adelaide in 1996, for Lovell's father, the yacht was the first of five fast cruisers built on Farr design number 193. The yacht has been extensively used for cruising but not offshore racing. Lovell bought the boat back in 2020 after his father had sold it in 2008.

Over the past four years the boat has received a major facelift in preparation for its first Sydney Hobart. She is now kept at Beauty Point on the Tamar River and sails regularly with both Tamar Yacht Club and Port Dalrymple Yacht Club.

**KANREKI**

SAIL NO: 7709
LOA: 12.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2000
TYPE: Cookson 12
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3
OWNERS: Michael Rowe
CLUB: Manly Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: Michael Rowe (4)
 - Skipper, Greg Wilkins (6) - Navigator, James Bloomfield, Will Gray, Peter Grayson (4), Rhoslyn Humphreys, Ben Martin, Peta Rose (1), Ashley Rose (3), David Wright.
 Michael Rowe bought the yacht previously known as Sail Exchange, it was then owned by Carl Crafoord and Tim Horkings. The pair purchased the former 'About Time' in 2018 and retired the yacht from its last Hobart in 2022 after the rudder broke. In 2019 the Cookson 12 finished 16th after placing 18th for third in Division 3 in 2018, Crafoord's first Hobart as an owner. Rowe came to grips with the boat at Airlie Beach Race Week this year, then entered the 2024 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Race and placed 24th overall and fourth in Division 1. He has previously sailed the race on the likes of Azzurro and Supernova.

**KISMET**

SAIL NO: AUS 1
LOA: 9.30m
CLASS: IRC/Double Handed
DESIGNER: Illingworth & Penrose (UK)
YEAR BUILT: 1955
TYPE: Illingworth 30
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: Sean Langman
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Sean Langman (32) – Skipper, Peter Inchbold (32) – Skipper

Kismet was designed by the famous Captain John Illingworth and Harald Penrose. The yacht's distinctive reverse sheer reflects her 1950s English design heritage. She appeared in a 1953 issue of Seacraft, where the concept of adopting her design as an Olympic offshore one-design class for the 1956 Melbourne Games was proposed.

Built in 1955 by Athol Walter on the Huon River in Tasmania, Kismet raced in the 1957 Sydney Hobart as the only Tasmanian entrant that year and placed sixth overall in a fleet of 20 yachts. Then a long-time owner, Andrew Inwood, sailed Kismet extensively out of the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club before gifting her to Langman in 2023.

LAWCONNECT

SAIL NO: SYD1000
LOA: 30.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Juan Kouyoumdjian (ARG)
YEAR BUILT: 2008
TYPE: 100 Footer
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 10
OWNER: Christian Beck
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Christian Beck (6) - Skipper, Christopher Lewis (2) - Navigator, Lucas Chapman (10), Roey Chasman, Dylan Clarke (4), Antonio Cuervas-Mons (7), Rodney Daniel (18), Vahdat Dastpak, Mathieu Gardere, Alexander Gough (5), Carlos Hernandez Robayna (2), Renee Ilich, Mustafa Ingham (4), Brad Jackson (12), Brice Lechatellier, Tony Mutter (4), Chris Nicholson (10), Ty Oxley (22), Ryan Phillips (4), Simbad Quiroga (1), Mitch White, Charlie Wyatt (4).

Christian Beck's *LawConnect* is back with the aim of defending her Line Honours victory from 2023 when she dramatically overtook *Andoo Comanche* on the River Derwent to the enthralment of spectators. After finishing second in the previous three Hobarts. In 2021, *LawConnect* was second behind *Black Jack*. In 2019, sailing as *InfoTrack*, she thrilled spectators with a close second place finish, 44 minutes and 18 seconds behind *Comanche* after a fierce five-way contest between the 100-footers.

Continuing a unique tradition, Beck takes several of his employees along for their first taste of ocean racing - an incredible opportunity for non-sailors to experience one of the world's most iconic yacht races.



BOAT NOTES



LE TIROFLAN

SAIL NO: FRA85
LOA: 12.1m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Finot/Conq (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2010
TYPE: Pogo 40
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Chris Taylor
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW
CREW: Chris Taylor -

Skipper, Johnny Simonovski - Navigator, Lautaro, Alaniz, Andrew, Cain, Brett, Sheridan, Johnny, Simonovski, Jason, Swartz, Christopher, Taylor.

Le Tiroflan is a fast, unforgiving racing yacht that has high expectations of her crew, the owner included! Recently bought by Chris Taylor, he and the crew have been working hard at learning what makes this boat go and what doesn't. The crew describe themselves as fun-loving while trying to live up to Le Tiroflan's expectations. The boat competed on the Class 40 circuit until 2019.

LORD JIMINY

SAIL NO: S118
LOA: 12.0m
CLASS: PHS/Double Handed
DESIGNER: Guillaume Verdier (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2012
TYPE: Class 40
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Kevin Curtis
CLUB: Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, Vic
CREW: Kevin Curtis - Skipper, Jim Oosterweghel (6) -

Skipper

Lord Jiminy is a Class 40 that was built in France in 2012 for French skipper Bruno Jourden. He campaigned her in the Class 40 championship, which led to third place in the 2014 Route du Rhum, one of the most competitive single handed transatlantic races. Shipped to Australia in 2015, she is now owned by Kevin Curtis, who has been contesting the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria's offshore races, including the double handed Melbourne to Osaka Cup, a race of 5500 nautical miles. Curtis and co-skipper, Jim Oosterweghel are using the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart as a qualifier for the 2025 Melbourne Osaka Cup.



LOVE & WAR

SAIL NO: 294
LOA: 14.2m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Sparkman & Stephens (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 1973
TYPE: S&S 47
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 19
OWNER: Simon Kurts
SKIPPER: Phillip Kurts
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Phillip Kurts (7) - Skipper, Patrick Broughton (13) - Navigator, Ian Goldsworthy (6), Michael Heenan (22), Stephen McCullum (27), Peter Sheldrick (30), Matt Tomaszewski (5).

Simon Kurts' Love & War celebrates her 51st anniversary in the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart of her first race and also marking a half-century since its first victory in 1974. The classic yacht remains competitive, finishing fifth in division in last year's race and third in the 2021 race, also winning division.

The yacht holds a special place in race history as the second of only three boats to win the Tattersall Cup three times, with victories in 1974, 1978 and 2006. The classic yacht is known for excelling in tough conditions from a mix of directions - and that's what Phil and his crew will be hoping for this year.

MAKO

SAIL NO: N40
LOA: 12.0m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 1999
TYPE: Sydney 40
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4
OWNER: Simon Macks
CLUB: Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, NSW
CREW: Adam Manders

(8) - Skipper, Emily Sellens - Skipper, Adrian Kiely (11), Navigator, Greg Busch (4), Marcus Busch (2), Tim Dodds (10), Simon Glover, Ethan Ortlipp (1), Steve Robinson (5), Samuel Wood.

The Sydney 40 has recently changed ownership to Simon Macks, who is part of a ten person syndicate. Previously the syndicate, then skippered by Paul O'Rourke, chose the 75th running of the Sydney Hobart to debut Mako in the Hobart and placed 60th overall. He returned in 2021 but retired with mainsail damage. In 2022, Mako, a Sydney 40, scored second place in PHS, which it backed-up with second again in the 2023 Rolex Sydney Hobart.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**MARITIMO 100****SAIL NO:** 0100**LOA:** 30.1m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Dubois Naval Architects (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2013**TYPE:** Oyster 100**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Bill Barry-Cotter
CLUB: Southport Yacht Club, Qld**CREW:** Peter Jones (26)

- Skipper, Neil Sherring (4) - Navigator, Bill Barry-Cotter (2), Phil Armstrong (3), Dim Balsem, Bill Barry-Cotter (2), Kendal Barry-Cotter (11), Peter Britt (13), Philip Candler, Steve Jackson (4), Scott Kaufman (16), Martin Lewis, Jennifer Ng, Maclean Paton (4), Mark Richards (18), Ross Willaton, Paul Wrench.

Maritimo 100 is the last Oyster 100 built and was recently purchased by Maritimo principal, Bill Barry-Cotter. Barry-Cotter will race south on the yacht, as will his brother Kendal, with Peter Jones in the skipper role. Barry-Cotter's last race to Hobart was in 1975, when he enjoyed a Divisional win in his self-built Carter 33, *Ghost*. The Oyster 100 enjoys a large degree of creature comforts, but according to those who have sailed her, the Oyster 100 is no slouch on the racetrack. Last heard, Barry-Cotter was adding more luxury accessories to the yacht.

**MARITIMO KATWINCHAR****SAIL NO:** CYC8**LOA:** 10.0m**CLASS:** IRC/Double Handed**DESIGNER:** Watney (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 1904**TYPE:** Ketch**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Bill Barry-Cotter**CLUB:** Southport Yacht Club, Qld**CREW:** Michael Spies (45) - Skipper, Peter Vaicuirgis - Skipper

For her third Sydney Hobart, *Maritimo Katwinchar* is being sailed double handed by 43 Hobart race veteran Michael Spies and co-skipper, Peter Vaicuirgis. The ketch has been especially adapted, a new carbon fibre mast replacing the old and the mizzen mast removed for easier handling. Spies and Vaicuirgis raced in several offshore events, including the 2024 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race and the GCCM Gold Coast to Mackay Yacht Race, where they won all three categories - IRC, PHS and ORC.

**MASTER LOCK COMANCHE****SAIL NO:** CAY007**LOA:** 30.0m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Verdier Yacht Design & VPLP (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2014**TYPE:** 100 footer**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 7**SKIPPERS:** Matt Allen/
James Mayo**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia/Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: Matt Allen (31) - Skipper, James Mayo (3) - Skipper, Juan Vila (10) - Navigator, Richard Allanson (13), Pablo Arrate (3), Clinton Evans (9), Craig Garnett (19), Andrew Henderson (25), Philip Jameson (9), Campbell Knox (14), Iain Murray (28), Sam Newton (11), Sven Runow (31), Harry Smith (2), Oliver Smith, Graeme Taylor (27), Andre Vorster (1), Daryl Wislang (5).

Matt Allen and James Mayo have taken charge of Comanche, to be known this race as Master Lock Comanche. Allen is well known as the latest of a trio to win the Sydney Hobart three times and has not done the Sydney Hobart since Ichi Ban's third win in 2021. Mayo is an accomplished Etchells sailor who won the 1999 and 2024 Etchells Worlds, the latter with Graeme Taylor and Richie Allanson, both of whom are aboard for the Hobart with their coach, Iain Murray. Allen and Mayo opened their account with line honours and winning overall the 260nm Tollage Islands Race in October and Cabbage Tree Island in December. They have made some minor mods to the 'aircraft carrier' and added new sails.

MAYFAIR**SAIL NO:** M116**LOA:** 14.0m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Simon Rogers (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2006**TYPE:** Rogers 46**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** James Irvine**CLUB:** Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Qld**CREW:** James Irvine (7)

- Skipper, Rohan Wood (9) - Navigator, Steve Brierley (7), Mark Carter (6), Tom Dawson, Richard Howard, Justin Smith (4).

James Irvine purchased this Rogers 46 in 2020 and this will be their fourth Hobart. Irvine took her to 17th overall in the 2021 Rolex Sydney Hobart for and then finished third in Division 1 of the 2022 Brisbane to Gladstone race before placing 36th in the 2022 Hobart and 41st in last year's race. She then finished second over the line and fifth overall in the Brisbane to Keppel Island race in a fleet of seven. Mayfair was originally one of a long list of well-known British yachtsman, Robin Aisher's, yachts by the name of Yeoman.



BOAT NOTES



MIDNIGHT RAMBLER

SAIL NO: ST36
LOA: 10.8m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2005
TYPE: Sydney 36
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 5
OWNER: Ed Psaltis
CLUB: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, TAS

CREW: Ed Psaltis (41) - Skipper, Andrew Davison (12) - Navigator, Kenneth Ormandy (2), Ben Psaltis (2), Jim Ried (2), Rory Spinaze Littlejohn (2), Tom Stearnes (2), Glenn Stewart (5).

