



The final slipping of *Sea Quest* in Hobart; I built this boat nearly 10 years ago as a bulletproof circumnavigator. It is up for the job and so is Tobias (inset), looking older and wiser at just 26 years of age, with a real happy grin, ready to go!



DREAMS HAPPEN!

A student of Don McIntyre's dreaming, Tobias Fahey, 26, is attempting a quest to become the fastest Australian to complete a solo non-stop and unassisted global circumnavigation in the 50-foot yacht *Sea Quest*

Well, I have no ambitions to become another Rupert Murdoch but I have to say there is an enjoyable sense of power when you have the chance to play with media. I am always surprised and sometimes bemused at the way some get off on Facebook, publishing everything about everything they do, every day. Maybe it is the power of that medium that drives people and probably the thought everyone is interested. Hmmmm?

So what is this power I'm talking about? I'm rarely on Facebook but this column is no different to it I suppose. I may have as many as 30,000 friends here reading this... WOW! But this column for me is

another way to encourage dreams and adventure my favorite activity. Adventure is a good thing. It can make the world a better place. How? Well, it just makes better people I reckon.

As you read this, Tobias Fahey should be sailing the Southern Ocean on his way solo to Cape Horn and a 21,600nm circumnavigation.

He emailed me in early 2010 with a dream. I have never considered publishing personal emails before, but this is a good yarn worth reading. (Hope you don't mind Tobias).

Email from: Tobias Fahey **Sent:** Wed, 17 February 2010 **To:** Don McIntyre **Subject:** Shorthand sailing.
 G'day Don,
 My name is Tobias Fahey. I am a 23-year-old Tasmanian with a massive passion for shorthand sailing. I have just finished reading your column in this month's Trade-a-Boat magazine and it was the breath of fresh air I needed to hear. I have spent a large portion of my life in and



Tobias two years ago, the day he took delivery of the 15.2m boat that he could not afford. The smile is a disguise for all the stress and angst he had to go through to start his dream. Here is my latest dream; I want this ship, the 30m brigantine *Spirit of the Pacific*, that I cannot quite afford. Sound familiar? I have surveyed it, the price is okay and now I need an enthusiastic partner/ sponsor. Seriously, email me!

around the water, however, in 2007 I watched a video of Ellen Macarthur's "Taking on the World" and a fire was lit in my belly that will never burn out. Since then, I sold my trailersailer, bought an Adams 8, with the desire to start shorthand sailing. I restored her to near new and after a year-and-a-half of shorthand sailing and falling deeper in love with my new-found passion I decided to sell her to upgrade. Mid last year, after deciding that the conditions found around Tasmania are not totally ideal for a lightweight 26ft racing yacht, I then purchased a 32ft, 9.75m yacht and after six months of the worst mechanical luck in history I skipped her home just months ago. In a perfect world my plan was to commence a nonstop circumnavigation of Tasmania late this year/early next year, as I have yet to meet anyone who has taken up this challenge and think it would be an amazing journey. I then wanted to research the trans-Tasman New Zealand to Mooloolaba race more seriously. However, with major setbacks with the yacht mechanically, which have stretched my pockets beyond repair for now and lack of support from anyone, it has made my dreams really get me down over the last few weeks. I have an incredible desire to one day complete a non-stop circumnavigation



of the globe and I am constantly trying to work my way to that goal. I believe I have what it takes to one day achieve amazing feats, however, to be taken seriously I understand I have to work my way up through the forever-doubting yachting world and gain respect from the people I need in order to make these dreams possible. I love your idea of 8m-or-less yachts achieving amazing journeys and I think the idea of around-Tasmania-alone would be an amazing adventure! Being self-funded my dreams will take a long time but I am still young and I promise you that I will let no one step in the way of my dreams and I promise you that you will see me out there one day. Thanks for your words of encouragement and



My other dream! After two years in the Pacific I finally caught my first dolphin fish sailing between Tonga and Fiji a few weeks ago... Wow!

Originally built as New Zealand's first sail training ship *Spirit of Adventure* in the early '70s, *Spirit of the Pacific* would make an unbelievable adventure ship today. She is currently for sale, needs a huge refit, but I could do some interesting things with this one.

I one day hope to see you down in Tasmanian waters so I can buy you a beer.

— Cheers Tobias Fahey

I often get emails from aspiring young adventures who have read my column. I enjoy that. Some have it, some do not, but I liked what I read from Tobias. We started chatting. I was in final training for my Talisker Bounty Boat expedition at the time but when that was all over I put my mind to it. I knew where there was the perfect boat for Tobias (I built it years before) at an amazing price. It was for sale here in *Trade-a-Boat*. I had no money but put a deposit on it anyway, then suggested that he

needed this boat. He had no money either but I told him I would give him the 10 per cent deposit if he can buy it. The rest is history as they say!

