



27<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

## An Action-Packed Start to 2015 For Southport Yacht Club



It's a busy start to the 2015 sailing season for Southport Yacht Club, on the Gold Coast.

The action started over the Australia Day long weekend with the Club hosting the start of a record fleet in the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Surf to City event.

More than 100 sailboats ranging from sports boats and trailerable multihulls through to some of the Volvo 70, Black Jack, lined up for the start of the novel event which finishes at the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club, on Moreton Bay. The course for the smaller boats sees the fleet sailing through the spectacular waterways that make up the Gold Coast's Broadwater before crossing Moreton Bay to the finish at the top of the bay. The larger boats will sail an offshore course.

The Club is hoping that the success of this event, which is managed by QCYC, will lead to an impressive fleet for the SYC's annual Sail Paradise regatta, which will be contested from March 6 to 8.

The SYC will be hosting Olympic 470 class action from February 11 to 15 with the staging of the 470 class national championship. Hot favourite for victory in that event is Southport Yacht Club's Olympic Gold Medallist, Mathew Belcher, and his crewman, Will Ryan. This regatta will be followed by an intense training series on the Broadwater for Olympic team contenders.

Multihulls will be the centre of the action at the Club from January 31 to February 1 with the running of the Fastway Couriers Cat Week, and after that both off-the-beach cats and dinghies will contest one of the unique events of smallboat sailing in Australia, The Great Race. This 37-nautical mile contest sees competitors weave their way through the Broadwater before finishing at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron on Moreton Bay.

Southport Yacht Club has already seen its members enjoy considerable success this year in Youth and National Championships: Tom Siganto and Kyle O'Connell were first in the 29er Youth Nationals, Joel Turner and Lewis Brake won the 29er National Championship, and Angus Sherring and Jackson Foort were the winners in the 2-up division of the Sabot Australian Championship.



Image Caption:

- Fastway Couriers Gold Coast Cat Week, 2014
- XXXX Sail Paradise, 2014 – credit Michael Jennings

Details for Sail Paradise 2015 can be found on the regatta website: [www.sailparadise.com.au](http://www.sailparadise.com.au)

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