

# offshore

## YACHTING

### ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART 2013

FULL REPORT & RESULTS OF  
THE GREAT RACE SOUTH

### RACING THE CIRCUIT

2014's LINEUP OF REGATTAS  
AND RACE WEEKS

### NEW YEAR NEW YACHTS

TOP 10 LATEST LAUNCHES

# HOBART HEROES

VICTOIRE CLAIMS THE TATTERSALL'S  
CUP AND *WILD OATS XI* NOTCHES  
UP 7th LINE HONOURS WIN



FEB/MAR 2014  
\$8.95 (inc.gst)  
PP: 295003/07868  
01  
9 771446 117003

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA



ROLEX / DANIEL FORSNER

SEVENTH  
HEAVEN

THE 2013 ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED FOR ITS 22 INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES, 15 NEW BOATS, STARS FROM OLYMPICS, AMERICA'S CUPS AND VOLVO OCEAN RACES, THE CLIPPER YACHTS HAVING THEIR FIRST SHOT, THE HIGH LEVEL OF COMPETITION IN THE 94-STRONG FLEET AND AN HISTORIC SEVENTH LINE HONOURS WIN BY *WILD OATS XI*. BY DI PEARSON.

**HOBART BOUND**  
The 2013 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race was a tough and memorable challenge for all competitors.



**WILD RIDE**  
Wild Oats XI and Perpetual LOYAL were neck and neck heading up the Harbour but Oats was the first boat out of Sydney Heads and ultimately claimed her seventh line honours title.

ROLEX / DANIEL FORSTER

ROLEX / DANIEL FORSTER / CARLO BORLENGHI



Bob Oatley's *Wild Oats XI* left an indelible print on the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race when Mark Richards skippered her to an historic seventh line honours victory at 19.07.27 hrs on December 28, matching the record of the yacht originally known as *Morna* (from 1946 to 1948) and then *Kurrewa IV* (1954, 1956, 1957 and 1960).

Richards said: "It's a big deal. *Wild Oats XI* is the most famous yacht in Australian history I would say. To equal a record like that is amazing and something we're very proud of."

As a 98-footer back in 2005, *Wild Oats XI* broke the race record and won line and overall honours (the treble win), the very same year winemaker Oatley launched her.

Line honours was hers again in 2006, 2007, 2008, then once more in 2010 as a 100-footer and in 2012 when *Oats* took the treble for a second time, in the new record time of 1 day, 18 hrs, 23 mins and 12 secs.



"Hallelujah Ricko, Hallelujah!"

ROBERT OATLEY  
*Wild Oats XI*



Waiting dockside in Hobart after his yacht finished in 2 days, 6 hours, 7 minutes and 27 seconds (over 11 hours outside her race record), Bob Oatley acknowledged Richards' achievement saying: "Hallelujah Ricko, Hallelujah."

*Wild Oats XI* faced its toughest challenge ever in this year's race. Anthony Bell's *Perpetual LOYAL* (formerly known as *Speedboat* and *Rambler 100*) – supposedly the fastest super maxi in the world – and Syd Fischer's *Ragamuffin 100* (ex *Investec Loyal*, the 2011 line honours winner) were her closest rivals.

Two VOR 70s – Jim Delegat's *Giacomo* (originally *Groupama 4*) from New Zealand and Peter Harburg's *Black Jack* (ex *Telefonica*) put up a strong challenge, as did Karl Kwok's brand new 80-foot *Beau Geste* (Hong Kong) and Grant Wharington's 100-footer *Wild Thing*, making Richards and crew work hard for their latest line honours victory in this 69th Hobart race.



Bell had little practice time aboard his boat, which arrived in Australia early December after having the keel reinforced and other modifications made. Kwok's new boat's only experience was sailing to Australia in race-mode in late December in the nick of time for the Sydney Hobart race start.

Kwok's sailing master, Gavin Brady, insisted: "We raced the boat to Sydney for practice and we're probably more prepared and ready than anyone."

Of the battle with Anthony Bell, who caused an upset win over *Wild Oats XI* in 2011, Richards acknowledged early: "There's plenty of rivalry there."

