

ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE 2013

LIST OF ENTRIES AND BOAT PROFILES*



* SUBJECT TO CHANGE, CREW DETAILS AS PER INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE CYCA BY 18 DECEMBER, 2013.

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COMPILED BY DI PEARSON AND JENNIFER CROOKS





Rolex Sydney Hobart List of Entries

SAIL NO	BOAT NAME	DESIGN / TYPE	LOA	SKIPPER	STATE	CLUB	DIVISION
FRA8995	41 SUD	Archambault 40	12.0	Jean Luc Esplaas	New Caledonia	CNC	IRC / ORCi
A140	ARIEL	Beneteau First 40	12.6	Ron Forster & Phil Damp	NSW	CYCA/SASC	IRC / ORCi
NZL1	ART EQUITY MAHLIGAI	Sydney 46	14.3	Murray Owen	NSW	RPNYC	PHS
B331	AUDACIOUS	Sydney 38	11.8	Greg Clinnick	VIC	RBYC	IRC / Sydney 38
A5	AUDI SUNSHINE COAST	Welbourn 50	15.2	Rodney Jones	QLD	MYC	IRC / ORCi
SM377	BACARDI	Petersen 44	13.4	Martin Power	VIC	SYC	IRC
7771	BALANCE	Beneteau First 45	13.7	Paul Clitheroe	NSW	CYCA	IRC / ORCi
HKG1997	BEAU GESTE	Botin 80	24.0	Karl Kwok	NSW	RHKYC	IRC / ORCi
F255	BLACK ADDER	Sigma 41	12.2	James Clayton	WA	FSC	ORCi
52570	BLACK JACK	Volvo 70	21.5	Mark Bradford	QLD	RQYS	IRC
33345	BLACK SHEEP	Beneteau 45	13.7	Derek & martin Sheppard	NSW	WYC	IRC / ORCi
9988	BRANNEW	Beneteau First 40 CR	12.6	Chris Bran	NSW	CYCA	IRC
6834	BREAKTHROUGH	Beneteau First 40	12.2	Mathew Vadas	NSW	CYCA	IRC
10000	BRINDABELLA	Jutson 80	24.1	Jim Cooney	NSW	CYCA	PHS
MH85	CANUTE	King 40	12.1	Mitchell Miller	NSW	MHYC	IRC
421	CELESTIAL	Rogers 46	14.0	Sam Haynes	NSW	CYCA	IRC / ORCi
8824	CHANCELLOR	Beneteau 47.7	14.8	Edward Tooher	NSW	CYCA	IRC / ORCi
R33	CHUTZPAH	Caprice 40	12.0	Bruce Taylor	VIC	RYCV	IRC / ORCi
67	COLORTILE	Sayer 44.9	13.7	Warren & Kristy Buchan	NSW	CSC/RMYC PH	IRC
6689	COPERNICUS	Radford12	12.0	Greg Zyner	NSW	MYC	IRC / ORCi
GBR9359T	CV10	Clipper 68	20.7	James Dobie	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC
GBR9354T	CV5	Clipper 68	20.7	Piers Dudin	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC
R166	DEJAVU	Dufour 38	11.6	Steven Carey	VIC	RYCV	PHS
GBR730X	DERRY-LONDONDERRY-DOIRE	Clipper 70	21.3	Sean McCarter	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC / Clipper 70
HKG2238	DODO	Andrews 52	15.8	Adrian Dunphy	NSW	CYCA	IRC
ESP6100	DUENDE	Judel/Vrolijk 52	15.4	Damian Parkes	NSW	CYCA	PHS
7878	FACEBOAT SAILORS WITH DISABILITIES	Lyons 54	16.2	D Pescud	NSW	CYCA	PHS
7551	FLYING FISH ARCTOS	McIntyre 55	15.2	Duncan Macalister	NSW	MHYC	PHS
GBR5211L	FRANTIC	TP52	15.9	Michael Martin	NSW	NCYC	IRC / ORCi
M495	GEOMATIC	Hanse 495	15.4	Adrian Lewis	VIC	MYC	PHS
NZL70000	GIACOMO	Volvo 70	21.5	Jim Delegat	New Zealand	RAYC	IRC / ORCi
GBR726X	GREAT BRITAIN	Clipper 70	21.3	Simon Talbott	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC / Clipper 70
R75	HALCYON	Beneteau First 40	12.6	Chris Tucker	VIC	RYCV	IRC / ORCi
262	HELSAL3	Adams 20	20.0	Paul Jackson	NSW	RYCT	PHS
GBR721X	HENRI LLOYD	Clipper 70	21.3	Eric Holden	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC / Clipper 70
AUS01	ICHI BAN	Carkeek 60	18.5	Matt Allen	NSW	CYCA	IRC
5356	ILLUSION	Davidson 34	10.3	Travis Read & Kim Jaggarr	NSW	CYCA	IRC / ORCi
GBR725X	INVEST AFRICA	Clipper 70	21.3	Richard Gould	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC / Clipper 70
GBR731X	JAMAICA GET ALL RIGHT	Clipper 70	21.3	Peter Stirling	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC / Clipper 70
S390	JAZZ PLAYER-THINK PINK FOUNDATION	Bakewell-White Z39	11.9	Matthew Lawrence	VIC	RMYS	IRC / ORCi

SAIL NO	BOAT NAME	DESIGN / TYPE	LOA	SKIPPER	STATE	CLUB	DIVISION
6686	ST JUDE	Sydney 47	14.2	Noel Cornish	NSW	CYCA	IRC
GBR724X	SWITZERLAND	Clipper 70	21.3	Victoria Ellis	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC / Clipper 70
GBR727X	TEAM GARMIN	Clipper 70	21.3	Mark Burkes	United Kingdom	RORC	IRC / Clipper 70
4100	THE BANSHEE	MBD 41	12.5	Corinne & Rob Francis	NSW	CSC	ORCi
SM117	TILTING AT WINDMILLS	Joubert Mod. 42	12.8	John Alexander	VIC	SYC	IRC / ORCi
GBR6821R	TITANIA OF COWES	Swan 68	21.1	Richard Dobbs	United Kingdom	RYA	IRC / ORCi
MH60	TSA MANAGEMENT	Sydney 38	11.8	Tony Levett	NSW	MHYC	IRC / Sydney 38
GER6700	VARUNA	Ker 51	15.5	Jens Kellinghousen	Germany	NRV	IRC / ORCi
SM602	VELOCE	Elliott 44CR	13.7	Phil Simpfendorfer	VIC	SYC	IRC / ORCi
M497	VENTURE 2	Elliott 50	15.2	Stephen Chapman	NSW	LMYC	IRC
AUS5299	VICTOIRE	Cookson 50	15.2	Darryl Hodgkinson	NSW	CYCA	IRC / ORCi
AUS11888	WEDGETAIL	Reichel/Pugh 55	16.8	Bill Wild	QLD	RQYS	IRC / ORCi
10001	WILD OATS XI	100ft Maxi	30.48	Mark Richards	NSW	HIYC	IRC
4343	WILD ROSE	Farr 43	13.1	Roger Hickman	NSW	CYCA	IRC / ORCi
AUS10	WILD THING	100ft Maxi	30.48	Grant Wharington	QLD	MHYC	IRC
7004	WILPARINA	S&S 34	10.1	Nick Canner	NSW	KMYC/GSC	PHS
SIN4321	ZANZIBAR	Humphreys 42	12.8	Jonathan Mahony	Singapore	RM	IRC
MLT10010	ZEFIRO	Farr 100	30.2	Gerhard Ruether	Cyprus	NRV	IRC
3838	ZEN	Sydney 38	11.8	Gordon Ketelbey	NSW	MHYC	IRC / Sydney 38

41 SUD**SAIL NO:** FRA8995**LOA:** 12.00m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Nivelt (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2006**TYPE:** Archambault 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Jean-Luc Esplaas**CLUB:** Cercle Nautique Caledonian, New Caledonia**CREW:** J Luc Esplaas (2) – Skipper, V Esplaas, F Lhote (2), A Chenu, G Guttin, M Balagny, G Sorensen, D Ladiesse, A Furlan

Over the years several yachts have represented the Cercle Nautique Caledonian in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and Jean Luc Esplaas has returned with his Archambault 40 and experienced crew, *41 SUD*, for a third attempt to win the race overall. Esplaas' best result in this race was in 2008 when *41 SUD* finished 41st overall and seventh in IRC Division 3. However, Esplaas and some of his crew took part in the 1998 race with his former yacht, a Young 35 named *Marine Corail Voile*. They were one of only 44 finishers and came away with third in Division D.

41 SUD was the only New Caledonian yacht to take part in the Noumea Sail 2012 race, which was hampered by extremely difficult navigational conditions, and finished second on line.

ARIEL**SAIL NO:** A140**LOA:** 12.6m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2010**TYPE:** Beneteau First 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Ron Forster**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and Sydney Amateur Sailing Club, NSW**CREW:** R Forster (2) – Skipper/Navigator, P Damp (1) – Co-skipper, J Naylor (5) – Second in Charge, H Forster, R Kuijken, A Saunders (1), J Andrews (1), M Scroop (3), R Pickering, A Pickering

Representing the race organiser, the CYCA, *Ariel* and some of her crew are still testing the waters, having attained just two seasons of offshore racing. Results include 12th in the CYCA's 2012/2013 Blue Water Pointscore Series and 10th in the Cape Byron Pointscore Series (ORCi category of the BWPS), inclusive of finishing 28th overall and seventh in IRC Division 3 in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart. Before that, *Ariel* contested the Pittwater to Coffs Harbour Race in 2012.

Ron Forster and crew are preparing for this year's race to Hobart by competing in the BWPS again. With three races away, *Ariel* is seventh overall. Her best result so far is a second place to Wild Rose in the Bird Island Race in October, which will give Ron Forster and his crew the impetus going into the 628 nautical mile Hobart in December. Prior to last year, Forester had sailed the Hobart just once before - 32 years ago, but the bug has well and truly bitten and the objective this year is to better his result of last year.

ART EQUITY MAHLIGAI

SAIL NO: NZL1

LOA: 14.27m

CLASS: PHS

DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 1998

TYPE: Sydney 46

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4

OWNER: Murray Owen and Jenny Kings

CLUB: Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club, NZL

CREW: M Owen (5) - Skipper, J Kings (4) - Navigator, C Price (2), R Hobbs (1), A Mackay, A Milln, B Dunsheath, S Russell (2), M Browne, B Proffitt, A Fletcher, C Leon

This Sydney 46 has raced to Hobart four times now and has finished every one. Her last assault on the PHS trophy was in 2011 when *Mahligai* finished ninth overall in PHS. Her best result was in the 2010 race, when she was PHS fourth overall and won Division 1, racing as *NSC Mahligai*. In 2009, was third in Division 1, while in 2008, sailed under IRC and finished 61st overall.

Has competed in the CYCA's Ocean Pointscore Series and Club Marine Wednesday Twilight Series over the past two seasons and under PHS, won the opening 2013 OPS race, to Lion Island return. *Mahligai* also finished second in PHS Division 2 of the 2011 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race after winning PHS Division 1 in 2009. This year is contesting some OPS races to be race ready.

Before Murray Owen and Jenny Kings owned *Mahligai*, she spent most of her life racing in Asia. She is berthed at the CYCA where her owners are members, but will race under the burgee of the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club in New Zealand, in a nod to Owen and Kings' place of birth.

AUDACIOUS

SAIL NO: B331

LOA: 11.78m

CLASS: IRC/One Design

DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 2002

TYPE: Sydney 38

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 6

OWNER: Greg Clinnick and Paul Holden

CLUB: Royal Brighton Yacht Club, VIC

CREW: G Clinnick (1) - Skipper, S Hogan – Navigator, K Christensen (1) – Second in Charge, J McKay, L Butchers, M Seager, P Holden (2), P Lamb, S Jook (1), T Baldwin, J Sunkell-Lozell

Previous owner Bruce Taylor raced this boat five times in the Rolex Sydney Hobart as *Chutzpah*, including winning the Sydney 38 One Design division of the 60th race, and placing in IRC division. Greg Clinnick and Paul Holden purchased the boat over five years ago and raced her in in the 2008 Rolex Sydney Hobart finishing 73rd on line and 64th overall. The duo are regular campaigners in Royal Brighton Yacht Club races on Port Phillip and have had mixed results.

Thawing out after winter, Audacious took the plunge in the Sydney 38 division at the Festival of Sails and came away with sixth overall in a grand prix fleet.

AUDI SUNSHINE COAST

SAIL NO: A5

LOA: 15.2m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Hugh Welbourn (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2000

TYPE: Welbourn 50

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Rodney Jones

CLUB: Mooloolaba Yacht Club, QLD

CREW: R Jones (1) – Skipper, B Donovan (3), G McAllansmith, J Walker, J Jannink, K Timm, L Down, M Chew, C Geeves, S O'Rourke, T Shardlow (2), C Brook, J Vincent

Rod Jones, a two-time Australian IRC champion, will bring his Welbourn 50, *Audi Sunshine Coast*, to the start line for this year's Rolex Sydney Hobart. Built in Gosford, Jones revamped a 2000 designed Welbourn 50, combining it with the keel, rudder and deck from Warren Johns' 1989 IOR 50 footer, *Heaven Can Wait* and optimised and tweaked it. In this year's protracted Gosford Lord Howe Island Yacht Race, the Queenslander finished third overall and won PHS.

In its second offshore outing, the yacht showed early promise, winning Division 1 of the CYCA's 2013 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in July after featuring at the top of the overall rankings early on. This will be Jones' second and probably last Hobart, having sworn off it after his first some years ago. A solid crew who have mostly raced with Jones for a few seasons on his various yachts and in the SB3 keelboat, accompanied by a quick boat, make them worth having a bet on.

BACARDI**SAIL NO:** SM377**LOA:** 13.34m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Doug Peterson (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1978**TYPE:** Peterson 44**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 27**OWNER:** Martin Power**CLUB:** Sandringham Yacht Club, VIC**CREW:** M Power (10) - Skipper, S Humphries (3) – Second in Charge/Navigator, L Forkes (3), B Leighton (1), G Poole, L Salkowski, R Eason (2), P Rajda, D Margetts

This year *Bacardi* competes in her 28th race to Hobart – it will be the most ever sailed by an individual yacht. Finishing 53rd overall and 11th in division in 2011, the last time this Peterson 44 competed, she equalled the record 27 races set in 2007 by *Phillips Foote Witchdoctor*, a Davidson 44.

Bacardi has only failed to finish once in her Hobart race history. Sailed by her by her present owner in 2010, she dropped her rig and the deck disintegrated in heavy seas off the southern NSW coast. *Bacardi*'s best result in the Rolex Sydney Hobart was in 2006 when 35 year-old finished second overall to the classic yacht *Love & War*.

Skipper Martin Power raced his previous boat, a Swanson 36, *Breakaway*, to several divisional placings in the Rolex Sydney Hobart, including winning the Gordon Marshall Trophy in 1999.

BALANCE**SAIL NO:** 7771**LOA:** 13.68m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Beneteau (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2008**TYPE:** Beneteau 45**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 4**OWNER:** Paul Clitheroe**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** P Clitheroe (5) – Skipper, N Scott-Perry (4) – Navigator, D Taylor (1) – Second in charge, A Cribb (7), D Keddie (3), M Balsom (4), M Craig (1), N Gillies (2), R Dexter (2), M de Montgolfier, R Meizer, T Brewer

Balance is the fourth yacht of that name skippered and owned by money media commentator Paul Clitheroe who began campaigning this Beneteau 45 in 2009. He has come away with some great results: winning overall the IRC Passage at the 2009 Audi Hamilton Island Race Week; second in the 2009 Rolex Trophy Series; first in IRC Division 2 at the Audi Sydney Harbour Regatta 2010 and second in the CYCA's 2009/2010 Ocean Pointscore Series.

In 2010, *Balance* won the Hempel Paints 37th Gosford to Lord Howe Island Yacht Race and the Gascoigne Cup. In 2011 it was second in the Audi Docklands Invitational Production division and won the Milsons Cup and Division 2 of the NSW IRC Championship, before a divisional third in the Audi Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race. Clitheroe then scored second in IRC Division B at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week and was second in IRC and ORCi Division 2 of the Rolex Sydney Hobart.

Clitheroe entrusted his Beneteau to an expat French crew for last year's race and the crew, who renamed the yacht *Peugeot-Surfrider*, notched up a third in IRC Division 3 and second in ORCi Division 2. With Clitheroe back in control, *Balance* won the City of Sydney Cup (Australia Day Race 2013), and IRC and ORCi Division 1 in the Sydney Harbour Regatta, before finishing second in IRC Passage Division 1 at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week in August.

BEAU GESTE**SAIL NO:** HKG1997**LOA:** 24.0m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Botin Partners (ESP)**YEAR BUILT:** 2013**TYPE:** Botin 80**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Karl Kwok**CLUB:** Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Hong Kong**CREW:** K Kwok (1) – Skipper, G Brady (10) – Second in Charge, S Hayles (8) – Navigator, B Marsh, R Houston, D Sweet, T Ray, P Jamieson, D Endean, C Ward (7), K Batten (3), M Cheung, M Chan, W Lo, M White, Z Gills, M Edmonds, K Harrap, W Endean

Overall winner of the 1997 Hobart with his then new Farr 49, Karl Kwok returns to the Rolex Sydney Hobart fold with his brand new Botin 80, *Beau Geste*, which his team has been busy putting together this year and was launched in New Zealand on 21 November. It is a replacement for the Hong Kong businessman's ill-fated Farr 80, which cracked through the middle during the Auckland Noumea Race off Norfolk Island last year, causing experienced skipper Gavin Brady and the crew some serious alarm. Rescued by the Islanders, the boat's fittings are being utilized in the new boat, which has assisted with the design process, ensuring that this super-charged performance racer will be ready to take to the start line on Boxing Day.

