



Matthew Bonson

MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

15 June 2008

\$10 000 To Support Darwin To Ambon Yacht Race

The NT Government is providing a \$10 000 grant to help with the staging of the iconic Darwin to Ambon Yacht Race and Rally again this year.

The race, which will be held on July 27, began in 1973 when a Darwin yachtsman organised the first race to a foreign port with just six entries.

“The Darwin to Ambon Yacht Race was a much revered part of the Territory’s lifestyle and also one of the most popular events on the international yachting calendar,” Mr Bonson said.

“The 600 mile race attracted just six yachts in its inaugural year, and by 1998 the annual race entries reached almost 100.”

Political instability forced the cancellation of the race in 1999, until last year.

“The race successfully returned last year, and I am pleased that the NT Government has again this year been able to contribute \$10 000 to assist with its staging.”

“I think most long time Territorians know of the Darwin to Ambon Yacht Race, and I certainly would like to see the race return to its former glory.

“The race not only gives Territorians an opportunity to embrace our water loving culture, but it also re-opens the potential for strong tourism exchange.”

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