Ed Psaltis's Sydney 36, Midnight Rambler placed third in Division 4 and fourth in IRC Corinthian last year. In 2022 Psaltis won both Division 4 and the IRC Corinthian Division. This is the seventh Midnight Rambler yacht Psaltis has owned, campaigning each one over his over 40 years of ocean racing. Psaltis, with Bob Thomas, famously won the fatal 1998 Sydney Hobart with the Hick 35, AFR Midnight Rambler. The various Midnight Ramblers have won every major offshore race on the east coast of Australia and Psaltis is back to try and win again.

MILLENNIUM FALCON

SAIL NO: M888
LOA: 11.9m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Sparkman & Stephens (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 1992
TYPE: S&S39
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: Robert Griffiths
CLUB: Lake Macquarie Yacht Club/Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Robert Griffiths (1) - Skipper, Andrew White - Navigator, Richard Agnew (1), Andrew Dhaenens, Keith Rixon (1).

Millennium Falcon was built in 1975 but was not launched until 1992 following a meticulous shipwright fit out. She competed in the 2023 Rolex Sydney Hobart but retired due to crew illness. She spent many years sailing on Port Phillip Bay in Victoria and following a change of owner in 2020 to Robert Griffiths, she underwent an extensive maintenance and updating program prior to sailing north to her new home on Lake Macquarie. Griffiths returns to the race to give it another go.



MIN RIVER

SAIL NO: AUS888
LOA: 10.3m
CLASS: IRC/Double Handed
DESIGNER: Jacques Valer (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2023
TYPE: JPK 10.30
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: Jiang Lin
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Jiang Lin (3) - Skipper, Francois Guiffant - Skipper
 Launched in 2023, Jiang Lin purchased her JPK 10.30 brand new and campaigned it briefly throughout Europe before bringing her out to Sydney to compete in Lin's third Hobart. Jiang Lin has been competing in the CYCA Blue Water Pointscore with a best result of first in IRC Division 3 and second in the Double Handed division of the 2024 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race. Lin placed third in the DH division of the Bird Island Race in November.

This Francois 'Fanch' Guiffant, a professional French solo sailor and navigator, who has raced in the Transat CIC, Transat Jacques Vabre, Route du Rhum and Rolex Fastnet Race among others, will co-skipper Min River.

MINNIE

SAIL NO: 424
LOA: 12.9m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Don Jones (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2001
TYPE: Jones 42
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 6
OWNER: Michael Bell
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Michael Bell (15) - Skipper, Oliver Bell (4) - Navigator, Adam Allaway (1), Brad Anson (21), Matthew Bell (1), James Farquharson (4), Adrian Harmsworth (4), Alex Knight (1).

Michael 'Zappa' Bell is back for his 16th Sydney Hobart on his Jones 42, renamed Minnie for his late mother. Bell sailed Minnie fully crewed last year to 67th, after competing with his son Oli in the Double Handed division in 2022. The pair was second fastest two hander over the line in 36th place and finished 53rd overall and ninth in the T/H division. Bell is sailing fully crewed this year with both sons, Oli and Matt aboard. Brad Anson, with 20 Hobarts to his credit, will be a good hand to have aboard this yacht which was previously known as *Cadibarra 8*.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**MISTRAL****SAIL NO:** 1**LOA:** 10.5m**CLASS:** IRC/Double Handed**DESIGNER:** Marc Lombard (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2018**TYPE:** Lombard 34**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** Rupert Henry**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** Rupert Henry (8) - Skipper, Corentin Douguet - Skipper

This year Rupert Henry will race with professional French sailor, Corentin Douguet, winner of the 2022 Class 40 Championship among other highlights. Since purchasing the yacht in early 2021, Henry has successfully campaigned this Lombard 34, *Mistral*. In last year's Sydney Hobart, Henry and co-skipper Jack Boutell placed an impressive sixth overall, finishing first in Division 4 and winning the Double Handed division, successfully defending his win of 2022. In 2024, *Mistral*, sailed by Henry and Greg O'Shea, took second place in the 2024 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Race and won the Double Handed division.

**MONDO****SAIL NO:** 5656**LOA:** 11.7m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2003**TYPE:** Sydney 38**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 6**OWNER:** Lisa Callaghan and Stephen Teudt**CLUB:** Manly Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** Lisa Callaghan (2) - Skipper, Arisa Moriya - Navigator, Alison Burke, Peter Jenkins (4), Emma May (7), Belinda Parkes, Catherin Thornton-Rofe.

Lisa Callaghan took *Mondo* to 25th overall in her second Sydney Hobart last year, making up for the disappointment of retiring from her first race the previous year with a broken goose neck. In 2018, Callaghan and two partners bought *Mondo* and they have since competed mainly in Sydney 38 Championship events on the east coast of Australia. *Mondo* is also contesting the CYCA ACSBWPS, placing 18th in the Sydney Gold Coast, and eighth in the Tollgate Islands races respectively.

**MWF KAYLE****SAIL NO:** 7878**LOA:** 16.2m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** David Lyons (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2000**TYPE:** Lyons 54**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 13**OWNER:** Making Waves Foundation**SKIPPER:** John Whitfeld**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club

of Australia, NSW

CREW: John Whitfeld (29) - Skipper, Annie Lawrence (18) - Navigator,

Owned by the Making Waves Foundation, MWF Kayle is a custom-built Lyons 54 ocean racing yacht designed to be accessible for everyone and is the primary delivery training vessel for the Foundation's program. The Foundation is made up of a team of dedicated volunteers who are passionate about sailing and committed to supporting and encouraging participants to realise their potential.

NAVY ONE**SAIL NO:** 0404**LOA:** 12.2m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (NZ)**YEAR BUILT:** 2011**TYPE:** Beneteau First 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 6**OWNER:** Royal Australian Navy**CLUB:** RANSA, NSW**CREW:** Nathan Lockhart

(3) - Skipper, Mark Butler (7) - Skipper/Navigator, Jack Barber (3), Emma Cook (1), Grace Corboy-Stevens (2), Tahni Gordon, Donald Graham (11), Nick Greenhill (3), Lachlan Hannan, Kate Millward (1).

Navy One placed 51st overall and won the Oggin Cup as the only Armed Forces entry last year. The Beneteau First 40, based out of Sydney, retired with broken boom on the third day of the race in 2022. The boat is owned and used by the RAN for Sail and Adventure training, sailed solely by serving Navy personnel. She regularly sails and races as part of the Navy's sporting program for recreation and building resilience. This will be a fourth Hobart for the Navy on this boat.



BOAT NOTES



NO LIMIT

SAIL NO: AUS 98888
LOA: 19.2m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Reichel/Pugh (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2008
TYPE: Reichel/Pugh 63
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 8
OWNER: David Gotze
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW
CREW: David Gotze (12)

- Skipper, Steve Kemp (24) - Navigator, David Allen (11), Julian Freeman (34), Lucas Geddes (3), Charlie Goodfellow (2), Rowan Leaper (20), Duncan Macleod (26), Maike Muth (7), Nicolas Partridge (24), Stefan Treurniet (10), Ian Walker (35).

David Gotze's RP62 *No Limit* is an all-round boat, closely resembling the 2011 Hobart winner, *Loki*. With 12 Sydney Hobart races under his belt, Gotze's best Sydney Hobart result was fourth in IRC Division 0 in 2022. In his program are the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore, Australian Maxi Championship, including the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge, where *No Limit* secured third place in the Mini Maxi Division in 2023.

OCEAN CRUSADERS J-BIRD

SAIL NO: OC52
LOA: 15.8m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Alan Andrews (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2001
TYPE: TP52
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4
OWNER: Ian and Annika Thomson
CLUB: Whitsunday Sailing Club, Qld

CREW: Annika Thomson (4) - Skipper, Ian Thomson (6) - Navigator, Glenn Burrell, Xavier Doerr (3), Annie Eastgate (1), Darius Kavaliauskas, Amberley Middleton (1), Phoebe Reedman (2), Leo Rodriguez (5), Milan Stanish (1), Laura Thomson, Jason Thorne (4), Bram Van Spengen (1), Casper White (TBA).

Ocean Crusaders J-Bird placed 24th overall for fourth in Division 1 last year. Annika Thomson skippered the boat to win the Jane Tate Memorial trophy for a second time running, awarded to the first female skipper to finish the race. The previous year, the yacht was sailed two-handed by the couple, who were the fastest two-hander over the line.

Ian Thomson found J-Bird III rotting and spent three years restoring it and converting it to an electric drive powered purely off renewable energy. The Thomsons won the Sustainability Award at the 2023 Australian Sailing Awards for their endeavours.



ODIN

SAIL NO: AUS53
LOA: 17.1m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNERS: Roberto Biscontini/Lorenzo Argento (ITALY)
YEAR BUILT: 2020
TYPE: Beneteau First 53
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Matthew Hanning
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Matthew Hanning - Skipper, Andrew Forbes (11) - Navigator, Peter Austin, Mark Beardow, Garth Bickford (3), Peter Carpenter (3), John Hector Crawford (15), Antonia Sarah Crawford (2), Katie O'Mara (4), Nik Payten, Willy Roberts, Tom Sloane.

Odin is hull #12 of the reintroduced high performance cruising yachts produced by Beneteau in their First range and was delivered to Sydney in 2020. She features a 3 metre deep keel and carbon mast. Odin competed in the Sydney to Coffs Harbour race in 2021 and has done various CYCA Ocean Pointscore races. She has now been prepared for a more committed blue water racing and cruising program, though maintains her gentleman's racer and luxury orientated heritage.

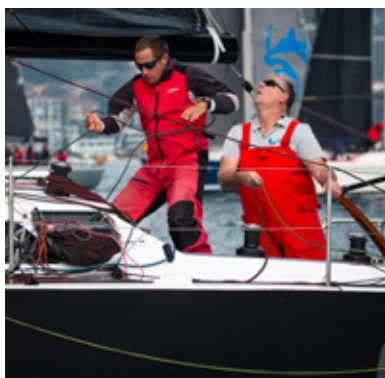
OROTON DRUMFIRE

SAIL NO: CAY6536
LOA: 24.0m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Hoek Design (NED)
YEAR BUILT: 2007
TYPE: Hoek TC78
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4
OWNER: Will Vicars
SKIPPER: Phillip Neil
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Phillip Neil (4) - Skipper, Lachie Paramor (5) - Navigator, John Alvarez (2), Matt Bridge (1), Carolijn Brouwer (3), Brandon Buyink (4), Nicholas Crabtree (2), Adam Hickey (3), Stacey Jackson (16), Katy MacDonald (2), Michael Ritchie (4), Jane Vicars (4), John Hector Vicars, Jessica Watson (3), James Whelan (8), Christopher White (4).

The stunning Orotan Drumfire, owned by Will Vicars, returns for a fourth time to the Rolex Sydney Hobart and after winning PHS overall last year. Joining the crew this year are amongst some of the best female sailors in the world, Stacey Jackson (she skippered an all-female crew on Wild Oats X to second place in the 2018 Rolex Sydney Hobart), multiple Olympian Carolijn Brouwer and single-handed round the world sailor, Jessica Watson. A Hoek design, Drumfire is named for the long-distance desert racehorse of the same name. She is immaculately prepared by skipper, Phillip Neil.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**PACMAN**

SAIL NO: 110
LOA: 11.0m
CLASS: IRC/Double Handed
DESIGNER: Jim Young (NZL)
YEAR BUILT: 1998
TYPE: Young 11
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2
OWNER: Peter Elkington
CLUB: Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Qld

CREW: Peter Elkington (15) – Skipper, Scott Cavanough (9) – Skipper

Pacman is a Young 11 owned by Peter Elkington and is based on the Gold Coast.

Retiring from last year's Hobart with runner damage was a blow to Peter Elkington and Scott Cavanough, though they went on to score third in the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast race's DH division. Pacman has had an extensive refresh including new appendages and a new rig.

PHILOSOPHER

SAIL NO: 020
LOA: 11.30m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Sydney Yachts (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2008
TYPE: Sydney 36CR
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4
OWNER: Michael Tilden
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW
CREW: Michael Tilden

(10) – Navigator, Peter Gothard (3) – Navigator, Peter Amos, Andrew Byrne (9), Michael Jackson (12), Jonathan Low (3), Grant Parkhurst (5), Duncan Sim (3).

