Darwin Dili 1973

The Inaugural Darwin Dili Yacht Race left Darwin at 1100 hours on 18 August 1973 for the 425 nm voyage to Timor across the Timor Sea. 6 competitors took 4-5 days to reach Dili, but they arrived well in time for the Presentation Night on 25 August, where the Governor of Portuguese Timor, Colonel Alrea Aldeia presented magnificent trophies to all competitors.

Indeed, the Race created several firsts:

- The first Australian yacht race to a foreign country
- The first overseas yacht race catering for multi and mono-hulls, and commencing in Australia and
- The first time that the people of Darwin and the people of Timor actively collaborated in a sporting event that was to result in friendly co-operation, good will and mutual respect.

The people of Timor had a longstanding affinity with Australians, beginning with the Australian soldiers trapped on the island during the war and who, with the help of the Portuguese and the Timorese, became such a thorn in the side of the Japanese occupation force. It was fitting therefore that the Inaugural Darwin Dili Yacht Race coincided with the survivors of “Sparrow Force” conducting their first reunion in Timor since World War II. It was a time to renew many old friendships from harder times and to establish many new friendships from better times. Again, the words of the Organising Committee were prophetic “This is the beginning of the race. The future will be a very interesting one.”

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### Darwin Organising Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President: Colin Blair</th>
<th>Commander Manuel Arsenio Velko Pacheco De Madeiros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Dr Bob Lee</td>
<td>Major Souto Pires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer: Terry Howard</td>
<td>Jose Luis De Chagas Henriques De Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Officer: Bill Jelly</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Officers: Art Duffield &amp; Kim Nicholls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publicity Officer: Murray Jones</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Official Sponsors

- Albert Albany
- Wilkens, Klemm & Morrison
- Seafleet Marine
- VB Perkins
- Burns Philp
- The Jewel Box
- Jim Berry Pharmacies
- Fergusons Travel Agency
- Abbotts Laboratories

### Trophy Donors

- Mr C J Araujo, Portuguese Consul Darwin
- Seaview Motel
- Territorian Hotel
- Gutheries and Co.
Darwin Dili 1973 Notice of Race

Six yachts completed the inaugural Darwin Dili Yacht Race. These were (in alphabetical order) Amatuana, Bindi Borega, Nicolette, Rebel King, Scamp and Trident.
The Cruising Yacht Assn.
Of the Northern Territory

Presents the
Inaugural Darwin to Dili
Yacht Race

August 18th, 1973
Start: 1100 hrs

Host Club:
Darwin Sailing Club
Vestey's Beach, Darwin.
DARWIN RACE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT  Colin Blair
SECRETARY  Dr. Bob Lee
TREASURER  Terry Howard
TECHNICAL OFFICER  Bill Jelly
SAFETY OFFICERS  Art Duffield
Kim Nicholls
PUBLICITY OFFICER  Murray Jones

DARWIN SAILING CLUB
Flag Officers

COMMODORE  Ian Spence
VICE COMMODORE  Kim Nicholls
REAR COMMODORE  Jack Costello

DILI RACE COMMITTEE

* Luis Franco Ricardo
* Commander Manuel Arsenio Velko
  Pacheco De Madeiros
* Major Souto Pires
* Jose Luis De Chagas Henriques
  De Jesus
HOW IT ALL BEGAN

History of the Inaugural Darwin-Dili Yacht Race

In 1969 the Cruising Yacht Association N.T. was formed by a few trailer sailer owners, with the object of conducting family cruising races.

These races proved popular and as the fleet grew, so did the races, culminating in the first Bathurst Island and return yacht race last year. This race is possibly the longest race originated for trailer sailers in Australia, the course being some 100 miles (if you are lucky).

The C.Y.A.N.T. now has a number of keel yachts and large multi hulls in its ranks and it was therefore a natural progression that a long ocean race would eventuate.

Earlier this year, the Bar Manager, Colin Blair (who is not a sailor), Dr. Bob Lee and Terry Howard were talking in the boat yard after a very long evening. The idea of a Darwin to Dili race was born that night when Colin and Bob Lee subscribed $100 each to finance the race.

From there a committee was formed, and organising began. Although a little up in the air at first; the last few months became hard-work, including a visit to Timor to make definite arrangements and ascertain what facilities were available in Timor for visiting crews.

The co-operation the committee has received from the Portuguese Consul and Portuguese Government in Timor has been nothing less than amazing, and we feel that this Inaugural Yacht race will achieve many "firsts".

The first Australian Yacht race to a foreign country, the first overseas yacht race catering for multi and mono hulls and commencing in Australia, and the first time that the people of Darwin and the people of Timor have actively participated in such a sporting event resulting in such friendly co-operation, good will and mutual respect.

The people of Timor have a long standing affection for the Australian, beginning with the Australian soldiers trapped on the Island during the war and who with the co-operation of the Portuguese and Timorese became such a thorn in the side of the Japanese occupation force during their forced stay on the Island.

It is fitting that (coinciding with the Inaugural Race) the survivors of "Sparrow Force" are conducting their first reunion in Timor, and Dili will entertain as their guests many old friends from harder times and we trust many new friends from the better times.