"There is a lot more structure in the boat, especially in the deck and some other engineering aft," Brady explains. "It's designed to be more of a coastal boat - for the Fastnet, Rolex Sydney Hobart, Bermuda and so on, with a similar beam. With a coastal race you've got to sail to VMG, both upwind and downwind, so a coastal boat is more of a Mediterranean style, maxi-worlds type of boat than say a Volvo 70. It also has similar foils to a Volvo 70, with dagger boards and a canting keel that is lighter than most in its division."

Apart from Kiwi, Brady, the star studded crew includes navigator Steve Hayles, who has navigated multiple Whitbread/VOR boats and contested other big events such as the Rolex Sydney Hobart, the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, Audi Medcup and Admiral's Cup.

Karl Kwok has done and won most of the big ocean races and yachting regattas around the world with more than a dozen different boats. Expect big things from this boat built by Mick Cookson in New Zealand. Kwok will have major competition in this race though, especially from other new builds such as the Carkeek design, Ichi Ban.

BLACK ADDER**SAIL NO:** F255**LOA:** 12.50m**CLASS:** ORCi**DESIGNER:** David Thomas (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 1985**TYPE:** Sigma 41**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** James Clayton**CLUB:** Fremantle Sailing Club, WA**CREW:** J Clayton – Skipper, L Powell – Navigator, P Washington – Second in Charge, B Mcleod, C Meechan, J Cross, G Holmes

Black Adder is a Sigma 41 that was designed and built in the UK. Sigma Yachts built the boat in 1985 and it contested three Rolex Fastnet races in the early 2000's with her previous English owners. A comfortable and seaworthy cruiser/racer, Australian owner James Clayton cruised the masthead rigged sloop from the UK to Australia via the Atlantic and Panama Canal and across the Pacific from 2010 to 2012. Following her first tilt at the Rolex Sydney Hobart in December, Clayton will cruise the yacht to her new home in Fremantle, Western Australia, where she will spend a bit of time sailing on the Swan River.

BLACK JACK**SAIL NO:** 52570**LOA:** 21.5m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Juan Kouyoumdjian (ARG)**YEAR BUILT:** 2011**TYPE:** Volvo 70**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Peter Harburg**CLUB:** Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, QLD**CREW:** M Bradford (6) – Skipper/Sailing Master, P Harburg (2), A Nolan (7), A Smith, A Nossiter (12), B Hilliar (4), B Clarke (15), D Hutchison (5), G Van Lunteren (2), M Von Bibra (6), P Dowdney (13), P Elkington (8), R Godfrey (8), V Prentice (5)

Peter Harburg purchased the former 2011-2012 Volvo Ocean Race entrant *Telefonica*, which Spaniard Iker Martinez won the first three legs of the race with, but ultimately finished the VOR fourth overall. Shipping his new *Black Jack* to Australia earlier this year, Harburg ordered modifications to bring the yacht up to Australian standards. She made her Australian ocean racing debut in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in July and finished third on line and in IRC Division 0 following a tight tussle with the top two, *Wild Thing* and *Lahana*.

Hoping to give the super maxis a run for their money in the upcoming Hobart, Harburg and his long-term sailing master, Mark 'Squark' Bradford, think the boat rates well enough under IRC to do some damage overall if conditions tend to be off the wind, which is what the boat was predominantly built for.

Harburg has continued the *Black Jack* name for his friend and Formula One legend, Sir Jack Brabham. The previous *Black Jack*, a RP66, won line honours in the 2008 and 2009 Brisbane to Gladstone races. In August last year, was second on line and recorded the second fastest time ever in the history of the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, breaking Brindabella's (a conventionally ballasted yacht) 13 year-old record.

BLACK SHEEP**SAIL NO:** 33345**LOA:** 13.7m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Philippe Briand (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2008**TYPE:** Beneteau 45**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Derek and Martin Sheppard**CLUB:** Wollongong Yacht Club, Greenwich Flying Squadron and Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** D Sheppard (6) - Skipper, C O'Neill (2), J Kolsky (3), M Ramsay, M Sheppard (5), M Outhred, M Kennedy, M Jones, P Allen (2), T Rodwell, W McKinnon, W Taylor

Black Sheep, formerly *Honeysuckle*, was acquired by Martin and Derek Sheppard in April this year and given a new tongue-in-cheek name. The brothers, in their first role as ocean racing owners, have a goal to do well in ocean racing and so entered their first Blue Water Point Score with the CYCA as preparation for the upcoming Rolex Sydney Hobart. They started off with the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race and finished 16th overall and eighth in IRC Division 3. Went on to an excellent third overall in the Flinders Islet Race in September, fifth in October's Bird Island Race and was 11th in November's Cabbage Tree Island race, showing promise of things to come. The brothers have had experience racing on other peoples' yachts, and their crew is an assembly of three previous boat crews, including family and friends, who bring a mixture of experience to the table.

BRANNEW**SAIL NO:** 9988**LOA:** 12.6m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2012**TYPE:** Beneteau First 40 Cr**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Chris Bran**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** C Bran (2) – Skipper, G Cooper (6) - Navigator, I Short (5) – Sailing Master, G Vaughan (8), J Craddock (2), J Penney (2), L Derwent (1), M Feilberg (2), M Short (1), B Sinton

The temptation proved too strong for Chris Bran to come back for a second Rolex Sydney Hobart after scoring his first major offshore victory in winning overall the Sydney-Gold Coast Yacht Race in July this year. His decision was vindicated after winning the Botany Bay Race in October and the Gascoigne Cup in late October. This Beneteau First 40 Cruiser Racer was launched for in February 2012 “to race in the Hobart.” In the lead-up, Bran finished 18th overall in the 2012 Sydney Gold Coast in which he won Division 3. He replicated his 18th overall result in Rolex Sydney Hobart, with a second in Division 3, after using the CYCA’s Winter Series for crew training and to explore the inner workings of the boat.

Sailmaker, Ian Short of Ian Short Sails, acts as Sailing Master and his extensive knowledge in producing optimised sails for Beneteau yachts will be invaluable, as will his sailing expertise. Some of Short’s own long-term crew will be aboard, along with a few of Bran’s own crew from his previous boat, most of whom were aboard for the Gold Coast win.

BREAKTHROUGH**SAIL NO:** 6834**LOA:** 12.2m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2010**TYPE:** Beneteau First 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** Jonathan Stone and Mat Vadas**CLUB:** Double Bay Sailing Club, NSW**CREW:** M Vadas (1) – Skipper, B Hurley (2), T Guy (1), B Hunter (2), N Martin, K Rumball, M Gentili, K Kiernan, C Halpin, W Pankanin (2)

This is the former *Chancellor* which was purchased by Jonathan Stone and Mat Vadas who sailed the Beneteau First 40 to 35th overall and ninth in IRC Division 3 of last year’s Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race. They went on to finish 29th overall and eighth in IRC Division 3 of the Rolex Sydney Hobart. *Breakthrough* retired from this year’s Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race due to time constraints. Previously, Stone owned *Illusion* (the 1988 Hobart overall winner for her original owner), which he sailed in the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart, but retired with hull damage.

BRINDABELLA**SAIL NO:** 10000**LOA:** 24.1m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Scott Jutson (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 1993**TYPE:** Jutson 80**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 20**OWNER:** Jim Cooney**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** J Cooney (3) – Skipper, O Schenk (7) – Navigator, L May (40) - Navigator, B Kellett (21) – Sailing Master, A Simpson (1), B Sykes (24), D Goff, F Khoo, G Simeoli (3), H Burke (1), J Coleman (2), M Phillips, N Armstrong (1), P Morrish (1), R Bott (2), S Wells, S Gajic (1), S Don (9), W Hedberg, W Hubbard (3), S King, E Adriaanse (24), B Taylor (3), B Penfold, P Degan, T Drayton, J Verheggen

Australia's most famous maxi, *Brindabella*, won line honours in the 1997 Hobart and broke the record for a conventionally ballasted yacht (1d, 20h, 46m, 33s) in 1999, when she finished second on line to the water ballasted record breaker, *Nokia*.

In last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart, *Brindabella* finished 10th on line and won PHS Division 1. In this year's Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, she was the sixth boat to finish the slow 384 nautical mile race and finished fourth in the PHS Division. Until last year, she held the record for this race for 13 years.

Under the ownership of Jim Cooney since 2010, *Brindabella* has been overhauled and refitted to suit his requirements. Although out-gunned by the bigger, newer boats in the fleet these days, should it blow, she could come into her own. The Scott Jutson design still holds the record for Sydney Mooloolaba, Sydney Wollongong and Sydney Noumea Races, all of which have been discontinued.

CANUTE**SAIL NO:** MH85**LOA:** 12.1m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Mark Mills (IRE)**YEAR BUILT:** 2009**TYPE:** King 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Peter Horn**CLUB:** Middle Harbour Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** M Miller (1) – Skipper, M Bassett (6) – Second in Charge, S Williams (11) - Navigator, A Simms (1), M Daniels (2), T Wildman (8), S Jackson, B Gardiner, A Gunton

Peter Horn debuted his brand new Mark Mills designed *Canute* at Audi Victoria Week in 2010 and made an immediate impression, winning Division 2 of the IRC Series. The yacht ultimately finished third in Audi IRC Championship that same year to Loki and Aroona after finishing sixth at the Sydney Harbour Regatta and third at the final Championship event, Audi Hamilton Island Race Week.

Nothing has been heard of the Australian boat since. She is on the comeback trail under the leadership of Mitchell Miller, who is normally at the helm of his Adams 10 and who will skipper the yacht in its first ever race to Hobart. *Canute* could be the dark horse of the fleet. In the short time she spent on the race track, she delivered the goods and had fellow competitors talking.

CELESTIAL**SAIL NO:** 421**LOA:** 14m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Rogers (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2007**TYPE:** Rogers 46**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 4**OWNER:** Sam Haynes**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** S Haynes (3) – Skipper, B Decoster (10), C Janes (9), D Cataldi (4), D Van Der Wende (2), D Palazzi (2), D McPhee (6), M Nolan (2), K Clarkson (6), S Clarkson (3), S McConaghy (13), T Davis (9)

Sam Haynes has been sailing up a storm with his Rogers 46, *Celestial* in his attempts for great results this season. It finished runner-up to *Loki* in last year's CYCA Blue Water Pointscore (BWPS) after scoring 22nd overall, third in IRC Division 2, and first in ORCi Division 2 in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart, the last race of the series. Haynes said it made amends for disappointing performances in the previous two Hobarts.

Celestial also won the Cape Byron Series (ORCi division of the 2012 BWPS) and placed third in the PHS series of that event. This year has already proven to be a good one for Haynes and crew. They won the 2013 NSW IRC Championship at Sail Port Stephens in April after finishing fourth in the Audi IRC Australian Championship in January.

In July, the Rogers 46 was 12th overall and second in IRC Division 2 of the CYCA's light wind Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, and went on to win the Brisbane Keppel Tropical Yacht Race overall, also winning under ORCi. Haynes then finished third in the IRC Racing division at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week and is fourth in the CYCA's Blue Water Pointscore Series after four races.

Celestial will again be sponsored by Sydney Animal Hospitals and is sailing to raise funds for Assistance Dogs Australia. She should not be underestimated; BWPS and other races this season, all of them, have tended to favour the smaller boats, so come the Hobart, *Celestial* will come into her own.

CHANCELLOR**SAIL NO:** 8824**LOA:** 14.8m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2004**TYPE:** Beneteau 47.7**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** Edward Tooher**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** E Tooher (7) – Skipper, P May (3) – Navigator/ Second in Charge, H Buckland (1), J Tijink, J Drysdale, K O'Reilly, M Meehan, M Ward (4), P Drake-Brockman (6), R Grubb (1), S Dawson (1), P Kenna (1), P Williams (1), B Hudson, D Culhane

This is the third Beneteau owned and sailed by Ted Tooher under the name *Chancellor*. Formerly *Pretty Fly II*, the boat was campaigned extensively by her previous owners Colin and Gladys Woods, and clocked up thousands of sea miles along the eastern seaboard. Her highlight was a second place in the CYCA's Blue Water Pointscore in 2005/06. Tooher has had the Beneteau 47.7 refitted and is looking forward to success throughout the CYCA Blue Water Pointscore Series in the lead up to the final race, the Rolex Sydney Hobart. Tooher retired from the first race of the series, the slow Sydney-Gold Coast, due to time constraints. His previous *Chancellor*, a Beneteau 40.7, contested five Rolex Sydney Hobarts (her last in 2011, and finished 59th), and four Audi Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Races.

CHUTZPAH**SAIL NO:** R33**LOA:** 12.32m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Reichel/Pugh (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2007**TYPE:** Caprice 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 6**OWNER:** Bruce Taylor**CLUB:** Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, VIC**CREW:** B Taylor (32) - Skipper, K Piesse (29) - Navigator, A Taylor (21), B Anderson, G Gourley (26), M Bagley (5), P Sandles (13), P Fletcher (26), J Permezel (23)

Although he has come so close, with second and third places overall, and an amazing 10 divisional wins, this will be Bruce Taylor's 33rd attempt to win the race that has thus far eluded him. He may still be wondering what could have been, after selling his Hick 35 to Ed Psaltis and Bob Thomas in 1998, who went on to win that fatal race, while Taylor had to retire his new boat.

Son Drew, has sailed every one of his 21 races with Bruce, flying in from Hong Kong each year. His crew is a solid core who have stuck with Taylor and have serious Hobart cred, with three having notched up 25 races plus, and others nearing that magic milestone.

Chutzpah's Victorian owner has 32 Hobarts to his credit, 27 with his own boats, his latest being *Chutzpah* number six. She is a Reichel/Pugh Caprice 40 built by Mal Hart, a builder of note from Victoria. In her first Rolex Sydney Hobart in 2007, *Chutzpah* won Division C and placed fourth overall. In 2008 she scored another IRC 2 Division win, and was third in division in 2009 and 2010.

Arriving in Sydney last year and looking at the predicted weather prompted the luckless dentist to quip: "I brought the wrong boat," referring to his Sydney 38 of the same name. He was right, as *Chutzpah* finished 42nd overall and fifth in IRC Division 2. Mainstays of the race have their fingers crossed for the likeable Victorian.

COLORTILE**SAIL NO:** 67**LOA:** 13.7m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Jon Sayer (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2000**TYPE:** Sayer 44.9**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Warren and Kristy Buchan**CLUB:** Cronulla Sailing Club and Royal Motor Yacht Club, Port Hacking, NSW**CREW:** W Buchan (2) - Skipper, P Rogers (1) - Navigator, T MacGillivray (5) – Second in Charge, D Romyn, G Cummins, G Weinberg (1), J Broom (1), K Buchan (2), P Marshall, R Varley (2), W Langshaw, D McKay

Colortile last raced to Hobart in 2011 but was forced out with rig damage. In 2009, she finished 12th in division after surviving a protest following a post-start incident on Sydney Harbour. Offshore racing results include seventh in IRC Division 2 in the 2012 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, after placing eighth in 2011. Her best result in the race though, was third in IRC Division 2 in 2009.

Warren Buchan, Rear Commodore of Cronulla Sailing Club, and wife Kristy, are determined to complete the unfinished business of 2011 with the former *Bashful*. They are competing in that club's and the RMYC Port Hacking combined racing schedule in the lead-up.

A sense of humour is one of the crew requirements on this boat where Kristy will once again working the pit, while also making sure the boys are well fed and kept amused. Meanwhile, 'Bucko' and crew will hopefully embrace some favourable surfing conditions. They love team work and celebrating after every long race with fellow competitors

COPERNICUS**SAIL NO:** 6689**LOA:** 11.99m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Radford Yacht Design (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2008**TYPE:** Radford 12**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 5**OWNER:** Greg Zyner**CLUB:** Manly Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** G Zyner (6) - Skipper, J Nixon (19), A Seja (12), F Nelson (18), M Doherty (13), G Radford, G Wilkins, S Cotton

This Radford 12 scooped third in IRC Division 3 in the 2010 Rolex Sydney Hobart, her best result to-date, and has competed in every race since. In last year's edition, *Copernicus* finished 12th overall under ORCi and fourth in ORCi Division 3. In this year's light air Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, *Copernicus* had the honour of being last over the finish line, but at least she hung in and finished. She had previously won ORCi Division 2, and was second under IRC in the 2009 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race.

In 2011, with long time crew Jim Nixon helming in the absence of owner Greg Zyner, *Copernicus* finished second overall in the Audi Sydney Offshore Newcastle Yacht Race. The yacht went on to finish second in the 2011 Hempel Gosford Lord Howe Island Race, in which it formerly scored divisional third places in both 2009 and 2010.

Nixon, coming up for Hobart number 20, joins the crew again, as does Felicity Nelson, who will sail her 19th Hobart, the second most Hobart races by any woman – an accolade she shares with Gail Harland, who will race aboard the new *Patrice* this year.

CV5 (CLIPPER 68)**SAIL NO:** GBR9354T**LOA:** 20.7m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Ed Dubois (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2005**TYPE:** Clipper 68**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Clipper Ventures**CLUB:** Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK**CREW:** P Dudin (0) – Skipper, H Fernie, S Atkinson, P Cooper, D Grant, G Jones, K Nelson, P Rayner, W Reed, P Spry-Bailey, B Trevethan, J Walker, M Wilson, C Buchanan, C Betts, C Spring, R Palmer, D Miller, R Hanna

This is the former *Gold Coast Australia* which won 12 of the 15 legs in the 2011-12 edition of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race under Tasmanian skipper Richard Hewson and his crew. Prior to that, it competed in the previous three editions respectively as *Team Finland* (was second), *Jamaica* (10th) and *Jersey* (ninth).

