



Media release

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Twelve Clipper yachts adopted by Great Southern schools

Schools from Albany and across the Great Southern have jumped at the chance to adopt their own Clipper yacht in the lead up to next month's maritime festivities.

From about November 25, the 12 yachts taking part in the 2013-14 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race will begin arriving at the Albany Marina.

All 12 boats have been adopted by a local school with students able to track race progress from Cape Town to Albany.

As the race progresses, students will be able to receive a daily update and image from their chosen yacht, which will come via Clipper HQ and be distributed to schools by the City of Albany.

Students will also be able to conduct weekly email conversations with their adopted boat, and then have the opportunity to greet their yachts as they sail into Albany Marina – providing the arrivals fall within school hours.

Once the fleet is moored in Albany students will be able to meet their allotted Clipper skippers and experience a guided tour of one of the Clipper boats.

The initiative was organised by former Princess Royal Sailing Club Commodore Paul Terry and the City of Albany.

Albany Primary School has a reason to be especially excited – principal Peter Bolt is a Clipper veteran, having taken part in a previous race.

Mr Bolt took part in the 2005-06 race as a representative of the WA Department of Education, and was responsible for communicating with school groups on land – the inverse of the situation he now finds himself in.

"It's very exciting to be on the other end of it," Mr Bolt said.

"It will be sensational for the kids to be able track the progress of the yachts online all the way to Albany and then see the transition from cyber-world to reality."

Mr Bolt said the Clipper 68 training yachts which had been moored in Albany until October 20 were the same as he sailed on eight years ago.

"I remember thinking I might never see these boats again, but they are so familiar. It's like 'that', you're back there," he said.

Schools involved in the adopt-a-yacht project include Albany, Yakamia, Spencer Park, Mt Lockyer, Flinders Park, Denmark and Cranbrook Primary schools, as well as Denmark High School, St Joseph's College (junior and middle schools) and Great Southern Grammar (junior and middle schools).

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