



## Melbourne - Stanley Race Report

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Geelong yachtsman Paul Buchholz has scored a double handicap victory with his recently launched sloop Extasea in the Ocean Club of Victoria's 180 nautical mile ocean Melbourne to Stanley race which finished today after a hard race across Bass Strait.

The 31 boat fleet sailed the final eight hours of the race in strong westerly winds reaching 40 knots which saw the dismasting of one yacht, Western Morning, skippered by Justin Brenan from the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria.

Ironically, Western Morning is a Sparkman & Stephens-designed 34-footer, a sistership to the yacht in which 18-year-old Jessie Martin returned to Melbourne today after his record-breaking solo voyage around the world.

Victoria's fastest ocean racing yacht, Grant Wharington's 70-footer Wild Thing, took line honours just after midnight, but her elapsed time of 16 hours 49 minutes was well outside the record 15 hours 38 minutes set by Future Shock in 1996.

Second boat to finish, about three hours later, was the sole Tasmanian yacht, Wild Card, skippered by Richard Edmunds from the Port Dalrymple Yacht Club on the Tamar River.

Extasea, a very fast NSX-36, a 10.8 metre yacht designed by Scott Jutson, won both the IMS and AMS handicap divisions and placed third under PHS handicaps.

In the IMS (International Measurement System) division, Extasea won from Bruce Taylor's Murray/Burns/Dovell 35-footer, Chutzpah, from the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, and Mike Sabey's NSX38, Back in Business, from Sandringham Yacht Club.

In the AMS (Australian Measurement System) Extasea beat two other Sandringham boats, Kaos, skippered by Peter Blake, and the veteran sloop Bacardi, owned by Victorian Yacht Council president Graham Ainley and John Williams.

Results are subject to a protest seeking redress from the yacht Tumbleweed which stood by the dismasted Western Morning.

Provisional PHS placings issued by the ORCV this evening show in first place Amaya (David Bingham, Royal Brighton Yacht Club), in second Bravado (Ian Ritchie, Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron) and in third place Extasea.

The race was the first Victorian qualifying event for yachts and crews this year's Telstra Sydney to Hobart, now a compulsory safety regulation for the 630 nautical mile race in December.

Many boats in the fleet, including Wild Thing, Wild Card, Chutzpah, Bacardi and Simply Red are among more than 90 applications to enter the 1999 Telstra Sydney to Hobart Race, with tomorrow the closing date for owners to lodge their nominations with the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia in Sydney.

The CYCA Sailing Office is predicting a final tally of between 110 and 120 boats, including strong line-ups of yachts from Victoria and Tasmania, compared with last year's fleet of 115 starters.

By: **David Burton, Commodore, Ocean Racing Club of Victoria**

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