



New Challenge For Local Sailing Icons

Sailing legends Jon Sanders and David Dicks are set to tackle the 2008 Rolex Sydney Hobart Race.

Internationally renowned world record holder, Jon is most notable for his single-handed triple non-stop circumnavigation back in 1988. In 1996 Jon's protégé David Dicks at age 18 became the youngest person to sail around the world single-handed and non-stop.

They are completely overhauling *Perie Banou II*, the 39' Sparkman & Stephens yacht built in 1971 and owned by Jon for the last twenty years. This adds a second and even more challenging dimension to the team's endeavour. "Well, at 37 years old she's done a lot of sea miles, a lot of ocean crossings and one whole circumnavigation of the globe, so I reckon she deserves a makeover" said Jon. "I guess I could do with one of those myself!" Aged 69 years this month, Jon is still going strong and spends most of his time on *Perie Banou* when he's not delivering yachts around the world. A modest but quietly determined man, Jon has inspired countless young and not-so-young sailors through his spirit of maverick adventure. Restoring *Perie Banou II* to prime racing condition is a major challenge for Jon's crew - a rugged bunch of individuals who have known him for many years and inherited his passion for ocean sailing.

Recently four of the crew completed a Safety and Sea Survival Course which is a pre-race entry requirement. The practical part of the course required them to be immersed in the chilly winter ocean for almost an hour. Crew participants Derek Baxter, Ben Punch and Neil Rock commented: "We stuck close to Jon and one another in case any of us had any difficulties. Jon had no trouble at all pulling himself fully clothed in all his wet weather gear out of the water and up into the liferaft, which is more than can be said for a couple of young blokes on the course".

With the lifetime experience, there's no denying that the remarkable *Perie Banou II* team will be formidable competitors in the coming race. This year will see the strongest contingent of WA entrants to the Sydney Hobart.
