

offshore

YACHTING

Hamo Heaven

ALL THE ACTION FROM THE 27TH AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

THE CUP RECAST

IS THIS AUSTRALIA'S CHANCE TO GET BACK IN THE AMERICA'S CUP?

YOUNG GUN & OLD SALT
PROFILING TWO AUSSIE SAILORS FROM DIFFERENT GENERATIONS

TWISTED LOGIC
TIPS FOR THE PERFECT MAINSAIL TWIST

OLYMPICS FLASHBACK
10 GOLDEN SAILING MOMENTS FROM THE SYDNEY GAMES

PLASTIKI UNWRAPPED
CROSSING THE PACIFIC ON A BOAT MADE OF PLASTIC



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

OCT/NOV 2010

\$7.95 (inc.gst)

PP: 255003/07868





AUDI SYDNEY
GOLD COAST YACHT RACE

Golden days

THE JULY AUDI SYDNEY GOLD COAST YACHT RACE MARKED 25 YEARS SINCE ITS ORIGINS IN 1986 AS THE GREAT WINTER ESCAPE, WRITES LISA RATCLIFF

Harbour works funded by the Queensland Government opened up an all-weather entrance at the Southport bar to deep keel yachts. Before the works commenced, Cruising Yacht Club of Australia member Peter Rysdyk got wind of the government's plan and put in a bid to run a winter race from Sydney to Southport.

Rysdyk became race director and with life member Alan Brown assisting and Peter Campbell as media director the inaugural Bayview Harbour Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race got underway on August 16 when the Premier of Queensland, Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson, fired the starting cannon from Sydney Harbour to send a fleet of 83 boats northwards. An equally colourful character in the late Jack Rooklyn sailed his famous maxi yacht *Apollo* to a double victory that year, taking line honours and first place on corrected time.

Since 1986 most of Australia's

noted ocean-going yachts and sailors have joined the annual exodus north.

For the silver jubilee Audi Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, a high calibre 75 strong fleet representing New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia lined up in Sydney Harbour in a sou'westerly breeze for the colourful spinnaker start.

The largest were itching to have yet another crack at the elusive race record set back in 1999 by George Snow's mighty Jutson 79, *Brindabella*, and were at times on record pace, but mishap and the weather transition near the border once again worked in Snow's favour.

First over the line in the 384 nautical mile coastal race with an elapsed time of 1 day 6 hours 25 minutes 37 seconds was the Bob Oatley owned and Mark Richards skippered supermaxi *Wild Oats XI*, as bad luck would have it missing the record by the same number of hours it cost them detouring to Newcastle to

drop off their injured bowman.

The only major incident of the race was bowman Tim Wiseman's fingers accidentally finding their way into the mainsheet block on the whopping carbon fibre boom, forcing the 100 footer to offload the crewman for medical treatment. Weeks later he was back on the bow with his finger still strapped but nearly recovered.

Stephen Ainsworth's RP63 *Loki* continued its stunning form, claiming the outright IRC win from a top field and then backing up for the trifecta at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, the only boat to have ever taken the top prize at all three events in the same year.

With the last boat *Mister Christian* safely home by Tuesday afternoon, it was regarded a quick and straightforward dash north to Southport. After 25 years, the Audi Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race has well and truly cemented its place in the annual offshore racing calendar.

GOLD STANDARD
Wild Oats XI, skippered by Mark Richards, would have set a new race record but for an unscheduled mercy mission to Newcastle.