

SAIL PARADISE Gold Coast

MARINONICS
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January 10 – 15, 2011

SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB

Sydney Hobart race winning crew readying for Marinonics Sail Paradise on the Gold Coast

The majority of the crew from Rolex Sydney Hobart yacht race line honours winner Wild Oats XI are back in Sydney and busy readying the supermaxi's little sister, Wild Oats X, for the Marinonics Sail Paradise series, which will be sailed out of Southport Yacht Club from 10 - 15 January.

Little more than 12 hours after Wild Oats XI claimed a historic fifth line honours victory in six starts in the Hobart classic, owner Bob Oatley had the big boat back at sea and heading home to Sydney so attention could be turned to Sail Paradise.

Wild Oats X is almost identical in design to the 30-metre Hobart race line honours winner, only 10 metres shorter. Like her big sister she features a canting keel and twin rudders, one at the bow and the other at the stern. The hull and mast are made of carbon fibre and the sails have been created using the latest American technology.

Octogenarian Bob Oatley is expected to join Hobart race winning skipper Mark Richards at the helm of Wild Oats X for Sail Paradise. Richards will be making a rush business trip to America before returning just in time for the big regatta.

The clash between Wild Oats X and Peter Harburg's near sistership Black Jack, out of Brisbane, will be one of the highlights of Sail Paradise, which will be contested over courses set just off the surflines of Gold Coast beaches. A special 'Gun Boat' trophy will be awarded to the yacht which scores the most line honours during the event.

Wild Oats X will contest the 30th anniversary Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race, starting 2 January, while en route to the Gold Coast.

The Marinonics Sail Paradise website is: www.sailparadise.com.au

For more information please contact

Rob Mundle
Commodore
Southport Yacht Club
0417 323 573 or rob.mundle@bigpond.com

Rights free image: Wild Oats XI sails to the finish and claims her fifth line honours in the Rolex Sydney Hobart race (photo Andrea Francolini)

(High res image available. Contact Rob Mundle)