



ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE

NEWS RELEASE

29 December, 2016, 1530 hrs

***Giacomo*: A matter of meticulous planning and execution for Rolex Sydney Hobart win**

In a quiet corner of the Hobart marina where the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race finishers are trickling in at the end of their trials and tribulations on the high seas, the voice of an eloquent Kiwi yachtsman provides the clue to his success.

Jim Delegat, owner-skipper of the race-winning V70 *Giacomo*, is a man who chooses his words carefully. He is both scientist and orator. He leaves nothing to chance. One understands why, on the boat, he attracts respect, he is successful.

One is reminded of the 2013 overall winner Darryl Hodgkinson, owner of *Victoire*. Hodgkinson is a plastic surgeon; he plotted and planned his course that year with surgical efficiency and it paid off.

Delegat, with two sons on board, and who were next to him with sailing master Steve Cotton for the photo opportunity, knew there was another to thank. His wife Kate. She couldn't be in the official hero photo, but without her overall shore management, it wouldn't have happened.

"I want you in the photos on the boat, after this," he whispered as she waited a couple of steps out of frame, then he shuffled the three crew in the order that suited him.

Giacomo bears the name of Jim Delegat's grandfather, while his father founded the Oyster Bay vineyard and which the family runs. The boat's pedigree is impeccable. It won the 2011/12 Volvo Ocean race as *Groupama 4*.

In 2013 he brought the cream of Kiwi yachting on the crew for its first Hobart campaign, including Cotton.

He said at the time: "I am 64. I have spent 25 years on and off boats. I feel my time has come. *Giacomo* is the boat to do the job. She carries the spirit of my grandfather." They finished sixth across the line. Unfinished business.

In 2014 *Giacomo* was dismantled off the Tasmanian coast.

In 2015 they planned.

In 2016 they mounted their assault against the biggest guns in Australian ocean racing, and they won.

By Bruce Montgomery, RSHYR media

*****Ends*****

Photos and captions:

Nikolas Delegat, Jim Delegat, James Delegat and Steve Cotton with the Tattersall's Cup - Credit ROLEX/Kurt Arrigo

Official race website: <http://rolexsydneyhobart.com/>

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rshyr>

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RolexSydneyHobart>

Photos: Copyright free hi-res photographs from the 2015 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race are available to registered media to download from: <https://pressroom.rolex.com/en/sports-and-culture/partnership-activities/rolex-and-yachting-news.html>

For further media information please contact:

Di Pearson, Rolex Sydney Hobart Media Director on +61 (0) 410 792 131