

# offshore

## YACHTING

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA



**GOLD  
STANDARD**  
YSA TRIO CROWNED  
WORLD YOUTH MATCH  
RACING CHAMPS

# NEED FOR SPEED

GEARING UP FOR THE ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART

---

### POWER OF BELIEF

LIZ WARDLEY LINES UP FOR HER  
THIRD VOLVO OCEAN RACE

### CRUISE CONTROL

SPECIAL GUIDE TO THE CRUISING  
LIFESTYLE ESSENTIALS

### SHOW STOPPERS

THE CHIC NEW YACHTS TO ENTICE  
A SEA CHANGE

---

OCT/NOV 2017

\$9.95 (inc gst)

PP: 100007344



01  
9 771446 117003

## Down to the wire

In nearly the total opposite to the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race seven months earlier, for the bulk of the fleet, the 2017 Land Rover Sydney Gold Coast Race was entirely upwind.

Those conditions made for extensive periods on the rail, multiple headsail changes, and very little sleep for those onboard the 56 yachts that almost drifted across the start line in Sydney Harbour on Saturday 29 July.

Despite only hoisting their brand new mainsail for the first time in the pre-start, freshly refurbished supermaxi *Black Jack* proved she was a potent threat to *Wild Oats XI*'s line honours domination of Australian offshore racing.

After a 394-nautical-mile duel, during which time the two boats were always in sight of each other, the margin was just 3 minutes 31 seconds in *Oats*' favour; the closest result in 15 years.

"It was an awesome race; one of the best," said *Wild Oats XI*'s skipper, Mark Richards.



**JUSTIFIED REWARD** Shane Kearns and his crew on *Komatsu Azzurro* capitalised on a southerly wind change and again took overall honours in the annual winter escape to warmer waters.

On reaching Southport Yacht Club, Richards heaped praise on his crew and also recognised the outstanding effort made by the *Black Jack* team, especially considering this was their maiden race with the yacht. Still, the result was particularly

encouraging for *Wild Oats XI*, as Richards commented: "From the day she was launched, *Black Jack* was always faster than *Wild Oats XI* when sailing upwind in those conditions. So we were more than pleased to be able to go toe-to-toe with them in this race,

especially when you consider that we've done extensive modifications to our yacht to make it faster downwind."

A wind shift from northerly to southerly on Monday night put the smaller boats in contention for overall victory as they came home under spinnaker. Shane Kearns' *Komatsu Azzurro* milked the change for maximum benefit, after hugging the shore to stay out of the current. The tactics paid off handsomely, with the S&S 34 notching up its second win in three years.

"It was a great race," Kearns said. "The hard thing was knowing that we had a chance once *Black Jack* finished, but we were still 150 miles out, so it was a long, drawn-out run to the line."

During that time, as more boats finished we knew we were in with a really good chance, and then the southerly did come in and that was great. Really good to get the win."

Kearns and his crew have now set their sights on a rare double – aiming for a similar result in the Rolex Sydney Hobart in December. [goldcoast.cyca.com.au](http://goldcoast.cyca.com.au)

## Maxi chic

The world's largest grand prix racing yachts battled it out on what's billed as the world's most magnificent race course from September 3 to 9 in Sardinia.

Porto Cervo, in Sardinia, hosted the Rolex Maxi 72 World Championship and the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup.

Comparable to a TP 52 on steroids, the Maxi 72s also push the technology envelope, albeit given the extra 20 feet, everything is bigger and more costly than a TP. They are considered the pinnacle of inshore, big boat fleet racing.

This year it was Dieter Schön's *Momo* that dominated the five-strong Maxi 72 fleet.

Defending World Champ *Bella Mente* could only manage third, with *Proteus* second. Schön himself is a very handy sailor, the 2003 Dragon World Champion and a long campaigner in the Finn and Star classes. He's a fan of the 72s, most of which are Vrolijk designs, explaining, "The Maxi 72 is a racing boat and I want to race. I don't like to race with a cruising boat."

He also relishes the Maxi 72 being an owner-driver class, but others were content



**STAND-OUT PERFORMERS** *Momo*'s consistent earlier performances culminated in the Rolex Maxi 72 World crown.

to push their custom, carbon-fibre racer-cruisers hard around the famous emerald waters off Porto Cervo.

In the six other classes, the winners were: *Ribelle* (Supermaxi), *Highland Fling XI* (Maxi), *Galateia* (Wally),

*Jethou* (Mini Maxi R), *Supernikka* (Mini Maxi RC1) and *H2O* (Mini Maxi RC2). 50 boats, all over 60 feet (18.2 metres), contested the championships, the largest being 118-foot (36-metre) *Viriella*. [yccs.it](http://yccs.it)