After a spectacular start, *Perpetual LOYAL* was seen flying a protest flag. It appeared to be after an incident with *Wild Oats XI* at the first mark. But mid-afternoon, Bell said: "Just had a team meeting and decided not to proceed with the protest. At first

**IN THE RACE**  
Jim Delegat's *Giacomo* from New Zealand proved a strong challenger.



we thought we may have been fouled, but...”

The speed machines were predominantly crewed by some of the most respected names in Olympic, America’s Cup, Volvo Ocean Race and Hobart sailing.

Amateurs and first timers sailed against Guillermo Altadill, Iain Murray, Gavin Brady, Juan Vila, Chris Dickson, Andrew Cape, Tom Slingsby, Stu Bannatyne, Stan Honey, Steve Hayles and more. What other sport can you do that in?

It was established well before the race that Richards’ long term crew aboard *Wild Oats XI*— among the best in the business — and the boat’s sailing record would hold their campaign in good stead.

*Wild Oats XI* had its yearly injection of modifications for the 2013 race, including a lighter mast, which had initially caused some grief, and a radical, retractable, hydrofoil-type wing designed to make the boat much faster downwind.

Come Boxing Day, a 15 knot sou’ easterly set the fleet on its way, spinnakers making a blaze of colour under the sun on Sydney Harbour.

The Bureau of Meteorology predicted the faster 60-foot plus



“Just had a team meeting and decided not to proceed with the protest. At first we thought we may have been fouled, but...”

ANTHONY BELL  
*Perpetual LOYAL*



boats would avoid the worst of the weather en route to Hobart and they did. In fact, helicopter vision showed crew sunbaking on *Perpetual LOYAL* at one stage.

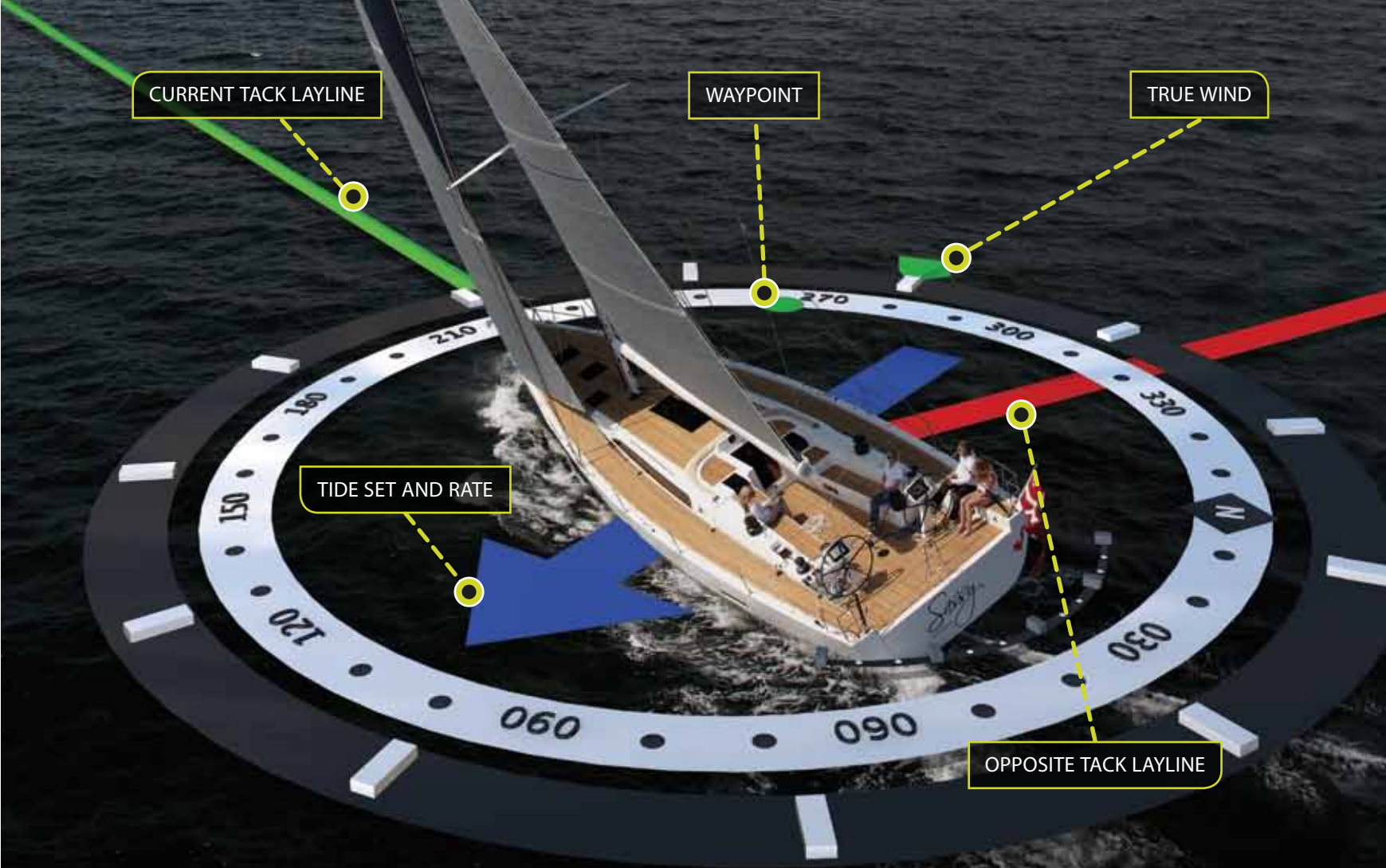
*Wild Oats* led the race, but early on Day 2, in light downwind conditions, Bell’s boat sailed further to sea for a 15 nautical mile advantage, with *Giacomo* trailing her after the early leader had tracked closer to the coast and got caught in the messy slops left by storms.

