



The Shorthanded Sailing Association of Australia Inc.



Port Stephens Sailing, Wine and Cricket Weekend

The Shorthanded Sailing Association of Australia will again hold its annual Shorthanded Sydney to Port Stephens yacht race on the June long weekend, starting Friday 9th June.

In 2006 we are starting from Sydney Harbour, rather than Pittwater, and we are delighted to again have the support of Rolly Tasker Sails – Australia.

This classic race on the SSAA's calendar is famous, not only for close and competitive racing, but also for the post-race celebrations on the Sunday, when the skippers and crew, family and friends let their hair down at Wandin Valley Estate vineyard and winery, situated in the Lovedale area in the lower Hunter Valley.

Last year was one of the hardest races for many years, with up to 30 knots from the north hitting a 2 metre left-over southerly swell, so all crews were pushed to the limits!

The race starts at 1800hrs in Hunter Bay, Middle Harbour, so all yachts should have arrived at D'Albora Marina in Nelson Bay by mid morning Saturday. The rest of the day is for relaxing, ready for the coach trip on Sunday morning to Wandin Valley Estate in Lovedale Road, Hunter Valley.

After the prize presentation lunch in the cricket pavilion, when products of the vineyard are enthusiastically sampled, all competitors face up to a challenge which can be as tough as the ocean, the annual Skippers versus Crew Cricket Match for the Wineglass Cup. The Crews' youth and vigour is well matched to the Skippers' age and treachery, so over the thirteen years the match has been played, the honours are about even. Bribery of the scorers should reach a new peak in 2006!

The Rolly Tasker Sails – Australia Sydney to Port Stephens Short Handed Yacht Race is a Cat 3 plus liferaft race. The Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and Entry, Lunch and Marina Bookings Form are on the website <http://www.saa.com.au>. As pre-bookings for berths have been limited, your early registration is recommended.

Go to <http://www.rollytaskersails.com> for more information about Rolly Tasker Sails, and their supporting marine service – All Marine.

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