Mick Tilden purchased Philosopher in May 2024 and has assembled an experienced team of offshore racers for the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart. Last year, sailing DH, former owner David Henry and Steve Prince retired on the Tassie coast with rig damage after placing 66th overall and 14th in the DH division in 2022. Henry retired from the 2021 Hobart, but sailing DH, he and Prince won the 2023 Sydney Gold Coast yacht race overall in the DH division.

For Tilden's part, Hobarts include crewing on St Jude in 2010, Illusion in 2011, Papillon from 2012 to 2015 and 2018, Zara in 2021 and Patrice Six in 2022.

**PORCO ROSSO**

SAIL NO: 5299
LOA: 15.2m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2006
TYPE: Cookson 50
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 14
OWNER: Paul McCartney
CLUB: Derwent Sailing Squadron/Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Tas

CREW: Paul McCartney – Skipper, Murray Spence – Navigator, Will Armstrong, Rowan Clark, Darren Jones (19), Jack McCullum (7), Oliver Nicholas (4), Will Sargent, Alastair Sayers (4), Sam Tiedemann, Luke Watkins (4).

Porco Rosso won the 2013 Rolex Sydney Hobart as Victoire for Darryl Hodgkinson. Now owned by Tasmanian, Paul McCartney – the yachtsman not the Beatles front man! This canting keeled Cookson 50 has a very good Sydney Hobart history for previous owners and under different names. In 2010, British owner Chris Bull sailed the yacht he called 'Jazz' to second overall in 2010 and then fourth overall and first in IRC Division 0 in 2011. Previously, Ray Roberts named her Evolution Racing and won the Sydney Gold Coast Race, then renamed her Quantum Racing and placed third in the 2007 Rolex Sydney Hobart.

POULPITO

SAIL NO: FRA6900
LOA: 11.8m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2002
TYPE: Sydney 38
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: David Treguier
CLUB: Cercle Nautique Calédonien, New Caledonia

This will be Poulpito

and her owner David Treguier's second Sydney Hobart, competing for the first time in 2022 when they finished 69th overall and third in the Sydney 38 Division. Poulpito finished third overall in the 2022 Groupama Around New Caledonia Race. She is the former X Cubed and arriving in New Caledonia in 2011, won two Groupama Races with her previous owner. Treguier and his wife Mathilde bought her in 2019 and refitted her.



BOAT NOTES



PRETTY WOMAN

SAIL NO: 545
LOA: 13.80m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 1996
TYPE: Farr 45
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 5
OWNER: Richard Hudson
CLUB: Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, NSW
CREW: Richard Hudson

(14) - Skipper, Bob Buchanan (13) - Navigator, Liam Bennett (4), Juliet Costanzo (2), Matthew Gerethy (4), Jemma Hodgson (2), Steve Howe (2), Sarah Parker (2), Alistair Read (2), Anneliese Scholten (2), Jarrah Sheppard (1), Georgia Tuckey (2).

Pretty Woman is a modified Farr45 owned by Richard Hudson and many of the crew are graduates of the RPYC Youth Development program. Pretty Woman placed 15th overall for second in Division 2 in last year's Sydney Hobart and won the IRC Corinthian division, a credit to the team. In the 2022 race, Hudson and crew placed 28th and second in Corinthian IRC after their 14th for third in Division 2 in 2021. In July this year, Pretty Woman placed second in Division 1 of the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race. Hudson continues to blend the experience with younger sailors, allowing them to develop their offshore skills.



QUETZALCOATL

SAIL NO: 2001
LOA: 12.3m
CLASS: PHS
DESIGNER: Don Jones (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2001
TYPE: Jones 40
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 8
OWNER: Anthony Bruce/James Lee-Warner/Antony Sweetapple
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club

of Australia, NSW

CREW: Antony Sweetapple (13) - Skipper, Mark Ayto (9) - Navigator, Mark Bayles (3), Anthony Bruce (9), Richard Hincks (4), Alexia Lancaster (2), James Lee-Warner (10), Nick Rock (3), David Ulm (6).

Quetzalcoatl has been missing from the race, last appearing in 2019, she placed fifth in PHS overall for third in PHS Division 2 for Anto Sweetapple, Anthony Bruce and James Lee-Warner. However, the Jones 40 is well-known to the race and placed PHS ninth in 2018 after second overall in PHS for second in Division 2 in 2016. She was second in PHS and third in the Corinthian division in 2014 and won PHS in 2011 - a special year with PHS victories also in the Sydney Newcastle and Gosford Lord Howe Island races. This Australian designed Jones 40 is distinctive because of her name and bright yellow décor. Beautifully built of King Billy pine, she and her owners continue to deliver.

QUANTOCK

SAIL NO: 1195
LOA: 13.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Greg Elliott (NZL)
YEAR BUILT: 1994
TYPE: Elliott 13 Mod
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 11
OWNER: David and Alison Hobbs
CLUB: Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: David Hobbs (2) - Skipper, Matt Smith (3) - Navigator, Peter Farrugia (3), Adam Favalaro (3), Alison Hobbs (1), Alastair Hunter (3), Tomi Kallio (1), Saxon McGregor (2), Skye Paton (3), Stephen Rich (14).

David Hobbs mainly races Quantock in club races at Pittwater, but she also did the 2022 Hobart and the 2024 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race. This modified Elliott 13 is the former Valheru which raced out of Hobart and contested ten Sydney Hobarts between 1995 and 2010. Her best result with then owner, Anthony Lyall, was 10th under IRC in 2001.



RAGTIME

SAIL NO: RQ130
LOA: 13.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Rod Johnstone (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 1994
TYPE: J/130
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: Steve Watson
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW
CREW: Steve Watson (1) - Skipper, Christian Holle (1) - Navigator, Anna-Leigh Barker (1), Matt Harrison, Lance Maizey (7), Paddy Manning (1), Nicole Sawick (1), Sophia Ugarte.

Ragtime is a J/130 launched in 1994. This will be her second Sydney Hobart after two late withdrawals in 1994 and 2021. She made it in time for the race last year and claimed PHS Corinthian honours. The team has been racing in the CYCA events this year in preparation for this year's race and won Division 2 in November's Bird Island Race.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://www.rolexsydneyhobart.com)**ROARING FORTY****SAIL NO:** 7204**LOA:** 12.2m**CLASS:** IRC/Double Handed**DESIGNER:** Lutra Yacht Design (NED)**YEAR BUILT:** 1997**TYPE:** Lutra Boc Open 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Kevin Le Poidevin**CLUB:** Port Stephens Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** Kevin Le Poidevin (2) – Skipper, Darrell Greig (2) – Skipper

Roaring Forty is a one-off Open 40 sailed by a pair of Air Force blokes. Kevin Le Poidevin and Darrell Greig competed in the 2007 Rolex Middle Sea Race together and finished second in IRC overall and third in line honours. Le Poidevin, who owns this boat, also competed in the 2008-09 Global Ocean Race where he came first in the Solo division. In the 2023-24 Global Solo Challenge Le Poidevin retired in Hobart after sailing 13000 nautical miles non-stop and unassisted.

RUM REBELLION**SAIL NO:** 1808**LOA:** 9.9m**CLASS:** IRC/Double Handed**DESIGNER:** Alan Johnstone (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2021**TYPE:** J/99**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** Shane Connelly**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** Shane Connelly (6) – Skipper, Tony Sutton (6) – Skipper

Shane Connelly's J/99 Rum Rebellion Rum Rebellion retired first night around 7pm last year, when Shane Connelly fell overboard and sustained a minor injury. The year prior, he and Tony Sutton placed 68th overall and 15th in the Two-Handed division after placing fifth in the inaugural Two-Handed division in 2021. They Placed fourth overall in the 2023 Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race and fourth in IRC Division 3 and sixth in the Two-Handed Division of the 2024 Sydney Gold Coast race, fourth in the DH division of September's Flinders Islet Race and third in the T/H division of the Tollgate Islands Race.

**RUMCHASER****SAIL NO:** 0122**LOA:** 12.2m**CLASS:** PHS/Double Handed**DESIGNER:** Alan Johnstone (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2016**TYPE:** J/122e**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Andrew Buttler**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** Andrew Butler (2) – Skipper, Peter Just – Skipper

In her one and only Hobart in 2022, Rumchaser placed 75th overall and 16th in Two-Handed division, owner Andrew Butler co-skippered by Lee Antill. Butler normally sails the J/122e double-handed and in he has partnered with Peter Just. Butler previously campaigned the Farr 40, iQKomodo in major races and scored 27th in the 2015 Rolex Sydney Hobart.

SAILOR MOON**SAIL NO:** 6232**LOA:** 11.2m**CLASS:** PHS/Double Handed**DESIGNER:** Scott Jutson (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2002**TYPE:** Northshore 370**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Christopher Canty**CLUB:** Royal Motor Yacht Club Newport, NSW**CREW:** Chris Canty (1) – Skipper, Shona Forsyth – Skipper

This will be Sailor Moon's first Hobart, having previously competed in classic regattas on the east coast of Australia, such as Hamilton Island Race Week. Owner, Chris Canty, is racing his Northshore 37 south double handed with Shona Forsyth. Sailor Moon competed in the 2024 Tollgate Islands and Bird Island Races, retiring from the latter due to rudder damage. This boat is best known as Rumba when sailed in Sydney by a syndicate. Canty purchased the yacht and renamed her Sailor Moon. She replaces his yacht Galaxy III.



BOAT NOTES



SALT LINES

SAIL NO: GBR5672L

LOA: 21.0m

CLASS: PHS

DESIGNER: Laurent Giles (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 1990

TYPE: Shipwright 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2

OWNER: Matthew Harvey
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Murray Stewart (4)

- Skipper, Rick Stern (4) - Navigator, John Cook (1), Samuel Estoppey, Adam Head, Jess Hix (1), Trevor Howard, Steve Kane, Barry Meredith, Andrew Poperechny, Ken Thomas, James Toole, Lara Tyler, Jacqui Webb, Michael Westen (2). Matthew Harvey and crew will have a more comfortable ride to Hobart than most on this attractive Shipwright 70. She is steel-hulled, 30-ton ketch and was built for the Ocean Youth Trust. Making her Hobart debut in 2022, she finished 11th in PHS, then retired from the 2023 race with sail damage.

SILVER FERN

SAIL NO: NZL6702

LOA: 21.3m

CLASS: PHS

DESIGNER: Beau Birdsall/
Brett Bakewell-White (NZL)

YEAR BUILT: 1981

TYPE: Birdsall 72

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2

OWNER: David Hows

CLUB: Southport Yacht Club, Qld

CREW: John Champers - Skipper, Lena Wilderang (3) - Navigator, Chris Bower, Matthew Clegg, Craig Davidson, Andrew Dunn, Ross Glare, Helen Hayward, Chris Hayward, Rob Holdsworth, Jonathan Jackson, David Von Felten, Michael Von Felten, Robert Wilson, Iain Wright. David Hows has done two Hobarts with Silver Fern, finishing 14th in PHS last year after placing PHS 16th in her maiden Hobart in 2022. Hows did two Sydney Hobarts with his former yacht, Ocean Gem, before buying Silver Fern, a robust 30-ton steel yacht. She was originally built as a Birdsall 60 in 1981, before being redesigned by Brett Bakewell-White and was extended to 72 ft feet and relaunched in 2004. She spent 2005-2016 circumnavigating the globe, visiting over 70 countries. Buying the yacht in 2020, Hows is prepared for her next chapter as a comfortable but competitive and strong ocean racing and expedition yacht. Similar to Salt Lines in many respects, the two will likely keep each other company throughout the race.



SIRENE

SAIL NO: F45

LOA: 13.8m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Jacques Valer (FRA)

YEAR BUILT: 2021

TYPE: JPK 45

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Bill Henson

CLUB: Fremantle Sailing Club, WA

CREW: Bill Henson -

Skipper, Alexander Sait - Navigator, Maire Connolly (2), Tim Cross, Hanna Cydejko, Iwona Cydejko, Todd Giraudo (4), David McDonald.

This year marks Bill Henson's first Sydney Hobart and also Sirene's. Henson ordered the yacht from JPK in Lorient, France, with the intention of sailing it back to Australia. Following the 15,000-nautical-mile delivery to Western Australia, Sirene is now ready for the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Designed as a cruiser/acer, Sirene underwent her first major test in the 2021 Rolex Middle Sea Race, taken it on her journey to Australia, where Henson, a past Commodore of Fremantle Sailing Club, gained valuable experience with his new yacht.

