Offshore

Yachting

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

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Tacking in the Tropics
The Big Races North

ADMIRAL'S CUP
## Italy's First Win

SYDNEY-HOBART NEW SPONSOR

Brindabella *takes* the **double**

as George Snow berthed *Brindabella* at Southport Yacht Club's floating marina at the end of the Canon Sydney-Gold Coast Classic he was wearing a winner's grin. The Jutson 75 had powered through to the lead over the final 80 nautical miles and sailed away to a magnificent line honours victory in the 386nm race to Queensland, giving him personally a line honours victory in almost every major ocean race sailed off the Australian East Coast, plus a few overseas victories.

But his eyes turned south...." now it's for the big one - the Sydney-Hobart line honours in December," he told OFF-SHORE. For while Snow took line honours in the 1991 Sydney-Hobart with his first *Brindabella*, victory has twice eluded him with the new maxi - a retirement in the galeswept 1993 race and a loss to the maxi ketch *Tasmania* by a mere seven minutes in the Kodak Gold 50th Sydney-Hobart.

A day later, Snow had an even bigger smile when the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia confirmed the Australian-designed, built and equipped 75-footer as the winner from a state-of-the-art fleet in IMS Division A of the Canon Classic.

Corrected time results gave first place to *Brindabella* by a massive margin of
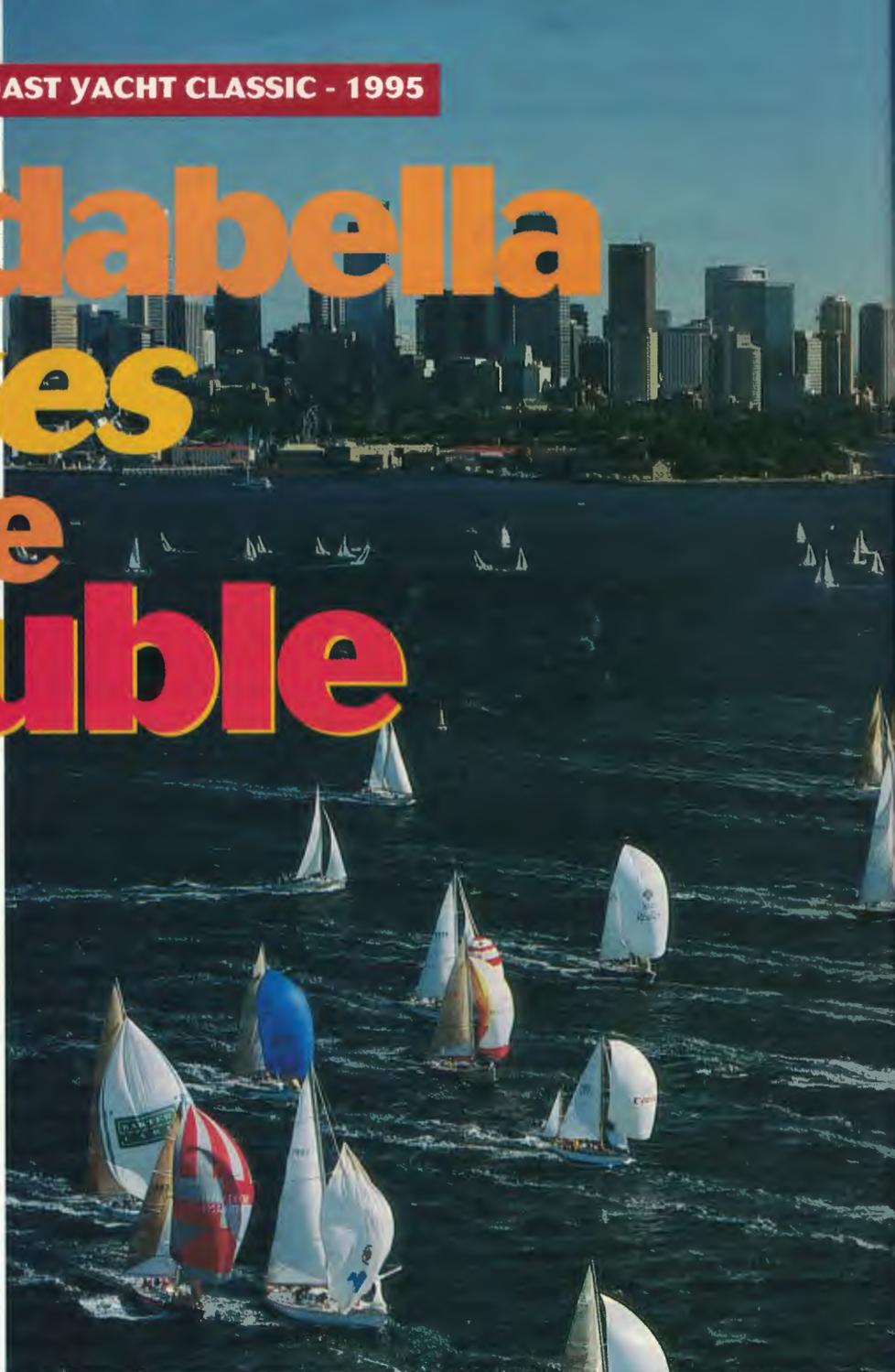
Brindabella proved herself one of the greatest
maxi yachts ever to race in Australian waters
when she took out the double of line and IMS
grand prix handicap honours in the 10th
Canon Sydney-Gold Coast Classic,
as Peter Campbell reports