This time around, the yacht will be skippered by Rolex Sydney Hobart novice, Piers Dudin, who skippered *Hull & Humber* in the 2009/10 race to fourth place and *Edinburgh Inspiring Capital* in 2011/12. However, on the leg from Qingdao to San Francisco in 2010, he broke his right leg after falling and had to be lifted from the yacht and hospitalised.

Dudin's parents are sailors, so it was natural he would follow and cut his teeth in dinghies. The Englishman has been a professional skipper for the past seven years, so has a lot to offer when it comes to the Rolex Sydney Hobart, with more than 100,000 sea miles logged. He will deliver the yacht to Australia to warm up for the main event.

Come January, he will help lead crew training and development and participate in local sailing events at Clipper Ventures' new Sydney training and events base.

CV10 (CLIPPER 68)**SAIL NO:** GBR9359T**LOA:** 20.7m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Ed Dubois (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2005**TYPE:** Clipper 68**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Clipper Ventures**CLUB:** Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK**CREW:** Jim Dobie (3) – Skipper, M Moore, M Churchill, J Comer, L Coulsen, B Daniels, S Davis, S Jodrell, K Kyle-Little, M Popham, T Sherrell, L Simons, J Stevens, P Rayner, K Nelson, R McMillan, M Hollis

Jim Dobie, a dual citizen of the UK and Australia, skippered *Uniquely Singapore* in the Clipper 2009-10 Race and finished sixth. This time around he will be at the helm of the former *Derry-Londonderry* which finished eighth in the 2011-12 edition under current Clipper Race deputy director Mark Light. The yacht also raced in the previous three editions variously as *California* (10th), *Nova Scotia* (ninth) and *Cardiff* (eighth).

Currently Senior Training Skipper for Clipper Ventures in the UK, Dobie will take up the same role in Australia when the new training and events base opens. He is known around the Sydney waterfront having lived here when he ran sailing schools. Plenty of offshore experience, including three Rolex Sydney Hobarts and the Rolex Fastnet Race, should hold him in good stead.

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston (74), the legendary British yachtsman who became the first person to circumnavigate the world solo, non-stop, and founder/chairman of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race, will navigate in his second Hobart aboard either this boat or CV5. For the first time ever, he will race against his Clipper Race fleet of 12 brand new Clipper 70 yachts and their amateur crews, who are competing in the Rolex Sydney Hobart as part of their 16 leg round the world race.

DEJA VU**SAIL NO:** R166**LOA:** 11.6m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Dufour Yacht Design (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2003**TYPE:** Dufour 38**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Steven Carey**CLUB:** Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, VIC**CREW:** S Carey - Skipper, P Nicholson – Navigator, M Neilson – Second in Charge, C Hughes, E Dickin, M Moss, S Juza, S Scicluna

Steve Carey is bringing *Déjà Vu* from Victoria to its first Rolex Sydney Hobart. In 2012, the Dufour 38 produced mixed results. Last overall under IRC in the Stanley Race, she went on to place third overall in the Melbourne to Hobart Eastcoaster. It was second in the Cruising Division of the 2012 Lipton Cup Regatta and again in the Lord Forster and Acrospire Trophies, with a 13th overall in 2012/2013 Ocean Racing Club of Victoria's Offshore Championship under IRC.

A regular Royal Yacht Club of Victoria Wednesday Twilights competitor, in 2011 *Déjà vu* won the Palliser Trophy for the local cruise to Mornington. That same year was second in the Commodores and Doc Bennell Trophies for the Port Arlington cruise. Add a bit of serious racing to a bit of serious cruising, plus mixed results, makes it hard to say where Steven Carey and his Rolex Sydney Hobart novice might finish up.

DERRY-LONDONDERRY-DOIRE (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR730X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK

CREW: S McCarter – Skipper, J Ford, T Nice, N Blewer, C Crapper, R Dawson, J Middleton, M Porter, S Redhouse, A Richardson, K Wilson, C O'Byrne, M Porter, K Wilson, N Bingham, C Cunningham, W White, A McLellan, A Taylor, C Archibald, W Orsmond, O Baglay

Irish skipper Sean McCarter is savouring leading *Derry~Londonderry~Doire* this year after following ocean races since the age of 10. Originally from Derry-Londonderry, McCarter says being named skipper of his home entry is one of the greatest honours he has ever received.

The Northern Ireland city of Derry is the first UK City of Culture in 2013. It is the city's 400th anniversary, and it is participating in the Clipper Race for the second time as part of its four-year global legacy project. Derry-Londonderry will welcome the Clipper Race fleet to its shores at the end of June 2014 when the boats arrive from New York. Crew member, 26 year-old Kristi Wilson from Jersey City, USA, had never sailed until she saw the boats at Liberty Landing in New York when out running. Now, she is sailing round the world. This goes for a lot of the crew sailing in this race, some of whom will race all 16 legs to the finish back in the UK sometime in July 2014, while others will compete in just one leg.

DODO

SAIL NO: HKG2238

LOA: 15.8m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Alan Andrews (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 2001

TYPE: Andrews 52

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1

OWNER: Adrian Dunphy

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: A Dunphy (12) – Skipper, B Munns (8) – Navigator, M Hoogland – Co-skipper, G Parker (1), C Selwood (1), D Chapman (1), T Roberts (13), C Cecil (2)

Originally raced as *FfreeFire 52* for Sam Chan, this boat was the first TP52 ever built. She has done the bulk of her racing in Asian events, but competed in the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart under the guidance of Anthony Day, only to be forced out when the mainsail track was damaged. Residing in Australia ever since, Rolex Sydney Hobart regular, Adrian Dunphy has decided to try his luck with this offshore reinforced yacht.

A Sydney yachtsman who has contested 12 Hobarts, some as a charterer, the former 18 foot skiff and one design sailor will be joined by people with a mix of accomplishments - some have over 30 Hobart and Fastnet races between them while others come from skiff backgrounds, including the famous 18 footers, and from the foiling Moth machines. The crew is a blend of 'old hands' and youth. The former will add wisdom and knowledge, while the latter will be the 'new eyes' and strength. Dunphy says, "The formula that the *Dodo* team subscribe to for the Rolex Sydney Hobart is to finish the race, win our division and hope that the conditions suit the boat's rating for an overall win!"

DUENDE**SAIL NO:** ESP6100**LOA:** 15.39m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Judel/Vrolijk (GER)**YEAR BUILT:** 2003**TYPE:** Judel/Vrolijk 52**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Damien Parkes**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** D Parkes – Skipper (26), T Cable (47), D Graham (12), M Cassidy (4), L Gilbert (1), D Bishop, R Macmillan, R Saleh (1), M Riding (5), S York (8), A Swade, J Lowe, B Henderson, J Rowe

Duende will once again be the boat that carries the man to have achieved the most Hobart races, Tony Cable, who is coming up for race number 48. In an offshore career that spans over 50 years, this national living treasure remains a dedicated and enthusiastic ocean racer and club man – he is a Life member of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, where he served on the board and continues to play an active role.

According to Damien Parkes and his co-sailors, ‘Glark’ as he is known, is not just a pretty face, but a very capable member of the crew, who the younger members aboard the yacht hold in the greatest esteem. It doesn’t hurt that he can tell a good yarn and has a sound knowledge of the race that few can boast. This will be the third time he will head south on *Duende*. Parkes himself is undertaking Hobart number 27 and his crew includes experienced navigator Donald Graham. Some students from the Pacific Sailing School will also be aboard.

From the German based Judel/Vrolijk stable, this boat previously raced as *Tau Ceramics* and *Lacoste* in Europe, but was modified for Australian conditions and optimised under the IRC rating system. Her crew achieved their goal last year when they sailed over the finish line and into Constitution Dock in one piece. Tenth in in IRC Division 1 after being forced to retire from the 2011 race with engine problems heading into Bass Strait, was a great achievement.

FACEBOAT SAILORS WITH DISABILITIES**SAIL NO:** 7878**LOA:** 16.2m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** David Lyons (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2000**TYPE:** Lyons 54**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 10**OWNER:** David Pescud**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** D Pescud (21), K Watson (8), G Johnstone (8), M Thomson (7), R Speedy (10), D Leslie (1), C Josling (10), B Allen (3), K Moore, A Lee (4), B Watkins (1), B Canham (6), D Dannunzio, G Kennedy, T Purkiss (4), G Donovan, R Sealey

Since 2010, the *Sailors With Disabilities* team has been sailing the TP52, *Wot Eva* (the former *Wot Yot*, which was generously donated to SWD by wotif.com co-founder Graeme Wood), to Hobart with mixed success. This year, the crew is back to sailing it’s work horse, the Lyons 54 that won PHS in the 2007 Hobart after winning PHS in the 2006 Sydney Mooloolaba race and scoring second in the inaugural Sydney Mackay Yacht Race in 2006. Pescud and crew famously also won PHS overall in the fatal 1998 Hobart with a former yacht.

This year, SWD came up with a very clever plan, launching its ‘Face Boat’ campaign. For a tax deductible \$25.00, donors can have their photo appear on the hull of the boat. Patron, Malcolm Turnbull, launched this novel campaign in September to help raise funds for SWD (go to www.faceboat.org.au for all information). There is space for more than 3,800 photos on the Lyons 54, which has contested every east coast regatta and offshore race since being launched in 2000. In July 2003, with this yacht, the disabled SWD crew shattered the monohull circumnavigation of Australia record, a record it still holds today.

FLYING FISH ARCTOS**SAIL NO:** 7551**LOA:** 15.2m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Graeme Radford (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2001**TYPE:** McIntyre 55**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 6**OWNER:** Flying Fish Online**SKIPPER:** Duncan Macalister**CLUB:** Middle Harbour Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** D Lewin, K Holmes, T Grossman, A Harris, D Jenkins, E Linkova, M Kujala, J Allat, E Gaeggler, I Signorelli, R Bonner, G McGowan

Flying Fish Arctos' best result in the Rolex Sydney Hobart was in 2010 when the crew won PHS overall. Last year she finished a good third overall under PHS, which converted to second in PHS Division 2 - adding to her two other second places from 2008 and 2009. These are great results for the flagship of the Flying Fish offshore training fleet which is crewed by a number of international amateurs who compete in the race as a personal challenge together with some veteran hands from previous Hobart campaigns.

The crew will head south under the direction of Duncan Macalister again aboard *Flying Fish Arctos*, a strong and powerful cutter rigged Australian designed yacht that was originally built to race around the world.

FRANTIC**SAIL NO:** M111**LOA:** 15.9m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** James Donovan (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2004**TYPE:** TP52**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Michael Martin**CLUB:** Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** M Martin (5) – Skipper, A Johnson (1), B Leask (4), B Davies (3), C Cecil (1), D Hull (3), E Wilson (2), G Waterson (4), J Roberts (5), K Saladine (2), M Jensen (2), N Wilson (1), R Campbell (2), R Epstein (1), S Hunter (3), A Jenkin, M Dean

This will be Rolex Sydney Hobart number five for ex Wallabies winger, Mick Martin, who played professionally in the early eighties and has since made a successful transition to sailing. He purchased the former *Strewth* last year and retired from the 2012 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race after breaking the boom. Her Hobart campaign the same year resulted in a 41st overall, ninth in IRC Division 1 and 11th in ORCi Division 1.

The Lake Macquarie yachtsman, who has been campaigning *Frantic* in the new TP52 Southern Cross Cup Series, had his first taste of major success this year, winning the Gosford-Lord Howe Island race overall. Entering the CYCA's Blue Water Pointscore in preparation of the 628 nautical mile Hobart race, he placed 24th overall in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in July, resulting in a Division 1 fourth and ninth in ORCi Division 1. Scored 11th and 12th in the ensuing two races of the series – all three were light weather affairs, not suited to this heavier TP52, which is built to handle harsher conditions. Finished eighth in IRC Racing at yet another light weather affair, the 2013 Airlie Beach Race Week in August.

Prior to buying the TP52, Martin owned the Sayer 40, *LMR Solar/Frantic*, before getting hit with the serious sailing bug.

GEOMATIC**SAIL NO:** M495**LOA:** 15.4m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Judel/Vrolijk (GER)**YEAR BUILT:** 2011**TYPE:** Hanse 495**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Adrian Lewis**CLUB:** Mornington Yacht Club, VIC**CREW:** A Lewis (3) - Skipper, S Hand (2) - Navigator, T Humphris (3) – Second in Charge, P Young (3), P Whybird (1), G Scheen

This lovely looking two year-old Hanse was constructed in Germany and is back for a second shot at the Rolex Sydney Hobart. A weighty cruiser, built for comfort, rather than speed, this yacht is built to handle a heavy seaway and has all the comforts of home on board, including a cellar. There will be no extended periods on the rail for these guys, who sure to be well fed before being tucked up when off-watch.

The envy of many when she was parked at the CYCA pre-Hobart start, *Geomatic* finished a good 10th overall in PHS in her maiden Hobart last year after crossing the line in a respectable 51st place. In January this year, she finished fifth in Cruising Division 1 at the Festival of Sails. Lewis' hands will consist of a mixture of recent and long standing crew who are prepared to go the distance.

GIACOMO**SAIL NO:** NZL70000**LOA:** 21.5m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Juan Kouyoumdjian (ARG)**YEAR BUILT:** 2011**TYPE:** Volvo 70**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Jim Delegat**CLUB:** Royal Akarana Yacht Club, New Zealand**CREW:** J Delegat - Skipper, R Keenan (14) – Second in Charge, J Vila (3) – Navigator, S Cotton (10), C Dickson (4), R Bearda (9), M Hannon (11), D Blanchfield (25), D Wood (1), P Robertson, R Truljilo, C Main (1), A Crossan, M White, A Reynolds, M Kelway

New Zealander Jim Delegat, Managing Director of Delegat Wine Estate (distributor of Oyster Bay wines), purchased the 2011-2012 Volvo Ocean Race winner, *Groupama* earlier this year. Renamed *Giacomo*, it is expected to line up against at least two other Volvo 70's amongst the other line honours chasers come Boxing Day.

Has a canting keel, dagger boards and the latest in rigging. Was built for fresh off the wind conditions and will be impossible to stop in the right conditions. Will give a fellow winemaker Bob Oatley and his Wild Oats XI crew something to think about.

Delegat has chosen Kiwi whizz, Rodney Keenan, as second in command of his new yacht after contesting the Auckland Noumea race with him on *Beau Geste*, which nearly sank off Norfolk Island mid-race when a large crack emerged in the hull. Established yachtsman, Steve Cotton, a Whitbread Race/VOR veteran, is boat captain. Navigator is Juan Vila, who was among the victorious Alinghi America's Cup crew in 2007.

GREAT BRITAIN – (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR726X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK

CREW: S Talbot – Skipper/Navigator, P Coates, S Hunt, S Johns, M Nichols, D Acton, N Bennett, N Banks, J Carter, L Evans, P Hardy, J Hendry, O Jones, S Mabey, B Pate, O Philips, I Robinson, M Heywood, G Sharp, R Hanson, S Usher, D Stevens, M Godfrey

Skipper Simon Talbot was encouraged into sailing by his parents who both served in the Royal Navy and has always dreamed of completing a circumnavigation. Racked up second place in Leg one of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race from the UK to Brest, France and in late October, scored victory in the 3600 nautical mile leg from Rio de Janeiro to Cape Town South Africa, finishing nearly three hours ahead of second placed Henri Lloyd.

Crew includes British violinist, Gil Sharpe, 73 who is also the oldest female crew member and second oldest person taking part in the Clipper race. She was the first female violinist of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and wanted an extreme adventure.

Ollie Phillips is an England International Rugby Sevens player who previously captained the team. He is taking on the challenge as he recovers from injury and hopes to lead the England Rugby Sevens team at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Kirsty Norris, 31, has worked at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. as well as doing voluntary work in Kenya.

The GREAT Britain project and Clipper Race partnership is promoting British trade and tourism and is leading an Olympic legacy campaign. The GREAT campaign is the most ambitious international marketing program the British Government has ever run. It aims to showcase the very best of Britain to encourage the world to visit, study and do business with the UK.

HALCYON**SAIL NO:** R75**LOA:** 12.6m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2010**TYPE:** Beneteau First 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Chris Tucker**CLUB:** Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, VIC**CREW:** C Tucker (1) – Skipper, L Hulley (4) - Navigator, B Grayson, B Brown (2), D Holter (1), I Davidson, R Curry (1). L Hetrick (1), T Cembala, T Fowler

Chris Tucker and his *Halcyon* crew from 'The Royals' in Victoria have been warming up the Beneteau First 40 in their local winter series and finished with a second in AMS Division 1. In last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart, a first for *Halycon*, Tucker and crew finished 47th overall and 14th in division against a class field including same designs such as division winner, *Lunchtime Legend* and the 2009 overall Hobart winner, *Two True*.

Tucker launched *Halycon* in May 2010 and has been competing in races on Port Philip Bay and several ocean races out of Melbourne since. Race highlights since launching include winning the Melbourne to Launceston Rudder Cup under AMS in 2010, finishing PHS second in the Melbourne to Hobart Eastcoaster Race and third in the attached series.

HELSAL 3**SAIL NO:** 262**LOA:** 20m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Joe Adams/Fred Barrett (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 1984**TYPE:** Adams 20**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 9**OWNER:** Tony and Rob Fisher**CHARTERER:** Paul Mara**CLUB:** Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, TAS**CREW:** P Jackson (3) – Skipper, P Mara (1), B Garrod(1), P Walker (1), C Dollisson (1), C Ledden, K Johnson (1), L Maciejewski, M Raleigh, P Love-Williams, S Marsland, Z Leffler, K George, B Baker (1), S Zuehlke, A Leslie (1)

Paul Mara has chartered *Helsal III* from Rob Fisher this year and will sail her with assembled a mixture of local and international crew under the burgee of Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, the Rolex Sydney Hobart finishing partner.