SMUGGLER

SAIL NO: 6952

LOA: 15.9m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Judel/Vrolijk (GER)

YEAR BUILT: 2007

TYPE: TP52

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 12

OWNER: Sebastian Bohm

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Sebastian Bohm (9)

- Skipper, David Van Der Wende (10) - Navigator, Nicholas Armstrong (9), Timothy Davis (16), Brad Dodds (3), Will Howard (18), Steve McConaghy (23), Tony McRae (11), Harry Miller (1), Jake Newman (14), Robert Palazzi (5), Morgan White (9), Tom Wormald (3).

Seb Bohm's TP52 *Smuggler* is among the favourite contenders for the overall trophy in the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. In the 2023 race, she finished 11th overall to win Division 1. Smuggler currently leads the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore after placing fourth overall for divisional second in the Sydney Gold Coast race, won September's Flinders Islet Race and was third in both the Tollgate Islands and Bird Island races. The Sydney Hobart is the final race of the series and will decide the outcome. Bohm is committed to leaving no stone unturned in preparation for this year's race, including crew selection which includes noted tactician, Steve McConaghy and navigator, David Van Der Wende, both of whom were aboard last year.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://www.rolexsydneyhobart.com)**SOLACE**

SAIL NO: RQ447
LOA: 13.3m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2006
TYPE: Beneteau First 44.7
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Paul Pincus
CLUB: Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Qld
CREW: Paul Pincus -

Skipper, Timothy Sullivan - Navigator, Daniel Bradford, William Donnelly, Campbell Geeves (14), Tom Keeley, John Tuffley.

First Hobart for Solace and her owner. The boat was built for the American market and spent 10 years in the British Virgin Islands in a sailing school. It was then sailed to Western Australia and raced there for three years as French Kiss V. Paul Pincus and some of his Hobart crew did the 2024 Brisbane to Gladstone race together and finished 28th overall.

SUPERNOVA

SAIL NO: 6499
LOA: 11.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2005
TYPE: Sydney 36
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3
OWNER: Alex Seja and Felicity Nelson
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Alex Seja (21) - Skipper, Felicity Nelson (27) - Skipper, Duncan McRae (21) - Navigator, Arthur Bramwell, Michael Doherty (21), William King (3), Federico Momigliano (2).

Supernova was a bright light around Sydney Harbour for over 10 years when Alex Seja and Felicity Nelson made their move from racing on other people's yachts and bought the Sydney 36 to make their own mark on the race. They placed fifth in Division 4 in 2023. They were 49th overall in 2022 after buying the yacht prior to the 2021. That same year they finished 13th overall and fourth in Division 4, with Nelson also winning the Jane Tate Memorial Trophy as the first female skipper to finish. It was a fitting way to mark her 25th Hobart - she was only the second female in the history of the race to make the '25 Hobarts' board behind Adrienne Cahalan.

**TENACITY**

SAIL NO: 2208
LOA: 12.5m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Mark Mills (IRE)
YEAR BUILT: 2008
TYPE: Mills 41
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: John Lawrie
CLUB: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Tas
CREW: John Lawrie (1) - Skipper, Cameron Lynch (1)

- Navigator, Tim Behrens (1), Adam Goode (13), Tony Kirby (38), John Lawrie (2), Malo Leseigneur (2), Thomas Males (1), Scott Steedman (1), Timothy Vincent.

Another Tasmanian entry, Tenacity, was recently purchased from Malaysia and previously sailed as Ambush and Meraki. The Mills 41 is now owned by John Lawrie who contested the Sydney Hobart last year and finished 44th overall, while raising money for the Kids Cancer Project in Sydney and in Hobart, courtesy of crew member, Tony Kirby, who is aboard again this year for his 39th Sydney Hobart. Lawrie has enjoyed recent success with Tenacity, finishing third in Hobart's Crown Series. Watch out for the Cancer Kids' teddy bears aboard Tenacity at the CYCA dock in Sydney and at the other end of the race in Hobart - and feel free to donate to this worthy cause, one of many in this year's race.

THE GOAT

SAIL NO: 7027
LOA: 11.8m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2003
TYPE: Sydney 38
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 6
OWNER: Mitchell Gordon
CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW
CREW: Mitchell Gordon

(20) - Skipper, Jamie Neill (3) - Navigator, Matthew Clark, Troy Grafton (21), Daniel Hawkins (9), James Judd (9), Ewa Lindelof, Bradley Madders (4), Sam Price (17), Peter Tarimo (16).

Mitch Gordon last raced The Goat south in 2019, when it placed 24th overall to win the Sydney 38 Division, placed fourth in IRC Division 5 and third in the IRC Corinthian division. In 2014, she was 10th overall, after placing 24th in 2011 and winning the 2011 Sydney 38 Nationals. Before that, the yacht won the 2008 Sydney Gold Coast race and under the name The Subzero Goat, finished the 2008 Hobart 41st.



BOAT NOTES



THE SHEPHERD CENTRES - PEREGRINE

SAIL NO: 154
LOA: 11.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 1999
TYPE: Sydney 36S
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Hugh Torode
CLUB: Royal Sydney Yacht

Squadron, NSW

CREW: Hugh Torode (4) - Skipper, Stuart Milburn - Navigator, Riley Evans (1), Kym Evans (1), Mitch Evans (1), Jeffery Hughes, Hugo Molinari, David Sharp (16).

Hugh Torode and Jeff Hughes have renamed the former Peregrine 'The Shepherd Centres Peregrine'. This is to raise awareness and funds for the Shepherd Centres, a school teaching hearing impaired children between zero and five to use what little hearing they have to learn to speak. This is the fourth time Torode will race to Hobart with 'The Shepherd Centres' name. The doctor last went south on his previous yacht, a Beneteau 40.7 known multifariously as Pelagic Magic and Shepherd Centre. Donations can be made at: shepherdcentre.org.au



TOECUTTER

SAIL NO: R1111
LOA: 10.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Robert Hick (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 2023
TYPE: Hick 10
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: Rober Hick/Brad Bult
CLUB: Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, Vic

CREW: Robert Hick (18), Skipper, Kelly Kavanagh (1) - Navigator, Bradley Bult (12), Paul Cannon (5), John Dusting (4).

Robert Hick and Brad Bult launched this latest yacht, Toecutter, a Hick 10, in October 2023 and made their debut in the Melbourne to Davenport Yacht Race. They competed in the Rolex Sydney Hobart the same year and placed 28th overall for fourth in Division 4. The yacht was designed and built by Hick who is aboard again. Having sailed the yacht for a year now, should the weather favour the smaller end of the fleet, Toecutter should be among the front runners.

TILTING AT WINDMILLS

SAIL NO: SM117
LOA: 12.8m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Peter Joubert (AUS)
YEAR BUILT: 1994
TYPE: Joubert Modified 42
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 9
OWNER: Sarah Gunnersen Dempsey
CLUB: Port Cygnet Sailing Club, Tas

CREW: John Alexander (7) - Skipper, Chris Rebbechi (3) - Navigator, Tom Davidson, Luke Finley, Juha Havukainen (4), Craig Leto, Alvaro Maz (4), Jennifer Ramsdale, Andrew Roberts (6).

John Alexander skippered Tilting at Windmills to 69th overall last year and is in the skipper role again this time. The modified Joubert 42 had been raced and cruised extensively by Thorry Gunnersen (who passed away in 2018), and his daughter Sarah Gunnersen-Dempsey. Windmills' history includes eight Sydney Hobarts, Melbourne-Hobarts, the Fastnet, Groupama and Middle Sea races.



TOUCAN

SAIL NO: 3322
LOA: 10.0m
CLASS: IRC/Double Handed
DESIGNER: Andrieu Yacht Design (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2023
TYPE: Jeanneau Sun Fast 3300
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0
OWNER: Edward Curry-Hyde

CLUB: Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club/Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Edward Curry-Hyde - Skipper, Scott Robertson - Skipper

Toucan is a Jeanneau Sun Fast 3300 launched in December 2023 and is based in Pittwater where she is readying for her first Sydney Hobart. The 2024/25 season will be Curry-Hyde's first, racing out of RPAYC and CYCA. Toucan has been purposely set up for Double Handed racing by her owner/skipper Curry-Hyde. Toucan represents a return to offshore racing for her owner, after many years sailing skiffs and Lasers. Curry-Hyde and Robertson, both Sydney Hobart novices, opened their double handed account with seventh in September's Flinders Islet Race, fourth in the Tollgate Islands Race and eighth in November's Bird Island Race.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://www.rolexsydneyhobart.com)**TRANSCENDENCE
RUDY PROJECT**

SAIL NO: AUS3300
LOA: 10.0m
CLASS: IRC/Double Handed
DESIGNER: Andrieu Yacht Design (FRA)
YEAR BUILT: 2020
TYPE: Jeanneau Sun Fast 3300
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: Martin Cross

CLUB: Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: Martin Cross (1) – Skipper, John Cross (1) – Skipper Father and son Martin and John Cross and Transcendence Rudy Project (sometimes known as Crento) did their first Sydney Hobart in 2022 and placed 50th overall and seventh in the Two-Handed division, after looking superb in the first two thirds of the race, but like others, found the dead patches. They placed sixth overall in the 2023 Pittwater to Coffs Harbour Race and third over the line and second overall in 2024 Pittwater to Coffs. Transcendence Crento is a water ballasted Sunfast 3300 designed for offshore shorthanded racing. Martin Cross bought the boat in late 2021.

**UNICOÏN**

SAIL NO: 99999
LOA: 12.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Bruce Farr & Associates (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 1992
TYPE: Farr 277
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 6
OWNER: Peter Bremner
CLUB: Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club, NSW
CREW: Peter Bremner -

Skipper

Unicoïn is the yacht previously known as Assassin that was launched as an IMS Farr 40 One-Off for Robin Crawford just in time for the 1992 Sydney Hobart. She co-won the race Overall that year under IMS with the Farr 50 Ragamuffin winning under IOR, a year when winners were announced under both rules.

New owner Peter Bremner and his sailing master, Andrew Buckland, were aboard the yacht when it won in 1992. Buckland has done a full IRC conversion on the yacht, including a new deck and layout, new carbon fibre mast and a dark grey paint job and the design is now known as a Farr 277. Sponsored by Unicoïn, a cryptocurrency company, Bremner is hoping she will be as good as she was in 1992.

TROUBLE & STRIFE

SAIL NO: 8009
LOA: 12.0m
CLASS: IRC
DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2000
TYPE: Cookson 12
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1
OWNER: Matthew Williams
CLUB: Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Qld
CREW: Matthew Williams

(12) – Skipper, Adrian Smith (1) - Navigator, David Austin (4), Victoria Bauer, Gerard Everaarts, Ben Green (10), Jessica Greenwood (1), Brigitte Janse van Rensburg, Benjamin Mann (6), Melanie Peasey (1).

Matthew Williams' Trouble & Strife is a Farr designed Cookson 12 built in New Zealand in 2000. She is the sistership to the former Sail Exchange, now racing as Kanreki. Trouble & Strife is crewed by an enthusiastic mix of youth and experience and has competed in a range of inshore and offshore events including Brisbane to Gladstone; Brisbane to Keppel and the Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht Race. Her best offshore result so far has been first in IRC and ORCi in the 2022 Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht Race. Her only Sydney Hobart was 2022 when Williams sailed her to 55th overall.

**URM GROUP**

SAIL NO: AUS72
LOA: 22.0m
DESIGNER: Reichel/Pugh (USA)
YEAR BUILT: 2008
TYPE: Reiche/Pugh 72
NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 7
OWNER: Anthony Johnston and David Johnston
SKIPPER: Marcus Ashley-Jones

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Marcus Ashley-Jones (19) - Skipper, Alice Parker (4) - Navigator, Paddy Bannon (9), James Corrie (11), Peter Harris (7), Anthony Johnston (5), David Johnston (4), Nick Johnston (4), Andrew Johnston (2), William Mackenzie (6), Philip Marshall (6), Josh McKnight (2), Anthony Merrington (19), Justin Mulkearns (10), Silas Nolan (21), Dick Parker (7), Timothy Sellars (16), Grant Simmer (18), Jason Waterhouse (2), Stewart Wells (8), Bill Young.

