

Mirror

Images

September 2010



**Old photo of new MCAWA Life Member John Collova
Celebrating the 2007 World Championships
with winners Anna Mackenzie and Holly Scott of GBR**

Inside this issue

EUROPEANS
TRAVELLERS HEAT ONE
PHILIPPINE MIRROR SAILORS

Mirror Class Association of WA

MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WA

Mirror Class Association Of Western Australia

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We need *your help* with this

Sponsors Required for Worlds Charter Boats

MCAWA has contracted to purchase four new Mark 3 Mirrors for use in the Worlds and is seeking a sponsor for each boat. This is an ideal opportunity for businesses (especially those with international relationships) to support sailors from overseas whilst at the same time promoting their business.

Please contact me if you have any potential sponsorship leads as it is a significant financial commitment by the MCAWA.

Rik Thornton email rik@wastationery.com.au or phone 0419 912 475.

GROANERS Worlds best bad jokes and Puns
What do clouds wear under their clothes?
Thunderwear!

Puzzle

What is the word, phrase, or saying depicted here
JOBINJOB
Answer in between jobs

mirror

images

FROM THE PRESIDENT

HELP SUPPORT THE MIRROR CLASS

There are just over 100 days to the start of the Worlds and just over a month to the start of the season. So, once the season starts, time is going to fly and before we know it the Worlds will have been and gone.

Online registration is now up and running at www.mirrorworlds2011.com so get online and check it out. If you haven't arranged accommodation it is worth locking that in soon as a lot of the reserved accommodation will be opened up to the general public shortly – again there is information on the Worlds website.

Regardless of whether you intend to compete in the Worlds or not the “must not miss” event for all Mirror sailors is MIRRORSAIL. If you haven't already registered hopefully it's not too late. The great thing about this training weekend is the high calibre coaches. With each coach assigned to sailors of varying experience you are guaranteed to gain a huge amount from the weekend.

You will read elsewhere in this issue that your association has awarded life membership to John Collova. I believe that this is the first time life membership has been bestowed upon a person associated with Mirror sailing in WA. John is very deserving of this accolade as he has made a remarkable contribution to Mirror sailing not just in WA but across the globe over the past 22 years. His knowledge of designing, building and sailing Mirrors is second to none. I am sure you will be impressed when you read his list of accomplishments.

John is one of many people who have made significant contributions to the association over the years and it has certainly been an enduring one. I look forward to the association honouring other deserving people in the future.

There have been a couple of changes approved to the rules recently with the Mirror gaining one window and losing another! There is no longer a need to have a hole in the skeg and it is now allowable to have a window in the mainsail. The window could be a major plus for the larger sailors especially when negotiating the large fleet at the Worlds.

To help celebrate the Worlds and at the same time promote the class we are currently exploring holding a reunion of Mirror sailors from the past 4 or 5 decades. Thousands of West Australians have sailed a Mirror over this time and at one time there were over 100 Mirrors sailing each weekend at Nedlands. We are starting to compile a mailing list of people to invite so if you know the details of any former Mirror sailors please let us know.

Here's to lots of fine days ahead but without the freezing mornings.

All the best for the new season.

Rik

MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WA

JOHN COLLOVA IS REDUCING HIS FACTORY STOCK

There will be some bargains.

John will continue to provide specialized Vasco GRP dinghy hulls. Fit out, masts and sails will be negotiable.

John is also capable of doing repair jobs on all types of dinghies

John is a licenced wooden Mirror kit manufacturer. Wooden kit parts are available. John requires orders for two or more kits to justify the importation of specialized plywood for hulls.

FOR SALE

Masts second hand and new are available

Booms second hand and new are available

Spinnaker poles—new types coming

Secondhand and new sails

One wooden mirror Mk3 style (subject IMCA ruling)

One GRP Mk3 Mirror Vigilante X

One set gaff style set up

For inquiries ring John on 0407 472 077

MEASUREMENTS FOR CELEBRATING YOUR WIN AT THE WORLDS

Your champagne can come in bottles

Or perhaps better Magnums which equal two bottles

Or perhaps better still a Jeroboam which equals four bottles

Or perhaps better still a Methuselah which equals four magnums

Or perhaps even better a Nebuchadnezzar which equals ten magnums

Or best of all one Primat which equals 18 magnums

Yes 36 bottles make sure you invite some friends!

JUST JOKING

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says "Dam!".