Helicopter pilot and photographer Mark
Fitzsimmons shot the big fleet sweeping down the
Harbour after the start in the Canon Sydney-Gold
Coast Classic while Peter Bampbell pictured
Brindabella as she crossed the finish line off
Southport two days later

Top: *Canon Maris*, skippered by Ian Keiman, on her way to victory in the Canon Sydney-Hobart Gold Coast Classic. Above: *Heaven Can Wait* (Warren Johns) and *Team Fujitsu* (Nigel Holman) head for the Tasman Sea.
(Pic: Peter Campbell)

Week which followed the Gold Coast Classic.

Victory did not come easily in the Canon Classic, with the fresh sou'westers of the first day and night favouring the downwind PHS flyers with their huge non-rated spinnakers.

"It took a long time to catch *Future Shock*, with her big asymmetric spinnaker she was very fast off the wind," Snow said. "But as soon as the breeze swung to the nor'west and on the nose, we sailed right through her south of Yamba.

"We made up three miles in an hour when the wind changed direction and during the (Sunday) night opened up a lead of 15 miles," Snow added, with *Brindabella* beating *Future Shock* home by more than three hours.

From a surfing start on Sydney Harbour before a 25 knot sou'wester, *PL Lease Future Shock* swept away to a commanding lead that she did not surrender for the next 300nm, holding the lead even when the wind eased away on the Sunday. The New Zealand designed and built Elliott 55 is now owned by Melbourne yachtsman Peter Hansen who sailed her in the 1993 Brisbane-Osaka race, finishing second.

Sailing with him were the designer, Greg Elliott, and hard-driving Melbourne sailor Grant Wharington, as sailing master. It was Wharington, sailing his own boat, *Wild Thing*, who beat Hansen in the Brisbane-Osaka race, also winning the short-handed Melbourne-Osaka race last year.

While *Brindabella's* elapsed time of 44 hours 32 minutes 01 seconds was about five and a half hours outside the race record of 38 hours 57 minutes set by *Hammer of Queensland* in a gale in 1988, it was still the second fastest time for the 386 nm race since it was introduced in 1986 with the opening of the Gold Coast Seaway.

Third to finish was three-times past line honours winner, *Amazon*, with Peter Walker returning to ocean racing after the dismasting in the 1994 Gold Coast race. Sporting a new carbon fibre mast (ex America's Cup challenger, *Spirit*) *Amazon* and her crew looked short

four hours from the 36-footer, *2KY Racing Radio*, skippered by Bob Mulkearns. Both yachts were designed by Sydney-based naval architect Scott Jutson, *Brindabella* being a Jutson 75 and *2KY Racing Radio* an NSX-36 production yacht.

Third on corrected time was Robin Crawford's Farr 40, *Assassin*, the first purpose-built IMS racer to be raced in Australia and still a formidable force in ocean racing. While *Brindabella* won by nearly four hours on corrected time just over an hour separated the next five boats - *2KY Racing Radio*, *Assassin*, *AMP Wild Oats*, *Atara* and the Tasmanian sloop, *Hartz Mineral Water*.

This was *Brindabella's* third major line/IMS handicap double since being launched in 1993, the others being in the 1993 Gosford-Lord Howe Island and 1994 Sydney-Mooloolaba races, in which she also broke the 17-year-old race record. She is also only the second yacht to take out the line honours and the major IOR/IMS handicap double in the Gold Coast Classic - the IOR maxi *Apollo* winning the double in the inaugural race in 1986.

Added to these Australian successes has been *Brindabella's* line honours dominance of the Kenwood Cup in Hawaii last year and now her brilliance at the 1995 XXXX Ansett Hamilton Island Race

of training time and after a brief burst she never looked a threat, She finished more than two hours astern of *Future Shock*, followed by *Innkeeper Petaluma Wines* (Andrew Short).

This year's 10th race, the second sponsored by Canon, reflected the revived interest in ocean racing that was stimulated by the 50th Sydney-Hobart. The fleet of 73 yachts from all eastern states was the largest in four years, with all but three boats finishing.

