

## Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of *Cruising Communiqué*.

Our newsletter is now a quarterly production, to keep members of Superyacht Base Darwin up-to-date with all the news and views from industry.

The Port of Darwin was centre stage to the world with the filming of Baz Luhrmann's epic adventure *Australia* at Stokes Hill Wharf recently. In addition to this the harbour has been a-buzz with other dry season activities including 120 international cruising yachts here for the Darwin-Kupang rally on Saturday 21 July. It is reported that all of our private marinas and the Duck Pond are full to capacity. In the weeks leading up to the rally, these visitors have been enjoying the tropical lifestyle of Darwin and exploring the Territory's many tourist attractions.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and encourage you to e-mail a copy to all your networks to help promote the Northern Territory. For further information, please contact Jeff Norton (+61 889997984) or e-mail [jeff.norton@nt.gov.au](mailto:jeff.norton@nt.gov.au)

## Darwin Marine Services Association (DMSA) and Superyacht Base Darwin Incorporated

Jeff Dunn, local proprietor of Darwin Ship Stores and Cullen Bay Slipway is the newly elected president of Superyacht Base Darwin, now incorporated as part of the Darwin Marine Services Association (DMSA).

Superyacht Base Darwin is a regional cluster member of Superyacht Base Australia (SYBA) and like DMSA is the voice of industry in the luxury and recreational marine service and supply sector.

Annual membership fees are due once again at the start of the 07/08 financial year and tax invoices will be mailed out shortly to the current members. New members are most welcome to join now and become part of the local network catering to increasing numbers of Superyachts visiting our region.

## Visiting Superyachts

Over the past 3 months, the following Superyachts have visited the Port of Darwin:

- *Lazy Z*
- *MY Sensation*
- *Cambria II*
- *Sea Rose Star*
- *Keri-Lee*
- *SY Athena*
- *Octopus*

Source: Darwin Port Corporation

## SY "Athena" visits the Port of Darwin



SY "Athena" moored at anchor in Darwin Harbour (June 2007)  
Photographer Amanda Leach

SY Athena pictured above, recently spent over six weeks in the Port of Darwin, moored at anchor just off Kitchener Bay and the Darwin Waterfront. Athena is a 292ft luxury sailing yacht owned by American entrepreneur Jim Clarke, founder of Netscape and a number of other Silicon Valley technology companies.

On Friday 15 June, the Board of Superyacht Base Australia met in Darwin as part of its usual board meetings in regional centres. The Board was invited onboard the Athena along with representatives from the Northern Territory Government. Following a guided tour of the Athena, guests were hosted with a welcome drink and canapés on the main deck. This was a fantastic networking opportunity and the crew of Athena were happy to answer questions and provide insights into their views of the Superyacht industry.

Captain Steve Hammond said that during its stay in Darwin the crew spend onshore was anticipated to be around US\$2,000 per week. Athena also underwent some minor repairs and maintenance from local tradesmen, reprovisioned and refuelled before departing. Total spend of the vessel was stated to be around US\$10,000 per week.

SY Athena and her crew headed off to meet the boat owner for a scuba diving holiday, but hoped to be back in Darwin again soon.

## Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show 2007



Luxury boats on display in Sanctuary Cove Marina

Photographer: Jeff Norton

Representing Superyacht Base Darwin and the Northern Territory Government, Jeff Norton attended the 2007 Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show on the Gold Coast. Participating on the Superyacht Base Australia stand over the four day show, over a carton of North Australian Marine Guides were distributed to the public, along with approximately 500 Superyacht Base Darwin brochures and a carton of assorted Northern Territory tourism brochures.

Jeff also attended the annual Australian Superyacht Awards (2007) as did Tony and Tanya Thiel of Darwin Ship Repair and Engineering. This black tie event held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre in Broadbeach showcases the Superyacht industries best of the best.

The 2007 Awards Winners were as follows:

Recognition of Excellence in the Construction of a New Superyacht – “Seafaris” by J R Tours Seafaris

Recognition of Excellence in the Refit of a Superyacht – “FMCA”

Recognition of Excellence to an Individual or Business Providing Services or Skills to the Australian Superyacht Industry – “Joe Akacich” (Viking Industries)

Recognition of Excellence to an Individual or Business in the Australian Superyacht Chartering – “Barrier Reef Safaris”

Recognition of Excellence to an International Industry Individual or Business that has made a Significant Contribution to the Australian Superyacht Industry – “Dockwise”

Australian Superyacht Industry Person of the Year – “Robert Falzon”

## Great Southern Route

Superyacht Base Australia (SYBA) is proudly the inaugural Foundation Partner for GSR - The Great Southern Route - an innovative publication, and website, designed to encourage Superyacht visitation to Australia from Europe and the USA. Australia is an increasingly popular destination for cruising and also as a capable and economical refit and refurbishment option for Superyachts.

OCEAN Media, publishers of OCEAN Magazine Australia will produce The Great Southern Route – as both a website and a hard copy Almanac for launch in September at the 2007 Monaco Yacht Show, for European yachts, and at Fort Lauderdale 2007, for North America. A much needed and quite revolutionary maritime roadmap for Superyachts considering an Australian visit, the Great Southern Route will be a comprehensive guide to the voyage down under linking the Suez and Panama canals in what is surely one of the greatest long range voyages in the world.

The Great Southern Route will be a marine guide specifically designed to encourage Superyachts to visit Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the South Pacific. It will provide Superyacht captains with the necessary information they require about the “stepping stone” ports and cruising areas encountered to and from Australia - from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean. And there will be more coverage on Australia and Superyacht services here than any other country or port.



Carole Frost (Business Advisor to Minister Vatskalis) speaks with the Athena's Head Stewardess in the Main Salon.

Photographer: Jeff Norton

### Coming Soon!!

Remember the “White Rabbit”? No not the star of Alice in Wonderland and not either the hallucinatory lyrics of Jefferson Aeroplane. SY *White Rabbit* was built at North-West Bay Ships in Tasmania and was bought by Singapore Business Entrepreneur Mr Goh. Expect to see this rather spectacular yacht back in Darwin soon!

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