This is the beginning of the race. The future will be a very interesting one.
OFFICIAL SPONSORS

- ALBERT ALBANY
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- BURNS PHILIP
- THE JEWELL BOX
- JIM BERRY PHARMACIES
- FERGUSONS TRAVEL AGENCY
- ABBOTT'S LABORATORIES

TROPHY DONORS

- MR. C.J. DE ARAUJO
  Portuguese Consul in Darwin
- SEALEY HOTEL
- TERRITORY HOTEL
- GATHERIES AND CO.

Sincere thanks to Darwin Sailing Club Committee and Members who have assisted in many ways.
Darwin Dili 1973 Yachts

Six yachts completed the inaugural Darwin Dili Yacht Race. These were (in alphabetical order) Amatuana, Bindi Borega, Nicolette, Rebel King, Scamp and Trident.

AMATUANA

Sail No. 5
Skipper: P Dermoudy & J Wilkins
Crew: G Wham, P Wilkins, F Middleton
Amatuana derives from Aboriginal mythology meaning “Dolphin Man”.
Length: 28 feet Draught: 1 foot 8 inches; Beam: 14 feet
Sail Area: Jib – 140 sq ft; Main – 140 sq ft

BINDI BOREGA

Sail No. 112
Skipper: Stewart Parnaby
Crew: S Carter, J Wills, T Coulehan, M Rijkuris, B Rottman, C Trewin,
Length: 35 feet Beam: 24 feet 6 inches
Sail Area: Main – 280 sq ft, No. 1 Jib – 200 sq ft, No. 2 Jib – 180 sq ft, Spinnaker – 800 sq ft
Aux Power: 25 hp outboard

NICOLETTE

Sail No 111
Skipper: RJ (Bob) Lee
Crew: T Howard, D Tisdale, RAR Lee
Cruising catamaran designed by Hedley Nichol of QLD and built in Darwin by skipper and crew. Plywood and fibreglass constructions and sloop rigged.
Length: 25 feet Draught: 16 inches, Beam: 16 feet Weight: 1 ton
Sail Area: Main – 150 sq ft, Genoa – 175 sq ft, Spinnaker – 500 sq ft
Aux Power: 8 hp Yamaha outboard
**REBEL KING**

Sail No. 4  
Skipper: W (Bill) Jelley  
Crew: W Jelley Jnr, Lou Marchant, J McKellar  
Southerly 23 foot fibreglass sloop.  
Length: 23 feet Draught: 4 feet, Beam: 7 feet, 4 inches Weight: 1.2 ton  
Sail Area: 287 sq ft

![Rebel King](image1)

**SCAMP**

Sail No T999  
Skipper: Peter Buckley  
Owner: Peter Coombe  
Crew: Iain Rae, Nick Jones  
All steel masthead sloop of the Temptress class. One of 10 boats in Darwin by Buckley’s Boatyard. This class of yacht has proven itself locally and in other ocean races including the Sydney-Hobart.  
Length: 34 feet Draught: 4 ft, 6 in, Beam: 10 feet, Weight: 3.5 ton  
Sail Area: Main – 150 sq ft, Genoa – 175 sq ft, Spinnaker – 500 sq ft

![Scamp](image2)

**TRIDENT**

Sail No 1  
Skipper: Bruno Milevoj  
Crew: B Fletcher, J Burns, J Amor, G Nancarrow  
Blue Piver Loadstar Catamaran Ketch Rigged.  
Length: 35 feet Beam: 21 feet Weight: 5 ton  
Sail Area: 450 sq ft  
Aux Power: Archimedes Penta Outboard

![Trident](image3)
Darwin Dili 1974

A total of 24 yachts participated in the 1974 Darwin Dili Yacht Race. The record holder for line honours in the Darwin Dili race was set by the yacht Kingo in 1974 with a total time of 91:37 hours.

Unfortunately, the Indonesian occupation of Timor in 1975 caused subsequent events to be cancelled. But it meant that CYANT had ‘got the taste’ for international yachting events and the search was on for an alternative venue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULTS Division</th>
<th>Yacht Name</th>
<th>Elapsed Time</th>
<th>Handicap</th>
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<td>CLASSIC</td>
<td>MARIA JOSE</td>
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<td>MONOHULL</td>
<td>KUABAR</td>
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<td>WINDFALL</td>
<td>DNF</td>
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</table>
Darwin Dili 2002

It was with pleasure that in 2002, that CYANT members assisted with the organising of a yacht race to Dili to coincide with the celebrations of Timor Leste’s independence and creation as the world’s youngest nation. 8 yachts from Darwin made the voyage.

CYANT pays tribute to the many people, supporters and competitors who initiated the first Darwin Dili Yacht Race. Their legacy lives on today in the many international yachting events that depart Darwin’s shores each year.

Darwin Dili 2010 Onwards

The Darwin Dili Yacht Rally has been running since 2010 under the auspices of Sail Timor-Leste which is supported by the Government of Timor-Leste as well as the NT Government, and CYANT. More details can be obtained at the website for Sail Timor-Leste and the Darwin Dili Yacht Rally Facebook page.