



Geraldton-Greenough announced as host port for Western Australian stopover in the Clipper 09-10 Round the World Yacht Race

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
22 September 2009

The City of Geraldton-Greenough has been chosen as the Western Australian stopover for the Clipper 09-10 Round the World Yacht Race with the ten-strong fleet of identical stripped down ocean racing yachts expected to arrive mid-December for a two week long visit over the Christmas period.

The biennial Clipper Race sees ten internationally sponsored 68-foot yachts battle it out over 35,000 miles of ocean, stopping at 14 ports over the course of ten months. On board are crew members representing all walks of life and 33 nationalities, of whom approximately 40 percent had never sailed before applying to take part.

The Clipper Race has incorporated a Western Australian stopover in the past two editions of the race, visiting the City of Fremantle during the Clipper 05-06 and Clipper 07-08 events. The change to the route for Clipper 09-10 has come about due to the overwhelming response that has been received from Geraldton-Greenough, with the city planning a fantastic welcome and stopover for the Clipper crews. The fleet's visit will take place at the end the 4,750-mile leg from Cape Town, South Africa, during which the boats will dip into the Southern Ocean, renowned for its gale force winds and towering seas. After that challenge, the crews deserve a heroes' welcome and that is exactly what the city promises to deliver.

"This is absolutely fantastic news for the city and everyone is very excited," says Councillor Ian Carpenter, Mayor of Geraldton-Greenough. "Christmas is generally a quiet time for tourists with people choosing to spend time with family so it will be hugely beneficial to the community to have an influx of visitors over this period and not only raise awareness of what we have to offer domestically but to an international audience," he added.

The Clipper Race organisers are also pleased to announce the Broadwater Mariner Resort, part of the Broadwater Hotels and Resorts Group, as its Official Hotel Partner for the Geraldton-Greenough stopover. The Broadwater Mariner Resort fully opened last month and is located right next to where the Clipper fleet will be berthed, overlooking Champion Bay and the magnificent Indian Ocean.

"We are delighted to be working in partnership with such a high profile international event," says Scott Cogar, Managing Director of Broadwater Hotels and Resorts. "The Clipper 09-10 stopover is a significant addition to Geraldton-Greenough's event calendar and will no doubt be a hugely successful occasion for the community, the neighbouring Coral Coast and Western Australia as a whole."

The Broadwater Mariner Resort will be the Official Hotel for the Clipper Race Team and many of the crews during the stopover. Scott Cogar and his team plan to leverage its association through a state-wide campaign over the coming months for Western Australians to win the opportunity to come to Geraldton-Greenough during the stopover and sail onboard one of the Clipper 68-foot racing yachts.

Clipper 09-10 started on 13 September from The Humber on the east of the United Kingdom and the first leg saw the fleet race to La Rochelle in France. A short stopover in the historic French town ended today as the boats set off for the first of three Atlantic Ocean legs to Rio

de Janeiro, Brazil. The yachts will then follow an east about route which includes stopovers in South Africa, Singapore, China, the US, Jamaica, Canada and Ireland, before returning to the Humber on 17 July 2010.

Legendary solo sailor, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to sail single-handed and non-stop around the world in 1969, founded the Clipper Race to give ordinary people the chance to do the equivalent of climbing Everest on the world's oceans.

Sir Robin says, "We have been overwhelmed by the response we have received from Geraldton-Greenough and I know the city and Geraldton Yacht Club will give the crews the heroes' welcome they deserve. The teams will arrive there at the end of one of the toughest legs of the Clipper Race and a relaxing two-week break on the stunning coastline of Western Australia is one which is greatly anticipated by them all."

NOTES TO EDITORS

Clipper 09-10 Round the World Yacht Race

The Clipper 09-10 Round the World Yacht Race started on 13 September from the Humber on the UK's east coast and return there in July 2010 after 35,000 miles of ocean racing. No previous sailing experience is required to take part as full training is provided. Crew can sign up for the whole circumnavigation or one or more legs. The overall race is divided into individual races and points are accumulated according to each individual race position. The yacht with the highest total at the finish wins the race trophy.

Images

Official images from Clipper 09-10 are available free for editorial use at:

www.w-w-i.com/clipper_0910_race/

Broadcast footage

Broadcast footage is available to download at:

www.clipperbroadcast.com

Password: broadcaster (case-sensitive)

Interviews and general views are available on a generic race and specific boat basis to download on demand. (File format wmv).

For further information log onto www.clipperroundtheworld.com

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