

news bites



FUN RALLY FOR CRUISERS

The New Zealand Multihull Yacht Club has teamed up with 36° Brokers and PIC Insurance Brokers to offer an alternative Coastal Classic for those wanting a more relaxed journey north.

The all-new Cruising Rally is aimed at production boats and cruisers keen to take part in the race but avoid the hectic start line and necessity of a handicap. "Starting an hour earlier than the race fleet will mean the cruising boats get away in a nice clear start and can enjoy the sight of the big boats racing past," says race spokesperson Greer Houston, commodore of the NZMYC. "Once in Russell they can enjoy the fun and festivities, take part in the party, and utilise the water taxis."

"We want to create opportunities for people to really enjoy using their boats," adds Raynor Haagh, spokesperson for 36° Brokers. "This new format harks back to the 70s and 80s when families took part in events and had a great time, without necessarily being too competitive. They had a picnic, went for a swim, and enjoyed themselves."

Prospective entrants will not need a PHRF handicap but will need Category 3 safety certification from Yachting New Zealand.

The PIC Coastal Classic starts on the morning of Friday, 20 October. Sponsored by PIC Insurance Brokers for five years, it is New Zealand's biggest yacht race and one of the biggest of its type in the world. The race starts off Auckland's Devonport Wharf and finishes off Russell Wharf in the Bay of Islands. The current record of 5 hours and 13 minutes is held by *Frank Sailing* (formerly *TeamVodafone*).

Joining PIC and 36° Brokers are B&G, Zhik, Railblaza, Doyle Stratix, Yachting NZ and Mount Gay Rum, creating a family of sponsors that have helped to deliver the annual race since 1984.

www.coastalclassic.co.nz and Facebook



watch the race
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www.volvoceanrace.com

Image: Jeremy Lecaudey/Volvo Ocean Race

A COOK JOINS THE PLASTIC FIGHT

Bianca Cook – eldest daughter of Yachting Developments' founders Ian and Blanche Cook – has been selected as the 10th crewmember on board *Clean Seas* – *Turn the Tide on Plastic*, racing in the Volvo Ocean Race later this year.

Bianca (28), joins skipper Dee Caffari's mixed and youth-focused campaign after successful trials, just 44 days ahead of the start of the race. Bianca has significant experience offshore, accumulating over 70,000 offshore miles in the last few years, most recently as second mate on board the superyacht *Hetairos*.

For Bianca, this is a lifetime opportunity to put her sailing skills to the test in one of the toughest and most respected sailing races in the world.

"I've grown up watching the Volvo Ocean Race teams and I can't believe that I'll get to be one of those sailors," she says. "To be given this chance and to have earned my place is a dream come true."

Her parents have always encouraged their daughters, Bianca and Paige, to challenge themselves with whatever they do in life, and this

latest achievement by Bianca is no exception.

"We are excited and proud of the prospect of one of our daughters pushing a yacht to its limit in the oceans of the world," say the couple. "We have huge confidence in Bianca's sailing ability, as well as that of Dee and her fellow crew, and know that they have what it takes to safely compete in one of the great sailing challenges."

Bianca joins a multinational squad led by Dee Caffari (GBR) and featuring Australia's Liz Wardley and Lucas Chapman; Italy's Francesca Clapcich; Britons Bledwyn Mon and Henry Bomby; Portuguese sailors Frederico Pinheiro de Melo and Bernardo Freitas and Irish Olympic medallist, Annalise Murphy.

The team are currently making their final preparations in Cascais, Portugal. All boats had to head to the Volvo Ocean Race Boatyard in Lisbon by 18 September 2017 for final maintenance checks ahead of a non-scoring Prologue stage from Lisbon to Alicante ahead of the start of the 83,000km race.



SHAW SECURES 4TH

New Zealand's David Shaw took fourth place in the recently-completed A Class Catamaran World Championships in Sopot, Poland.

Australia's Steven Brewin took the gong, with Poland's Tymoteusz Bendyk in second place and compatriot Jakub Surowiec in third.

Some 125 sailors from 18 countries took part in the five-day regatta.