

# SAIL PARADISE Gold Coast

**MARINONICS**  
MARINE ELECTRONICS & ELECTRICAL



January 10 – 15, 2011

**SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB**

## Wild Oats X to compete at Sail Paradise on the Gold Coast

Wild Oats X, Bob Oatley's smaller version of his Sydney Hobart race record holder Wild Oats XI, is to contest Southport Yacht Club's Sail Paradise series off the Gold Coast in January.

Sail Paradise and Wild Oats X will become the immediate focus for skipper Mark Richards and many of the crew of the 30-metre long supermaxi Wild Oats XI after they race the big boat in the Rolex Sydney Hobart late next month. They will be going for their fifth line honours and a new race record time in that event.

Richards and octogenarian Oatley will share the steering aboard Wild Oats X during Sail Paradise, which will be contested from 10-15 January on courses set off the Gold Coast's famous beaches.

'We are really looking forward to being at Sail Paradise,' Oatley said when he declared his yacht would be competing. 'We have heard nothing but good reports following last year's inaugural regatta so we want to be there. We see Sail Paradise as a series that's on its way to becoming one of the major regattas on Australia's east coast.'

Wild Oats X, which was first to finish in the last two Audi Sydney to Gold Coast races, is one of the fastest ocean racing yachts for her size in Australia. Measuring 20 metres in length, she is 10 metres shorter than her big sister. Oatley launched her in 2004 to defend the Admiral's Cup after he led the Australian team to victory in that international team series in England the previous year.

Wild Oats X represents state-of-the-art technology in her design and construction. Her ultra-light hull and interior are moulded from carbon fibre over a Nomex honeycomb core, and she has a canting keel to provide added stability.

It is hoped that the presence of Wild Oats X at Sail Paradise will encourage Brisbane yachtsman Peter Harburg to nominate his near sistership, the 66-footer Black Jack, for the regatta. Black Jack is currently undergoing modifications designed to increase her speed. These two yachts have enjoyed intense but friendly rivalry for some years, especially at Hamilton Island Race Week.

Sponsored by Gold Coast marine electronics and electrical specialists, Marinonics, Sail Paradise will this year be offering a \$10,000 cash prize pool. All competing sailboats - cruising, racing, sportboats and multihulls - will be in the running to win a \$1000 daily cash draw, and at the trophy presentation on the evening of 15 January three major prizes - \$3000, \$2000 and \$1000 - will be drawn.

The regatta schedule includes a mid-series lay-day so crews, their families and friends can experience the many and varied attractions of the region - from the unspoiled natural beauty of the hinterland through to the beaches and some of the world's best theme parks. In addition, Southport Yacht Club has an entertaining social agenda planned.

Three major events will provide avenues for yachts coming from the south and north to Sail Paradise. Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race and the Marinonics Coffs to Paradise Race will cater for yachts coming from the south while Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron will stage the inaugural Manly to Paradise race.

Gold Coast City Council and Gold Coast Tourism are associate sponsors of Sail Paradise.

- The Notice of Race for Sail Paradise and the Coffs to Paradise race are posted on the regatta website [www.sailparadise.com.au](http://www.sailparadise.com.au) and the Manly to Paradise Race NOR is published on the RQYS's dedicated website, [www.manlytoparadise.com](http://www.manlytoparadise.com)
- For information on the Pittwater to Coffs Harbour Race go to [www.pittwatertocoffs.com.au](http://www.pittwatertocoffs.com.au)

**Photo captions:**

- 1) Bob Oatley's impressive Wild Oats X will be racing at Sail Paradise on the Gold Coast in January. (Photo: Ciaran Handy)
- 2) Southport Yacht Club, on the Gold Coast, will host Sail Paradise from January 10-15.

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