Skipper Paul Jackson comes from Bishops Lydeard a small English Village, and will be competing against Helen Cook who is onboard Team Garmin, one of the 12 Clipper 70s, who is from the same village and was at school with Paul's daughters.

It's a multi-national team onboard that includes the British Wild Spirit team with eight Fastnet veterans and several Round Ireland bringing a unique blend of age experience and immaturity.

Helsal III, originally Arthur Bloore's *The Office*, was raced with success in the late 1980s and early 1990s out of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, when Dr Tony Fisher and his family lived in Sydney. Fisher broke his own record for the Gosford to Lord Howe Island Yacht Race and scored line and handicap double in the Sydney Mooloolaba Race. Rob Fisher sailed her to 31st on line and PHS ninth overall from 16 boats in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart. A heavy 29 year-old, *Helsal III* is at her best in heavy conditions.

HENRI LLOYD (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)**SAIL NO:** GBR721X**LOA:** 21.33m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Tony Castro (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2013**TYPE:** Clipper 70**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Clipper Ventures**CLUB:** Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK**CREW:** E Holden – Skipper/Navigator, S Hagler, D Paradiso, I Stewart, J Clarke, R Bates, D Dittmann, J Dick, N Golding, K Harney, S Lloyd, C Nelson, M Reilly, M Wassenaar, M Watson, W Macadie, H Wisser, A Paterson, M Rowell

One of 12 brand new Clipper 70 footers, *Henri Lloyd* boats a capped skipper in Canadian yachtsman Eric Holden, 33, who was part of the first Canadian team to win the Marblehead to Halifax Ocean Race in its 106-year history. He also filled the role of weather forecaster for the Canadian sailing team at the London 2012 Olympic Games and raced in the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart Race aboard the grand prix yacht, *Living Doll*, all which helped get the boat into third place on Leg 2 of the race from Brest in France to Rio de Janeiro and second in the leg from Rio to Cape Town, South Africa in late October. As we went to press, the 12-boat fleet was on its way from Cape Town to Albany, Western Australia, a distance of 4950 nautical miles.

Other Henri Lloyd crew members include Samuel Haglar, the oldest crew member in this year's Clipper Race at 74, who hasn't sailed in 20 years and American Ryan Bates (31), who has spent 14 months working in Kabul in Afghanistan, liaising between the army and Afghan government. He has always wanted to sail around the world. Englishwoman Anita Davies (42), suffered a stroke in 2005, and after two years in rehabilitation learnt to walk again through cognitive therapy. Henri Lloyd is the Clipper Race's technical clothing supplier and is a first-time entry.

ICHI BAN**SAIL NO:** AUS01**LOA:** 18.5m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Carkeek Design Partners (RSA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2013**TYPE:** Carkeek 60**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Matt Allen**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** M Allen (23) – Skipper, G Maguire (13) – Second in Charge, W Oxley (13) – Navigator, M Spies (36), T Sellars (7), J Dann (3), D Senogles (24), A Pratt (5), S Nolan (12), R Case (28), C Garnett (11), R Ely (11), J Rae (20), T Ryan (7), A Merrington (6), P Harmer, D McGain (9), M Cox

Past CYCA Commodore Matt Allen is making a strong bid for the Rolex Sydney Hobart's prized trophy, the Tattersall's Cup (presented to the overall race winner), with his brand new Carkeek 60. Built in Dubai and arrived in Australia by ship in November, the latest Ichi Ban had little time for pre-race practice.

Allen says he chose the design because: "There's been a lot of evolution in the TP52 area and the Carkeek boats, but the Carkeek has moved away in terms of performance. "We've designed it to be a fast, powerful yacht with plenty of sail area, but also structurally sound, as I intend to campaign it in major ocean races most of the time and spend about a third of the time competing in regatta-style racing."

Allen chose 60 feet as the optimum size because of his predominant passion, offshore racing, and the average wave patterns he would expect to encounter on the 628 nautical mile Rolex Sydney Hobart – the yacht's first big ocean racing test.

He has assembled a gun crew, including the talented Gordon Maguire, sailing master from Blue Water Point Score and 2011 Hobart winner, Loki, and first class navigator, Will Oxley, Robert Case, Michael Spies and Anthony Merrington.

Allen came tantalisingly close to taking Hobart line honours with his former Volvo Ocean racer, now competing as Southern Excellence II for new owner Andrew Wenham, scoring second on line in 2006 and third in 2007 and 2008. He has come so close winning the race overall, finishing fourth in 2006 and fifth in 2007.

ILLUSION**SAIL NO:** 5356**LOA:** 10.3m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Laurie Davidson (NZL)**YEAR BUILT:** 1988**TYPE:** Davidson 34**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 5**OWNER:** Travis Read**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** T Read (4) – Skipper, G Nosworthy (5), J Marks, M Butler (4)

This sturdy Davidson 34 will be minus experienced co-owner Kim Jaggard this year. Instead Travis Read will guide *Illusion* for a second time since he and Jaggard purchased the yacht in time for last year's race. *Illusion* won the 1988 Hobart with original owner, Gino Knezic of Victoria, and is among the smaller winners of the race.

With her current owners, *Illusion* finished fourth in IRC Division 4 in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart and sixth in the CYCA's 2012-2013 Blue Water Pointscore Series. In the current BWPS, it is 11th after the completion of five races, her best result being second in the Flinders Islet Race in September. Read can also count third in division as crew for Phil Molony's *Papillon* in the 2011 Hobart race.

Designed to the now defunct IOR rule, she also performs well under IRC. The proof was 23rd overall and fourth in Division 4 in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart in which they had two solid southerly stages. A nice hard blow on the nose with regularity will suit this yacht's temperament – and we are overdue for one.

INVEST AFRICA (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)**SAIL NO:** GBR725X**LOA:** 21.33m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Tony Castro (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2013**TYPE:** Clipper 70**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Clipper Ventures**CLUB:** Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK**CREW:** R Gould – Skipper, M Liyaba, R Oliver, S Chahonyo, E Collison, A Cross, S Dixey, C Forsyth, H Jones, J Kerckhove, C Reinecke, N Shoutova, P Sykes, P Hayes, B Podayko, S Stuttford, G Van Der Meulen, A Farrow

Invest Africa is sponsored by a fast-growing networking organisation in growing African markets. *Invest Africa*'s managing partner is Rob Hersov, who is also holds the same position at Partner of Sapinda UK, which is supporting eight young South Africans to develop their leadership skills in the Clipper race to take back to their communities. The Sapinda Rainbow Project is also working with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) during the race to raise money for a children's hospital in South Africa.

Already the crew have learnt about leadership and winning from their skipper, British yachtsman, Rich Gould. He has trained crew taking part in the Clipper Race since the 2009-10 edition and skippered *Invest Africa* to win the opening leg of this edition from the UK to Brest in France, going on to place third in the leg from Rio de Janeiro to Cape Town, South Africa.

Sylvia Chahonyo, a 38-year-old investment banker and crew member, is the first Kenyan to take part in the race and has no previous sailing experience. She has unofficially been hands on with helping to organise the Sapinda Rainbow Project crew in coming to the UK for their training.

Also aboard are British/Russian lawyer, Natalia Shoutova (30), who finally made her dream of wanting to sail round the world a reality, and Englishwoman Anne Woodward, a 56 year-old whose husband was on the outstanding winner of the last edition of the race, Gold Coast Australia.

JAMAICA GET ALL RIGHT (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR731X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, United Kingdom

CREW: P Stirling – Skipper, J Hill, R Mathewson, O Oslawskyj, J Brandon, A Byrtek, R Heggie, T Koczka, J Parlour, K Slezak, M Wood, A Rodic, M Cooper, A Ryan, R Burton, A Overy, S Davidson, M Benachour

Pete Stirling, 48, is skippering the Jamaican entry for a second edition of the Clipper Race; steering *Jamaica Lightning Bolt* to fifth place in the 09-10 Clipper race, missing out on a podium place by just six points. This time, he is hoping for a podium finish by winning individual legs. In early October, steered *Jamaica Get All Right* to second place in the long Leg 2 from Brest in France to Rio de Janeiro.

Jamaica's crew includes British naval architect Mick Wood, 62, Hungarian Terezia Kockza, 60, who is taking part to show her children and grandchildren that anything is possible, and Ronen Koehler, a 49 year old Israeli/German executive and ex-submariner with the Israeli Navy.

Errol Flynn Marina (named for the famous Hollywood movie star), the Jamaica Port Authority and the Jamaica Tourist Board are joint sponsors whose wish is to show off the tourist destination and its marina and facilities to the world, as well as to further promote the destination's sporting prowess.

JAZZ PLAYER – THINK PINK FOUNDATION

SAIL NO: S390

LOA: 11.9m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Brett Bakewell-White (NZL)

YEAR BUILT: 2004

TYPE: Bakewell-White 39

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4

OWNER: Andrew Lawrence

CLUB: Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, VIC

CREW: M Lawrence (4) - Skipper, M Dolphin (8) - Navigator, M Setton (6), G Agnew (8), J Whiteside (5), J Clements (1), W Slater (9), A Hibbert (1), R Gillmore, M Ajanko

This year, *Jazz Player* has partnered with the Think Pink Foundation to raise awareness for breast cancer support. Think Pink is committed to the support of women and their families at every stage of their journey with breast cancer and does so completely free of charge. She had her first Hobart hit-out in 2008 and finished 71st overall.

Since that time, Andrew Lawrence, a doctor, whose interest is medical imaging, fits in sailing around his busy work life. He puts the nine year-old cruiser/racer, from the successful design board of Kiwi, Brett Bakewell-White, through her paces as a competitor in Melbourne based races.

The 39 footer finished third in IRC Division 2 of the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart and was 12th in division last year, after the wind shut the gate on the smaller yachts and then threw a southerly at them.

Lawrence's finest hour with the boat came with the line honours and overall IRC handicap double win in the 2009 Melbourne to Hobart West Coast Race. More recently, *Jazz Player* was third overall in AMS Division 1 at the Festival of Sails in January. She was also awarded the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria's coveted Lord Warden Trophy for best overall performed yacht in any handicap or division for the Winter Series regatta. The boat's consistent crew remains enthusiastic and committed to every new challenge

KERUMBA**SAIL NO:** RQ5050**LOA:** 15.2m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Ker Design (ESP)**YEAR BUILT:** 2012**TYPE:** Ker 50 C/R**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Tam Faragher**CLUB:** Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, QLD**CREW:** T Faragher (2) - Skipper, G Essex, P Fuller (1), R Buchanan (2), V Hall, C Duffield, S Williamson, B Jones, M Wallace, R Wood, S Dunne (2), N Everson (2), T Anderson

Kerumba is a Ker designed racer/cruiser launched in July 2012 and this will be her first Rolex Sydney Hobart outing. With the majority of the crew stepping up from a Beneteau 44.7, the performance jump is being met with exhilaration in what has been described as a 'Beneteau on steroids'. After an extensive commissioning period, *Kerumba* is now starting to demonstrate her design pedigree.

Finished fifth overall in IRC Division 1 of the Qantas Link Brisbane to Gladstone in March, was eighth in IRC Passage Division 1 in light weather at Hamilton Island and came back with a second in IRC Division 1 of the 2013 Club Marine Brisbane to Keppel Race in August. Given the right weather in December, Tam Faragher and his sailing mates could receive a late Christmas present.

KNEE DEEP**SAIL NO:** HY161**LOA:** 15.28m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1999**TYPE:** Custom Farr 49**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 5**OWNER:** Philip Childs**CLUB:** Hillarys Yacht Club, WA**CREW:** P Childs (5) - Skipper, R Balding (4) - Navigator, C Saxon (1), D Armstrong (2), J Chaston (2), J Delfos (1), J Alp (3), S Hartley (6), W Koolhof, P Thomson (1), C Campbell, J McMullan (1), J Weeden (2), M Gray

This famous yacht was originally launched as *Yendys* for Geoff Ross and went on to win the 1999 Hobart race overall. Philip Childs rescued the yacht at auction after finding her in a deplorable state in Sydney in 2006, and has become a regular Rolex Sydney Hobart competitor since.

Renamed *Knee Deep* and now 14 years old, the Farr 49 is nevertheless in good racing condition and in just the right size band to still be able to give it a crack for an overall win. It last raced to Hobart in 2011 and finished 54th overall and 12th in IRC Division 2. Over the last six months *Knee Deep* has had a refit that includes a new rig, kevlar underbelly on the boom, re-design of the traveller system and some new sails.

Took Division 1 victory In Western Australia's 12-race Offshore Series, consisting of races between 20 to 50 nautical miles. Competed in this year's Fremantle to Geraldton race and finished sixth overall under IRC. The crew of 14 consists of the core from previous Hobart challenges with the addition of several very experienced offshore sailors. *Knee Deep* is skippered by Knee Deep Wines owner and Perth surgeon Phil Childs.

LAST TANGO

SAIL NO: 8975

LOA: 13.6m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: J & J Yachts (SLO)

YEAR BUILT: 2010

TYPE: Salona 44

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2

OWNER: Phillip King

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: P King (14) – Skipper/Navigator, W Tuck (6) - Second in Charge/Navigator, C Flood (3), D Castleton (3), M Forbes (2), M Bennett, T Johnson (5), V Whitby (3), D Maiden, W Page

Last Tango last raced to Hobart in 2011 and finished eighth in IRC Division 3. She was specifically design as a heavy weather working boat, originally based on AD Boats' Salona 45 series, and was modified to gain greater upwind performance. Her ideal conditions are 15-25 knots on the nose – and with a bit of luck, she might get that this year.

Since arriving in Australia in November 2010, just prior to the Rolex Sydney Hobart, from which she retired with steering problems, *Last Tango* has scored mixed results, including eighth in IRC Division 3 in the 2012 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race and 10th in IRC Division 2 the previous year.

Last Tango will be navigated by Wendy Tuck, one of the increasing number of women offshore navigators. Tuck, an avid yachswoman, is a sailing instructor who holds Master 5, Med 3, RYA Yachtmaster and RYA Cruising Instructor qualifications.

LUNA SEA

SAIL NO: 8339

LOA: 10.5m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Robert Hick (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 1994

TYPE: Hick 35

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 9

OWNER: James Cameron

CLUB: Drummoyne Sailing Club, NSW

CREW: J Cameron – Skipper (2), B Smith, N Dyer (1), P Conway (1), R Garner, D Parnham, A Mahony, M Mahony, M Dowsett

James Cameron raced *Luna Sea* in the Rolex Sydney Hobart last year and scored a good 26th overall and fifth overall in division. It was good, because the race really did not play into the hands of the little boats, which were buffeted on two different parts of the course.

Finished third overall in the 2013 Gosford-Lord Howe Island Race and since, Cameron has been racing in local events and in the CYCA's Blue Water Pointscore Series. With four races in the bag, Cameron is eighth overall, as he did not sail in the first race of the series, the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, but finished fourth and seventh twice in the following Flinders Islet, Bird Island and Cabbage Tree Island races respectively.

Despite her diminutive 35 feet, *Luna Sea* has proved her worth, time and again, thanks to Australian designer, Robert Hick, so Cameron knows he has a good boat in the former *AFR Midnight Rambler* purchased from Ed Psaltis and Bob Thomas, who won the tragic 1998 Hobart overall. They in turn purchased from the original owner, Bruce Taylor, when known as *Chutzpah*.

MAGIC MILES**SAIL NO:** TYC4**LOA:** 19.81m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Philippe Briand (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1985**TYPE:** Dynamique 62**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Michael Crew**CLUB:** Bellerive Yacht Club, TAS**CREW:** M Crew – Skipper, A Nelson – Sailing Master, P Watkins – Navigator, P Maguire, B Lark, M Woodward, B Bruce, L Watkins, P Gee, C Atkins, R Geissler

Magic Miles is a beautifully crafted and impeccably maintained luxury cruiser/racer sloop hailing from Tasmania, the finish port of the 628 nautical mile race to Hobart. From the drawing board of renowned French designer, Philippe Briand, she was built in 1985 and underwent a major refit in 2007-2008.

Owner Mike Crew owns the Theatre Royal Hotel in Hobart. He is s a Qantas captain, but is preparing to fly for Qatar Airways and has assembled a good mix of experienced sailors and novices for what will hopefully be a relatively comfortable sail on his 62 footer. Aboard is a good representation of Tasmania's burgeoning whiskey industry, such as Bill Lark and Pat Maguire and quasi novice, Peter Gee, who interestingly has not competed in the race before, but did do the distance on the radio relay vessel four times in the 1980's.

Primarily used for corporate match racing on the Derwent River in Hobart and for select private charters in the southern waters of Tasmania, *Magic Miles* is the same design as another Hobart based yacht, Dr Tony Fisher's *Helsal IV*, which last raced to Hobart in 2008. The heavy yacht, more designed for creature comforts and cruising, finished 67th out of 92 on line. Expect a similar result for *Magic Miles*, whose crew will enjoy a relatively comfortable ride.

