



Roo ready to make waves

TOM ZED

CROWS legend Mark Ricciuto has never sailed a boat – but it's worth having two bucks on Roo spending more time on deck in the future.

Former Collingwood captain Nathan Buckley and Port Lincoln abalone fisherman David Buckland have convinced the retired Crows skipper to sail on super-maxi Skandia in the Adelaide Bluewater Classic, starting today.

But while Buckley, who sailed the Sydney-to-Hobart last year on Hugo Boss II, and "Bucky" talked Ricciuto on board the 30m yacht for the overnight race to Port

Lincoln, Roo remained hesitant about following Buckley into the Sydney-to-Hobart.

"It'll be my first time sailing so I've got a few nerves," he said.

"The wind is supposed to be about 25 knots so it might get a bit scary.

"I've been seasick a few times when I thought I was too tough to take the sea-sickness tablets but I won't be making that mistake this time.

"I think I'll just see how this goes before I think about the Sydney-to-Hobart."

Ricciuto said that he had planned to do some fishing on the way to Port Lincoln but changed his mind when

he heard how fast the yacht could go.

"I was going to drop a lure out the back for a few snook but I think (Skandia's top speed) 35 knots might be a bit fast so I'll leave the fishing gear in the car," he said.

"I rang Nathan Buckley and he said doing the Sydney-to-Hobart had been a really good experience, so I'm looking forward to this.

"I'm used to being out on boats fishing – but sailing on a boat like this will be a bit different."

Ricciuto said the trip to Port Lincoln was also a chance to promote the newly-opened Port Lincoln Hotel, run by a consortium including Ricciuto and his

Crows' captaincy successor Simon Goodwin.

"It ties in well with publicity for the hotel but it's also something new for me and sailing is quite a big part of Port Lincoln," he said.

"We want to be first to Port Lincoln, in record time."

Skandia co-skipper Matt Pearce said Ricciuto would be working alongside the Women on Water – female sailors from Adelaide and Port Lincoln, and some experienced South Australian yachties in a 27-strong crew.

The Adelaide Bluewater Classic starts at 3pm today from the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron at Outer Harbor.



OLD SALT: Mark Ricciuto aboard super-maxi Skandia at the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron yesterday before today's Adelaide Bluewater Classic race to Port Lincoln. Picture: RAY TITUS