



## ***Yanmar powers the champions of the Sydney to Hobart Fleet***

Over the past 61 years, the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race has become an icon of Australia's summer sport, ranking in public interest with such national events as the Melbourne Cup horse race, the Davis Cup tennis and the cricket tests between Australia and England. No yachting event in the world attracts such huge media coverage – except, of course, the America's Cup and the Whitbread Round the World Race – than does the start on Sydney Harbour. And the others only happen every four or five years.



Custom Australian and New Zealand racing yachts fitted with Yanmar engines finished 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> overall in regards to line honours results in the 2005 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht race. Further evidence of Yanmar's domination in this event was also reflected in the race handicap results with all top 10 yachts in the final overall IRC standings also being equipped with Yanmar propulsion engine packages.

Wild Oats XI built by McConaghy Boats in Monavale Sydney took line honours and in doing so re-created history by taking home 'the treble'- line honours, handicap victory and a new course record with a time of 01:18:10:40 over the 628 mile course. Wild Oats XI skipper Mark Richards became the first skipper since Rani's victory in the inaugural race of 1945 to win "the treble". This result was made even more astounding as the newly built Wild

Oats XI was only commissioned 3 weeks before the race leaving, precious time to test and rig the yacht for battle.

Only one hour separated the top two places with race favourite Alpha Romeo (also built by McConaghy Boats- Sydney) crossing the line to finish a gallant second with Skandia (Mal Hart Marine- Mornington Victoria) taking third place nearly 6 hours behind Wild Oats XI.

The role of the Yanmar engine in a super maxi racing yacht is becoming increasingly complex. Hydraulically operated canting keels, high flow water ballast systems along with complex hydraulic winch and battery charging systems rely heavily on the diesel propulsion engine systems to ensure large scale tasks can be managed quickly and efficiently with fewer racing crew.

The lightweight characteristics and proven reputation of the purpose built Yanmar marine engine packages is also reflected in the race handicap results with the Yachts in all of the Top 10 IRC overall standings all boasting Yanmar diesel engines on board.

The advantages of a lightweight racing yacht were none more evident than in the last stage of the race when race leader Wild Oats XI entered the Derwent River. Just 10 miles from the finish line, a wayward running backstay caught the top batten pocket and wrenched the batten out of the sail.

Amid a 30-knot breeze, the crew were forced to lower the sail and limp towards the line. However, the efficient design and lightweight characteristics of the 98ft super maxi kept Wild Oats XI to a steady 12 knots into the breeze with just one sail flying as they crossed the finish line.

Australian yacht builders dominated the overall event with boat builders from NSW, QLD and VIC well represented not only in the top 10 IRC placing but also right throughout the entire fleet of 85 yachts. A special mention to Sydney Yachts from Nowra in NSW who achieved a treble also with 3 IRC divisional

winners with their world leading designs all fitted with Yanmar sail drive product and Gori Propellers.

The stunning results for Yanmar in this years 2005 Rolex Sydney to Hobart are testament to the efforts of the local Australian Distributor's Power Equipment staff as much effort has gone into supporting the local boatbuilding industry and boat owners over many years. The proven reputation and quality of the Yanmar sail drive and propulsion engines have again delivered the results for these race winners and excellent worldwide sales results by Yanmar prove them also to be the favour within the global sailing community.

With Yanmar providing the power for 5 out of the top 6 yachts to take line honours and also partnering the entire top 10 yachts in the overall IRC standings, the results of the Rolex 2005 Sydney to Hobart Race could not have been more satisfying for one of the world's most respected marine diesel manufacturers.

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