MARTELA**SAIL NO:** 7075**LOA:** 19.26m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Niels Jeppesen (DEN)**YEAR BUILT:** 1996**TYPE:** IMX 38**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Anthony Williams**CLUB:** Bellerive Yacht Club, TAS and Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania, TAS**CREW:** A Williams (6) - Skipper, A Davison (5) – Sailing Master, A Nunn (1), B Green (6), D Oak (4), T Edwards (4), Z Williams (2), N McMillan

The distinctive dark blue hull and name, *Martela*, was easy to spot on the second start line of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race last year. Tony Williams and his crew, including 20 year-old son Zach, who will be aboard again this year, were happy with their 34th overall, seventh in IRC Division 4 and ninth ORCi Division 3. They bettered their performance of 2011 and the plan is to up the ante again this year. It should not be a problem, as results in the last 12 months show.

In February, *Martela* finished IRC second overall in Tasmania's Betsey Island Race. And in the Combined Clubs Long Race Series in March, after she got an early break on the fleet as it sailed down the Derwent in light winds, *Martela* led the fleet to the Iron Pot and went on to win the treble of AMS, IRC and PHS in Group 1 on corrected time. The final race victory gave *Martela* the summer season long race pennant under the major AMS scoring system, second overall under IRC and fourth under PHS scoring.

In 2012, Williams and crew won the Bellerive Yacht Club's 50 nautical mile overnight Isle of Caves race in both IRC and AMS categories after finishing an impressive fourth across the line, only 24 minutes astern of the line honours winner, *The Fork in the Road*.

MIDNIGHT RAMBLER

SAIL NO: 8338

LOA: 12.2m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Ker Yacht Design (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2011

TYPE: Ker 40

NUKBER OF HOBARTS: 2

OWNERS: Ed Psaltis, Bob Thomas and Michael Bencsik

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

CREW: E Psaltis (33) - Skipper, B Thomas (25) - Navigator, M Bencsik (17), A Psaltis (13), C Rockell (15), T Barker (9), W Howard (11), G Livingstone (4), N Harrington (2), J Christian

Since launching the latest *Midnight Rambler* mid-2011, Psaltis, Thomas and Bencsik, who won the storm ravaged 1998 Sydney Hobart race with a Hick 35, *AFR Midnight Rambler*, have scored various podium finishes. They include second overall in this year's Gosford Lord Howe Island Yacht Race; second in IRC Division 2 in last year's Hobart; third in the CYCA's 2012-2013 Blue Water Pointscore Series, second in the Cape Byron Series (ORCi division of the BWPS) and second in IRC and PHS of the 2012/2013 Grant Thornton Short Ocean Pointscore Series.

The trio, whose crew is a well-melded one with many regulars, has added a new sail wardrobe to help lift the boat's light-wind performance. With four races complete, *Midnight Rambler* is sixth in the CYCA's 2013-2014 BWPS.

Between them, the owners and their crew have 120 Hobart races under their belts. They are hoping for a weather pattern to suit as they chase a second overall win in the annual blue water classic.

As well as their Hobart victory, Psaltis and Thomas have won every offshore race on the east coast including the Gosford Lord Howe Island and Sydney Mooloolaba races twice, and finally succeeded in winning the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in 2009 with a former *Midnight Rambler* (a modified Farr 40), having previously won their division three times.

MILLE SABORDS

SAIL NO: SM381

LOA: 11.7m

CLASS: IRC/One Design

DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 2000

TYPE: Sydney 38

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2

OWNER: Stephane Howarth

CLUB: Sandringham Yacht Club, VIC

CREW: S Howarth (2) - Skipper, J Boyle (3), M Marten-Coney (1), P Sander (2), R Kasperczyk (2), F Rudland (4), M Corcoran, G Dunlop, B Carnell (10), A Plante

Stephane Howarth purchased *Mille Sabords* in May 2010 and began racing in local waters, including one-design events. She was the first women skipper to cross the line in the 2010 Rolex Sydney Hobart and was awarded the Jane Tate Memorial Trophy as a result. Was fourth in the Sydney 38 Division that year, and raced to Hobart again in 2011 with a 40th overall and seventh in the Sydney 38 Division.

In May this year, *Mille Sabords* scored seventh overall in the ORCV Offshore Championship, and in August, finished third overall in the Alan Shiels Winter Series on Port Phillip, giving the crew some tight round the buoys racing to tighten up boat handling skills.

Finished seventh in the 2012 Victorian Sydney 38 One Design Championship and has previously contested six Melbourne to Hobart Yacht Races. *Mille Sabords* has raced extensively offshore, finishing third overall and fourth in the 2013 Melbourne to Portland race. She also competed in the Adelaide to Port Lincoln passage race finishing third on IRC and second in the Sydney 38 One Design division. Frenchwoman, Howarth, has assembled a crew from Royal Geelong and Sandringham Yacht Clubs to take on the 628 nautical mile race.

MINERVA**SAIL NO:** 6837**LOA:** 13m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Reichel/Pugh (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2002**TYPE:** DK43**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** Timothy Cox**SKIPPER:** William Cox**CLUB:** Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, NSW**CREW:** W Cox (2) – Skipper, B Greenrod (1), E Cox (1), F McGregor (1), H Edmunds (1), I King (1), M Hewitt-Park (5), M Blaxell (4), R Carlile (3), B Cassidy, P Meilhat, R Warren

This DK 43, the former *Pla Loma IV*, is warming up for the big event in the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's annual Ocean Pointscore Series. Owned by Timothy Cox, it will be skippered in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race once more by his son William. He and *Minerva* last faced the 628 nautical mile race in 2011 with a 44th overall and fifth in division.

Minerva has also been a competitor in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, with her best performance in 2011 when she finished 22nd overall and fifth in IRC Division 2.

To top up on racing beforehand, *Minerva* contests events out of her home club, the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. She is currently taking part in the CYCA's Ocean Pointscore Series and after retiring from the opening race along with many others, redeemed herself with a second place in the Botany Bay Race. Cox will be aiming to keep pace with the Beneteau brigade once the fleet gets off the start line on Boxing Day.

MISSION PERFORMANCE (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)**SAIL NO:** GBR723X**LOA:** 21.33m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Tony Castro (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2013**TYPE:** Clipper 70**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Clipper Ventures**CLUB:** Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK**CREW:** M Mitchell – Skipper, J Fishburn, N Taylor, C Carroll, K Davidson, R Ford, D Furniss, E Gibson, S Hetherington, C Payne, A Shepperd, M Pitkin, K Camilleri, B Challen, S Little, C Madel, S Dand, H Norton, A Fairweather, F Parker Kennett, B Holland, C Greenhill, N Klien

Mission Performance is skippered by Matt Mitchell, the youngest skipper in the Clipper Race at 26. He has taken part in the Rolex Fastnet Race in the UK, St Maarten Heineken Cup Regatta and the J.P. Morgan Asset Management Round the Island Race, having been a sailing professional since leaving school.

Other crew members include 18-year-old British student, Sophie Hetherington, who is the youngest female in the Clipper Race; aircraft electrician Mick Leonard (53), British MD Anthony Fairweather (30), and Chris Payne, a farmer heading around the world. New Zealander Kate Davidson, a 24-year-old bartender, was inspired to sign up for the race after seeing an ad at a bus stop – she had no previous sailing experience.

The boat is sponsored by UK company, Mission Performance, a specialist in delivering high impact training programs which take lessons from adventures in challenging environments. The company is studying leadership, coaching and operational team working during the race.

MONDO**SAIL NO:** 5656**LOA:** 11.7m**CLASS:** IRC/One Design**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2003**TYPE:** Sydney 38**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 2**OWNER:** Ray Sweeney**CLUB:** Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, QLD**CREW:** R Sweeny (3) – Skipper/ Navigator, M Edwards – Second in Charge, A Jennings (1), J Marshall, M Grounds, R Daff, A Irvin (1), P Watt, R Daff

Named after the architectural practice Ray Sweeney founded, *Mondo* came into his hands in 2009. The Royal Queensland Yacht Club Squadron yachtsman last took the yacht in the Rolex Sydney Hobart in 2011 and placed 42nd overall and sixth in the Sydney 38 division.

Formally *Easy Tiger*, *Mondo* has been campaigned in IRC Racing along the east coast, including the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht race in which she finished 20th in IRC Division 3 in 2009. Has been competing in Queensland events in the lead-up to the Hobart and finished 10th overall in IRC Division 2 of the Club Marine Brisbane to Keppel Race.

NAMADGI**SAIL NO:** C444**LOA:** 13.9m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Humphreys Yacht Design (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2011**TYPE:** Elan 444**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Canberra Ocean Racing Club, ACT**SKIPPER:** Paul Jones**CLUB:** Canberra Ocean Racing Club, ACT**CREW:** P Jones (9) – Skipper/Navigator, P de Caritat – Second in Charge, G Hall, M Morley, P Ottesen, S Ring, S DeLorenzo, M Martin, P Morris,

Namadgi, is an Elan Impression 444 launched in June 2011, and is the latest edition to the Canberra Ocean Racing Club fleet. She finished third in non –spinnaker Cruising Division 1 in this year's Audi Hamilton Island Race Week and competed in the CYCA's Flinders Islet race in September finishing PHS ninth. Skipper Paul Jones' last journey south was in 2009 on the previous *Namadgi*, a Bavaria 44, that placed third in PHS Division 2.

The CORC was founded in 1979 to allow Canberra people to compete in ocean races, which the Club did successfully for four years with the yachts *Mercedes IV* and *Nadia IV*. In 1988, the Club's focus was changed to allow members to spend more time cruising.

Most years, *Namadgi*, the CORC's yacht, remains in New South Wales during the summer months, before undertaking a major winter cruise between May and November. Typically, this takes the yacht as far afield as New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and North Queensland. When not cruising, the Club opts to compete in major ocean races on the eastern seaboard.

NAUTICAL CIRCLE**SAIL NO:** A169**LOA:** 12.0m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Joubert/Nivelt (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2006**TYPE:** Archambault 40**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Ian Prentice**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia**CREW:** A McGuigan, G Weise (8) - Navigator, R Shaw (1) – Second in Charge, G Beard (1), I Gleichman (1), I Prentice (1), S Powell, T Bye, A Ormandlaki (1), T Weise

Nautical Circle contested her first Rolex Sydney Hobart in 2010, but suffered the disappointment of retiring. This year she is competing in the the CYCA's Blue Water Pointscore Series, and place 20th overall and ninth in Division 3 of the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, the series opener. Missed the next two races, but Ian Prentice took her to the Whitsundays after the Gold Coast race and competed at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, and placed eighth out of eight in IRC Passage Division 2. In November, she finished 12th on IRC in the CYCA's Cabbage Tree Island Race. An Archambault 40, she should revel when given the chance to stretch her legs in the upcoming Hobart race and will have some good in house racing with the other A40's entered.

NIKATA**SAIL NO:** GBR8200R**LOA:** 24.8m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** German Frers (ARG)**YEAR BUILT:** 2005**TYPE:** Swan 82**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** NS82/103 S Ltd**SKIPPER:** Tom Brewer**CLUB:** Parkstone Yacht Club, UK**CREW:** T Brewer – Skipper, M Hardy – Sailing Master, M Broughton (8) – Navigator, A Harris, C Wattlelot, G Massefield, R Whitworth, K George (3), J Turner (1), C Ripard (4), S Lee, A Lush (1), L Molloy (1), N Tangen, P Granlund, K Bjorklund, S Bull, H Ehrnrooth, N Gabran, A Stone

Competed in Rolex Swan Cup 2012 and finished fifth in Maxi Class A. Went on to finish fourth in class at 2012 Swan Worlds. In between, this classy and superbly fitted out cruiser/racer is used as a fully crewed charter vessel throughout France, Italy, the Med and Caribbean and features four luxury cabins. For the past year, the beautifully appointed yacht has been cruising the Galapagos Islands, Tahiti and Fiji for the past year.

For her first tilt at the 628 nautical mile race, *Nikata* will be skippered by Tom Brewer, who is fortunate to have Mike Broughton doing the navigating. The Englishman has done the Rolex Sydney Hobart a few times, more lately aboard Chris Bull's Cookson 50, *Jazz*. Last year, *Jazz* scored an excellent fourth overall and third in Division O, after finishing eighth on line and was second overall in 2010.

OCEAN AFFINITY

SAIL NO: RQ64

LOA: 15m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Reichel/Pugh (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 2009

TYPE: Marten 49

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3

OWNER: Stewart Lewis

CLUB: Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, QLD

CREW: S Lewis (8) – Skipper, C White (3), J Digby (2), M Vickers (11), R Lynch (2), B Torpelund, A Torpelund, S Brown, J Pirret, D Curnaw, L Randall, C Alcock

Ocean Affinity is a comfortable yet responsive Marten 49, owned and campaigned by Queenslander Stewart Lewis. In last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart, Lewis placed seventh in IRC Division 2 against tough competitors such as *Occasional Coarse Language 2* (Warwick Sherman), *Midnight Rambler* (Psaltis, Thomas and Bencsik) and *Celestial* (Sam Haynes), the top three in that division. Not to mention the experienced Bruce Taylor (*Chutzpah*) who has 32 Hobarts to his credit and finished fifth in Division 2.

Lewis' other results with *Ocean Affinity* include: back to back line honours victories in the Gosford to Lord Howe Island Yacht Race (2009 and 2010) and second overall in the 2011 race; third overall in the 2011 Brisbane to Keppel Island Tropical Yacht Race, second in division at the 2012 Audi Hamilton Island Race Week and first in IRC Cruising at the 2010 Airlie Beach Race week.

OLD PULTENEY (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR729X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK

CREW: P van der Zijden – Skipper, S Clegg, J Laundon, S Bonus, S Aram, T Bacso, P Bartlett, R Ham, D Hartman, K Hepworth, S Murray, K Postma, C Slater, P Thomas, C Peat, J Yuen, C Massaro

Patrick van der Zijden is the 43 year-old Portugal-based skipper of *Old Pulteney*, and like other skippers in the race, is specially selected by Clipper Ventures for the job. He has been sailing since he was a child, having grown up on the lakes of Holland.

This boat's crew is a truly international one, with crew from Peru, Switzerland, Brazil, Hungary, Holland, Canada, the US and Italy. It includes Welsh retiree, Peter Thomas (63), who is ready for another challenge after raising his son from infancy. British/Egyptian doctor, Fahad Khater (39) and 52-year-old nurse, Cindy Masaro, both of whom travel on annual Guatemalan expeditions, show the diversity of amateurs crewing in the race.

Old Pulteney is sponsored by a Scottish whisky. It has a hint of the sea in its taste from its windswept location which was the centre of an international herring boom

ONE DLL (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR720X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK

CREW: O Cotterell – Skipper, B Crawford, A Dickinson, R Jansen, J Koole, M Fisher, R Gosling, P Hunter, C Koelink, N Mulholland, D Oakley, D Richards, C Savage, S Smith, S Tait, A van Voorthuysen, J Milsom, Q Stewart, C van der Wilk, D Mathers, T Taraldsvik, M Taminiau

OneDLL, one of 12 brand new Clipper 70 foot yachts competing in the Clipper Round the World Race, is skippered by Oliver Cotterell, a 28-year-old UK-based yachtsman who grew up on a yacht in the Caribbean and has sailed to Atlantic islands such as Madeira many times.

Joining Cotterell as crew are the likes of Lizzy Fitzsimmons a 26 year-old from the UK who caught the sailing bug after her mum competed in the Clipper 2011-12 Race. It is a family affair, as her father is also competing in the race aboard *Henri Lloyd*, so they will have plenty to talk about as each leg of the race ends. Retired Dutch ship builder, Jacob Koole, is also aboard, sailing around the world while he takes a break from building his own 60ft classic style Dykstra design yacht.

One DLL is sponsored by the global business and consumer finance solutions company, De Lange Landen, which wants to further connect its global members and customer community to become '*One DLL*'. Some of the boat's crew consists of DLL employees who have been nominated to sail various legs of the Clipper Race by their own colleagues in the various global offices.

ONE FOR THE ROAD

SAIL NO: N40

LOA: 12.0m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Joubert/Nivelt (FRA)

YEAR BUILT: 2005

TYPE: Archambault 40

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1

OWNER: Kym Butler

CLUB: Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: K Butler (4) - Skipper, A Butler (4) - Navigator, J Searl, A Kiely (3), J Shute (5), P Ryan, B Hardy (1), R Ferguson (2), R Simpson

Kym Butler has come a long way since being named CYCA Ocean Racing Rookie of the Year in 2008 and moved on from his previous yachts to this Archambault 40, which he purchased in time to contest the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart. A 32nd overall and 11th in division was the result.

Butler and his Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club crew have competed in most of the major east coast races over the last few years including the 2011 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race where this A40 made her ocean racing debut and finished eighth in her division, which she replicated in the 2012 race.

Butler will be bringing to the table all the skills he uses at Butlers, the busy accountancy and legal practice he founded. He will have some great competition with other A40's in the race, such as *41 SUD*, *Papillon* and *Nautical Circle*.

PAPILLON**SAIL NO:** 6841**LOA:** 12m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Joubert/Nivelt (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2009**TYPE:** Archambault A40rc**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** Phil Molony**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** P Molony (23) – Skipper/Navigator, R Makin – Second in Charge (3), A Snyder (1), B Cormack (4), D Ganley (1), J Plant, L Molony (3), M Tilden (3), P Seager (1), S Grellis (24), N Pellow

Phil Molony and his *Papillon* crew have come into their own in the last 12 months with some of their best work since they started ocean racing the yacht in 2010. Taking part in the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's 2013-2014 Blue Water Pointscore Series, Crew Molony finished second overall in the opener, the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in July, no mean feat in some very tricky weather.

Number two was the Flinders Islet race, in which they finished seventh overall and backed up with third overall in the Bird Island Race. Finished 11th in the Cabbage Tree Island race in November and still holds onto second place overall in the BWPS behind *Wild Rose*. It's onwards and upwards for this crew and boat. Molony acknowledged prior to the Flinders Islet Race: "We've got the boat going well and I have a good crew who are working well together." *Papillon* made her Rolex Sydney Hobart debut in 2010 and following 42nd overall and third in Division 3 in 2011, moved up the rankings to 31st overall last year. Expect big things from this boat if the weather suits, including beating the other A40's in the race.