Mid-morning, south of Gabo Island, *Wild Oats XI* had eaten into *Perpetual LOYAL*’s lead. *Giacomo* and Syd Fischer’s newly water-ballasted and modified *Ragamuffin 100* were closely shadowing them. By 2pm, however, Richards had regained control of the lead and did not relinquish it.

But *Perpetual LOYAL*, despite light airs not being its forte, kept the leader honest through light wind, ‘parking lots’ and the stronger breeze as they closed in on Tasmania.

Reaching Storm Bay, *Wild Oats XI* was reefed down and carrying a small headsail averaging speeds of 12 to 17 knots, while *Perpetual LOYAL* blistered along behind at 28 plus knots, closing the gap by over 20

ROLEX / DANIEL FORSTER



# Introducing SailSteer

For Cruising or Racing

Whether you’re chasing your next title or simply cruising to the next bay, B&G’s unique SailSteer feature combines all the essential sailing data. From Heading, Wind, Laylines and Tide to Wind Angle Target indicator and Wind Shift Sectors, trust SailSteer to handle the numbers so you can enjoy a perfect day on the water.

Exclusively available on:



Zeus Touch



Zeus<sup>2</sup>



H5000



Scan this QR code for more information.

[www.bandg.com](http://www.bandg.com)

# B&G

A PASSION FOR SAILING



ROLEX / DANIEL FORSTER / CARLO BORLENGHI



ROLEX / CARLO BORLENGHI

was pretty amazing," Richards said. *Ragamuffin 100* was third over the line, and *Black Jack* won the battle of the 70 and 80-footers, beating home *Beau Geste* and *Giacomo* (which had led the trio for much of the race), and *Wild Thing*. A couple of hours later, Matt Allen's all-new Carkeek 60, *Ichi Ban*, finished impressively.

Behind the big boats, it was the end of the light weather. The smaller yachts paid the penalty, as is often the case. However, the stronger conditions worked for the smaller yachts in the fleet, leaving the big boats out of contention to win the Tattersall's Cup, awarded to the overall winner on corrected time.

A forecast south-westerly gale hit Bass Strait and the Tasmanian coast on cue in the early hours of December 29. The first casualty was Bill Wild's fancied RP55, *Wedgetail*, with Adrienne Cahalan navigating. It was dismasted south of Tasman Island at around 4.30am.

Around the same time, James Cameron's Hick 35, *Luna Sea*, lost her rudder in Bass Strait. The police vessel *Van Diemen* went to her aid, towing the 1998 Hobart winner (then *AFR Midnight Rambler*) over 100 miles to safety. As a consequence, the police

**AMAZING RACE**  
Clockwise from left: Super maxis *Ragamuffin 100* and *Wild Thing* approach the turning mark at Sydney Heads; Matt Allen's all-new Carkeek 60, *Ichi Ban*; Robert Oatley's *Wild Oats XI* on her way to her historic seventh line honours win.