Anthony and David Johnston's *URM Group* returns as a strong contender for the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, having narrowly missed out on victory to *Alive* in last year's race. The Reichel/Pugh 72 and her crew have, in 2024, taken Line Honours in the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast, Flinders Islet and Bird Islands races, finishing second overall in latter race to be third in Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore (ACBWPS).

URM Group won last year's ACBWPS after taking overall honours in the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, Bird Island Race and Flinders Islet Race and second overall in the 2023 Sydney Hobart, the last race of the series. The solid crew this year includes navigator, Alice Parker, along with Jason Waterhouse and Grant Simmer.



BOAT NOTES



VERITE

SAIL NO: 4411

LOA: 9.90m

CLASS: IRC/Double Handed

DESIGNER: Alan Johnstone (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 2021

TYPE: J/99

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1

OWNER: Paul Beath

CLUB: Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: Paul Beath (1) - Skipper, Teresa Michell (3) - Skipper
In their maiden Hobart, Paul Beath and then co-skipper, Richard Hooper, raced in the Two-Handed division and finished 60th overall. This time around, Beath has the experienced Teresa Michell as co-skipper, who helped him to 27th overall and ninth DH in the 2024 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race.

VOLTSTAR YEAH BABY

SAIL NO: 112

LOA: 12.0m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Marc Lombard (FRA)

YEAR BUILT: 2011

TYPE: Akilaria RC2

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3

OWNER: Louis and Marc Ryckmans

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Louis Ryckmans (11) - Skipper, Marc Ryckmans (11) - Navigator, Ola Andersen (8), Adam Barnes (23), Finn Kribbe, Stan Schouten (1), Ben Sinton (9).

Twins Louis and Marc Ryckmans were thrilled to win the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race this year with *Volstar Yeah Baby*. "It took us 20 years to win a major race," Louis said. The Ryckmans' posted 56th overall in the 2023 Rolex Sydney Hobart and placed ninth in September's Flinders Islet Race. The brothers returned to the Hobart race in 2022 with this Akilaria RC2, that was known as Sidewinder when it took PHS two-handed line honours sailed by Tasmanians Rob Gough/John Saul in the 2021 race. The Ryckmans retired this yacht from the 2022 Hobart after hitting a sunfish on the first afternoon.



WHISPER

SAIL NO: AUS13

LOA: 18.9m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Judel/Vrolijk (GER)

YEAR BUILT: 2009

TYPE: JV62

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 6

OWNER: David Griffith

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: David Griffith

(11) - Skipper, Clare Costanzo (3) - Navigator, Nicholas Beaudoin (15), Justin Clougher (15), Davin Conigrave (12), Andrew Cribb (15), Tom Fountain (1), James Hodgson (1), Sam Hunt (29), Douglas McGain (17), Ian McKillop (6), Peter Merrington (26), Shaun Moran, Anthony Nossiter (23), George Richardson (2), Bouwe Van der Weiden (1), David Ward (22).

Owned by CYCA Director David Griffith, *Whisper* is a JV62 that he sailed to sixth over the line and 48th overall in the 2023 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Griffith is enjoying an excellent season, currently second overall in the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore, finishing second over the line in the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race for sixth overall, third in the Flinders Islet Race, second in the Tollgate Islands Race and fourth in the Bird Island Race. Griffith, a past 18 footers skiff champion, also took line honours and broke the race record in the 2020 Adelaide to Port Lincoln Race - that record still holds. *Whisper* also holds the race record for the CYCA's Montague Island Race, which has been discontinued.

WHITE NOISE

SAIL NO: SM1245

LOA: 12.5m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Mark Mills (IRE)

YEAR BUILT: 2019

TYPE: M.A.T. 1245

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4

OWNER: Daniel Edwards

CLUB: Sandringham Yacht Club, Vic

CREW: Daniel Edwards (4)

- Skipper, John Neville (4)

- Navigator, Blake Anderson (12), Jordan Commings (4), Ian Davis (28), David Ellis, Tom Hogan (4), David Richards (7), William Sheers (4).

Daniel Edwards finally got the result he was hoping for in last year's race, *White Noise* placing 16th overall for third in Division 3, after having to retire from the past two Sydney Hobarts. The M.A.T 1245 should be among the contenders for a divisional win this time. Edwards has enjoyed success with this M.A.T. 1245 since launching in 2019, including blitzing the field in the ORCVs 49th King Island Race in 2021. With his previous *White Noise*, a Beneteau, the Melbourne yachtsman was crowned Ocean Racing Club of Victoria's Offshore Champion for 2016-2017.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [ROLEXSYDNEYHOBART.COM](https://rolexsydneyhobart.com)**WILD OATS****SAIL NO:** 4343**LOA:** 13.1m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Bruce Farr & Associates (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1985**TYPE:** Farr 43**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 20**OWNER:** Gordon Smith/Syndicate**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Gordon Smith (9) - Skipper, Stuart Byrne (8) - Navigator, Gary Dent, Georgina Kernohan, Stephen Lipman (8), Kate Lynch (3), Chris Paterson, Nick Potter (2), Adam Watson, Catherine Wood.

Another well-known competitor, this Farr 43 won the Tattersall Trophy as Wild Rose under previous owner, the late Roger Hickman, in the 70th Sydney Hobart Yacht Race in 2014. She first won as Wild Rose.

Gordon Smith purchased Wild Oats in 2020 as an equal shareholder in a new syndicate and continues to campaign the yacht, but under PHS. Wild Oats' PHS finishes in the Sydney Hobart include sixth overall for second in Division 2 last year, 26th in 2021 and fourth in 2019.

WILD THING 100**SAIL NO:** AUS100**LOA:** 30.0m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Botin Partners (ESP)/Brett Ellis (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2023**TYPE:** 100 footer**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Grant Wharington and Adrian Seiffert**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Grant Wharington (30) - Skipper, David Turton (11) - Navigator, Todd Anderson (8), Peter Cosman (19), Carl Crafoord (37), Ben Crafoord, Brian Donovan (12), Richard Gilbert, Rodney Keenan (19), Patrick Lambourne (1), Rhyce Layton (2), Joe O'Keeffe (4), Matthew Pearce (23), Adrian Seiffert (3), Curtis Skinner (12), Theodore Somssich (2), Alexander Watson (2), Georgia Wharington (1), Oliver Wharington (3).

Wild Thing 100 made its debut as a 100 footer in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, having been delivered straight from the Gold Coast to Sydney with a few finishing touches still being added on the way. Formerly an 80 footer, she retained her old rig and Grant Wharington sailed her to sixth across the line. *Wild Thing 100* took Line Honours in the inaugural GCCM Gold Coast Mackay Yacht Race this year. While she still has her old mast in place, Wharington has plans to replace it with a full rig in February in time for the Brisbane to Gladstone and Transpac races.

**WINGS****SAIL NO:** 07**LOA:** 14.0m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Judel/Vrolijk (GER)**YEAR BUILT:** 2017**TYPE:** Dehler 46**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 4**OWNER:** Ian Edwards**CLUB:** Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** Ian Edwards (4)

- Skipper, Janease Graham (3) - Navigator, Elyse Guevara (3) - Navigator, Helen Buckland (7), Ben Gray (3), Frederic Hemming (2), Mark Holzberger (1), Piergiorgio Merli (5), James Nixon (29), Sunny Singh (3), James Whittle (8).

Ian Edwards and *Wings* are coming up for Hobart number 5. Last year, the Dehler 46 placed 45th overall. In 2022, it was 19th overall for third in Division 3 after placing 53rd in 2019 and 47th in 2018. "*Wings* is a very comfortable fast cruising boat that we also take racing," says Edwards, who did the 2023 LA to Hawaii Transpac Race and return passage across the Pacific. *Wings* has also competed in multiple Sydney Noumea, Groupama, Sydney Gold Coast, Brisbane Hamilton Island and other blue water races, notching up 40,000nm since launch.

WOTS NEXT**SAIL NO:** 6559**LOA:** 14.2m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2005**TYPE:** Sydney 47**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 6**OWNER:** Charles Cupit**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** Charles Cupit (3) -

Skipper, Lincoln Brown, Hamish Campbell 1 (1), Shaun James (5), Richard Lock (2), Malin Ludwig, Courtney Macris (1), Stacey McMasters (2), Jonathan Turner (2), Glenn Wallace (6), Daniel Wood.

Wot's Next last pointed south to Hobart in 2019 when she placed 55th overall. In his second Sydney Hobart with Wots Next, in 2018, Charles Cupit finished 59th. The Sydney yachtsman purchased the Sydney 47 in 2016, returning to Sydney from Tasmania, and retired from the 2016 Hobart with damage. As Wot's Next, the boat did the Hobart in 2007 when owned by Graeme Wood.



BOAT NOTES



XANTHUS

SAIL NO: 2527

LOA: 16.7m

CLASS: PHS

DESIGNER: Niels Jeppesen (DEN)

YEAR BUILT: 2010

TYPE: X-55

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Matthew Fifield

SKIPPER: Benjamin Roulant

CLUB: Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, NSW

CREW: Benjamin Roulant (2) - Skipper, Noah Hastings - Navigator, Jeffrey Brown, Oscar Brownbill, Enrique Daz, Samuel Ezra, Frerk-Malte Feller, Matthew Fifield (1), Oliver Gayner, Rory Hunter, Bert Norman (2), Andrew Slocombe (2), Kate Troup (2), Elizabeth Tucker (1), Peter Winter. Matthew Fifield is a regular in club and local races on Sydney Harbour with a former X yacht, Makara. He did the 2014 Rolex Sydney Hobart on Flying Fish Arctos - his only Hobart. Fifield has enlisted Benjamin Roulant to skipper the X-55 in this year's race. Roulant did the 2019 and 2021 Sydney Hobarts on Eve, skippering her in the latter race. The X-55, a luxury performance cruiser, is a lovely beamy yacht, described as elegant, fast and comfortable. It won European Yacht of the Year for 2006/07. If nothing else, her crew will have a comfortable ride.

XS MOMENT

SAIL NO: 11744

LOA: 13.3m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Niels Jeppesen (DEN)

YEAR BUILT: 2011

TYPE: XP44

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4

OWNER: Ray Hudson

CLUB: Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: Ray Hudson (4) -

Skipper, Chris Zonca (3) - Navigator, Luke Bartels (1), Greg Edwards (3), Luc Feremans, Brett Haywood, Fred Lieder (2), Helen Springer (1), Nathan Stanaway (2), David Walker (9), Ian Westlake (5).

Ray Hudson could teach people the value of hanging in there in a painfully slow yacht race, which is what he and the XS Moment crew did earlier this year to claim line honours in the Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race for third overall - one of just three boats to finish. This after placing 52nd overall in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart and won the 2024 Cabbage Tree Island Race in PHS. The XP44, placed 71st overall in the 2022 Hobart after a 59th in 2021. Hudson and his yacht debuted in the race in 2017 and placed 50th. Hudson continues to enjoy sailing his self-described "luxury 44 foot racer/cruiser,"



ZEUS

SAIL NO: AUS33

LOA: 16.0m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Infiniti Yachts (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2023

TYPE: Infiniti 52

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Michael Firmin

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: Michael Firming

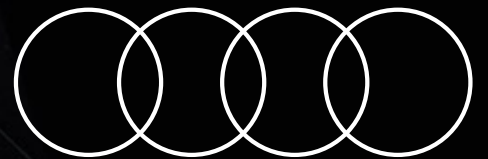
(5) - Skipper, Edward Smyth (8) - Navigator, Stu Bannatyne (15), Simon Fenwick, David Gilmour (3), Gordon Kay, Ben Lamb (7), Rhys Mara (3), Malcolm Parker (7), Lindsay Stead (10), Henry Vogel.

Built in 2023, Zeus was an entry in the 2023 race, but broke her rig beforehand so didn't get to start. The i52 was the first racing yacht to be designed, engineered and built to take full advantage of Doyle Sails' Cableless technology, to perform well at both inshore racing and coastal/offshore racing and features a striking metallic blue hull. With a solid crew, Michael Firmin debuted Zeus in the Transpac Race and placed third in Division 1. Zeus is an unknown quantity in the Rolex Sydney Hobart, but she should be a goer.



