



Antarctica ahoy

Adventurer Lisa Blair sailed out of Albany, Western Australia, on January 22, in an attempt to become the first woman to circumnavigate Antarctica non-stop and solo. Blair, 32, plans to complete the voyage in 90 days in a bid to break Fedor Konyukhov's

2008 record of 102 days. Her yacht, a Hick 50 made from balsacored fibreglass, has undergone a \$300,000 refit. The fully eco-powered vessel now boasts seven watertight compartments, new sails and

rigging, wind and hydro generators, a solar panel and precision marine B&G electronics. With the threat of cyclonic winds, icebergs, icy air temperatures and 100ft swells, Blair spent the past three years researching and preparing for any eventuality.

"You need to have a healthy respect for the ocean and a logical level of fear to embark on such a journey," she says, but admits to being more excited than scared.

Competing in two Sydney to Hobart Yacht Races, the 2011-12 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race and a 2014 Solo Trans-Tasman Yacht Race proved to Blair she was capable of enduring this challenge. Eager to sail the Southern Ocean in all its raw, dangerous beauty, her one wish is to glimpse Cape Horn, which she describes as the "Everest of sailing."

Follow her progress at:
LisaBlairSailsTheWorld.com.

– Tania Connolly

Corroboree Park Challenge

Palmerston Game Fishing Club's Humminbird Corroboree Park Challenge (October 21 to 23) saw a record participation, with 259 competitors – 59 of them juniors – in 89 teams. Proudly supported by Club Marine and hosted by Corroboree Park Tavern – roughly halfway between Darwin and Kakadu on the Arnhem Highway, NT – the competition was held on the Kakadu billabongs.

With good-quality 80 to 90cm and a few metre-plus fish caught over the weeks leading up to the challenge, some of the keenest anglers fished through the night in Corroboree Billabong, landing plenty of fish on the Friday and Saturday nights.

With water temperatures reaching 30°C during the day, the teams struggled to find any quality fish. Unfortunately, monsoonal conditions set in on Saturday night and, despite the weather clearing up later in the afternoon, a lot of anglers packed up and went home. The tagged barra cash prizes were not captured, although apparently one was caught without the angler taking photos to document it.

Winner of the Fusion Marine Entertainment 'alien team' photo was Team Colourblind. Overall champion angler was Krystal Withers with a 92cm barra, Kare Priore Smith was champion female angler



Above: Alien Team Winner Team Colour Blind and Right: Overall champ Krystal Withers

(87cm), and Sam Boakes champion male angler (88cm). In the junior classes, female 12 years and under champ was Makayla Povey (64cm) and 13 to 17 years was Renna Francis (67cm). The male counterparts were Deegan Sherwood (57cm) and Haden Oates (87cm).
PalmerstonGameFishing.com.au



The Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron Charity Regatta (November 3) saw some 450 yachting enthusiasts enjoy the festivities and the sailing to help raise funds for the Sir Peter Blake Trust. After welcome drinks, the delegates – including the Club Marine NZ team (pictured) – boarded 30 RNZYS member's yachts for the Mark Foy Race on the Hauraki Gulf. It was a fantastic spectacle, in 15 to 20-knot conditions, with boats ranging from old-school classics to swift TP52s and multihulls. The race was followed by a culinary spectacular, accompanied by live music and an auction, with around \$170,000 raised on the day.

