



Media release

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Albany in the spotlight for Clipper Round the World Yacht Race

Albany will be showcased to an international audience when it becomes the host port following the grueling 7500km Southern Ocean trek from South Africa in November this year.

City of Albany Mayor, Dennis Wellington, said the City would benefit from the ongoing international focus for Albany to leverage itself as an international tourist destination.



“The Albany waterfront marina is set to be the stop-over for the worlds longest round the world yacht race that will have positive economic benefits for Albany and assist in attracting foreshore development and investment,” Mayor Wellington said.

The City of Albany, Great Southern Development Commission and Department of Transport have partnered to secure this internationally high profile event. The City will have the first right of refusal to host the biannual event for years to come, meaning that there are likely to be ongoing opportunities to further develop tourism and the local economy into the future.

“We will not only see an estimated direct economic benefit of \$1 million this year, but it will be the perfect lead-in to the Anzac Centenary commemorations in 2014.”

The event will provide an ongoing international focus for Albany to leverage itself as an international tourist destination.

“This is the world’s longest ocean race covering 40,000 miles. It will be a visual spectacle attracting 12 seventy-foot brand new Clipper yachts with 240 crew to Albany for seven to 10 days,” added Mayor Wellington.

In developing its 2013/14 budget, the City of Albany identified the need to attract a signature annual marquee event as a key platform for local economic development and being selected as a host port for the 2013 event with an option to continue and build on this association meets this criteria.

As the host port, Albany will welcome the fleet with a community festival of the sea celebration, displays, multicultural stalls and arts, entertainment, fresh local produce and wines, and showcasing Albany’s rich arts and culture.

For more information about Albany's hosting of the race, contact City of Albany, Manager Tourism Development and Services, Matt Bird on: 9841 9202.

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www.clipperroundtheworld.com/mediaportal

About Clipper Ventures Plc

Clipper Ventures Plc was established in 1995 by legendary yachtsman Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the first person to sail solo non-stop around the world in 1968-69. Sir Robin founded the company on the premise that sailing should be made available to everyone, regardless of age or experience. So he launched the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race in 1996. The company owns and operates its own matched fleet of ocean racing yachts and so far more than 3,000 people have competed in the eight editions of the Clipper Race to date. The company also owns the rights to the professional solo round the world VELUX 5 OCEANS race and runs a successful events division offering corporate sailing and development programmes. Today Clipper Ventures is recognised as a leading international marine events company which is focused on developing and promoting major global events such as the Clipper Race.

Clipper 13-14 Round the World Yacht Race

The Clipper 13-14 Round the World Yacht Race will start on Sunday 1 September from St Katharine Docks London, and return almost a year later after completing the 40,000 miles route, making it the world's longest ocean race. The event was established by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston to give everyone, regardless of sailing experience, the opportunity to discover the exhilaration of ocean racing. 650 people representing more than 40 nations will compete in the Clipper 13-14 Race on twelve brand new 70-foot yachts designed by renowned naval architect Tony Castro. It's the largest race ever. Crew members can sign up for the whole circumnavigation or one or more of eight legs. The only qualification for the race is the minimum age of 18 (there is no upper age limit) plus a thirst for adventure. The overall race is divided into individual stages and points are accumulated in a Formula 1-style scoring system. The yacht with the highest total points at the finish wins the Clipper Trophy.

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston

It's 45 years since Sir Robin Knox-Johnston set off on his record breaking solo and non-stop circumnavigation in 1968-69. Now, as Executive Chairman and founding Director of Clipper Ventures Plc, he is at the forefront of promoting round the world yacht racing. Sir Robin has been involved in sailing all his life and holds a Department of Transport Master's Certificate. He set the record for the fastest circumnavigation with Sir Peter Blake. In 2007; he completed his second solo circumnavigation when he competed in the VELUX 5 OCEANS race. Sir Robin has considerable experience of the administration of round the world races having served on the Whitbread Race committee from 1990 to 1994 and having organised the BOC Challenge Round the World Race in 1982 and 1986. He has been named RYA/YJA Yachtsman of the Year an unprecedented three times and participated in the 2010 Sydney-Hobart race at the age of 71.