Photo: SaltyDingo.





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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Major Changes to the 2024 Rolex Sydney Hobart Notice of Race



Photo: ROLEX | Andrea Francolini

Qualifying Race or Passage

Updated guidelines have been provided for boats completing a qualifying passage. These include:

- Logging on and off with the local Marine Rescue Unit,
- Meeting the safety and crew qualification requirements of the NoR prior to completing the passage, and
- Determining a communication schedule with a shore contact for the duration of the passage.

Crew

Both fully crewed and double handed radio license requirements have been updated to require Short-Range Marine Radio Operators Certificates of Proficiency.

Changes to the IRC Rules

In accordance with a prescription by Australian Sailing, competitors in IRC may carry one more headsail as well as one more spinnaker than shown on the boat's IRC Certificate.

Changes to the IRC Rules

To encourage female and youth participation, a boat that's crew consists of a minimum of two female crew members, two youth crew members (under the age of 23 on 26 December 2024) or one female and one youth crew, may carry one additional crew member than listed on its IRC Certificate.

Additions to AS Special Regulations (Fleet Communications)

Satellite Phone will become the primary means of communication for the 2024 RSHYR. A boat will not be required to carry a HF radio. Position reports will be conducted twice daily by Satellite Phone SMS. A boat must still complete a CYCA Radio Inspection Form for VHF Radio and Satellite Phone installation.

Mandatory Reporting from Green Cape

Green Cape Reports will be conducted via Satellite Phone Voice Call to Hobart Race Control.

Additions to the Special Regulations

In accordance with the AS Amendment to the SR with regard to medical kits, a boat may choose between the existing Cat 1 medical kit or the new modular medical kit. A boat using a modular kit shall carry the Offshore Kit and at least one member of the crew must have an Advanced First Aid (or equivalent) qualification.

Measurement and Inspection

The CYCA will appoint a RSHYR Technical Committee to oversee compliance with IRC Rating Rules. Technical Committee members may review a boat's rating certificate or take relevant measurements. Protests concerning a boat's compliance with a rating or class rule must be lodged with the Sailing Office by 1700hrs on 16 December 2024. ⚓

Race Records

Open Record

2017

LDV Comanche | James Cooney & Samantha Grant

1 Day 9 Hours 15 Minutes 24 Seconds



Conventionally Ballasted Record

2022

URM Group | Anthony Johnston & David Johnston

1 Day 19 Hours 06 Minutes 48 Seconds



Photos: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi.



Race Facts

Number of Sydney Hobart races conducted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia: 78

Rolex has been Title Sponsor of the Sydney Hobart since 2002

Race Record: 1 day 9 hours 15 minutes 24 seconds, set in 2017 by *LDV Comanche* after *Wild Oats XI* was penalised one hour in a port/starboard incident

LOA Restriction: Entered yachts must be no smaller than 9.00 metres (30 ft) and no greater than 30.48 metres (100 ft) in length.

DUAL LINE HONOURS AND OVERALL WINNERS:

1945 - *Rani* (GBR)

1972 - *American Eagle* (USA)

1977 - *Kialoa* (USA)

1980 - *New Zealand* (NZ)

1987 - *Sovereign* (NSW)

2005, 2012 - *Wild Oats XI* (NSW/QLD)

Largest Fleet since 2002: In 2019, the 75th edition, there were 157 starters and 154 finishers

Most International Entries since 2002: The 2015 and 2017 races produced 27 international entries.

Tasmanian Photographer Richard Bennett has been capturing the race for over 50 years

Total number of yachts to have completed the Sydney Hobart: 6,492 yachts

Total number of yachts to have entered the Sydney Hobart (includes Retired or Disqualified competitors): 7,678 yachts

Cancelled races: The only race cancelled to-date was 2020, due to COVID-19

Record for most races by an individual: Tony Ellis holds the record of 54 races sailed by a single individual after he competed in the 2022 race on board *No Limit*.

Record for oldest sailor to compete: In 2015, legendary sailor Syd Fischer skippered *Ragamuffin 100* at 88 years of age.

Record for youngest sailor to compete in 25 consecutive races: In 2016, at 40 years of age, Bradshaw Kellett sailed his 25th consecutive Sydney Hobart. His record is unlikely to be beaten due to the age restriction rule implemented in 1999.

Record for most consecutive Sydney Hobarts: Lindsay May competed his 50th consecutive Sydney Hobart in 2023.

Record number of races competed by a yachswoman: Adrienne Cahalan was the first female sailor to reach the 25 Hobarts milestone and in 2023 sailed her 31st race aboard overall winner, *Alive*.

Record number of Line Honours wins by a yachswoman: Adrienne Cahalan with six Line Honours victories.

Record number of Overall wins by a yachswoman: Adrienne Cahalan with three Overall victories.

Smallest Fleet: Nine starters in the inaugural Sydney Hobart Yacht Race in 1945

Record number of races by a yacht: In 2023, *Bacardi*, a Peterson 44, set a new record of 30 races. She will sail her 31st race this year.

2023 ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE BY NUMBERS

Starting Yachts: 103

Finishing Yachts: 85

Total Crew: 1,061

Fastest Time: 1day 19 hours 03 minutes 58 seconds by *LawConnect*

Slowest Time: 7 days 19 hours 26 minutes 15 seconds by *Sylph VI*

25x Sydney Hobart Sailors

1975

- Stan Darling
- Peter Green
- Magnus Halvorsen

1979

- Richard Norman

1980

- Richard Hammond
- Max Crafoord

1982

- Alby Burgin
- Alby Mitchell

1984

- Colin Betts
- Alan Butler

1985

- Russ Evans
- John Bennetto
- Don Lang
- Bill Thompson

1987

- Bernie Case
- David Lawson

1988

- Lou Abrahams
- Don Mickleborough
- Bill Ratcliff

1989

- Bruce Gould
- Peter Kurts
- Tony Cable

1990

- Josko Grubic

1991

- Tony Ellis
- Geoff Rouvray

1992

- Colin Wildman

1993

- Syd Fischer
- Des O'Connell
- Fraser Johnston
- Bruce Jackson
- Rolf Mische

1994

- Lester Nibbs

1995

- Peter Shipway
- Richard Bearman

1996

- Peter Joubert
- Roger Howlett

1997

- John Mooney
- Lindsay May
- John Solomon

1998

- Graeme Freeman
- Warren Anderson
- David Kellett
- Simon Firth
- Lou Carter
- Richard Hammond

1999

- Maurie Cameron
- Hugh Treharne
- Peter Duffield

2000

- Geoff Barter
- Rod Jackman

2001

- Roger Hickman
- Toby Richardson
- Michael Spies
- Ian Treharne

2002

- Colin Anderson
- Bill Watson
- Jim Dunstan
- John Harris
- Bob Fraser
- Ian Potter

2003

- Michael Green
- Phil Eadie
- Kim Jagger

2004

- Robbie Burns
- Ralph Carlier
- Graeme Fraser
- Jack Goluzd
- Michael Hesse
- Tony Poole

2005

- Tony Hearder
- Hugh O'Neill
- Ed Psaltis
- Bruce Taylor

2006

- Bill Riley
- David Ellis

2007

- Kingsley Piesse
- George Snow
- John Williams
- Colin Tipney

2008

- Graeme Ainley
- Robert Green
- John Walker

2009

- Robert Case
- Peter Hopkins
- Anthony Kirby
- Greg Prescott

2010

- Carl Crafoord
- Hugh Brodie
- Larry Jamieson

2011

- Peter Fletcher
- Gavin Gourley
- David Hodgson (incl RRV)
- Peter Inchbold
- Greg Johnston
- Julian Freeman
- Robert Moore
- Damien Parkes
- Ian Walker
- John Woodford

2012

- Jim Holley
- Steve Jarvin
- Bob Thomas

2013

- Erik Adriaanse
- Michael Coxon
- Noel Drennan
- Richard Grimes
- Peter Messenger
- Darren Senogles
- Bill Skyes
- Grant Wharington

2014

- Matt Allen
- Adam Brown
- Steve Grellis
- Colin O'Connor
- Phil Molony
- Sean Langman
- Hugo Van Kretschmar

2015

- Sven Runow

2016

- Michael Bellingham
- Adrienne Cahalan
- Bruce Clark
- Bradshaw Kellett
- Peter Sheldrick
- Andrew Taylor

**2017**

- David Blanchfield
- Ian Davis
- James Permezel
- Jeremy Rae

2018

- Michael Formosa
- Sam Hunt
- Iain Murray
- Jim Nixon
- John Whitfeld

2019

- Robbie Naismith
- Matt Shillington

2021

- Stephen McCullum
- Felicity Nelson
- David Witt
- Andrew Buckland
- Graeme Taylor
- Gordon Maguire

2022

- Sean Kirkjian
- Michael Bencsik
- Tom Braidwood
- Duncan Macleod
- Peter Merrington
- Andrew Henderson
- Brett Smith

2023

- Alby Pratt
- Geoff Bauchop
- Vanessa Dudley
- Robert Human
- David Watson

50x Sydney Hobart Sailors

2015

- Tony Cable

2017

- Tony Ellis

2018

- Bill Ratcliff
- Colin Wildman (incl RRV)

2023

- Lindsay May
- Bruce Gould (incl RRV)

10x Women Sydney Hobart Sailors

1995

- Jan Howard

1997

- Audrey Brown

1998

- Amanda Wilmot

1999

- Kerry Gouge
- Vanessa Dudley

2000

- Adrienne Cahalan

2001

- Gail Hardland
- Lea Meyer

2003

- Felicity Nelson
- Sally Gordon

2006

- Mary Holley

2007

- Julie Hodder
- Sue Crafer

2010

- Cathy Josling

2014

- Anne Lawrence

2015

- Louise Stevenson
- Stacey Jackson

2016

- Wendy Tuck

2017

- Dinah Eagle

2019

- Jane Roberts

2021

- Jade Cole
- Jackie White

2022

- Julia Owens



Line Honours Winners

YEAR	YACHT	OWNER/SKIPPER	YEAR	YACHT	OWNER/SKIPPER
1945	<i>Rani</i>	Capt. John Illingworth R.N.	1988	<i>Ragamuffin</i>	Syd Fischer
1946	<i>Morna</i>	Claude Plowman	1989	<i>Drumbeat</i>	Alan Bond
1947	<i>Morna</i>	Claude Plowman	1990	<i>Ragamuffin</i>	Syd Fischer
1948	<i>Morna</i>	Claude Plowman	1991	<i>Brindabella</i>	George Snow
1949	<i>Waltzing Matilda</i>	Phil Davenport	1992	<i>New Zealand Endeavour</i>	Grant Dalton
1950	<i>Margaret Rintoul</i>	Austin W. Edwards	1993	<i>Ninety Seven</i>	Andrew Strachan
1951	<i>Margaret Rintoul</i>	Austin W. Edwards	1994	<i>Tasmania</i>	Robert Clifford
1952	<i>Nocturne</i>	J. Robert Bull	1995	<i>Sayonara</i>	Larry Ellison
1953	<i>#Solveig</i>	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen	1996	<i>Morning Glory</i>	Hasso Plattner
1954	<i>Kurrewa IV</i>	Frank & John Livingston	1997	<i>Brindabella</i>	George Snow
1955	<i>Even</i>	Frederick J. Palmer	1998	<i>Sayonara</i>	Larry Ellison
1956	<i>Kurrewa IV</i>	Frank & John Livingston	1999	<i>Nokia</i>	Stefan Myralf/Michael Spies
1957	<i>Kurrewa IV</i>	Frank & John Livingston	2000	<i>Nicorette II</i>	Ludde Ingval
1958	<i>Solo</i>	Vic Meyer	2001	<i>Assa Abloy</i>	Neal McDonald
1959	<i>Solo</i>	Vic Meyer	2002	<i>Alfa Romeo I</i>	Neville Crichton
1960	<i>Kurrewa IV</i>	Frank & John Livingston	2003	<i>Skandia</i>	Grant Wharington
1961	<i>Astor</i>	Peter Warner	2004	<i>Nicorette III</i>	Ludde Ingval
1962	<i>Ondine</i>	Samer A. Long	2005	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1963	<i>Astor</i>	Peter Warner	2006	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1964	<i>Astor</i>	Peter Warner	2007	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richard
1965	<i>Stormvogel</i>	Cornelius Bruynzeel	2008	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1966	<i>Fidelis</i>	Jim V. Davern	2009	<i>Alfa Romeo II</i>	Neville Crichton
1967	<i>Pen Duick III</i>	Éric Tabarly	2010	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1968	<i>Ondine II</i>	Samer A. Long	2011	<i>Investec LOYAL</i>	Anthony Bell
1969	<i>Crusade</i>	Sir Max Aitken	2012	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1970	<i>Buccaneer</i>	Tom Clark	2013	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1971	<i>Kialoa II</i>	Jim Kilroy	2014	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1972	<i>American Eagle</i>	Ted Turner	2015	<i>Comanche</i>	Ken Read
1973	<i>Helsal</i>	Tony Fisher	2016	<i>Perpetual LOYAL</i>	Anthony Bell
1974	<i>Ondine III</i>	Samer A. Long	2017	<i>LDV Comanche</i>	Jim Cooney & Samantha Grant
1975	<i>Kialoa III</i>	Jim Kilroy	2018	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	The Oatley family & Mark Richards
1976	<i>Ballyhoo</i>	Jack Rooklyn	2019	<i>Comanche</i>	Jim Cooney & Samantha Grant
1977	<i>Kialoa III</i>	Jim Kilroy	2020	<i>Not conducted</i>	
1978	<i>Apollo</i>	Jack Rooklyn	2021	<i>Black Jack</i>	Peter Harburg & Mark Bradford
1979	<i>Bumblebee 4</i>	John Kahlbetzer	2022	<i>Andoo Comanche</i>	John Winning, Jr.
1980	<i>New Zealand</i>	Peter Blake	2023	<i>LawConnect</i>	Christian Beck & Tony Mutter
1981	<i>Vengeance</i>	Bernard Lewis			
1982	<i>Condor of Bermuda</i>	Bob Bell			
1983	<i>Condor</i>	Bob Bell			
1984	<i>New Zealand</i>	Peter Blake			
1985	<i>Apollo</i>	Warwick Rooklyn			
1986	<i>Condor II</i>	Bob Bell			
1987	<i>Sovereign</i>	Bernard Lewis			



