In 1970, the Geraldton Return race threw up some unusual weather conditions and Neil McAllister’s timber classic Starfire of Perth carved out the return journey in 24 hours and 27 minutes, a time which not even the mighty Siska IV could equal.

It was not until 2007 that a solid nor’wester for most of the journey allowed Trevor Taylor’s Marten 49 Optimus Prime to complete the course in 19 hours and 59 minutes. Optimus Prime remains the only yacht in the history of the race to manage to break 20 hours for the return race, making it with just 27 seconds to spare.

All this leads us to look at another record – which yacht has the best overall time for the Geraldton and Return races combined?

The record books quickly established that most yachts – even our modern plastic fantasticals – need around 50 hours for the combined legs. Starfire’s heroics in 1970 stood as the benchmark for a long time, with a combined time of 53 hours, 36 minutes and 32 seconds. Bob Williams’ Freight Train reduced that figure to 50 hours and 43 minutes and two years later, Peter Bennett lowered the figure to 50 hours and 12 minutes in his beautiful Swan 65 ketch, Independent Endeavour.

It was not until Optimus Prime set a new combined time of 42 hours 55 minutes and 43 seconds in the 2008 races, that the record was lowered again.

The current fleet has the boats with good enough credentials to break OP’s time, but only if the weather plays its part. Advance forecasts indicate that this could be the year, but with some skippers electing to avoid the return race, who knows what the future holds?
Pre - Race Briefing

Competitors are reminded of the Briefing in the Ballroom at South of Perth Yacht Club where it is mandatory for at least the skipper and navigator to attend.

Geraldton pre-ordered shirts will be available for collection as well as the Yellow Brick Trackers.

See you at 1830!

Still Looking for crew?

28 y.o. Male.
Fit and healthy, very physically capable.
Experience: Offshore cruising experience over East. Two weeks down the coast including night watches. Few inshore races at FSC. Offshore race to Rottnest on Crush last month for the George Law. Regular river racing at multiple clubs around Perth. S80's, sb20's, foundation 36's, beneteaus etc. Can jib, foredeck, pop kites, letterbox drops etc. Some experience on main. Good sea legs, switched on, not afraid of high seas. Haven’t got years of professional experience but a confident, fit and easy-going greenie that can fit in wherever you need me. Strong build, comfortable around the deck not afraid of high-pressure quick response situations.

I have a boat to crew on the return race organised if I need it, however priority goes to the boat with a spot for me on the up leg.

I am interested in working up to crewing professionally, so will be a keen asset to the team on-going basis if required.

Happy to do night watches or prepare food, have a laugh etc.
Especially interested in the Bali Race or Sydney to Hobart opportunities in the future.

Looking forward to a Great Race!

Jon Dominguez - 0421 004 148 - Call or text anytime.

Notice to Competitors

Please note the change of location for submission of closest ETA in Geraldton and Fremantle. This is not mandatory, but you have to be in it to win it!

Please refer to attached NTC.
NOTICE TO COMPETITORS #1

Change to
Supplementary Sailing Instructions
Attachment #2 PRIZES

Preamble:
The position reports for the General Manager’s Trophy have changed.

Delete:
General Manager’s Trophy
Awarded to the boat predicting their most accurate ETA, from latitude 30° 20' South prior to the finish (awarded for both the Geraldton Ocean Classic and the Geraldton Return).

Add:
General Manager’s Trophy
Awarded to the boat predicting their most accurate ETA for finishing in Geraldton and Fremantle.

Fremantle to Geraldton Race at Latitude 29° 15' South (abeam Port Dennison)
Contact either:
- Geraldton Race Control
- DRO Dubbo White Mob: 0412 011 416
- Cherry Callcott Mob: 0419 367 418

A bottle of Rum will be awarded at Geraldton Yacht Club Presentation Night, Thu 17 Oct 2019

Geraldton to Fremantle Race at Latitude 31° 30' South (abeam Two Rocks)
Contact either:
- Offshore Race Control
- RO Trevor Milton Mob: 0419 280 268

A bottle of Rum will be awarded at South of Perth Yacht Club Presentation Night, Fri 08 Nov 2019

Scott Nunn
Sailing Administrator
Posted 1700 hrs, 10 October 2019