PATRICE**SAIL NO:** 360**LOA:** 13.9m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Ker Yacht Design (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2013**TYPE:** Ker 46**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Tony Kirby**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** T Kirby (28) – Skipper, F Walker (10), G Harland (18), J Tanton (4), J Mulkearns (2), M Jackson (6), P Messenger (24), T Woodcock (1), A Young (5), M Green (34), R Grimes, W Miller, A Barnes, M Brown

Tony Kirby launched his latest *Patrice*, a Ker 46, in November just prior to the CYCA's Cabbage Tree Island Yacht Race, finishing fourth overall, and is one of the brand new yachts in this year's Rolex Sydney Hobart. A light displacement carbon-hulled racer, she has been designed and optimised for IRC and ORCi racing and will suit a wide range of conditions. The hull shape is rounded with plenty of flat section aft for planing quickly, and she has a slim keel aft and optimized bulb.

With his previous yacht, an X-41 called *Patrice Six*, 'TK' finished fifth overall and third in IRC Division 3 in 2009 Rolex Sydney Hobart, after a win looked to be in the bag until the final hours. It was the first time the ORCi was used in Australia, and *Patrice Six* finished third under that rule. In last year's race, Kirby was 32nd overall, as conditions did not favour the 40 footers. However, he was seventh in ORCi Division 3 and 10th in IRC Division 3. As a result, he finished eighth in the 2012-2013 Blue Water Pointscore, the first time the Series concluded with the 628 nautical mile race.

An experienced crew includes Pete Messenger, a veteran of 24 Hobarts inclusive of wins, tactician Mike Green who will equal the number of Hobarts his late father Peter did (35) and trimmer Gail Harland, who has 18 to her credit, including a win. Kirby will be on his 29th race south and is hoping his new boat will provide that elusive win

PENNANT HILLS FORD**SAIL NO:** 6755**LOA:** 14m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2002**TYPE:** Beneteau 47.7**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Ian Creak**CLUB:** Greenwich Flying Squadron, NSW**CREW:** I Creak - Skipper, G Sanford (2) - Navigator, J Lelliott (1) – Second in Charge, D North, B Moore, L Byrant, R Lees, P Atwood, A Lelliott, I Arnold, D Stenhouse, I Sanford, H James

This will be Ian Creak and *Pennant Hills Ford's* maiden Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race; however, he has assembled a crew of regular offshore yachties who have been aboard with him in the CYCA's Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race over the last few years. They finished 22nd overall and 11th in Division 3 in this year's race, a difficult affair which had many succumbing to the extremely light breeze that beset the race. It was an improvement on their 44th overall and divisional 12th of the previous year.

Creak and his crew, regulars in the CYCA Winter Series, are looking forward to a hard slog to Hobart aboard this Beneteau 47.7 originally campaigned as *Caliban II*.

PERPETUAL LOYAL**SAIL NO:** SYD1000**LOA:** 30.48m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Juan Kouyoumdjian (ARG)**YEAR BUILT:** 2008**TYPE:** Juan Kouyoumdjian 100**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Anthony Bell**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** A Bell (3) – Skipper, S Honey (2) – Navigator, M Coxon (29) – Second in charge. J Akacich (10), N Burrige (5), J Flannery (8), T Braidwood (18), J Clougher (10), T Mutter, P Westlake, W McCarthy (6), W Morgan, T Slingsby, T Oxley (8), N Beaudoin, P Caligeros (11), I Smith, P Waugh (3), L Emdur (2), K Stefanovic (1), J Watson, G Brahim, B Merrington, J Bolton

Anthony Bell returns to the blue water classic with the former *Rambler 100*. Since acquiring the boat earlier this year, Bell has embarked on a mammoth project to re-build the yacht since her keel snapped off, causing her capsize in the 2011 Rolex Fastnet Race, after taking line honours in numerous races. She was originally and aptly christened *Speedboat* – for good reason – and took line honours in her maiden outing, the Newport Bermuda Race.

Bell took line honours from *Wild Oats XI* in the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart with his former Elliott designed super maxi (now called *Ragamuffin 100* and in the hands of Syd Fischer), crossing the finish line just three minutes and eight seconds ahead of her adversary and after surviving a protest by the Race Committee.

This yacht is sure to be the fly in the ointment, with a crew who forms part of the 'who's who' of yachting, such as the return of American navigator, Stan Honey, who was among the first to sail this yacht when it was named *Speedboat*.

Reputedly the fastest racing 100 footer in the world, buckle up for a white knuckle ride and get set for what will be the most talked about super maxi battle in the world as *Perpetual LOYAL* goes head-to-head with record holder *Wild Oats XI*, *Ragamuffin 100* and *Wild Thing*.

PRETTY FLY III**SAIL NO:** 10007**LOA:** 15.24m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2005**TYPE:** Cookson 50**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 3**OWNER:** Colin Woods**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** C Woods (6) – Skipper, S Holdsworth (12) - Navigator, A Coates (4), G Marshall (7), M Ashley-Jones (5), J Leppard (2), G Clare, B Gladwell, B Jonston, D Taylor (3), A Holdsworth, J Harper (1), P Burling

As the name suggests, this is the third *Pretty Fly III* for Colin and Gladys Woods who have been around competitive yachting for a long time. The canting keel Cookson 50, which they bought in 2009, last went to Hobart in 2011, but disappointingly for Colin Woods and crew, retired. The previous year, *Pretty Fly III* finished second overall and was second in IRC Division 0 and ORCi division. It also finished third in the CYCA's 2010/2011 Cape Byron Series (the ORCi division of the Bluewater Pointscore Series).

Woods is hoping they can perform as they did in 2010 come this Rolex Sydney Hobart. They had not undertaken any major ocean racing events in the last 12 months, until June this year when *Pretty Fly III* broke the race record for the Coral Coast Race, showing the yacht and crew and still more than able for the task at hand.

PRIMITIVE COOL**SAIL NO:** 3300**LOA:** 15.64m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNERS:** Reichel/Pugh (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2008**TYPE:** Reichel Pugh 51**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 4**OWNER:** John Newbold**CLUB:** Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, VIC**CREW:** J Newbold (1) – Skipper, M Fahey (3) – Navigator, K Schrank (2), T Bardon (1), T Duckmanton, J Wemyss (2), G Carr, G Schrank, P Stewart, J Collins, E Lyche, A Cooper, R Pollock, P Knight

John Newbold had mixed success with his last *Primitive Cool* (the former *AFR Midnight Rambler*) and retired from last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart after the mainsail was damaged. On November 1, the Victorian stepped up his campaign by purchasing the 2010 Rolex Sydney Hobart winner, *Secret Men's Business 3.5* from South Australian, Geoff Boettcher, who contested the Rolex Sydney Hobart last year. He finished a respectable 10th overall after losing a portion of the boat's rudder in a race that was dominated by the big boats.

Boettcher shipped the boat to Cowes this year and competed at Cowes Week and the Rolex Fastnet Race, in which he finished a respectable third in IRC Division Z. Before re-launching the yacht he originally named *Secret Mens Business 3*, Boettch broke the record for the fastest boat under 50ft and fastest ever South Australian yacht to finish the 2008 Hobart, and broke the record for the 2009 Adelaide to Port Lincoln race.

Later in 2009, the yacht underwent a rebuild and hull modification, designed to correct upwind performance, at Hart Marine in Mornington. Her waterline length was also increased by four feet – hence the name change to *SMB 3.5*. If her new owner and crew can come to grips with the new yacht quickly, a good result could be on the cards.

PSP LOGISTICS (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR728X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK

CREW: C Hollis – Skipper, M Bishop, K Christmas, S Ewens, G Freret, G Jackson, J Rhodes, N Brennan, N Besag, D Brown, T Grigalis, K Hall, M Holingsworth, J Madin, M Murphy, M Pigram, N Reynolds, U Stroh, D Sims, J Hermansky, D Watts, V Nicolls, K Beney, K Taguchi

For NSW fans, this would be the favourite of the fleet, as she is skippered by Sydney-based yachtsman, Chris Hollis. A 34 year-old seasoned racer in Australian waters, he was introduced to sailing at the age of seven by his parents and discovered competitive racing in 2001. Hollis has taken part in two Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Races and ended up with two divisional podium places. His experience showed when *PSP Logistics* took out the 5000nm Leg 2 of the Clipper Race from Brest to Rio de Janeiro in early October.

Crew members include Australian Nigel Brennan, a 41 year-old photojournalist who was working in Somalia when taken hostage in 2008 and spent 462 days in captivity before being released. He is doing Legs 1 to 4 of the Clipper Race. Ursula Stroh, 50, joins him. Originally from South Africa, she has been living in Australia for the past 12 years and has changed her outlook on life by signing up for the Clipper Race.

PSP is a UK-based global logistics company and is also the official logistics partner of the Clipper Race. It is best known within the marine industry for its specialism in boat transportation and race logistics, being trusted by some of the biggest brands and races, including Etchells, ISAF and the America's Cup, to transport their yachts and motorboats around the world.

QINGDAO (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR722X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK

CREW: G Glover – Skipper, B Chen, Z Sun, B Webb, J Besley, G Bayles, P Brumby, K Evans, F Hope, J Kingerlee, L Lingard, J Noble, B Pickles, L Smith, K Song, C Gardiner, W Owen, L Swift, W Osorio, J Kempe

Qingdao is skippered by UK-based Gareth Glover, an experienced sailor and Yachtmaster and watersports instructor. After helming *New York* to sixth place in the 2011-12 edition of the Clipper Race, his experience paid dividends with a third place in Leg 1 of the race, which took the 12-boat fleet from UK to Brest in France – a distance of 400 nautical miles. *Qingdao* is looking in form, with a fourth place in the long 5000 nautical mile Leg 2.

The Clipper fleet will have plenty of sea miles under their hulls by the time they reach Sydney for the start of the Rolex Sydney Hobart, having raced roughly 15,200 nautical miles to reach Sydney.

Crew member Vicky Song will be the first Chinese woman to sail all the way around the world when she completes the Clipper Race circumnavigation in July 2014. There are also 10 other Chinese people on board the yacht sponsored by the Qingdao Yachting Association. It is QYA's fifth Clipper Race; the aim is to make Qingdao a global sailing city and produce more champions since hosting sailing at the 2008 Olympic Games.

RAGAMUFFIN 100**SAIL NO:** SYD100**LOA:** 30.48m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Greg Elliott (NZL)**YEAR BUILT:** 2004**TYPE:** 100ft Maxi**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 6**OWNER:** Syd Fischer**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW and Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, NSW**CREW:** S Fischer (44) – Skipper, T Ellis (46), D Witt (18), M Humphries, M Pearce (17), P Britt (2), A Crowe (16), C Malouf (2), L Pritchard (4), J Fisher (2), L Jamieson (28), M Fullerton (14), G Hill (16), V Dudley (17), L Parkinson, J Shave, F Galletta, L Wolfe, I Walker (26), J McCartney, C Knox, M John, T Clout, C Wild, T Webster

Since finishing second on line to *Wild Oats XI* in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart, just weeks after acquiring use of the yacht, Syd Fischer shipped *Ragamuffin 100* to the US this year for the 2225 nautical mile Transpac Yacht Race and took line honours in the monohull section. On October 19, Fischer took line honours and broke the Hong Kong Vietnam race record by four minutes with the Dubois 90, *Ragamuffin 90*. He used the race for crew training and selection.

Originally launched in 1989 as *Maximus*, the yacht underwent a major rebuild in 2004, and was then lengthened from 98ft to 100ft in 2009 and renamed *Investec Loyal*. Last year, Fischer raced her as *Ragamuffin Loyal* and this year she will head south as *Ragamuffin 100*.

In October, Fischer was honoured with Yachting Australia's Lifetime Achievement award. Among the Sydney yachtsman's many achievements are taking Hobart line honours with his German Frers maxi in 1988 and 1990, and winning it overall in 1992 with the former *Will*, a Farr 50. He has also been victorious in the CYCA's Blue Water Pointscore Series a record nine times, last winning in 2007/2008. He has finished top three since, until late last year, when he changed his TP52 for the super maxi while sitting in second place. These results culminated in Fischer winning Ocean Racer of the Year on multiple occasions.

Now 86 years old, Fischer this year equals the record for the oldest skipper in the Hobart race, set by John Walker (*Impeccable*) in 2008. He will sail his 45th Hobart with old mate Tony 'Ace' Ellis alongside him looking down the barrel of his 47th – which is the current record for most Hobart races sailed and held by Tony Cable

RUSH**SAIL NO:** B45**LOA:** 13.81m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1997**TYPE:** Corel 45**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 6**OWNER:** Ian and John Paterson**CLUB:** Royal Brighton Yacht Club, VIC**CREW:** J Paterson (1) – Skipper, A Poulton (9), J Ryseenbeek (2), J Ezard (2), L Poulton (1), M Russell (1), P Davies (6), P Greenwood (7), A Valenza, B Renshaw, K Jenkins, A Ratcliffe

Rush went to Hobart last year and finish 49th overall under IRC and 10th in Division 2. The Patersons are avid sailors and have entered their 16 year-old Corel 45 in the majority of major Victorian offshore races for years, including putting in a regular appearance at Australia's oldest keel boat event, currently known as Festival of Sails, each January.

Rush is contesting her sixth Rolex Sydney Hobart, with a best place of fifth in IRC Division 2 in both 2008 and 2009. Among the regular crew which has a multitude of ocean racing experience, is Andrew McCole, who contested the 2007 Melbourne Osaka double-handed yacht race, withdrawing after hull damage occurred.

SENNA**SAIL NO:** G14**LOA:** 14.1m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Philippe Briand (FRA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2012**TYPE:** Beneteau First 45**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Chris Manton**CLUB:** Royal Geelong Yacht Club, VIC**CREW:** B Garner (5) – Skipper, M Webb - Sailing Master, S Williamson – Navigator, B O'Brien (3), C Manton, D Pickering (7), I Williamson (1), J Newman (8), J Smith (4), M Webb (1), M Schilt (2), T Clark, J Hannah

Geelong sailing identity, Brendan Garner, will skipper this one year old Beneteau 45 in her first Rolex Sydney Hobart outing. The shipwright has 30 years' sailing experience and steered *Senna* to second in Division 2 of the Audi IRC Championship in January. In May, he drove *Senna* to line honours victory in the Apollo Bay Race to finish second overall in IRC. The yacht is also a regular at Beneteau events.

Senna's star is on the ascent and her owner, JAM Architect director Chris Manton, realises the value his skipper brings to the yacht; Garner has twice won the Australian Fireball Championship, won the Australian SB3 Championship and is an accomplished Etchells sailor. He has also contested the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race in the past, inclusive of co-helming Morris Finance Cinquante to winning the Sydney 38 One-Design division in 2008. If the weather plays ball for the Beneteaus, *Senna* will be a serious contender.

SHE**SAIL NO:** 4924**LOA:** 12.23m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Gary Mull (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1982**TYPE:** Olsen 40 mod**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 17**OWNER:** Peter Rodgers**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** P Rodgers – Skipper (18), A Ozols (9), B Cohen (10), C Gray (6), M O'Dea (5), B Ratcliff (44), C Lynch, P Owens

The 31 year-old *She* has been around the 628 nautical mile Rolex Sydney Hobart course 17 times now, while her owner, Peter Rodgers, is going to start his 19th. In last year's Hobart, *She* won PHS overall, a feat she also achieved in 2009. In the tough 2004 race, she scored fourth overall in PHS, proving that age does not weary all, and that the sturdiness of the yacht has held it in good stead.

The Gary Mull designed yacht has also contested 12 Lord Howe Island Races in which she has scored divisional placings over the years. Expect another good result from this regular.

SHEPHERD CENTRE

SAIL NO: 11407

LOA: 11.9m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 2005

TYPE: Beneteau 40.7

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 4

OWNER: Hugh Torode

CLUB: Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, NSW

CREW: H Torode (4) - Skipper, A Lawrence (8) - Navigator, J Whitfeld (19) – Second in charge D Sharp (6), G Healy (3), H Ray, P Bulley, W Torode, H Sharp, I Douglas (4), M Watson

Dr Hugh Torode has continued his support for the *Shepherd Centre* once again renaming *Pelagic Magic* to *Shepherd Centre* for the upcoming Rolex Sydney Hobart. In the 2010 race, *Shepherd Centre* finished fourth in IRC Division 4 and third in ORCi Division 3 and in the 2011 Hobart, *Shepherd Centre* was scored DNF due to a failure to report at Green Cape, which is mandatory.

Like many others, she retired from this year's Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race because of time constraints caused by light conditions. The crew are hoping for another strong result in this year's Hobart, and are excited and proud to be representing the *Shepherd Centre* which assists 200 deaf children aged 0-5 years old, every year. It costs \$15,000 per year per child of which 75% has to be generated through fundraising. This year, and for the first time, Hugh's son Will joins the crew for his first Hobart experience.

SHE'S THE CULPRIT

SAIL NO: 370

LOA: 11.96m

CLASS: PHS

DESIGNER: Jim Inglis (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 1994

TYPE: Inglis/Jones 39 Mod

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 3

OWNER: Culprit Syndicate

CLUB: Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: G Picasso (2) – Skipper, A Boslem, M McDonald (2), D O'Dowd (1), G Benson, G Bulmer (3), J Lattimore, M Graham (5), M Denton, R Jarvie, T Vooles, T Butler

She's the Culprit last moored at Constitution Dock in Hobart in 2010, after pulling up 38th overall and 11th in IRC Division 2 with her previous owner, Todd Leary from Tasmania. It was fine revenge, as the previous year, a crash 30 minutes after the start ended Leary's race. The Inglis 39 is now owned by a syndicate of four mates from Lake Macquarie and Newcastle who have sailed thousands of sea miles together. They will be vying for the PHS trophy in this year's Rolex Sydney Hobart.