Overall Winners

YEAR	YACHT	OWNER/SKIPPER	YEAR	YACHT	OWNER/SKIPPER
1945	<i>Rani</i>	Capt. John Illingworth R.N.	1992	<i>Ragamuffin (IOR)</i>	Syd Fischer
1946	<i>Christina</i>	Bob Bull	1992	<i>Assassin (IMS)</i>	Robin Crawford
1947	<i>Westward</i>	George Gibson	1993	<i>Wild Oats (IOR)</i>	Bruce Foye/Roger Hickman/ Lance Peckman
1948	<i>Westward</i>	George Gibson	1993	<i>Cuckoos Nest (IMS)</i>	Nigel Holman
1949	<i>Trade Winds</i>	Mervyn Davey	1994	<i>Raptor</i>	Andreas Eichenauer
1950	<i>Nerida</i>	Colin Haselgrove	1995	<i>Terra Firma</i>	Dean Wilson & Scott Carlile
1951	<i>Struen Marie</i>	Tom Williamson	1996	<i>Ausmaid</i>	Georgio Gjergja
1952	<i>Ingrid</i>	James Taylor	1997	<i>Beau Geste</i>	Karl Kwok
1953	<i>Ripple</i>	Ron Hobson	1998	<i>AFR Midnight Rambler</i>	Ed Psaltis & Bob Thomas
1954	<i>Solveig</i>	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen	1999	<i>Yendys</i>	Geoff Ross
1955	<i>Moonbi</i>	Hal Evans	2000	<i>SAP Ausmaid</i>	Kevan Pearce
1956	<i>Solo</i>	Vic Meyer	2001	<i>Bumblebee 5</i>	John Kahlbetzer & Iain Murray
1957	<i>Anitra V</i>	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen	2002	<i>Quest</i>	Bob Steel
1958	<i>Siandra</i>	Graham Newland	2003	<i>First National</i>	Michael Spies & Peter Johnston
1959	<i>Cherana</i>	Russ Williams	2004	<i>Aera</i>	Nicholas Lykiadopulo
1960	<i>Siandra</i>	Graham Newland	2005	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1961	<i>Rival</i>	Alby Burgin & N. Rundle	2006	<i>Love & War</i>	Simon Kurts & Lindsay May
1962	<i>Solo</i>	Vic Meyer	2007	<i>Rosebud</i>	Roger Sturgeon
1963	<i>Freya</i>	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen	2008	<i>Quest</i>	Bob Steel
1964	<i>Freya</i>	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen	2009	<i>Two True</i>	Andrew Saies
1965	<i>Freya</i>	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen	2010	<i>Secret Mens Business 3.5</i>	Geoff Boettcher
1966	<i>Cadence</i>	Jim Mason	2011	<i>Loki</i>	Stephen Ainsworth
1967	<i>Rainbow II</i>	Chris Bouzaid	2012	<i>Wild Oats XI</i>	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
1968	<i>Koomooloo</i>	Denis O'Neil	2013	<i>Victoire</i>	Darryl Hodgkinson
1969	<i>Morning Cloud</i>	Edward Heath	2014	<i>Wild Rose</i>	Roger Hickman
1970	<i>Pacha</i>	Robert Crichton-Brown	2015	<i>Balance</i>	Paul Clitheroe
1971	<i>Pathfinder</i>	Brin Wilson	2016	<i>Giacomo</i>	Jim Delegat
1972	<i>American Eagle</i>	Ted Turner	2017	<i>Ichi Ban</i>	Matt Allen
1973	<i>Ceil III</i>	Bill Turnbull	2018	<i>Alive</i>	Phillip Turner & Duncan Hine
1974	<i>Love & War</i>	Peter Kurts	2019	<i>Ichi Ban</i>	Matt Allen
1975	<i>Rampage</i>	Peter Packer	2020	<i>Not conducted</i>	
1976	<i>Piccolo</i>	John Pickles	2021	<i>Ichi Ban</i>	Matt Allen
1977	<i>Kialoa III</i>	Jim Kilroy	2022	<i>Celestial</i>	Sam Haynes
1978	<i>Love & War</i>	Peter Kurts	2023	<i>Alive</i>	Phillip Turner & Duncan Hine
1979	<i>Screw Loose</i>	Bob Cumming			
1980	<i>New Zealand</i>	NZ Round The World Committee			
1981	<i>Zeus II</i>	Jim Dunstan			
1982	<i>Scallywag</i>	Ray Johnston			
1983	<i>Challenge</i>	Lou Abrahams			
1984	<i>Indian Pacific</i>	John Eyles & Gunter Heuchmer			
1985	<i>#Sagacious</i>	Gary Appleby			
1986	<i>Extension</i>	Tony Dunn			
1987	<i>Sovereign</i>	Bernard Lewis			
1988	<i>Illusion</i>	Gino Knezic			
1989	<i>Ultimate Challenge</i>	Lou Abrahams			
1990	<i>Sagacious V</i>	Gary Appleby			
1991	<i>Atara (IOR)</i>	John Storey & Harold Cudmore			
1991	<i>She's Apples (IMS)</i>	David Strong			

The rules did not provide for a first place, following the penalising of *Drake's Prayer*, which had provisionally been first prior to a protest. Nor did it allow for lower placed yachts to move up a place when other yachts were penalised. Because there was no 1st place, *Sagacious* officially was recorded as second but as the overall winner.







2024 FLEET

SAIL NO	BOAT NAME	OWNER/SKIPPER	REP	STATE	DESIGN	LOA	DRAFT	BEAM
JPN4321	ACTIVE AGAIN	Stephanie Kerin	WMSC	QLD	Humphreys 54	16.5	3.5	4.4
PD147	ADVANTEDGE	Andrew Jones	PDYC/RYCT	TAS	Inglis 47	14.3	3.3	4.5
52566	ALIVE	Phillip Turner	DSS	TAS	Reichel/Pugh 66	20.2	4.5	4.3
B71	ANOTHER CHAPTER	Greg Clinnick	RBYC	VIC	Beneteau First 44.7	13.4	2.6	4
GBR2888L	ANTIPODES	Geoffrey Hill	RHKYC	HKG	Santa Cruz 72	22	3.4	4.9
A140	ARIEL	Ron Forster & Phil Damp	SASC	NSW	Beneteau First 40	12.6	2.5	3.9
SA332	AUDACIOUS	Stuart Johnson	RSAYS	SA	Sydney 38	11.8	2.7	3.7
2400	AVALANCHE (DH)	James Murchison / James Francis	RSYS	NSW	Hick 40	12.3	2.5	4.1
NZL10750	AWEN	Sharon Ferris-Choat	SYC	QLD	Imoca Open 60	18.3	4.5	5.7
SM377	BACARDI	Brett Averay	SYC	VIC	Peterson 44	13.3	2.4	4.2
USA1180	BACCHANAL	Ronald Epstein	CYC/CYCA	USA	JPK 11.80	11.8	2.3	3.9
4876	BLUE MOON (DH)	Tristan & Ken Gourlay	TYC	TAS	Adams 16.4	16.4	1.4	3.8
AUS110	BLUE PLANET (DH)	Chris O'Neill / Michael 'Tom' Johnston	CYCA/GFS	NSW	J/99	9.9	2	3.4
10447	BOWLINE	Ian Roberts	RSAYS	SA	Beneteau First 44.7	13.4	2.6	4
7777	CALIBRE 12	Richard Williams	CYCA	NSW	Cookson 12	12	2.8	3.8
CAY52	CARO	Max Klink	RNZYS	NZL	Botin 52	15.9	3.6	4.4
NED5900	CELESTE (DH)	Saskia Groen-in't-Woud / Maud Demazure	SYC	QLD	Nautor Swan 38	11.7	2	3.7
ITA70	CELESTIAL V70	Sam Haynes	CYCA	NSW	Volvo Open 70	21.5	5.2	5.7
9535	CENTENNIAL 7	Ernesto Echaz	CYCA	PHI	TP52	15.9	3.4	4.4
6834	CHANCELLOR	Edward Tooher	CYCA	NSW	Beneteau First 40	12.2	2.4	3.9
R33	CHUTZPAH	Bruce Taylor	RYCV	VIC	Reichel/Pugh 40	12	3	3.2
SM888	CIAO BELLA	Karl Onslow	CYCA	NSW	Hanse 505	14.9	2.4	4.8
5038	CINQUANTE	Kim Jaggar	CYCA	NSW	Sydney 38	11.8	2.6	3.7
3838	CLOCKWORK	Andrew Lloyd & Mary Ann Harvey	CYCSA	SA	Sydney 38	11.8	2.7	3.7
FRA53081	COCODY	Richard Fromentin	CNL	FRA	JPK 11.80	11	2.3	4
6661	CRYSTAL CUTTER III	Charles Parry-Okeden	CYCA	NSW	Beneteau 40.7	11.9	2.4	3.8
B47	CYAN MOON	Wayne Seaward	RBYC	VIC	Beneteau Oceanis 473	14.3	2.1	4.3
G69	DARK AND STORMY	Tobias Swanson	RGYC	VIC	Murray-Burns-Dovell 37	11.56	2.7	3.4
S13	DASHER+FISHER HOW BIZARRE	Scott Robinson	RMYS	VIC	Seaquest Rp36	10.93	2.3	3.3
52569	DENALI	Damien Parkes	CYCA	NSW	TP52	18.8	3.2	4.4
AUS99	DISKO TROOPER_ CONTENDER SAILCLOTH (DH)	Jules Hall / Jan Scholten	CYCA/DBSC	NSW	J/99	9.9	2	3.4
G10007	EXTASEA	Paul Buchholz	RGYC	VIC	Cookson 50	15.2	3.3	4.3
RQ490	FIKA (DH)	Annette Hesselmans / Sophie Snijders	RQYS	NSW	Najad 490	15	2	4.5
1696	FLAT WHITE	Jen Linkova	MHYC	QLD	Radford 12.2	12.2	123.4	123.4
7551	FLYING FISH ARCTOS	Flying Fish Sailing	MHYC	NSW	Radford 55	15.2	2.7	3.7
RQ334	FRUIT SALID 3	Mark Drobitko	RQYS	QLD	Beneteau First 40	12.6	2.5	3.9
6333	GEORGIA EXPRESS	Sebastian Hultin	MHYC	NSW	Mumm 36	10.9	2.5	3.6
99	GIZMO (DH)	Wendy Tuck / Meg Niblett	CYCA	NSW	Jeanneau SunFast 3600	10.8	2.2	3.6