A boat painter was awarded the job of painting a small sail boat and when he was asked by the owner, how long it would take him to finish the job, he replied, "Two weeks".

Three weeks went by and the owner, a little concerned of the delay, confronted the painter. "Hey Paul", said the owner, "You told me that it would take you two weeks to paint my boat and it's been three weeks... What's up with that?" The painter put his paintbrush down, looked the owner square in the eye and said, "That was two NAUTICAL weeks, like a nautical mile, they're a little longer".

MIRROR EUROPEANS 2010 SLIGO YACHT CLUB IRELAND



The Sligo Yacht Club in the northwest of the republic of Ireland (Eire) The racing area is in the Sligo outer bay which is sheltered and enclosed from the Atlantic from most wind directions. Almost all of the shores are sandy beaches which make it very safe for dinghy sailing. The bay is tidal, but the week of the event will enjoy neap tides. The scenery around the bay is very spectacular and opens up to the viewer progressively as he/she sails out to the racing area.

The club has a long history of running major events. These include the 1987 Mirror Worlds and photographs of that occasion still hang on the clubhouse walls.

Sligo Yacht Club adopted the MIRROR in the mid 1960s, has stayed with it over the years and there is no prospect of change anytime soon.

A total of 74 Mirrors entered the event with a strong Irish fleet. The Europeans were planned to be sailed over five days but the committee decided to abandon the final day's racing due to winds of 30+ knots and

This meant that Irish sailors Ross Kearney who was the 2005 Mirror World Champion and Max O'Dell who had run an almost perfect series with six first places and four third places out of the ten races sailed easily won the event. On a score of 12 they were 36 points ahead of second place getters Beth and Shauna Armstrong also of Ireland.

An excellent performance on the fourth day elevated Ed and Beth Grey of Great Britain from fifth to finish third overall

Matt and Ben Lulham-Robinson (Great Britain) took out the coveted Junior Championship with Emma and Rachel Grayson (Great Britain) second and Peter Regan and Jack Ryan Ireland third

Our Western Australian entrants Rex and Andrew Henderson finished a creditable 52nd in the extremely competitive fleet.

Four out of the first five places were taken by the latest Mk3 Mirrors. Are they a better boat or their

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE SUN LEATHER SKIN IS NOT GOOD LOOKING

BROAD BRIMMED HATS

Protect the face, ears and back of neck.

Must be made of a material with a close weave so that sunlight will not get through.

Should have a minimum brim width of 8cm to 10cm for adults, 6cm for children.

The underside of the brim should be a dark colour to reduce the amount of UVR reflected on to the face.

Soft brimmed hats are available if you are concerned about injuries.

LEGIONNAIRE STYLE HAT

Protect the ears and neck, but leave much of the face, especially the cheeks exposed.

Should have a minimum front peak of 6cm and a one-piece back-flap.

Must not have velcro, clips or press studs for raising the flap.

Full brim or legionnaire style brim covers can be purchased for helmets.

MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WA



JOHN COLLOVA LIFE MEMBER OF THE MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



We all know John Collova or Little John or the Angry Ant as he is affectionately known. John has now been recognized officially for his contribution to the modern Mirror and to Mirror sailing in Western Australia. For his years of hard development work his competition on the race course and general promotion of the modern Mirror he has been made a life member of the Mirror Class Association of Western Australia.

John became the first successful builder of fibreglass Mirrors in the early 1990s. John persevered with his development work which was not fully appreciated by the class traditionalists who wanted to preserve a gaff rigged wooden boat.

John is a professional boat builder working in wood, fibreglass and aluminium. He served an apprenticeship with Dillinghams Shipyards becoming one of Perth's few qualified shipwrights. He has built a wide range of boats but is best known for his Optimists and Mirrors. His early Mirrors were made of wood. The extremely fast wooden Mirror, Black Adder is one of the best known examples of John's fine craftsmanship.

But John is an innovator and a perfectionist. He saw the difficulty in obtaining excellent quality wood and the reluctance of modern sailors to do the rubbing, varnishing and painting required when you own wood. He experimented with fibreglass. It took him some time to convince the rules committee that his fibreglass boats were the way forward. His early boats had wooden gunnels but all the later Mirrors were all fibreglass.

Attempts by other builders to produce a fibreglass boat were beset with problems of too much weight or too little rigidity. John's boats were underweight requiring lead ballast and are quite stiff.