# Entrust yacht transport to Sevenstar



member of  
the  
spliethoff group

**Sevenstar – Australia Agencies:**  
Phone +612 96932100  
info@sevenstar-australia.com

**New Zealand – Navigator Shipbrokers:**  
Phone +64 21512353  
yachts@navship.co.nz

**Sevenstar Yacht Transport – Head Office:**  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
info@sevenstar-yacht-transport.com

miles in three hours.

With just 22 miles to go, *Wild Oats XI* was powering at 19 plus knots in a fresh nor'easter, then the Derwent proved kindly with the yacht averaging between 9 and 12 knots to the finish.

"It was a really tough race, mentally very draining," recalled Richards, who carried Bob Oatley's walking stick aboard, claiming it was "a bit of a charm".

"The team did an amazing job, but if it wasn't for Bob (Oatley), none of us would be here," admitted Richards, who said they got 35 knots out of the boat at times.

"All the modifications we've done this year have worked extremely well. To see an eight year old boat like this perform against the greatest and latest ocean racing boats in the world is pretty impressive," Richards said of the yacht they have dubbed "The Swiss Army Knife" due to its numerous underwater appendages.

"This is one of the best wins you could probably have. There was a lot of new competition; nobody had any idea how we were going to go against each other. To sail away from these guys





crew was awarded the Rani Trophy for most meritorious performance, as judged by the race committee.

In sustained gale force conditions, with frequent gusts more than double the strength of the wind, storm sails came out of lockers. Some boats sought shelter in the lee of various parts of Tasmania until conditions abated.

Sitting in the top 10, *Rush* (Ian and John Paterson) ultimately retired after crew Ben Renshaw broke his leg. The yacht headed for Coles Bay to an ambulance.

Then the new yacht *Patrice*, which had already shown so much promise, sustained hull delamination from the sea's constant pounding, and owner Tony Kirby prudently retired to Orford. All up, 10 yachts retired from the 2013 race.

Andrew Wenham, skipper of the 70-footer *Southern Excellence II*, said it was not just the wind: "The sea is coming from everywhere; the north-west swell joining up with the new south-west swell, so it's very choppy," he reported.

"Four and five metre seas, big waves, a lot of them breaking," said Wenham, who reported a constant 30 knots



ROLEX / DANIEL FORSTER / CARLO BORLENGHI

ROLEX / CARLO BORLENGHI

of breeze and big gusts, while those behind were clocking 40-50 knots.

Respite came early the next morning, as light sou' west to west winds turned to the north-west and settled. As the sun rose, the wind increased to a pleasant 10 knots, but of course the lighter change did not suit some contenders.

The battle for overall race honours came down to *Victoire*, *Veloce*, *Varuna*, *Chutzpah*, *Celestial*, *Brannew* and *Wild Rose*; all had sailed in the top seven places for half of the race.

*Victoire* was declared the overall winner after *Wild Rose*'s chances went by the wayside. *Veloce* was second and *Celestial* third, with an hour between each on corrected time.

Named the CYCA's 2011 Ocean Rookie of the Year and 2012 Ocean Racing Yachtsman of the Year following victory in the Club's Blue Water Pointscore (BWPS), Darryl Hodgkinson had only just moved up from his previous Beneteau 45, *Victoire*, to the canting keeled Cookson 50 (ex *Jazz*) in 2013 - "a 65th birthday present to myself," he said.

Nobody before Hodgkinson has ever won this trio of accolades in a three year period.






The Double Bay plastic surgeon also won ORCi, finished second overall in

**CHOPPY WATERS**  
Clockwise from top left: *Midnight Rambler* passing Tasman Island; *Southern Excellence II* cuts through the swell on day 4; *Veloce* was second for overall race honours.

# PANTAENIUS AUSTRALIA

SAIL & MOTOR YACHT INSURANCE

## Does your **current insurer** offer these **benefits?**

-  Agreed Fixed Value
-  New for Old
-  Wear & Tear\*
-  Comprehensive TPL
-  All Risk Policy

Pantaenius **does**

Please request a quote online

[www.pantaenius.com.au](http://www.pantaenius.com.au)

\*If an insured risk happens as a result of "wear and tear" through normal use, all the repair cost will be covered except the defective part.