The boat was originally built in 1994 by Hart Marine and launched as *Top Cat* for the Melbourne Osaka Yacht Race. She then raced in Tasmania under the name of *42 South* before being sold to Todd Leary who changed her name to *She's The Culprit* and campaigned her on all the long distance races, including three Hobart's from 2008-2010.

Her first major race for the current owners was the 2012 Pittwater to Coffs, where she won PHS Division 2, which she followed up with a PHS divisional win in last year's Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race and in this year's light and slow race, scored fifth from seven boats in PHS, as the conditions did not suit.

The yacht was also second in last year's LMYC and NCYC offshore pointscores. *She's the Culprit* has quickly earned a local reputation of being a very social boat and her crew of experienced and inexperienced offshore sailors are looking forward to the race south.

SHINING SEA

SAIL NO: YC1545

LOA: 13.6m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Philippe Briand (FRA)

YEAR BUILT: 2008

TYPE: Beneteau First 45

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 2

OWNER: Andrew Corletto

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia, SA

CREW: A Corletto (2) - Skipper, B Young (13) – Navigator/Second in Charge, A Van Essen (1), S Bohm, P Hughes, R Davis (1), R Human (18), H Cooper (1), M Warman (6), N Wilhelm (3), S Langbein, D Conigrave

Andrew Corletto returns to the Rolex Sydney Hobart after a two year absence with an updated *Shining Sea*, the former all-conquering *Victoire*, which he purchased late last year from Darryl Hodgkinson and began campaigning locally this July.

Corletto's Sydney 38, also *Shining Sea*, was named the Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia's Yacht of the Year after competing in every inshore and offshore series race in the 2012-2013 season, consistently placing in the top three. Won the following: CYCSA's Offshore IRC and PHS Pointscore; PHS in CYCASA's inshore series, in which she was second under IRC and PHS Division at Lincoln Race Week. Finished third in the South Australian Sydney 38 Championship.

With her original owner, the yacht won Class B in the 2011 Audi IRC Australian Championship after a third place at Audi Victoria Week, second at the Audi Sydney Harbour Regatta, and divisional wins in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race and Hamilton Island Race Week. The boat also secured IRC Division 3 victory in the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart.

SOUTHERN EXCELLENCE II

SAIL NO: AUS03

LOA: 21.5m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Don Jones (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 2005

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 8

TYPE: Volvo Open 70

OWNER: Andrew Wenham

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW

CREW: A Wenham (7) – Skipper, D Burt (4) – Sailing Master, M Bellingham (19) – Navigator, D Wenham (3), D Hogben (5), M Lewkovitz (3), P Meakins (4), R Burns (2), I Broad (19), M Tyrrell (3), A Burt (4), A Chase (2), J Dock (11), J Turner (1), R Harley, K Swiney (5), N Vindin

Andrew Wenham purchased the former *Ichi Ban* in March this year and won line honours in the protracted Gosford Lord Howe Island race in a time of 63hrs, 45mins 22secs; one of the longest in the race's recent history after being marred by light and fluky winds. In similar conditions in this year's Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, *Southern Excellence II* finished fifth on line and fifth in IRC Division 0 and then took line honours in the Blue Water Pointscore's Bird Island Race in October.

Wenham has upgraded a number of systems on the boat to improve her IRC rating and to suit his requirements. His crew, including eldest son David, is bolstered by the likes of sailmaker Ian Broad, who will be pushing hard for a podium finish in their first Hobart aboard this yacht. With his former *Southern Excellence*, a Volvo 60, Wenham crossed the line in 15th place for sixth overall in PHS.

Originally built for and competed in the 2005-2006 Volvo Ocean Race, this yacht reaped some great results for former owner Matt Allen, including second on line in 2006 Rolex Sydney Hobart and third in 2007 and 2008. Allen also came close winning the Hobart overall too; fourth in 2006 and fifth in 2007, with a sixth on line and 11th overall last year.

SPIRIT OF MATESHIP**SAIL NO:** NOR 2**LOA:** 19.5m**CLASS:** PHS**DESIGNER:** Laurie Davidson (NZL)**YEAR BUILT:** 2001**TYPE:** Volvo 60**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 10**OWNER:** RSL QLD**SKIPPER:** Russell McCart**CLUB:** Southport Yacht Club, QLD**CREW:** C R McCart - Skipper, B Mills, B McDonald, C McCart, C McCarthy, D Walker (5), K Spencer, K McCarthy, L McLean, L Robins, M Cardinaels, M Parrott, N Brien, P Huybers (2), P Sanson, R Gibson, R Roberts, K Spencer, P Jones (18), T Slader

Spirit of Mateship, the former *Southern Excellence*, but originally known as *djuice Dragons*, will be crewed by ten wounded, injured, or ill existing and former Australian Defence Force personnel, known as 'Brave Mates', to raise money for the Mates4Mates charity. Mates4Mates was established to provide support to wounded, injured and ill members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families.

Led by the skilled yachtsman, Russell McCart, the nominated Mates will participate in a series of training activities to ensure all are ready for what awaits come December 26. The Brave Mates will be stretched physically and psychologically to develop both individual and team skills, such as fortitude, strength, resilience and resourcefulness to name a few. By experiencing and conquering any negative aspects, they can overcome adversity. Further information on how to support this valiant effort by the Brave Mates: www.mates4mates.org.

As *Southern Excellence*, this yacht placed second in PHS Division 2 in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart and had undergone extensive refurbishment. Under the name *Getaway-Sailing.com*, this yacht took line and PHS honours and set a new course record for the lengthened by eight nautical miles 2006 Gosford to Lord Howe Race, and repeated its line honours victory again in 2007. The yacht also scored line honours in the 2007 Melbourne to Vanuatu race, for which it also holds the race record.

ST JUDE**SAIL NO:** 6686**LOA:** 14.2m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2007**TYPE:** Sydney 47**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 4**OWNER:** Noel Cornish**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** N Cornish (6) – Skipper, B De Haas (5) – Navigator, A Liddle (5) – Sailing Master, J Liddle, J Orpin (1), M Loneragan (2), M Ivaneza (3), P Liddle (1), W Allen (1), J King

St Jude sailed her first offshore race in the 2008 Australia Day Ocean Pointscore Race to Botany Bay return and won. Noel Cornish and his crew went on to finish third overall in the CYCA's 2010/11 Ocean Pointscore (OPS), following on from her PHS win in 2009/10 OPS. In the 2012/2013 season, finished fourth. In the present series, with two races in the bag, *St Jude* is sitting pretty in second place, with plenty of racing to come.

Her best Rolex Sydney Hobart result came in 2009 with a fourth place in IRC Division 2. Last year *St Jude* finished 46th overall for eighth in Division 2. The crew, is made up of a group of friends, who in various combinations have sailed together for many years, Cornish's personal record includes winning the 1999 Adelaide–Port Lincoln Race overall with his then yacht, a Beneteau FC10 named *Subjude*. Jude is a common theme for his boats, as his wife's name is Judith.

SWITZERLAND (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR724X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK

CREW: V Ellis – Skipper, J Bordas, G Macdougall, R Nielsen, L Noble, C Paxton, C Pickering, R Preuss, M Stalsberg, A Sturt-Scobie, G Wilson, K Brooks, N Wyatt, D Wong, G Boess, A Crawley, R Brook, R Greer, C Preston, J Kaufman, G Sutherland

For the first time in the Clipper Race's history, national organisation, Swiss Sailing, has entered a yacht. *Switzerland* boasts the only female skipper in the fleet, and only the third ever female skipper in the 17-year history of the Clipper Race, Vicky Ellis. The 30 year-old British sailor is really looking forward to the challenge of the North Pacific after the Rolex Sydney Hobart and Leg 7 to Brisbane.

Despite being landlocked, Switzerland has a long tradition with famous and successful sailors who have participated in regattas like the America's Cup, Whitbread Round the World Race and the Vendée Globe.

Swiss Sailing believes it is important to alter the current image of the sport and believes everybody can sail and experience the thrill of mastering Mother Nature's strength. *Switzerland* carries the logo of Mercy Ships, raising awareness for the hospital ship charity that provides free surgery and medical care. Her crew includes American physician, Douglas Wong, who donated a kidney to his brother in 2002 and has since taken up sailing.

TEAM GARMIN (CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT)

SAIL NO: GBR727X

LOA: 21.33m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Tony Castro (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2013

TYPE: Clipper 70

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Clipper Ventures

CLUB: Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK

CREW: M Burkes – Skipper, M Anderson, B Davey, T Moir-Ford, J Parianos, A Stallard, L Thomas, K Votano, B Wilkie, H Cook, A Bartley, J Bennett, M Carter, S Denby, D Ho, C Marrows, M Morawa, K Pecherska, J Scott, P Walton, V Anderson, J Martin, C Powys

Team Garmin has acquired a new skipper in Mark Burkes, from Worcestershire, UK, who is taking part in his first professional skipper appointment. Currently a training skipper for Clipper Ventures, the 48 year-old circumnavigated the globe in the Clipper 2011/12 Race as a watch leader. The Englishman also worked part-time as a cruising instructor for six years and has competed in the Rolex Fastnet races in 2009 and 2011, Cowes Week 2010 and the 2002 Swan World Cup.

Crew includes Englishman James Bennett who had a serious heart disease in 2008 that nearly killed him. Afterwards, the 36 year-old looked for something challenging and came up with the Clipper Race, while a second crew member, retired Australian university lecturer Josephine Martin (65), has owned and sailed boats all her life. The boat is sponsored by Garmin, one of the world's leading manufacturers of marine electronics and satellite navigation equipment.

THE BANSHEE

SAIL NO: 4100

LOA: 12.5m

CLASS: ORCi

DESIGNER: Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 1995

TYPE: MBD41

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 10

OWNER: Corinne Feldmann and Rob Francis

CLUB: Cronulla Sailing Club, NSW

CREW: R Francis (2) - Skipper, C Feldmann (2) - Navigator, B Swane (1) - Second in Charge, B Elphinstone, C Cleaver (1), J Feldmann (2), M Brady (2), R Cox (1), P Bannon, T Crossling, C Francis, N Constable

Probably better remembered as Terra Firma when owned by Victorian yachtsman, Nicholas Bartels for some years, but best known for winning the 1995 Hobart overall, the year she was launched for original Victorian owners, Scott Carlisle and Dean Wilson.

Present owners, Corinne Feldmann and Rob Francis, renamed the MBD41 *The Banshee* and have campaigned the MBD41 over the past three seasons both at club level and in major east coast blue water events under PHS. Their best results to-date include PHS second in this year's Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, morphing to a divisional third place, and PHS fourth overall in the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, translating to third in Division 1 – a good result considering it was their first Hobart with the yacht.

TILTING AT WINDMILLS

SAIL NO: SM117

LOA: 12.8m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Peter Joubert (AUS)

YEAR BUILT: 1994

TYPE: Joubert Modified 42

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 6

OWNER: Thorry Gunnersen

CLUB: Sandringham Yacht Club, VIC

CREW: J Alexander (4) - Skipper, A Roberts (3), R Jacobsen-Loos, R Glen, E Gunnersen, K Holmes, C Rebecchi, J Havukainen

Tilting at Windmills is a timber yacht designed by Professor Peter Joubert and was built in 1994 by Norman Wright and Sons. She was launched in time for the anniversary 50th Hobart race where she finished 12th in IMS Division E. Her best result in the Hobart was in 2003 when she finished second overall in IMS for second in division, and seventh overall under IRC.

Last entering the Rolex Sydney Hobart in 2005, *Tilting at Windmills* finished 18th overall under PHS. This time around, she will be in the capable hands of John Alexander. Her Victorian timber merchant owner, Thorry Gunnersen, has been raced and cruised the yacht extensively in Australia, Europe and New Zealand.

TITANIA OF COWES**SAIL NO:** GBR6821R**LOA:** 21.6m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Nautor's Swan (FIN)**YEAR BUILT:** 2000**TYPE:** Swan 68**NUMBER of HOBARTS:** 1**OWNER:** Richard Dobbs**CLUB:** Royal Yacht Squadron, UK**CREW:** R Dobbs (1) - Skipper, R Hewson (5) - Navigator, G Hewson (2) – Second in Charge, A Hewson (1), P Middleberg (1), F Brown (1), J Beaver, M Covell, R Kaveney (1), S McCarthy (1), L Chamberlain (2), N Hewitt, R Dick, R Sheldon, G Spence, R Bicknell

Titania of Cowes is returning for her second Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race after contesting the 2010 race, in which it finished a good 21st overall and sixth in Division 2 after calling into port to drop of crew due to losing a life raft overboard during the race. Aboard were Clipper Race founder Sir Robin Knox Johnston (who returns on one of the Clipper 68 yachts), and outstanding 2011-2012 Clipper Race winning skipper (Gold Coast Australia), Richard Hewson, along with his sisters Gina, a captain, and Amanda. At the time of writing, Richard was competing in the Mini Transat Race.

The Hewsons, from Australia, join Richard Dobbs' crew again this year, while the rest of the crew are made up of Olympic, Volvo and Whitbread sailors who will have travelled from UK, South Korea, Canada and Australia. Also aboard is Lisa Chamberlain, the first woman to ever receive the Rani Trophy for outstanding seamanship in the 2010 Rolex Sydney Hobart aboard the maxi *YuuZoo*. Then 19, and contesting her first Hobart, she helped stem the flow of water coming in through the hull.

Titania of Cowes, a comfortable Swan 68, has sailed over 10,000 nautical miles from Thailand via Indonesia, Fiji and New Zealand to get to the start line of this year's blue water classic.

TSA MANAGEMENT (ELENI)**SAIL NO:** MH60**LOA:** 11.78m**CLASS:** IRC/One Design**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2003**TYPE:** Sydney 38 OD**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 7**OWNER:** Tony Levett**CLUB:** Middle Harbour Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** T Levett (9) – Skipper, D Swales (2), F Kreis (1), K Mackenzie, A Martin, B McMaster, J Marten-Coney, A Stein, J de Carlan, R Hoile

TSA Management/Eleni won the Sydney 38 One Design division of the 2010 and 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobarts, but retired last year after its rudder broke. She spent most of the last year under repair and competing in club racing.

Tony Levett will again skipper *TSA Management*, a Sydney 38 one-design yacht that has been popular with yachties because they are competitive inshore and offshore and can be handled easily by males and females alike, resulting in many husband and wife and family crews.

This yacht has proven herself several times over, including finishing third in the Sydney 38 One-Design division in the 2008 Rolex Sydney Hobart when she returned to offshore racing with owner Levett. She was third in the Ocean Passage Series of the 2011 Sydney Harbour Regatta and previously raced as *Horwath BRI*, with a fourth in the CYCA's Blue Water Pointscore Series 2006-07, and third in the Tasman Performance Series. Levett and his crew will be aiming for gold again and will have at least three other Sydney 38's to gauge their performance against.

VARUNA

SAIL NO: GER6700

LOA: 15.0m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Jason Ker (UK)

YEAR BUILT: 2012

TYPE: Ker 51

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Jens Kellinghusen

CLUB: North German Regatta Club, GER

CREW: J Kellinghusen – Skipper, G Altadill – Navigator, T Daase, G Alajmo, C Stoffers, D Blass, F Daase, H Lehning (1), J Hilbert, J Blass, M Christiansen, S Vedder, V Ollero, N Aydin (1), H Jordan

Launched in April 2012, *Varuna*, from Hamburg, was designed mainly for offshore racing, but also sails well around the cans. In its early outings, the yacht won its class at Kiel Week and went on to take third in class at Les Voiles de St. Tropez - both around the cans events. Since those results, Jens Kellinghusen announced he would do what he considers to be all the great ocean races around the globe, and the German has made a great start to his program with some promising results.

In October 2012, *Varuna* finished sixth overall in Class 2 of n the Rolex Middle Sea Race. In February this year, she scored sixth overall and fifth in IRCZ division in the RORC Caribbean 600, then in April was second overall in the Maxi/Racing division at Les Voiles de Saint Barth 2013, her crew mainly consisting of amateur university students. In July, was fifth overall in Division 2 of the Transpac Race from Los Angeles to Hawaii. Warming to her theme, could this turn out to be our second only ever overall Hobart winner to hail from Germany since Raptor won in 1994?

Kellinghusen has a very experienced crew, including Spanish navigator, Guillermo Altadill, whose extensive experience includes the Barcelona World Race, four Whitbread/Volvo Ocean Races and 18 Atlantic crossings. He was also aboard the catamaran *Cheyenne* with Australian Adrienne Cahalan when it set the Jules Verne record for fastest tour around the world with crew.

Next year, Kellinghusen plans include the Transatlantic and Round Britain and Ireland Race with his near new boat out of its downwind speed.

VELOCE

SAIL NO: SM602

LOA: 13.7m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Greg Elliott (NZL)

YEAR BUILT: 2009

TYPE: Elliott 44cr

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 1

OWNER: Phil Simpfendorfer

CLUB: Sandringham Yacht Club, VIC

CREW: P Simpfendorfer (1) - Skipper, M Houghton (3) - Navigator, D Newman (2), E Murphy (3), I Taylor (11), N Duffy (1), A Cole (2), J Casley (1), N Drennan (28), I Walker

Competing in her first Rolex Sydney Hobart last year, this Elliott designed 44 foot cruiser/racer finished an enticingly good 36th overall, fourth in IRC Division 2 and fifth in ORCi Division 2, which has persuaded Phil Simpfendorfer, a competitive Victorian racer, back for another tilt with some of his crew from last year.

