

For immediate release  
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**Sailonline.org partners with Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron  
and the VO60 'Spirit of Mateship'  
to bring the virtual Brisbane to Keppel Tropical Yacht Race 2015  
to armchair sailing navigation enthusiasts around the world.  
Race start time: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 1100 AEST (0100 UTC)**

Sailonline.org is pleased to announce that it is partnering with Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron to bring the 9<sup>th</sup> Brisbane to Keppel Tropical Yacht Race right to your fingertips (or mouse!).

The Brisbane to Keppel Tropical Yacht Race on Sailonline will run at the same time as the real Race allowing armchair sailors to sail against the actual boats in the Race.

Originally created in the Naval Architecture Department of KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden - Sailonline.org today is probably the most realistic sailing navigation simulator game on the internet, providing a realistic, entertaining and educational platform for those who love the sea and sailing, wherever they may be around the globe.

As a strategy simulator for ocean navigation, Sailonline is free to play and yet challenges both the novice and the expert, letting you sail your boat over oceans around the globe easier than you can imagine. But, as in real life, in order to sail fast and to ultimately win races, it requires full dedication, extensive practice, knowledge and working skills. There is a full and complete manual on how to sail on Sailonline to guide you, and its community of SOLers (one who sails on Sailonline.org) are always willing to advise and offer assistance.

Luckily, too, there are autopilots installed in all boats so that you do not need to steer manually all the time but just as in reality, the more attention you pay to adjusting your course the better you will do. You are in full sight of the entire virtual fleet, hence, Sailonline lets you race the boats you otherwise would just see from a distance or not at all.

Once again, for the Brisbane to Keppel Race, Sailonline is using the polar of a VO60 and will race against the VO60 'Spirit of Mateship'. 'Spirit of Mateship' is operated by Mates4Mates, a national charitable organisation set up by the Returned Services League to provide services, welfare and treatment programs to help rehabilitate wounded, injured and ill current and former Australian Defence Force personnel and their families.



*'Spirit of Mateship'*  
Source: Mates4Mates



'*Spirit of Mateship*' is well known to yachties all over the world as the Norwegian entry '*Djuice Dragons*' in the 2001/02 Volvo Ocean Race when she was skippered by current Volvo Ocean Race CEO, Knut Frostad.

In cooperation with the Race's tracker provider, Yellowbrick, Sailonline will be displaying all 30 real boats on its virtual racing screen so armchair navigators can see how they are faring against the real fleet.

This dramatically enhances the interactive experience and is a great way for family and friends of crew members to be involved while following the yacht.

The virtual Brisbane to Keppel Race on Sailonline.org will open for practice soon. Between now and then Sailonline has other races scheduled and everyone is invited to come and join in so that they will gain the most fun out of the virtual Brisbane to Keppel Race 2015!

To race, armchair navigators should head to [www.sailonline.org](http://www.sailonline.org) - it's all free.

### **About the Brisbane to Keppel Race**

Now in its 9th year, the Club Marine Brisbane to Keppel Tropical Yacht Race continues to grow. B2K is the signature offshore yachting event for the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron and attracts many yachts from the southern states of Australia as they head north for the winter regattas in and around the Great Barrier Reef.

The 348 nautical mile race will start on Thursday 30 July at 1100 AEST (0100 UTC) just east of Green Island on Brisbane's beautiful Moreton Bay. The yachts will head along the shorelines of the world famous Fraser Island before crossing the Tropic of Capricorn bound for Keppel Bay Marina.

Official Brisbane to Keppel Race website at: <http://www.brisbanetokeppel.com/>

Follow the Race's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/brisbanetokeppel?fref=ts>

Find out about RQYS at: <http://www.rqys.com.au/>

Find out more about the work done by **MATES4MATES** at: <http://www.mates4mates.org/>

Mates4Mates and '*Spirit of Mateship*' sailing challenges at: <http://www.mates4mates.org/how-we-help/adventure-challenges/sailing-challenges/>

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