Email from: Tobias Fahey Sent: Saturday, 30 October 2010 **To:** Don McIntyre **Subject:** I want this boat!
*Good Morning Don,
 Wow, it's been a busy 24 hours, my head has been racing with ideas on how I can make \$105,000 in four weeks; I watched your BOC DVD last night, awesome stuff! It only made me more passionate about achieving this goal. I have looked at the boat again and now can see the full potential of what you were talking to me about the other night. I spoke to a few friends and family and they will support me the whole way, however, this does not solve my finance issues. My dad said he would sell his yacht to help fund the project, but I could never ask this of him as it would break my heart to see his dream sold*

to help fund mine, and his yacht is not exactly a production yacht that can be easily sourced again. So my main goal is to get this engine in, put my yacht on the market, hopefully as early as next weekend, and go and have a meeting with the bank and see what they can do for me. Once I have secured the yacht, I can then look at ways to pay it off I think. Thanks so much for having me on Thursday night, I feel my life is going to change quite quickly and feel all I have to do now is reach out and grab this with everything I have. I'll keep thinking of ideas and see what I can come up with. I'll talk to you very soon.

— Cheers Tobias

It has been a very tough road for Tobias. He had to "beg, borrow and steal" to find the dollars. Every waking hour for the past two years has been spent on this challenge.

Email from: Don McIntyre Sent:

Sat, 10 November 2012 **To:** Tobias Fahey **Subject:** GOOD LUCK!!!

*Hey Tobias,
 I am in Fiji packing up ICE. Head to China in a few weeks, then Antarctica. Not sure what state you or the boat are in, but just go when you are ready and enjoy the ride. You are pushing the boundaries, which is good to see, so you are definitely alive! Not many people have got the balls to grab life with both hands, but life is like that sometimes hey!!... never easy, you question why? But you cannot stop nor give up, this is what and who you are, it will be part of the rest of your life.*

You have a good boat under you I know that. If I could give you one word of advice, it is simply to ONLY push the boat when YOU feel like it. You have a very good chance of breaking the record just fast cruising around and you have a long way to go. If it does not feel right, just go

into "get home" mode... no dramas... the boat will look after you and if the gunwales are more than 25cm from the water, you have too much sail up. Believe me, it is faster to not stress anything... that means you toooooo.

Enjoy the serenity... wish I had been there to help more often, but I will always remember your first email with "that" dream! and I am so glad I was able to play a little part in that. Take care, sail safe and enjoy the ride. You are about to look at life through a magnifying glass... everything will be BIG! And whatever is the outcome once you set off, you have already done the biggest part... you are having a go! All the best of luck, you are already a winner!

— Don

Email from: Tobias Fahey Sent: Tuesday, 13 November 2012 **To:** Don McIntyre **Subject:** RE: GOOD LUCK!!!

Hey Don,

It is so good to hear from you. Wow, so here we go, what a crazy two years it has been. I can't believe how fast time has gone and I sit here with only days to go until I set off on the biggest adventure of my life. Purely amazing, that's all I can say. The stress I have been put through in the last year I will never forget, but it is still worth every second of it.

I wrote to you with a dream and now as I stand back and look at Sea Quest, it has grown into something that is so real. You have taught

me the biggest lesson in life Don and that is that life is there for the taking. The only thing that will ever stop us from succeeding is ourselves and through endurance, hard work and tons of planning we can achieve just about anything we set our minds to. My eyes have opened from what seemed like a long sleep and I am already looking into a new world that I once failed to see.

Sea Quest is an amazing yacht, I think we are going to enjoy our time together in this journey and I just can't wait to get going. I feel so comfortable on her and I completely understand what you mean with the gunwales. This is a very easily-driven yacht and I cannot stress that enough to people when I sail her.

All is just about set to go. I am a few weeks behind my original planned departure but I am only competing against myself and a well-prepared vessel is my soul priority. We put the McIntyre Adventures logo on the transom as well. I can't wait to sit down and catch-up when I get back. I would love to hear from you while i'm away if you get the chance.

Thanks so much for EVERYTHING Don. You and Margie are both two of the most truly remarkable people I have ever had the good fortune of meeting. You have changed my life forever and I will forever be grateful.

Take care, have a great Christmas and I will see you in 21,600nm.

— Tobias Fahey, World Adventure Sailor (Email: tobiasfahey@hotmail.com or visit www.tobiasfahey.com.au).

The record of 180 days is held by fellow Tasmanian, Ken Gourlay, set in 2007. 🍷