There was also a worry that his boats would not stand the rigours of hard competition. Your editors' family bought two of John's early boats Leading Edge III and Taking off and they are still in great condition having sailed consistently for fifteen years.

When his boats first competed with great success at the 2001 Worlds in Ireland there was a re-awakening in the class. The northern hemisphere sailors were making the Western Australians great offers for their boats but no-one could sell as we had brought the boats in for the event under bond and had to return them to Australia. In 2005 John demonstrated a one piece mast at the Swedish Worlds.

As a result of John's work the International Association has moved to the modern Mk3 Mirror. This boat has a one piece mast and central sheeting with the option of a gnav rather than a vang.

John is producing Mirrors here in Perth at his Bibra Lake factory. The MCAWA believe that if you want the best International Mirror in the world buy a Mk3 from John's Vasco Boats.

The Mk3 Mirror is as smart as a new gelcoat with its modern rig, central sheeting, new interior layout while retaining the original hull shape and distinctive red sails. Well done John and thanks for your years of hard work.

ALBANY REPORT

The countdown is well and truly on in Albany as the 14th International Mirror Class World Championship regatta draws ever closer and the Board and members at Princess Royal Sailing Club are working hard to get the Club into ship shape condition to ensure that the Championships are a memorable one that shows off the amazing attributes that sailing has to offer the dinghy sailor in Albany.

The Australian National Mirror Championships, doubling as the Pre-Worlds Regatta, kicks off on 28 December to 30 December 2010 and the World Championships commence on 2 January through to 7 January 2011.

Since the Worlds were awarded to PRSC back in March 2008, the Club identified a number of key Infrastructure upgrades required to successfully conduct the Worlds. Once these were identified, funding sources needed to be found. Despite a few setbacks, not helped by the onset of the Global Financial Crisis, nearly \$100,000 was secured from the State Government's Royalties for Regions funding and from the Federal Government's Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Projects fund.

Combined with a sizeable injection of Club funds and in-kind support the \$205,000 Infrastructure program was signed off by members earlier this year at a General Meeting. Since then it's been heads down and bums up as the project team swings into action.

The full list of projects includes –

- Connection to Deep Water Sewerage system recently constructed at Little Grove and decommissioning of the current septic system;
- Extension of the Lower Deck Sailors Bar to encompass a Timber Decked area looking out over the Club and a paved area for BBQ and entertaining;
- A Shade area on the Dinghy Lawn for use during Junior Training programmes;
- Construction of a Rescue Boat Compound and Shed;
- Weather Station – data from the Weather Station will be available online so sailors, and the public, can get reliable **real-time** weather information on Princess Royal Harbour rather than 10kms inland at the Weather Bu-

- reau's Airport site;
- Administration and Racing Office upgrade;
- Galley upgrade;
- Upgrade to existing Toilet facilities; and
- Communications Upgrade including New Phone System.

The upgrade to the Administration Office and the construction of the Rescue Boat Compound has been completed and the Weather Station should be operational within the next couple of weeks.



The Rescue Boat Compound will house the Club's existing Rescue boat fleet, additional Rescue craft that we purchase (such as Albany Sea Rescue's 6 metre Zodiac) and some of the GP14 fleet to free up space in the Dinghy shed. Funding for the Rescue Boat Shed and Compound has been provided through the Australian Government's Local & Regional Community Infrastructure Program.

The Notice of Race and Registration for the World Championship's are now up on the Event website at www.mirrorworlds2011.com. Registrations for competitors will only be available via the website and payment for Registration can also be made via the website using a credit card or Paypal.

For anybody interested in being involved in the Championships as a competitor or a volunteer please go the website for more information and to register your interest. We have a number of young sailors that would love to compete in the Worlds so if you can get yourself to Albany we can team you up with a competent local crew..

MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WA

BUY HIRE OR BORROW A MIRROR FOR THE WORLDS

There are a number of international boats available for the Albany Worlds. They can be purchased outright or leased. The MCAWA has five Mk3 Mirrors available and there are also some available from NSW. Priority will be given to International competitors for hire of these Mk3s.

**The MCAWA is also looking for sponsors for these Mk3 Worlds Charter Boats.
If you are a potential sponsor or know of a potential sponsor please let us know.**

The Princess Royal Sailing Club and the Mirror Class Association of Western Australia are committed to providing charter boats to overseas sailors. Not only will this initiative be important to increase participation, expand the sport and promote the class but, just as importantly, strengthen our relationships with other countries.

