



# Young and the restless

Our man Don, master adventurer and inspiration to all, is seeking youthful new crew to sail forth this year

**W**riting an adventure column is an adventure in its own right. Anything can happen and the effects of my writing have an unknown outcome — I never know who's reading this — but that is the essence of all adventures. I do get the occasional supporting email from readers who track me down. Hopefully, my ramblings here have inspired people more than turned them off, and motivated someone somewhere to get off the sofa. After all, inspiration is a big part of adventuring.

As regular readers will know, I am

inspired by many people and the deeds they do. When I was a kid, adventure was not a bad thing. But now it is being squashed. You need permits for everything: insurance for rescue is a big one, and watch out if things don't go to plan.

But I am one of the lucky ones with no real regrets and a few good adventures under my belt. Over the last six months I have lost track of the number of media interviews I have done in support of the adventure ideals, responsible risk taking, and so on. Sometimes it is a tough battle before the interviewer.

My view is that society is becoming soft: we are producing marshmallow kids, and many think life is forever. When you appreciate your own mortality you know life is finite and that should drive you to get out there and live!

I love hearing about small-boat adventures, micro cruisers and life on no money. I am talking boats less than eight metres in length. If you have done just such a trip, are doing one now, or thinking of doing one, and want to talk about it, email me at [icebound@ozemail.com.au](mailto:icebound@ozemail.com.au) Meantime, if you are under 24 years

of age and have a great idea for a boat under eight metres and are looking for a supporting sponsor, tell me. Forget everyone telling you that your adventure is crazy, dangerous, and you can't do it; I'm happy to give you my opinion and maybe even some encouragement as well.

Life is full of possibilities. I really enjoy sitting around with some of my crazy adventurous mates scheming even crazier adventures... most never come off, but we have plenty of laughs dreaming.

Okay, girls, sit up and take note! If you are under 24 years of age and would like to race an S&S 34 as part of an all-girl crew in the 2010-2011 Sydney to Hobart yacht

chat about all sorts of stuff. What I see and hear in her voice, above all else, is a girl revelling in the challenge at hand. She has the right level of confidence in herself and her boat as she steps into the Southern Ocean, without being over confident. At the time of writing, Cape Horn was the next gate.

I mentioned to her how strong she was looking in her photos and that she didn't appear to be losing any weight. She said she wasn't and that she was actually holding her own in that department. I said what are you weighing yourself with and, to my great surprise, she said: yes! She has a set of scales onboard, as all girls have in

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race, email me. If you want to skipper the yacht, let me know, as someone has to do it! If I find the right, totally dedicated crew, I will make it happen. You don't need to be expert, just passionate about doing it.

### JESSICA UPDATE

Jessica Watson's daily blogs from her record solo circumnavigation attempt onboard the S&S 34 *Ella's Pink Lady* make great reading, as do the comments from her many followers.

She phones nearly every week and we

their bathrooms. The challenge for her was to pick the waves just right, as on the peaks she would lose a few kilos and in the troughs... well, girls don't talk about the actual numbers!

I just don't know what to say about Jessica other than she is doing a truly excellent job at the moment. Her routines are right and she is not acting the part. She is the real deal, out there just doing it. I have never been a groupie before, but I am now one of the masses who are totally impressed and inspired by her.



**April 2009. 15-year-old Jessica Watson sailing her boat solo for the first time... 10 months later she is at Cape Horn!**



## SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS

Over the years, I have often heard the assumption from would-be adventurers that if you wear a skirt, it will be much easier to get a sponsor. Well, I have a whole new angle on that concept.

Our [www.TaliskerBountyBoat.com](http://www.TaliskerBountyBoat.com) expedition is all about challenges in the Pacific, following in the footsteps of William Bligh. To launch our Talisker sponsorship, it was decided to sail *Bounty Boat* (opposite main) in the Isle of Skye, Scotland in front of the Talisker distillery.

This was a great photo opportunity, but quite a logistical challenge. Not all went to plan with the weather doing what it does up there: wind, rain and snow on the mountains.

Unfortunately our new mizzen with sponsor's logo was lost by Easy Jet. There were some anxious moments. One of the more serious came down to my concern that when you pay \$1000 for a full kilt, you are supplied with the long socks, fancy shoes, tartan gaiters, flash sporran, sgian dubh (little dagger), shirt, bow tie, jacket and even a little flask with a dram of Talisker to tuck into your socks, but yes, you guessed it, they do not supply the undies.

I didn't do it to get a sponsor, but Talisker were very happy to have a McIntyre in the family, even wearing a skirt!