

# MEET THE SKIPPERS

INTRODUCING RACE COMPETITOR

## **CRAIG ANSLEY**



Craig started sailing in his early twenties in Wellington when he built and raced a 18 ft Hartley Trailer Sailer. The results were forgettable, but he learnt a lot.

A few years later he found himself in Chicago on the crew of Jason, a 33 ft keeler, racing round the buoys, and across and up and down Lake Michigan. In the annual Chicago to Mackinac Island race, of 333 miles and over 250 boats, Jason won its section twice, coming in second overall.

With dreams of sailing back to NZ Craig bought the bare hull and deck of a glass Ingrid 38. He worked on it for three years at a south Chicago marina, where the local police donated part of the ballast--bullets from their shooting range.

Craig moved back to Auckland before the boat was finished, so he shipped it back and completed it in a factory in Beach Haven. Christened Crocus, it was launched in 1991.

For 30 years Craig has sailed Crocus around the east coast cruising grounds and in 2011-12 he circumnavigated the North Island. During this time, Craig also crewed on racing yachts in Auckland, mainly on Communique, a very successful Farr 9.2.

In 2018, Craig set out offshore on a cruise to Tonga. Then in 2019, he sailed to Fiji, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia with an Island Cruising fleet, single-handed on the ocean passages after Fiji. Crocus proved herself a great boat for the open ocean, and kept up well with the fleet of mostly bigger boats. Craig single-handed back from Noumea to Opuia in the Bay of Islands and is eagerly looking forward to the Tasman crossing.

**BOAT:** Crocus

**TYPE:** W Atkin Ingrid

**HOME PORT:** Royal Akarana

**PREVIOUS COMPETITOR:** No



**RAY WHITE NEW PLYMOUTH  
SOLO TRANS-TASMAN  
YACHT CHALLENGE  
2023**