



## Gill Australia - Two Islands Race

The Short-handed Sailing Association of Australia's second annual feature race from Sydney, north to Bird Island, south to Flinders Islet and then back to Sydney is only 2 weeks away!

Early entries include last year's monohull line honours and handicap winners – Eric Frank's *Debonair* and Bruce Watson's *Likalizard*, as well as Stephen Barton's multihull winner and 2007 SSAA Multihull Champion *Big Bird*, all set to battle with 2007 monohull SSAA Champion – Tim Montague-Jones' *Wideload*.

In an exciting development Rod Skellet has entered his Pogo 40, *Krakatoa II* in its first Australian shorthanded race. As *Oyster Funds*, skippered by Gildas Morvan, this yacht came second in the 2006 solo "Route du Rhum" race.

The race of approximately 185 nautical miles is to start at 10 am on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in Hunter Bay off Balmoral. The competitors will then sail northwards to Bird Island just north of Norah Head, being expected to round it late afternoon or early evening depending upon the breeze. Then there's a long 90mile leg south to Flinders Islet off Port Kembla, before turning for the finish some 45 miles to the north, just inside South Head.

The race is open to both monohull and multihull yachts holding Category 3 safety plus a liferaft, crewed by 2 people (with autopilot), or 3 (no autopilot).

The Gill Australia Two Islands race replaces the SSAA Lord Howe Island race. The new race is accessible to a much broader group of yachts, is held over a long weekend, and has the added advantage of no long delivery trip home after the race for Sydney based yachts!

The course also has many ports of refuge along the route should the weather deteriorate.

This race is one that is sure to be a challenge at nearly 200 miles long with two island roundings and most importantly sailed short handed!

So, if you are interested in a challenge, then why not give it a go?

This year's race is supported by Gill Australia – for more details on their extensive range of technical apparel, go to [www.gillaustralia.com](http://www.gillaustralia.com)

For further information visit [www.ssaa.com.au](http://www.ssaa.com.au) and navigate to the Racing & Events page.