

Medallions Recognise Yachting Veterans

A yachtsman competing for the 40th time in one of the world's great long ocean races was among those honoured at the traditional post Rolex Sydney to Hobart race ceremony in Hobart today.

Bill Ratcliff received a Premier's medallion for successfully completing his 40th Rolex Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Receiving a Premier's medallion for completing their 25th Sydney to Hobart were George Snow, Kingsley Piesse, John Williams and Colin Tipney, while Julie Hodder was also presented with a medallion for doing her tenth Sydney to Hobart.

"The Rolex Sydney to Hobart is a race which has created hundreds of legends and on behalf of the Tasmanian Government, I would like to acknowledge everyone who took part in this year's event," said Tasmanian MHA Heather Butler, who represented the Premier at the official trophy presentation.

"This is the 63rd Sydney to Hobart and anyone getting a medal for 10, 25 or 40 races is the custodian of significant racing knowledge.

"They also become part of history, playing a role in an event regarded by many as one of the toughest blue-water yacht races in the world," Mrs Butler said.

"The Rolex Sydney to Hobart captures the attention of sports lovers across the globe and attracts world-wide media coverage. It is an exhilarating journey, for spectators as well as those out on the water, and it puts Tasmania into the international spotlight."

Mrs Butler will also present the Tasmanian Government Trophy during today's ceremony at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania.

A further four medallions will this afternoon be presented to stalwarts of the Heemskirk Consolidated Melbourne to Hobart yacht race at a second prize presentation ceremony at the Derwent Sailing Squadron.

Patricia Peart will be honoured for 10 races, Trevor Huggard and Robin Hewitt will be acknowledged for completing 25 races, and the vessel YOKO honoured for completing 25 races.

"All races are highlights of Tasmania's summer festivities and that is why events like this are a strong focus of the Government's support," Mrs Butler said.

Further information: Tasmanian Government Communications Unit
Phone: (03) 6233 6573