In 2012, *VeLoce* was holding her own in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race when broken halyards forced her out of the race. However, the news isn't all bad. Simpfendorfer was dubbed 'King of the Eastcoaster' after claiming back-to-back overall victories in the 2010 Melbourne to Hobart yacht race – an almost unheard off achievement.

VeLoce also took out the somewhat rare line and handicap double in Hobart's famous King of the Derwent in 2011 and it is the first Victorian yacht to win since *Skandia Wild Thing* took the double in 2004. This win meant she claimed the Salamanca Series title that same year.

VENTURE 2

SAIL NO: M497

LOA: 15.2m

CLASS: IRC

DESIGNER: Greg Elliott (NZL)

YEAR BUILT: 2006

TYPE: Elliott 50

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 0

OWNER: Stephen Chapman

CLUB: Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, NSW

CREW: S Chapman (16) – Skipper, C Freeman (17) - Navigator, C Skinner (1) – Second in Charge, L Chapman (1), R Chapman, A Paterson (5), G Van Dijk (5), A May

Stephen Chapman purchased this Greg Elliott designed Open 50, formerly *A Southern Man*, owned and skippered by Graham Dalton in the 2005/06 Velux 5 Oceans round the world single-handed race. Chapman renamed, refitted and made ready the yacht for the Auckland to Musket Cove (Fiji) Ocean Race and in February recorded the fastest time in the Simrad Two-handed series in Auckland and competed in the Coastal Classic Race in October. She will sail from Auckland to compete in the Rolex Sydney Hobart and will be crewed by experienced Lake Macquarie sailors. If they get running and/or reaching conditions, watch this yacht fly.

VICTOIRE

SAIL NO: AUS5299

LOA: 15.2m

CLASS: IRC/ORCi

DESIGNER: Farr Yacht Design (USA)

YEAR BUILT: 2006

TYPE: Cookson 50

NUMBER OF HOBARTS: 7

OWNER: Darryl Hodgkinson

CLUB: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

CREW: D Hodgkinson (2) – Skipper, A Henshall (1), M Slinn, S Francis (3), S Kirkjian (17), S Guanaria (6), T Powell (15), T Tubman (2), C Howard, D McConville, D Oliver, P Eadie, A Hawk

Darryl Hodgkinson has stepped up from his Beneteau 45 (which is also contesting the race with her new South Australian owner), to the 'new *Victoire*', a Cookson 50, which her previous British owner, Chris Bull, raced as *Jazz*.

Bull sailed this canting keeled Cookson 50 to second overall and first under ORCi in the 2010 Rolex Sydney Hobart and returned in 2011 to finish fourth overall, first in IRC Division 0 and second in ORCi Division 1. In 2012, *Jazz* came so close, but when winds robbed her in the final stage, she finished fourth overall and third in division behind *Wild Oats XI* and *Black Jack*. Bull also raced the yacht overseas with success.

Hodgkinson has to live up to a big reputation with this yacht, but is up to the job. Under his guidance, the new *Victoire* sits fourth in the CYCA's Blue Water Pointscore after three races. In July this year, in its offshore debut with Hodgkinson, *Victoire* won IRC Division 0 in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race and finished 10th in both the Flinders Islet and Bird Island Races. All three were light weather affairs, so are not good indicators for what lies ahead. This yacht is ranked among the favourites for an overall win.

With so many great performances, climaxing with Hodgkinson being named 2012 CYCA Ocean Racer of the Year, the previous *Victoire* won the 2011/2012 CYCA Blue Water Pointscore Series after Dr Darryl successfully defended his class victory at the 2012 Audi IRC Australian Championship, following third place in Audi Victoria Week, second in the Audi Sydney Harbour Regatta, and two divisional wins at both the Audi Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race and Hamilton Island Race Week.

WEDGETAIL**SAIL NO:** AUS11888**LOA:** 16.8m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Reichel/Pugh (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2006**TYPE:** Reichel/Pugh 55**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 5**OWNER:** Bill Wild**CLUB:** Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, QLD**CREW:** B Wild (6) - Skipper, A Cahalan – Navigator (21), A Deeks (5), C Anderson (4), C Skinner (4), I Davis (9), S Hunt (18), J Gower, K Costin (10), C Kosecki (1), J Muir, T Rowell, N Partridge, A Minoprio

Bill Wild returned to ocean racing with *Wedgetail* earlier this year after an 18 month hiatus from the sport and immediately reaped rewards, securing line honours and finishing second overall to Syd Fischer's TP52 *Ragamuffin* in this year's Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race. The Queenslander went on to finish fourth on line and second in IRC Division 1 of the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in July and it was enough to convince Wild to give the Rolex Sydney Hobart another crack.

Taking ownership of *Wedgetail*, originally known as *Yendys*, in 2010, Wild sailed her in the Rolex Sydney Hobart that year and finished ninth on line, sixth overall and third in IRC Division 1. The custom Reichel/Pugh 55 has an impressive race record including podium places in the Rolex Trophy Series and the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race. In the Rolex Sydney Hobart, scored a sixth in IRC Division 1 in 2009, sixth IRC overall and first in Division 1 in 2006 and scored a Division 1 third in 2007.

Wild's previous *Wedgetail*, the *Welbourn 42*, also had a strong offshore race record, including sixth overall in the 2005 Hobart wins and places in the majority of offshore races. Pivotal crew includes Kevin 'Cosi' Costin who has sailed with Wild for years and Ian 'Ox' Davis.

WILD OATS XI**SAIL NO:** AUS 10001**LOA:** 30.48m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Reichel/Pugh (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2005**TYPE:** 100ft Maxi**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 8**OWNER:** Robert Oatley**SKIPPER:** Mark Richards**CLUB:** Hamilton Island Yacht Club, QLD**CREW:** M Richards (11) – Skipper, T Addis (2) – Navigator, I Murray (19) – Second in Charge, I Burns (16), G Taylor (18), J Hildebrand (9), J Wilson (7), J Whittaker (11), M Shillington (17), N Ellis (8), R Naismith (17), R Daniel (12), S Beavis (4), S Jarvin (25), S Bannatyne (3), T Wiseman (9), C Harmsen (6), A Henderson (2), T Tindall (1), N Ellis, M Mason

Wild Oats XI secured her sixth line honours victory under the guidance of Mark Richards in last year's Rolex Sydney Hobart, broke her own race record, which now stands at 1 day, 18 hours, 23 minutes 12 seconds and won the race overall. It was the second time the super maxi had achieved this historic treble and the only boat to do so twice in the race's history.

As it does each year, Bob Oatley's super maxi has undergone further modifications that include having a radical, retractable, hydrofoil-type wing fitted in a bid to make her even faster when sailing downwind. The modifications were put to the test for the first time under racing conditions at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week in August and the consensus is that it improved the yacht's performance.

The modifications are aimed at keeping the eight-year-old *Wild Oats XI* competitive against more recent designs. They have led to Richards and the crew to affectionately refer to the yacht as the 'Swiss Army Knife', because of the number of appendages she now boasts: the new hydrofoil wing, a retractable forward rudder, two retractable daggerboards, canting keel, and the conventional rudder at the stern.

Wild Oats XI still holds the record for the most consecutive line honours wins – four – from 2005 to 2008, surpassing Morna's record of three in a row achieved from 1946-1948. She also holds the race record for the CYCA's Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race (22hrs, 3mins, 46secs, set in 2012) and the CYCA's Cabbage Tree Island Race (12hrs, 15mins, 55secs, set in 2012). Richards and his crew will need to muster all their resources this year, with three other supremely competitive super maxis and their crews ready to take her on.

WILD ROSE**SAIL NO:** 4343**LOA:** 13.1m**CLASS:** IRC/ORCi**DESIGNER:** Bruce Farr (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1985**TYPE:** Farr 43**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 4**OWNER:** Roger Hickman**CLUB:** Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, NSW**CREW:** R Hickman (36) - Skipper, P Inchbold (26) – Second in Charge, J Wells (3) – Navigator, A Scott (8), A Fong (2), D Williams (3), D Morris (11), J White (3), K Ketelbey (2), P Sayer, P Endersbee, P Warburton, D Morrow (9), C Brand

As 'Hicko' gets set to start his 37th Hobart journey, he has, as usual, campaigned *Wild Rose* to the max in the lead-up to the big race with some excellent results. He sailed the Farr 43 to 13th overall in last year's race - and the result is a lot better than it first appears, because *Wild Rose*, along with *Love & War*, beat all Division 2 and 3 boats overall – and the two were first (for a second straight year) and second in IRC Division 4 respectively. Despite the yacht's 28 years, is a good bet for overall honours.

In the 2013 Audi IRC Australian Championship, *Wild Rose* was second in IRC Division 3 and went on to place fifth overall in the 2013 Gosford-Lord Howe Island race after winning the previous year. Was third overall and won Division 4 of the 2013 Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race the first race of the Blue Water Pointscore Series (BWPS), and won Races 2, 3 and 4, the Flinders Islet, Bird Island and Cabbage Tree Island races, for a commanding BWPS lead.

Hickman is a big supporter of the BWPS and has won it four times; with his own boat and as sailing master on two others. He and the *Wild Rose* crew are looking forward to challenging for it again, after finishing fourth last year and third in the Cape Byron Pointscore (ORCi category of the BWPS).

Each year, Hicko trains up a mix of male and female sailors, blooding them for offshore racing aboard what was originally Bob Oatley's *Wild Oats*. In partnership with Bruce Foye and Lance Peckman, Hickman won the 1993 Hobart race overall under IOR (there was also an IMS overall winner, *Cuckoos Nest*); it was the race's swansong for IOR.

WILD THING**SAIL NO:** M10**LOA:** 30.48m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Don Jones (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2003**TYPE:** Jones 100**OWNER:** BC39 Pty Ltd**CLUB:** Southport Yacht Club, QLD**CREW:** G Wharington (24), D Turton (4) – Navigator, A Gough, G Torpy (4), J Chilman (1), J Torpy (1), J Plante, K Meyer, K Mathews, M Buchbach, P Cosman (13), S Gaddes (3), M Donnan, P Longman, C Crafoord, S Langman, D Price, S Ciszek, D Sudano

Grant Wharington's *Wild Thing* won line honours in the 2003 Rolex Sydney Hobart when the yacht was a 98 footer, but the following year, leading the fleet to Hobart, she lost her canting keel, capsized and the crew abandoned ship. *Wild Thing* was rebuilt and went on to take line honours in the 2005 Sydney Gold Coast, Sydney Mooloolaba and Sydney Mackay races. In the 2008 Rolex Sydney Hobart, the super maxi finished second to *Wild Oats XI*.

Last year, Wharington made modifications to *Wild Thing*, which included extending her to 100ft and making improvements to her original hull shape. Earlier this year, Wharington secured a line honours win in the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race which she followed up by taking line honours in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in July.

WILPARINA**SAIL NO:** 7004**LOA:** 10.10m**CLASS:** ORCi**DESIGNER:** Sparkman and Stephens (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 1982**TYPE:** S&S 34**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Nick Cannar**CLUB:** Ku-ring-gai Motor Yacht Club/Gosford Sailing Club**CREW:** N Cannar – Skipper, D Leach – Navigator, B Caldwell, T Knox, M Mathews, S Knox

Wilparina is one of the well-known and sturdy S&S designs. She was fitted out by Maybrook Marine in Sydney and was Maybrook's display vessel at the 1982 Sydney Boat Show. Has excellent teak and celery-top pine interior fit-out and was used for a Performance Test in Australian Sea Spray in August 1982, which also featured a photo of the 31 year-old. Named by Alan McAlpine from Maybrook, her first owner was Con Rafferty. In 1987 *Wilparina* was sold to Keith and Maureen Cole, who mostly sailed the sturdy design on Pittwater. Was sold to Chris Jackson in 2005, who took her to Brisbane, made cruising modifications.

Present owner, Nick Cannar, is making his Hobart debut with a yacht that will be a stayer if the going gets tough. *Wilparina* comes from a long line of remarkable S&S designs, including three-time Hobart overall winner, *Love & War*. The crew of six is an eclectic and multi-generational (19 years to 68) one of six brought together by a shared love of S&S34s and a desire to do the Rolex Sydney Hobart. Three are keenly competitive Laser dinghy sailors at Greenwich Sailing Club with a common background in cruising small yachts up and down the east coast. One has also navigated the Murray Darling and Hawkesbury Rivers on home-made rafts and is currently building Australia's first Eco houseboat at Jarken in Jervis Bay.

Also joining the crew is American, Brian Caldwell, who in 1996 was the first person under 21 (he started at 19 and was 20 when he finished) to sail around the world single-handed with stops. Turning 38 in December, he is now a veteran of numerous Sydney-Hobarts, Mini Fastnets, Trans Pacs and others. Fittingly, Caldwell and his partner live on twin S&S 34's in the USA.

ZANZIBAR**SAIL NO:** SIN4321**LOA:** 12.78m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Tom Humphreys (UK)**YEAR BUILT:** 2007**TYPE:** Humphreys 42**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Jonathan Mahony**CLUB:** Raffles Marina, SIN**CREW:** J Mahony – Skipper, S Simmons, A Reid (1), S Lee (8), B Hill, R Killip (2), C Mitchell, N Hopkins (1), A Simmons

Good things come in smaller packages, just ask Jonathan Mahony, who sailed *Zanzibar* to overall IRC success in the 50th Anniversary Rolex China Sea Race last year. This is only the third time a Singaporean entry has been received for the 628 nautical mile Hobart race.

A heavy hitter on the Asian scene, the Humphreys 42 beat a competitive field of larger boats, including several TP52's and the 90ft *Genuine Risk* to win the Rolex China Sea Race overall to take home a Rolex Yacht-Master Timepiece. Mahony is hoping to add a second timepiece by winning the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race overall too.

Zanzibar also won Division 1 of the 2011 Hong Kong to Vietnam Race, finished runner-up for the second year running in the 2013 Subic to Boracay Race in February, before breaking its boom in the Boracay Cup Regatta in wild conditions. This Easter, Mahony warmed up in the 480nm San Fernando Race and finished 10th overall.

ZEFIRO**SAIL NO:** MLT10010**LOA:** 30.2m**CLASS:** IRC**DESIGNER:** Farr Yacht Design (USA)**YEAR BUILT:** 2009**TYPE:** Farr 100**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 0**OWNER:** Gerhard Ruether**CLUB:** North German Regatta Club, GER**CREW:** G Ruether – Skipper, M Quilter – Navigator, J Ferris – Second in Charge, J Bakker, B Tuke (1), S Loxton, D Neil (1), S Molesworth, A Reeves, M Boyd, J Walker, Z Sis Naing, C Wade-Lehmen (5), P Williams (15), B Farrand, I Krakover, R Watson

German born, but living in Cyprus for the last 30 years where his shipping management business is based, Gerhard Ruether is bringing his luxurious Farr 100, *Zefiro*, to Sydney as part of a world circumnavigation. Originally from Hamburg, Germany, Ruether brings the first ever entry from Cyprus in the history of the Hobart race.

She may wear the look of a beautifully appointed cruiser, but a crew member describes the 100 footer as “A wolf in sheep’s clothing,” as she is capable of making 13 knots upwind and revels in hard conditions. Owner and crew are keeping fingers crossed for a hard southerly. There is so much faith in this boat, that the likes of Kiwi navigator Mike Quilter, a veteran of multiple Whitbread/VOR’s, is joining the crew, as will reigning 49er world champion and 2012 Olympic silver medallist, Kiwi Blair Tuke. For the first time ever, two residents of Myanmar (Burma) join the Rolex Sydney Hobart – aboard this vessel.

Ruether had been sailing in European waters with various boats for 30 years, until getting the urge to move to greener pastures. So far, *Zefiro* has sailed from Cyprus across the Atlantic to the Caribbean, to the USA, Cuba, Panama, Galapagos, across the Pacific via French Polynesia, Samoa and Tonga and down to New Zealand. Then she sailed to Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. After Australia and the Rolex Sydney Hobart, she will sail home via Indonesia. He sails every mile on the boat.

Launched in Cape Town, South Africa, *Zefiro*’s best recent result was winning the 2013 New Zealand Millennium Cup in February. Previously, Ruether owned a Solaris 76 with which he placed third in the 2007 Transatlantic Rolex Cup.

ZEN**SAIL NO:** 3838**LOA:** 11.8m**CLASS:** IRC/One Design**DESIGNER:** Murray Burns Dovell (AUS)**YEAR BUILT:** 2004**TYPE:** Sydney 38**NUMBER OF HOBARTS:** 5**OWNER:** Gordon Ketelbey**CLUB:** Middle Harbour Yacht Club, NSW**CREW:** G Ketelbey (8) – Skipper, A Deakin (1), D Barton (1), P McIntyre (1), G Cantwell, C Haskard, H Arthure, P Moore, D Watson, D Elliott

Zen is the Sydney 38 owned by Gordon Ketelbey, who has been a regular campaigner in this one design class. In last year’s Rolex Sydney Hobart, Zen finished 11th in IRC Division 3 and 10th in ORCi Division 3. She then went on to compete in the Premier Racing class at the Festival of Sails, conducted by the Royal Geelong Yacht Club, and finished fourth in the class. On the return journey to Sydney, the yacht suffered keel damage that put her out of action for most of this year. In last year’s Sydney 38 NSW Championship, which was conducted just prior to the Rolex Sydney Hobart, she finished fourth. In 2011, she finished second in the Sydney 38 National Championship held in Geelong Victoria.