



ROTTNEST FESTIVAL OF SAIL

NATURAL BEAUTY IS THE PERFECT BACKDROP FOR YACHT RACING.

ROTTNEST Island is situated just over 10 nautical miles off the Perth city coastline. The stunning A-Class Nature Reserve is rich in history, a haven for WA's unique flora and fauna and home to a very cute marsupial, the Quokka. Rotto, as it is commonly called, is a popular boating destination and an outstanding natural backdrop for the Rottnest Festival of Sail.

The annual regatta was developed six years ago to support the Rottnest Foundation and their mission to conserve the unique cultural assets of Rottnest Island. The event assists by raising funds for the Foundation which go towards their projects to 'Conserve the essence of Rottnest.' Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club is the Organising Authority for the yacht racing event.

For 2016, the event will run over the weekend of April 2-3. Saturday will see yachts line up to start off Port Beach in Fremantle for a Category 3 Offshore, Round the Island race and also a Category 6 Transit Race to Rottnest. The fleet will be accompanied by a flotilla of power yachts who will follow the teams to Rottnest carrying friends and family to take

part in the social activities. Others will cruise over on the Rottnest Express ferry service for the evening function at the Rottnest Hotel.

Sunday is reserved for a Cruise in Company, round the island. Yachts will begin their journey in Thomson Bay and sail around Rottnest in a clockwise direction. The first part of their journey will take them past Porpoise and Salmon Bay's, these large bays are preserved in their natural state and beautiful for swimming and snorkelling. The course will take them around the West End, exposed to the Indian Ocean and a rugged part of the pristine island. The northern side is often protected at this time of year and the smaller bays are often populated by boaties enjoying the clear waters and white sandy beaches. There are a few reefs on this side of the island to navigate around before passing the lighthouse at Pinky Bay and completing their tour of the island back in Thomson Bay.

Held at the same time of year in 2015, the event was blessed with glorious weather conditions, warm waters and moderate winds. Competitors enjoyed close racing, peaceful cruising, fun social activities and a

great weekend away with family and friends. All for a very good cause in supporting the Rottnest Foundation in conserving the islands natural habitat while keeping it accessible to visitors so future generations can enjoy this beautiful destination.

For more information head to www.rfbyc.asn.au. *



EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

9-14	49er World Championship – Florida, USA
9-14	Nacra 17 World Championship – Florida, USA
12-21	18 Foot Skiff JJ Giltinan Championship – Double Bay, NSW
20-27	RS:X World Championship – Eilat, ISR
20-27	470 World Championship – San Isidro, ARG

MARCH

5-6	Sydney Harbour Regatta – Middle Harbour, NSW
25-2 Apr	Trofeo Sar Princess Sofia – Palma de Majorca, ESP

NOTE: These dates are based on the Australian Sailing Calendar published by Yachting Australia, the International Sailing Federation's Calendar of Events with some supplementary entries from Australian Sailing's own resources. The list is intended as guide only. For complete details, contact the relevant state authority or class association.

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