The start, in a fresh to strong sou'wester provided the fleet with a rollicking square spinnaker run to the Heads, with the fleet continuing to reach and run north throughout the night. By next morning the odds were looking good for a race record, but the breeze died away throughout Sunday.

PL Lease Future Shock and *Brindabella* were able to maintain reasonable boatspeed throughout the day before picking up the fresher nor'westerly airstream south of Yamba. As George Snow said, that gave *Brindabella* the break she needed and she crossed the line off Southport's Main Beach shortly after 9am on the Monday with CYCA Com-

Sign on the bow of 56-year-old sloop *Southerly* before Don Mickleborough and his equally veteran crew set sail in the Canon Sydney-Gold Coast Classic (Pic: Peter Campbell)

modore David Fuller firing the finish gun.

Future Shock missed out on line honours, but Hansen collected first place trophy in PHS Division A, winning on handicap from rival downwind flyers from the CYCA, *Innkeeper Petaluma Wines* (Andrew Short) and *Amazon* (Pe-

ter Walker).

In contrast to these state-of-the-art speedsters. PHS Division B produced a victory for *Sailaway*, a 14m sloop designed by Joe Adams and built by RPAYC member Robert Byrne from steel 15 years ago as a family cruising boat. She has sailed in every Gold Coast Clas-

sic with Bryne again getting together some old sailing mates for a rather sedate cruising race north.

Sailaway won PHS Division B from another Gold Coast regular, James Lawler's *Charisma* from the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club, third going to the little sloop *Classic Blue*, owned by Chris Oh and Trish Osborne, also from the Amateurs.

Two of the most creditable efforts in the race came from David Pescud and his crew of sailors with physical disabilities aboard *Aspect Computing* and the crew of youngsters from the CYCA Youth Sailing Academy aboard John Needham's beautiful blue-hulled 50-footer, *Sidewinder*.

The sailors with disabilities used this race a year ago to make their presence felt on the ocean racing scene and in the past year have successfully competed at Hamilton Island Race Week, the Gosford-Lord Howe Island race and the 50th Sydney-Hobart. *Aspect Computing* placed ninth in PHS Division A.

Sidewinder, designed by Ed Dubois as an IOR racer, was built in New Zealand from timber obtained from a single kauri tree and raced in New Zealand and Hong Kong before being bought recently by Needham, a CYCA member. He made the yacht available to the Youth Sailing Academy for the Canon Sydney-Gold Coast race and the following Southport Yacht Club XXXX Regatta, and apart from himself and academy coach Dayne Sharpe the
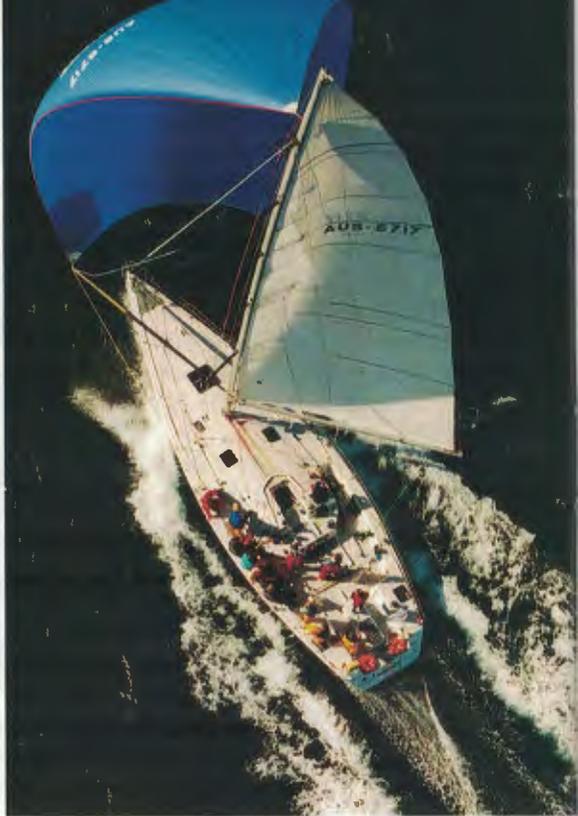
Victorian flyer *PL Lease Future Shock* (Peter Hansen) set the pace as she surfed north in the Canon Sydney-Gold Coast Classic. The Elliott 55 held the lead until Yamba when overtaken by the maxi *Brindabella* (Pic: Ian Mainsbridge)

crew were all youngsters from the Academy.

Sidewinder was 20th yacht to finish the race, placing 13th on corrected time in PHS Division A with the crew of youngsters aged between 13 and 21, showing their potential as ocean racing sailors. In fact, in the following XXXX Regatta, they came out winners in the PHS division.