**PANTAENIUS**  
Sail & Motor Yacht Insurance

Germany • Great Britain • Monaco • Denmark  
Austria • Spain • Sweden • USA • Australia

Pantaenius Australia Pty Ltd. • Shop 6 / 83 Parriwi Rd, The Spit, Mosman, Sydney NSW 2088 • Phone +61-(02)-9936 1670 • info@pantaenius.com.au



## 028 | 69TH ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART

the BWPS, in which he also won the new line honours trophy attached to the series – and was a member of the winning Southern Cross Cup team.

Never did the perfectionist ‘Dr Darryl’ think he would win the Tattersall’s Cup and the accompanying Rolex timepiece. “I thought it would be at least a two year program,” he said after winning the 628nm race. (See the full story of his win in the ‘Skipper’ profile this issue).

Second placed Phil Simpfendorfer, the owner of *Veloce*, an Elliott 44 cruiser/racer from Sandringham Yacht Club, performs well in his local events. Last year they finished 36th in their first Hobart and now this year an impressive second overall.

Simpfendorfer said bulking up his customary crew with Ian ‘Barney’ Walker and Noel ‘Nitro’ Drennan “was planned to enhance our program.”

Walker, a tactician/helmsman and trimmer Drennan, a former sailmaker, sailed their 27th and 29th

Hobarts respectively. They also have a wealth of VOR and America’s Cup experience between them.

Third overall and second in Division 2 behind *Veloce*, as well as second overall in ORCi, was Sam Haynes and his Rogers 46, *Celestial*. It was incomparable to Haynes’ 22nd overall and second in ORCi division last year – and retirement from the previous two Hobarts.

Of the 22 international entries, including 12 new Clipper 70s (the first time the Clipper Round the World Race has taken part in a Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race), *Varuna*, Jens Kellinghusen’s Ker 51 from Germany, was best placed. The nearly two year-old yacht was fourth overall, winning Division 1, and finishing third overall under ORCi.

The quietly spoken German said of their first Hobart: “I am very happy; I did not expect this.”

Kellinghusen’s hotshot Spanish navigator, Guillermo Altadill, has

extensive experience, including the Barcelona World Race, four Whitbread/Volvo Ocean Races and 18 Atlantic crossings.

For a second successive year, Peter Rodgers’ modified Olsen 40, *She*, won PHS overall. Now 31 years old, and with 18 Hobarts behind her, *She* also won PHS in 2009. Aboard for the last two years and racking up his 45th Hobart this year, was Bill Ratcliff.

Among the old salts, Tony Cable notched up a record 48th Hobart aboard *Duende*, Tony Ellis sailed his 47th aboard *Ragamuffin 100*, where Syd Fischer sailed his 45th race and at 86 years of age equalled John Walker’s record as the oldest to compete in the Sydney Hobart race. Lindsay May sailed his 41st aboard *Brindabella*.

*Ichi Ban* crew Darren Senogles’ made history becoming the youngest sailor to achieve 25 races after undertaking his first Hobart in 1987 as a 14 year-old. In the wake

ROLEX / DANIEL FORSTER / CARLO BORLENGHI



**TEAM EFFORT**  
Above: *Wild Rose* had sailed in the top seven for half of the race. Left: *Celestial* passes Tasman Island.

of the tragic 1998 race, 18 became the minimum age to compete, so Senogles’ record will hold.

Some nationalities entered the race for the first time. Masibulele ‘Sbu’ Liyaba (*Invest Africa*) was the first black South African to compete; Vicky Song (*Qingdao*) the first Chinese woman and Zaw Sis Naing (*Zefiro*) the first from Myanmar (Burma).

Following a 12-year hiatus, the Southern Cross Cup also returned. It comprised the Port Hacking and Bird Island Race, CYCA Trophy and the 2013 Rolex Sydney Hobart. The CYCA ‘White’ Team of *Wild Rose*, *Victoire* and *Patrice* won from four competing Australian teams.

The 2013 Rolex Sydney Hobart went beyond expectations in terms of numbers, new boats, new people and international entries. What will the 70th anniversary race bring? ⚓  
[www.rolexsydneyhobart.com](http://www.rolexsydneyhobart.com)