



AUSTRALIAN
AIR SAFARIS

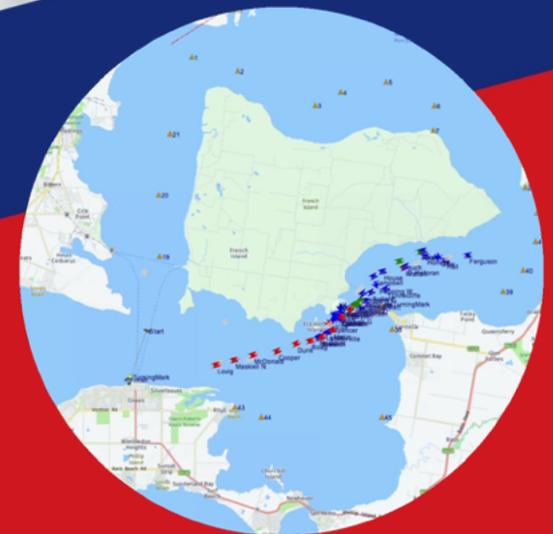
BY KIRKHOPE

***Around French Island
National Catamaran Challenge***





Emma Rankin & Beau White
2023 Division 1 Winners
Royal Price Alfred Yacht Club, NSW



ABOUT THE AROUND FRENCH ISLAND NATIONAL CATAMARAN CHALLENGE

Founded in 1997 as a fun event for Cowes Yacht Club Catamaran sailors to challenge themselves to compete in something different than a standard race around the buoys.

In the early days the race would be attempted by as few as 10 yachts but over the years the race grew with members from neighbouring clubs joining the challenge.

Over the next 25 years the stories of the race grew and the race became known as one of the toughest and most grueling sailing races in Australia

In 2022 a passionate Cowes Yacht Club member donated \$10,000 to put up prize money and entice more sailors to take on the challenge, that year was the start of the new supersized 'Around French Island Catamaran Challenge' which now sees in excess of 60 catamarans compete from all over Australia.



THE RACE

Starting and finishing at Phillip Island's Cowes Yacht club, the race is a simple navigation around French Island in Westernport.

The most direct route is 70km, but most competitors will travel over 100km while navigating around French Island.

As of 2023 the record for the quickest time is 2 hours 45 minutes, with the longest time recorded for an official finisher at 8 hours and 15 mins making this a true Marathon.



Luke & Jess Radcliff
Royal Price Alfred Yacht Club, NSW



David Middleton & Matt Neylon
Cowes Yacht Club, Vic



Simon Jackson & Andrew Beck
Adelaide Sailing Club, SA



James Cooper & Adam Smith
Westernport Yacht Club, VIC



Emma & Zoe Morris
2 x 'All female Crew' Winners



Lilly Smith & Ben Clark
Great lakes Sailing Club, NSW

TESTIMONIALS

"It's a real test of your will power and endurance. It's an event ALL Cat Sailors should have a crack at. Its Bloody Awesome."

- Ant Richards – Melbourne to Hobart Winner, 2 x Australian Champion & 3 x Around French Island Winner

"You never know what's going to happen with this race! It's a challenge just to get around the course, let alone finishing at the front of the fleet"

- Robbie Lovig – 5 x National Championships Hobie Tiger/Tornado

"The Around French Island presents a unique combination of planning, strategy, fitness & resilience"

- James Cooper – 2 x National Championships Runner Up, Westernport Challenge Winner & Formula Windsurfing Champion



Ant Richards
3 x Around French Island Winner

"This event is different every year, from the changing tides and wind conditions, competitors & boats. You also don't know which way round the island you'll be going until the day. It's quite exciting and challenging"

- Emma Rankin – 2 x Formula 16 National Champion & 2023 Around French Island Division 1 Winner

"It really sorts out the good sailors"

- James McDonald - Formula 16 National Champion & Around French Island Line Honours Winner

THE 2024 EVENT: MARCH 23RD, 12 NOON

In 2024 we have been given National event status by Australian Sailing meaning this will now be a true National event, with competitors coming from South Australia, ACT, New South Wales and Queensland.

Expecting 70 entries across the highest performance catamarans and the best sailors in the country.