2024 FLEET

SAIL NO	BOAT NAME	OWNER/SKIPPER	REP	STATE	DESIGN	LOA	DRAFT	BEAM
43218	HAPPY WANDERER	Dan Cannon	CYC	WA	Corby 49	14.9	3.1	4.4
7811	HIP-NAUTIC	Jean-Pierre Ravanat	DSS	TAS	Jeanneau SunFast 3300	9.9	2	3.4
211	INDIGO II	Darryn Purdy	RQYS	QLD	Marten 49	15.1	3.6	4.2
SA982	INUKSHUK (DH)	Robert Large / Stuart Watson	RSAYS	SA	Northshore 38	11.6	2	3.4
M133	JOKER X2 (DH)	Grant Chipperfield / Peter Dowdney	MYC/SYC	VIC	J/133	13.3	2.3	2.9
MYC99	JUPITER (DH)	Ian Smith / Lincoln Dews	MYC	NSW	J/99	9.9	2	3.4
R201	JUST FARR LOVE	Scott Lovell	TYC/PDYC	TAS	Farr 51	15.5	2	4.5
7709	KANREKI	Michael Rowe	MYC	NSW	Cookson 12	12	2.7	4
AUS1	KISMET (DH)	Sean Langman / Peter Inchbold	CYCA	NSW	Illingworth 30	9.3	1.6	2.2
SYD1000	LAWCONNECT	Christian Beck	CYCA	NSW	Juan K 100 Custom	30.5	6.2	7.4
FRA85	LE TIROFLAN	Christopher Taylor	CYCA	NSW	Pogo 40	12.18	3	4.5
S118	LORD JIMINY (DH)	Kevin Curtis / Jimmy Oosterweghel	RMYS	VIC	Class 40	12	3	4.5
294	LOVE & WAR	Phillip Kurts	CYCA	NSW	S&S	14.2	2.3	4.1
7878	MAKING WAVES KAYLE	Making Waves Foundation	CYCA	NSW	Lyons 54	16.2	3.3	4.3
N40	MAKO	Simon Macks	NCYC	NSW	Sydney 40	12	2.6	3.7
O100	MARITIMO 100	Bill Barry-Cotter	SYC	QLD	Oyster100	30.1	4	7.6
CYC8	MARITIMO KATWINCHAR (DH)	Michael Spies / Peter Vaiciurgis	SYC	QLD	Watney Circa 1904	10	1.6	2.5
CAY007	MASTER LOCK COMANCHE	Matt Allen & James Mayo	CYCA/RPEYC	NSW	VPLP Verdier 100	30.5	7	7.9
M16	MAYFAIR	James Irvine	RQYS	QLD	Rogers 46	14	2.9	4
ST36	MIDNIGHT RAMBLER	Edward Psaltis	RYCT	TAS	Sydney 36	10.8	2.3	3.4
M888	MILLENNIUM FALCON	Robert Griffiths	LMYC/CYC	NSW	S&S 39	11.9	2.2	3.6
AUS888	MIN RIVER (DH)	Jiang Lin / François Guiffant	CYCA	NSW	Jpk10.30	10.3	2	3.2
424	MINNIE	Michael Bell	CYCA	NSW	Jones 42	12.9	2.9	4.3
1	MISTRAL (DH)	Rupert Henry / Corentin Douguet	CYCA	NSW	Lombard 34	10.5	2	3.5
5656	MONDO	Lisa Callaghan	MYC	NSW	Sydney 38	11.7	2.6	3.7
O404	NAVY ONE	Nathan Lockhart	RANSA	NSW	Beneteau First 40	12.2	2.5	3.9
AUS98888	NO LIMIT	David Gotze	CYCA	VIC	Reichel/Pugh 63	19.2	4.6	4.9
OC52	OCEAN CRUSADERS J-BIRD	Annika & Ian Thomson	WSC/SYC	QLD	Andrews 52	15.8	3.2	4.3
AUS53	ODIN	Matt Hanning	CYCA	NSW	Beneteau First 53	17.12	3	5
CAY6536	OROTON DRUMFIRE	Will Vicars	CYCA	NSW	Hoek Tc78	24	3.2	5.6
110	PACMAN (DH)	Peter Elkington / Scott Cavanough	RQYS	QLD	Young 11	11.2	2.6	3.7
O20	PHILOSOPHER	Michael Tilden	CYCA	NSW	Sydney 36 Cr	11.3	2.4	3.4
AUS5299	PORCO ROSSO	Paul McCartney	DSS	TAS	Cookson 50	15.2	3.5	4.3
FRA6900	POULPITO MLS-FCD	David Treguier	CNC	NC	Sydney 38	11.8	2.7	3.8
545	PRETTY WOMAN	Richard Hudson	RPAYC	NSW	Farr 45	13.8	2.9	4.2
1195	QUANTOCK	David & Alison Hobbs	RPAYC	NSW	Elliott 13	13	3	4.1



2024 FLEET

SAIL NO	BOAT NAME	OWNER/SKIPPER	REP	STATE	DESIGN	LOA	DRAFT	BEAM
2001	QUETZALCOATL	Anto Sweetapple, Anthony Bruce & James Lee-Warner	CYCA	NSW	Jones 12.3	12.3	2.7	4
RQ130	RAGTIME	Steve Watson	CYCA	NSW	J/130	13	2.6	3.8
7204	ROARING FORTY (DH)	Kevin Le Poidevin / Darrell Greig	PSYC	NSW	Lutra Boc Open 40	12.2	2.9	3.9
1808	RUM REBELLION (DH)	Shane Connelly / Tony Sutton	CYCA	NSW	J/99	9.9	2	3.4
0122	RUMCHASER (DH)	Andrew Butler / Peter Just	CYCA	NSW	J/122e	12.2	2.2	3.6
6232	SAILOR MOON (DH)	Christopher Cauty / Shona Forsyth	RMYC	NSW	Northshore 370	11.27	2.6	3.7
GBR5672L	SALT LINES	Matthew Harvey	CYCA	NSW	Shipwright 70	21	2.8	5.5
NZL6702	SILVER FERN	David Hows	SYC	QLD	Birdsall 72	21.8	2.2	4.5
F45	SIRENE	Bill Henson	FSC	WA	JPk 45	13.8	2.6	4.5
6952	SMUGGLER	Sebastian Bohm	CYCA	NSW	Tp52	15.9	3.8	4.4
RQ447	SOLACE	Paul Pincus	RQYS	QLD	Beneteau First 44.7	13.3	2.6	4
6499	SUPERNOVA	Felicity Nelson & Alex Seja	CYCA	NSW	Sydney 36	11	2.4	3.4
2208	TENACITY	John Lawrie	RYCT	TAS	Mills 41	12.5	2.7	3.8
7027	THE GOAT	Mitchell Gordon	CYCA	NSW	Sydney 38	11.8	2.7	3.7
154	THE SHEPHERD CENTRE	Hugh Torode & Jeff Hughes	RSYS	NSW	Sydney 36 Cr	11	2.3	3.4
AUS117	TILTING AT WINDMILLS	Sarah Gunnersen- Dempsey	PCSC	VIC	Joubert Mod. 42	12.8	2.5	3.7
R1111	TOECUTTER	Bradley Bult	RYCV	VIC	Hick 10	10	1.9	3.4
3322	TOUCAN (DH)	Edward Curry-Hyde / Scott Robertson	RPAYC/CYCA	NSW	Sun Fast 3300	9.99	2	3.4
AUS3300	TRANSCENDENCE RUDY PROJECT (DH)	Martin & John Cross	RPAYC	NSW	Jeannaeu Sunfast 3300	10	2	3.4
8009	TROUBLE & STRIFE	Matt Williams	RQYS	QLD	Cookson12	11.99	2.6	3.8
99999	UNICOIN	Peter Bremner	M16FTSC	NSW	Farr 277	12	2.5	3.8
AUS72	URM GROUP	Anthony & David Johnston	CYCA	NSW	Reichel/Pugh 72 Maxi	21.8	5	5.4
4411	VERITE (DH)	Paul Beath / Teresa Michell	NCYC	NSW	J/99	9.9	2	3.4
112	VOLTSTAR YEAH BABY	Louis & Marc Ryckmans	CYCA	NSW	Akilaria Rc2	12	3.1	4.5
AUS-13	WHISPER	David Griffith	CYCA	NSW	Judel/Vroljik 62	18.9	4.6	4.9
SM1245	WHITE NOISE	Daniel Edwards	SYC	VIC	M.A.T 1245	12.5	2.5	3.8
4343	WILD OATS	Gordon Smith	CYCA	NSW	Farr 43	13.1	2.5	4.2
AUS1001	WILD THING 100	Grant Wharington & Adrian Sieffert	CYCA	QLD	Super Maxi	30.5	5.5	6.2
07	WINGS	Ian Edwards	RPAYC-CYCA- RMYC	NSW	Dehler 46	14	2.6	4.4
6559	WOTS NEXT	Charles Cupit	CYCA	NSW	Sydney 47	14.3	3	4
2527	XANTHUS	Matthew Fifield	RSYS	NSW	X-55	16.76	3.2	4.6
11744	XS MOMENT BNMH	Ray Hudson	RPAYC	NSW	XP 44	13.3	2.7	4.1
AUS33	ZEUS	Michael Firmin	CYCA	NSW	I52	16	3.5	4.5



Photo: ROLEX | Andrea Francolini

WHAT'S ON

AT THE CYCA

**6
DEC**

ACSBWPS | CABBAGE TREE ISLAND RACE

The 172nm is a season favourite, attracting more than 40 competitors annually. Starting on Friday evening near Point Piper, the fleet heads North towards Port Stephens and returns to finish in Sydney Harbour. Watch the Race Start on the historic Rosman Spectator Vessel, tickets available on cyca.com.au.

**6-10
DEC**

AUSTRALIAN MAXI CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia will host the Australian Maxi Championship from 6-10 December 2024. Starting with the Cabbage Tree Race and ending in the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge.

**11
DEC**

OCEAN CRUSADERS OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

This event works to unite sailors and environmentalists in a spirited dialogue about shaping a sustainable future for our oceans. It's more than just talk; it's a golden opportunity to network with pioneers, discover innovative practices, and see how you can weave sustainability into your own endeavours.

**13-15
DEC**

SYDNEY HOBART CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA

This is a unique regatta that recognises the contribution of classic yachts to the traditions and history of the bluewater classic. The Sydney Hobart Classic Yacht Regatta is open to any yacht that has a launch date prior to 1976 and has competed in a Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

**18
DEC**

WOMEN IN SAILING COCKTAIL PARTY

Join us for an evening to celebrate the success of Women across our sport. Returning for the second year in a row, the 2024 evening will include professional ocean racer Stacey Jackson and navigator Clare Costanzo.

**25
DEC**

CYCA CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Join the CYCA in the festive spirit and come on down to the Club for Christmas Day Lunch. \$210 Non-Member | \$190 Member | \$65 per child (under 12 years old)

**26
DEC**

FAMILY DAY IN THE SYDNEY RACE VILLAGE

An ideal location for your family and friends to watch the race start live on the large outdoor screen with plenty of activities for the whole family.

**26
DEC**

RSHYR | BOXING DAY START

The 79th Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race will as always, present an absolute spectacle on Sydney Harbour as over 100 yachts commence the 628nm journey down to Hobart in one of Australia's most iconic sporting events.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE FULL CALENDAR



Thank you to our Race Partners



With support from



Race finishing partner





A CHALLENGE FOR THE AGES

The Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race is a gruelling test of each competitor's physical and mental resilience. On 26 December each year, a diverse international fleet is led out of Sydney Harbour by the giant maxis and their professional crews, followed by smaller Corinthian craft. Ahead, a 628-nautical-mile (1,163 km) odyssey down this often wild stretch of Australia's east coast.

#Perpetual



OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER 40



ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
STARTS ON 26 DECEMBER 2024