Corporate funding support is being sought to assist in the provision of these new boats that will be used by these overseas sailors in the World Championships.

Benefits to Sponsors

- **License to use** the 2011 Mirror Worlds logo in corporate communications etc
- Use of images of your boat in marketing and promotional activities and to demonstrate your companies **social responsibility credentials**.
- **Naming rights to a charter boat** (you are able to select the name of the boat. Because of superstition this is likely to remain the boat's name for the life of the boat).
- Name of your corporation or brand will be prominently **displayed on the hull** and/or the sail of the boat. This will be durable signage and can reasonably be expected to last 2 or 3 years.
- Acknowledgement in the championships **official publications**
- Your company will be highlighted on the **MCAWA home page** and in the **quarterly MCAWA newsletter** for 12 months.
- Your company logo will appear on the **2011 Worlds website** for the lead up and the duration of the event
- Opportunity to erect **company signage** (supplied by You) for the duration of the event.
- The MCAWA and PRSC Worlds Committee are also prepared to discuss any **additional promotional ideas** presented by sponsors which the sponsor feels will be to the benefit of their business

**For charter sponsorship please contact
Rik Thornton on 0419912475 or rik@wastationery.com.au**



MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WA



The Cruising Yacht Club
of The Philippines

PHILIPPINES SAILORS TO THE WORLDS



The Philippines hopes to send two crews to the Albany World Championships. Their entry is entirely dependent on sponsorship money. The most experienced crew are Rommel Chavez and Ridgely Balladares who have represented the Philippines in International events and are presently campaigning for the 2012 London Olympics.

The junior crew are 16 year olds Don John Cabarles (DJ) and Gabriel Fetizanan (Gambi) from the Puerto Galera Yacht Club who will be in the second boat. DJ and Gambi are talented young sailors who after high school in Puerto Galera are studying at the AMA Computer College in Manila on a scholarship from the PGYC.

The Puerto Galera Yacht Club commenced a Small Boat Sailing Program in 2004. The objectives of the program were;

- to introduce the sport of sailing to the local school community;
- to provide local children with free, healthy, competitive recreation;
- to offer sail training and dinghy hire opportunities to members and visitors.
- A wider and longer-term objective was to pave the way for a career in the sport of sailing for eligible, talented youngsters by inducting them into the Philippine Sailing Association (PSA) where they could, hopefully, represent the Philippines at international level, and earn a place as full-time crew on racing yachts.

DJ and Gambi were two of the first local youngsters to join the program. They quickly established themselves as very talented young sailors. They have been selected for every SBP excursion to regattas in Manila, Subic Bay and Puerto Princessa and have taken trophies in every event. DJ has been to Manila to sail with members of the PSA and has already impressed their coaches with his sailing ability.

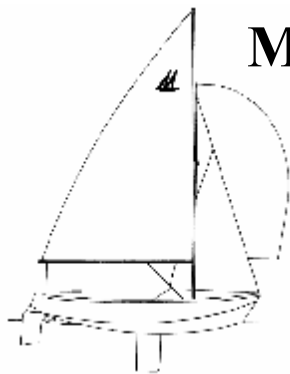
It is hoped that the Albany community which has a lot of expatriate Philippine members will rally behind these sailors to both provide them with accommodation and also to cheer them on.



**The 2011
Mirror worlds
Albany Western Australia
26 December 2010 to 8 January 2011
Notice of Race and Registration now available online**

mirror

images



MEASURER'S REPORT

The international side has been quite involved since last Mirror Images issue.

The Australian Association pushed through 2 Ballot items. One of which being the ability to sleeve 50ml masts, was extremely important to supporting the Worlds. As some are aware we already had a number of masts with sleeves in them which under class rules illegal but mast manufacturer would not give warranty to his product if the masts were not sleeved. If the manufacturer would not stand by it then neither would the insurance companies.

It took 4 month but common sence prevailed and we were able to secure enough votes world wide to ensure the class rules are changed for the Worlds. PHEW !!

The other Ballot item was also approved and that is to allow windows in the Mainsail.

The WA Association has purchased 3 fully fitted out MK3 boats from Dinghy Sports. At time of writing 2 have been delivered. These are available for hire at the Worlds and are for sale prior to the Worlds with immediate delivery once the Worlds are completed. If you looking for a new MK3 then these reduced price boats will be ideal. Grab one for the States. Many people have ordered new sails for the Worlds which is a great idea to be ahead of the game. Leaving things to late could hinder your preparation.