The event has races within the race too, with trophies and up to* \$11,350 in prize money being given to:

- **OVERALL HANDICAP WINNER – 1st \$1000**
- **DIVISION 1 – 1st \$1500, 2nd \$750 & 3rd \$350**
- **DIVISION 2 – 1st \$1500, 2nd \$750 & 3rd \$350**
- **DIVISION 3 – 1st \$1500, 2nd \$750 & 3rd \$350**
- **LINE HONOURS WINNER - \$1000, 2nd \$350 & 3rd \$200**
- **SHE SAILS FIRST FEMALE SKIPPER - \$500***
- **FIRST ALL FEMALE CREW - \$500***

*MUST HAVE 3 IN CLASS FOR PRIZE MONEY TO BE AWARDED



2024 will be the biggest event yet with the event committee doing everything possible to get maximum entries from all over Australia, to achieve this we are:

- Focusing on engaging interstate competitors
- Adding Divisions and more prize money
- Enhanced beach experience for family and friends to come watch, including
 - Free Sausage sizzle
 - Music
 - Prize Give aways
- Charter Boat for 70 Guests to view the start of the race from on the water
- Friday & Saturday Night Dinners including the prize giving ceremony
- More media coverage for the event, supporters and sponsors



AROUND FRENCH ISLAND CATAMARAN CHALLENGE
Big cat race setting sail Saturday, 11am
 The 2023 Around French Island Catamaran Challenge is set to kick off on Saturday, 11am, with the start of the race from the Cowes Yacht Club. The event is a two-day race around French Island, with the start and finish at the Cowes Yacht Club. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am.

Isle of Wight back for big cat race
 The Isle of Wight Yacht Club is proud to be the home of the big cat race. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am.



Spectacular sailing in this year's challenge
 The 2023 Around French Island Catamaran Challenge was a spectacular event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am.

ISLE OF WIGHT HOTEL
 Opening late 2023
 isleofwighthotel.au

AROUND FRENCH ISLAND CHALLENGE
COWES YACHT CLUB PRESENTS THE ISLE OF WIGHT TROPHY
 \$10,000 PRIZE MONEY FROM AUSTRALIAN AIR SERVICES
JOIN US FOR THE RACE START
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE & GIVE AWAYS
23RD MARCH 2023, 10:30-10:30AM

The great catamaran race returns
 The 2023 Around French Island Catamaran Challenge is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am.



Phillip Island pro sailor tackles French Island Challenge
 As a professional sailor, Frank O'Leary is looking forward to this year's Around French Island Catamaran Challenge. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am.



Race details
 The 2023 Around French Island Catamaran Challenge is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am. The race is a two-day event, with the start on Saturday, 11am, and the finish on Sunday, 11am.





EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

- 0900: CLUB OPEN FOR GUESTS TO ARRIVE AND SET UP
- 1600-1700: CASUAL SAILING: WARM UP/SYSTEM CHECKS
- 1700: BAR OPEN
- 1800: PIZZA AT THE CLUB

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH

- 0700: CLUB OPEN
- 0800-1000: EGG & BACON ROLLS AVAILABLE
COFFEE STATION OPEN
- 1000: RACE BRIEFING
- 1200: RACE START
- 1030-1230: SAUSAGE SIZZLE OPEN
- 1700: BAR OPEN
- 1830: AWARDS PRESENTATION
- 1900: DINNER
(BOOKINGS WILL BE REQUIRED CLOSER TO THE
EVENT)

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

- TBC: RACES TO BE ADVISED



ENTER NOW

COME JOIN THE BEST CATAMARAN MARATHON IN AUSTRALIA

EVENT DATE: MARCH 23RD 2024

TIME: RACE START: 12NOON

ENTRY COST: \$100

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS, NOTICE OF RACE AND ENTRY FORM ON WWW.COWESYACHTCLUB.COM/AFI





CONTACT INFORMATION

afi@cowesyachtclub.com



Brian Walton & Andrew Janson
Around French Island race time record holders



Robbie Lovig & Lachie Gibson
2023 Line Honour Winners

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AIR SAFARIS
BY KIRKHOPE

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National Catamaran Challenge