Clean Up at Southport for Ian Kiernan

Ian Kiernan, founder of Clean Up Australia and former Australian of the Year, made a clean up in the Canon Sydney-Gold Coast Classic. Skippering his classic timber yawl, *Canon Maris*, he won on corrected time the IMS Division C from a fleet that included several other "golden oldies" of ocean racing.

Maris, built 37 years ago, also won the special Vintage Yacht Trophy presented by race sponsors, Canon Australia, who have also sponsored Kiernan in his restoration of the old yacht.

Canon Maris is a Tasman Seabird yawl, designed by the late Alan Payne, the creator of the famous America's Cup challengers *Gretel* and *Gretel II*.

Kiernan, whose ocean racing has included contesting the BOC Challenge solo race around the world, brought *Maris* back to ocean racing standards specifically to contest last year's 50th Sydney-Hobart. *Maris* finished second, beaten by less than seven minutes by the 56-year-old Charlie Peel-designed *Southerly*, skippered by 70-year-old Don Mickleborough, in the 30-Year Veteran Division of the 50th Hobart but reversed

the positions with a fine win in this race.

Third place went to another Huon pine-hulled oldtimer, the Jock Muir designed and built *Lahara*, skippered by Phil Ashe, which also was restored for the 50th Sydney-Hobart.

"It's great to see these old yachts able to race competitively again under the International Measurement System, not only racing against each other but also beating some of the much more modern fibreglass boats in our division," Kiernan said after his win.

Although *Canon Maris* and *Southerly* sailed close together for most of the race up the NSW North Coast, in the end *Canon Maris* pulled away to finish more than three hours ahead, extending that margin to more than five hours on corrected time.

The Middle Harbour Yacht Club boat *Kings Cross-Sydney*, skippered by Ray Stone, continued her remarkable ocean racing success by winning IMS Division B, beating *Canon Copiers* (Brian Ellis) from Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club by a mere 40 minutes on corrected time, third going to the newly-launched IMA/Masrm 950, *Image*, designed by Iain Murray and skippered by Russell Murphy, also from RPAYC.

Canon Copiers, a Farr 40 which previously raced as *Witch-craft II*, has sailed in every Sydney-Gold Coast race over the past decade, notching up a remarkable two wins, three seconds and three thirds. Owned by RPAYC Rear Commodore Bruce Staples she was skippered by longtime navigator Brian Ellis but Staples jumped aboard at the last minute when one of the original crew could not make it.

While *Kings Cross-Sydney*, a Davidson 36 optimised by Scott Jutson, won by a 40 minutes with two hours between *Canon Copiers* and *Image*, only an hour separated the next eight yachts on corrected time - *Nynja-Go, Illusion, Never a Dull Moment, Elusive, Too Impetuous, Spirit of Rani* (chartered by an Army crew), *Wet 'n Infamous* from Melbourne and *Pilgrim*.

CANON SYDNEY-GOLD COAST CLASSIC - HONOUR ROLL

Line Honours: *Brindabella*, Jutson 75 (George Snow, CYCA) elapsed time 44 hours 32 minutes 01 seconds.
IMS Div A: 1: *Brindabella* , Jutson 75 (George Snow, CYCA) corrected time 44.31.01, 2: *2KY Racing Radio*, Jutson NSX-36 (Rob Mulkearns, MHYC) 48.23.58, 3: *Assassin*, Farr 40 IMS (Robin Crawford, MHYC) 49.21.33.
IMS Div B: 1: *Kings Cross-Sydney*, Davidson 36 (Ray Stone, MHYC) 61.25.58. 2: *Canon Copiers*, Farr 40 (Brian Ellis, RPAYC) 62.06.07. 3: *Image*, IMA/Masrm 950 (Russell Murphy, RPAYC) 64.07.25.
IMS Div C: 1: *Canon Maris*, Payne Tasman Seabird (Ian Kiernan, CYCA) 66.51.58. 2: *Southerly*, Peel 36 (Don Mickleborough, CYCA) 72.17.12. 3: *Lahara*, Muir 33 (Phillip Ashe, CYCA) 74.12.41.
PHS Div A:: 1: *PL Lease Future Shock*, Elliott 55 (Peter Hansen, Sandringham YC, Vic) 64.35.55. 2: *Innkeeper Petaluma Wines*, Steinmann 62 (Andrew Short, CYCA) 69.34.22. 3: *Amazon*, Steinmann 69 (Peter Walker, CYCA) 71/30.21.
PHS Div B: 1: *Sailaway*, Adams 14 (Robert Byrne, RPAYC) 68.05.33. 2: *Charisma*, Cavalier 43 (James Lawler, SASC) 69.14.05. 3: *Classic Blue*, Nelson 32 (Chris Oh/Trish Osborne, SASC) 70.34/10.