Also completed are the templates to be used at the Worlds measuring. These will be available at Mirror-sail. If you have any doubts about any part of your boat not passing measurement at the Worlds then you can check it at Mirrorsail.

I expect by then to also have the template for the sails.

We will need a team of volunteers to help with the measuring at the Worlds so please let the Albany organisers know you can help. For the few who have so far offered, suggest we will do a dummy run at Mirrorsail. With the templates it is pretty simple.



Measurer - Geoff Wilson



TOWARDS THE WORLDS HILLARYS YACHT CLUB



A select few braved the winter to sail in the Hillarys Yacht Club "Towards the Worlds" series. A total of thirteen Mirros competed during the six heat event with a maximum of seven on heat two and a minimum of only three boats on heat three.

However for those that did compete a fantastic group of coaches gave great regatta advice. Simon Barwood with daughter Sidonia and Jessica Stout as crew won the event in a close tussle with Jenn Suffield.

Jenn has now teamed up with Jack O'Reilly to make a run at the Albany Worlds. After a shaky start getting used to the three sails on the Mirror Jenn and Jack are now starting to get some impressive results.

Many thanks to Julie Meahan and Scott Olson, Tessa Parkinson, Justin Mann, Tim Castles and Michael Taylor for their assistance in this program

MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WA

ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY MIRRORS



The winter season of races has concluded and well done to those who competed.

Congratulations to Simon and Sidonia in taking out the series and to Brad and James as runners

up. And Rex and Andy for bringing in a third. Well done to you all.

To Rex and Andy for their massive effort in sailing in the Mirror Europeans. And managing a 52nd in a fleet of 73. We expect you enjoyed sailing a MK3.

A thanks to Liam for running the coaching till he was shipped out to Coolgardie. He and Jessica due to his rosters are now only able to sail every second week. To make up for lost time, when he was last down on a 5 day break (3 days really as he loses on day either end travelling to Perth) they managed to get 2 sails in.

The last day of sailing for the winter series also was the first day for a new Mirror Member – Mik Malla was officially signed up as a member. Welcome to RFBYC Mirrors Mik.

Another special event occurred on the last day of the winter series. We welcomed back Simon Carroll. And if his first sail back in Mirrors for a while is any indication we had better look out as he secured a first in the second race.

Well done Simon – glad to see you back.

The rest had better watch out though as Simon will be a force to contend with when he has his new boat.

RFBYC is again hosting Mirrorsail on behalf of Yachting WA. This event will be over 2 days with expert coaching at all levels. It is available to any Mirror Sailor as all levels are catered for. So sign up now for Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th September.

On display will also be a new MK3 Mirror the Association will have available to purchase with delivery after the Worlds.

RFBYC the place to be.



TRAVELLERS HEAT ONE



We only had a very small fleet for heat one on this seasons Travellers Championship. However the four dinghies that did show up provided some very good competition on the water.

The forecast was for low wind to no wind blowing if at all from the east. However we had around ten knots and lots of different directions but mostly from the east.

Simon Barwood with Jessica Stout sailing Bullet Proof showed their usual good form in the first of the two races and crossed the line 21 second ahead of Jenn Suffield and Jack O'Reilly in No Chance. However Jenn and Jack after following Simon and Jessica for most of the Second race managed to pass them on the second last leg and win by 20 seconds. Not enough. Yet again Simon and Jessica won the heat overall by the slimmest of margins one small second.

In third place was Mark Pitt in the venerable Taking Off who was three minutes behind followed by Fred and Mathew Troncone who sailed very well in Leading Edge IV. Yes four Vasco boats each with a long and distinguished competition record.

d

Michael Taylor did a great job of coaching and we had an excellent BBQ to finish up.

MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WA



SAFETY BAY YACHT CLUB



SBYC opened its doors in 1948 and in its heyday was a very active club, sailing a wide variety of classes. We hosted many Mirror State Championships between the 60s and 80s I understand, but that was a time when we were a thriving Club. When I joined the Club in 1988 with a Hartley 16, there was a fleet of 6 regular Hartleys and three or four more that would race now and again. John Sclater was the main Mirror man, and he had an active group of youngsters including the young Meehan kids, etc, all sailing Mirrors. Like the Hartleys, the Mirror numbers slowly declined over the years, until a point about 3-4 years ago, there was only one Hartley (mine) and no Mirrors.

