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ON THE WATER

RACE TO THE BOAT SHOW

A classy catamaran will debut Down Under on the Gold Coast at the coming Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show – if it can circumnavigate the country in time

WITH RYAN KEEN

A CUTTING-EDGE new ocean-going yacht that's circumnavigating Australia is on schedule to arrive for its Down Under reveal on the Gold Coast in May.

The award-winning South African company Maverick Yachts has chosen to showcase its Maverick 440 Executive catamaran — worth \$620,000 — locally.

It will be unveiled at the 27th instalment of the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show which runs from May 21 to 24.

That's assuming it arrives on time.

Maverick Yachts co-founder and co-owner Deslynn Pretorious, who

started the firm with husband Rudi, says the Maverick 440 Executive was launched in mid-2014 and its Perth owner is circumnavigating Australia.

The trip started with a crossing of the Indian Ocean from Cape Town via Mauritius before getting it home to Freemantle.

"They will arrive just in time for the show," a relaxed Deslynn says.

The new Maverick 440 Executive catamaran is designed and built for easy handling and excellent performance.

Designed by Phil Southwell, head of Southwell Yacht Design, and described as "an ultra-deluxe home on the sea", the Maverick range is

designed for shorthanded, long range cruising. The extra-wide hulls provide good load-carrying capacity with generous cabins and excellent visibility.

It is certified to the European Recreational Craft directive category A (Ocean) and comes in two models: the Maverick 400 Custom and the Maverick 440 Custom, which can either be completed to a Standard or Executive Specification.

Both the Maverick 440 and 400 are ideal for private owners who wish to live aboard and take on even the most challenging bluewater cruising.

Among the brand's myriad of features is the ability to customise

interiors, Deslynn says, adding: "Although all Maverick Catamarans look alike from the outside, each boat has its own character on the inside, as they are custom built with a great deal of input from the customer."

"The owner of Island Home played a major role in choosing his interior and his master cabin is absolutely fantastic."

Deslynn says she and Rudi are extremely excited about coming to Australia and launching their cats at the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show.

"It will be our first visit to the show and we are really looking forward to showcasing Maverick in Australia. We plan to meet with prospective

brokers who will market our boats in Australia and are also looking forward to showing the Maverick to interested customers and the public."

The Sanctuary Cove show's traditional May date has been piggybacked by the four-year-old Gold Coast International Marine Expo which has previously been held in October.

The jury is out as to whether the double-up will work for both shows, but people such as local boating identity Stefan Ackerie who owns Stefan Boating World at Coomera has said previously he hopes they'll be able to work together to make the weekend a drawcard for the Gold Coast.

Got some boating news? Email coastweekend@news.com.au



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The ocean-going Maverick 440 Executive.