

SAIL PARADISE Gold Coast

MARINONICS
MARINE ELECTRONICS & ELECTRICAL



January 10 – 15, 2011

SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB

Heading for Sail Paradise on the Gold Coast - via Hobart!

Bill Wild, who recently purchased the highly competitive Reichel/Pugh 55 Yendys and renamed her Rodd & Gunn Wedgetail, plans to sail the yacht more than 1600 nautical miles just to be at the Marinonics Sail Paradise series on the Gold Coast next month.

The first stage of the circuitous passage will be the Rolex Sydney Hobart Race starting on Boxing Day. Once that 628 nautical mile test is completed Wild will have his new yacht do a U-turn and head north to Coffs Harbour, on the northern coast of NSW. His plan is to arrive there before January 7 so he can contest the 150 nautical mile Coffs to Paradise coastal sprint to the Gold Coast. Sail Paradise, his ultimate goal, is schedule for 10-15 January.

‘I was always impressed by this yacht before I bought her, and now that she’s the new Rodd & Gunn Wedgetail I plan to enjoy her as much as possible,’ Wild said. ‘Sail Paradise was on the agenda from the outset, as was the Hobart race, and we’re looking forward to both.’

Having already claimed a second place on handicap against a crack fleet in the recent Cabbage Tree Island Race out of Sydney, Wild, who competes under the burgee of Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, knows that his yacht has the potential to deliver a strong result in both the Hobart race and Sail Paradise. To ensure she was in prime race condition he has had the hull stripped back virtually

to a bare shell before starting a 'make-over' from the keel upwards. This project has also included the purchase of some powerful new sails.

When named Yendys and owned by Sydney yachtsman Geoff Ross, this yacht contested all Hobart races between 2006 and 2009. In 2007 she was the outright champion in the IRC Grand Prix division at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week.

Sponsored by Gold Coast marine electronics and electrical specialists, Marinonics, and staged by Southport Yacht Club, 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 30th 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 latest company to join the sponsor ranks is Elliott & Turner Travel Associates based at Main Beach on the Gold Coast. This company caters for the frequent and discerning traveller.

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

Photo caption:

Fun in the sun: Peter Harburg's 66ft Blackjack, from Brisbane, and Secret Men's Business (Rob Curtis, NSW) line up for a start at Sail Paradise 2010 off the Gold Coast.

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