When I sold my Hartley, I bought a small dinghy, unaware that another of our members (Bill Osborn) had just acquired a Mirror to do up and teach his two young kids. At that time Hugo de Boorder also bought an old Mirror to do up, so I decided to sell my (bloody awful) dinghy and get a Mirror (Buster). That would make three at the Club, and enough to launch the class again. Unfortunately Hugo has seldom sailed, but the two other Mirrors have had a really fun time.

SBYC has a fleet of about 14-15 Windrush 14s, a couple of other misc cats, a few Lasers and our 2/3 Mirrors. So you can see it is a small club now, only a shade of its former glory! It would now be difficult to run a State Championship of the Mirror Association without a large influx of new Mirror sailors joining the Club and sailing in Safety Bay. That I would like to see! We would certainly like to see another Mirror or six sailing in the Bay, and we would certainly welcome new members. So any help the Association could give us in promoting Mirror sailing in Safety Bay would certainly be appreciated. Just steer anyone who approaches The Association who lives down our way in our direction - they will certainly enjoy the pristine waters of the Bay and the full effect of our "gentle" sea breezes!

Happy sailing
Richard Usher
Ph 9527 8998 Mob 0404 979 176

Saturday 14th August saw a few sailors from Safety Bay Yacht Club man a stall at the Rockingham Shopping Centre annual sports promotion day. We had a number of Mirror brochures to give out to interested members of the public, and a few people expressed interest. Space precluded having an actual Mirror dinghy in the Centre, but our stall was next to the Sandgropers Land Yacht stall, where they had a very small (kids) land yacht set up. That attracted a lot of attention and I capitalized on that by telling people that Mirrors were real boats without training wheels! Pictured here are Richard Usher (left) and SBYC Commodore Ian Culling.

Sailing at Safety Bay starts on Sunday 10 October and continues every Sunday (either a morning or afternoon race, or sometimes both) until Easter next year. New members and visitors are very welcome. Come and join our small, but dedicated Mirror fleet



YWA Mirrorsail 2010



**YACHTING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



Organised by YWA in conjunction with the
Mirror Association of WA.
Hosted by Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club
On Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th Sep-
tember.
Coaches for all skill levels available.

Saturday: 8:30 drop off,
4:30 pick up.
Sunday 8:30 drop off,
4:30 pick up.



Lunches and snacks provided for
all sailors.
Dinner and break-
fast provided for



Cost: \$110 for the 2
days.
\$130 for the overnight

Contact:
Rebecca Davies at YWA on
9386 2438 to gain entry
forms or further informa-
tion. Entry forms also
available from links within
this event page.



For all ages and abilities. Sleepover for juniors only.

GRANT ALDERSON

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RACE PREPARATION & TUNING
WORLD CHAMPION FLYING FIFTEENS
BALUSTRADE / TRELIS WIRES**



**FLYING FIFTEEN
WORLD CHAMPION**

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Unit 2/ 23 Carrington Street Nedlands 6009

**FOR SALE READY TO SAIL
QUICKSTEP II 70064**

Contact: Anthony Galante
0406 460 275

MIRROR CLASS ASSOCIATION OF WA



Above Philippine sailors
in their 470



mirror

images

MIRRORS IN KANDAHAR AFGHANISTAN



Received late June from our North American sailors

Steve Richardson a Sergeant and a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is currently serving with ISAF in Kandahar City in Afghanistan. His role is that of training and mentoring the Afghan National Police.

His wife Elaine forwarded this. I'm not sure but I *think* that's the Loch Ness monster in the background, but what Nessie is doing in Kandahar I don't know. Also the Eiffel Tower.

US Mirror Sailing is mailing our boy a copy of Sandy's JACK DE CROW to keep his spirits up with thoughts of greener lands. I fully expect Steve to get some sailing in over there, somehow. The club is sorely lacking in Mirrors ... and the water leaves much to be desired... other than that, it has great potential

Steve thinks that this may be his ' best chance yet at winning a race!'

Stevens wife Elaine tells us that the photo is actually taken in front of a reservoir and the Nessie is just that, a concrete replica put there by British engineers. You can just make out a replica of the Eiffel Tower behind it. She thinks it's a tradition that each of the elements place something in the reservoir.

The Richardsons are a 2 Mirror family and Elaine is looking forward to getting her own boat out on the water this summer but will greatly miss the other half of their family fleet!