

Winning streak

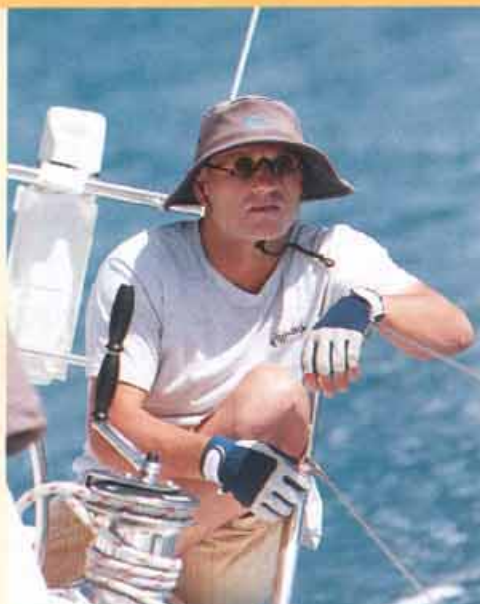
Wayne Woods is on a winning run. His name was drawn first to win a Zodiac inflatable tender and Mercury outboard engine in our recent *Yachting World Pacific Edition* competition.

A New Zealander based in Japan over recent years, Woods was getting ready to fly to Australia to meet his new yacht, *Bushido II*, when we phoned him to pass on the good news. His father Rex and crew were sailing the boat across the Tasman to Queensland for its first Australian regattas. And that's where Wayne won again — taking out the PHS Division A of the Hog's Breath 2000 Race Week.

The new inflatable will make an excellent tender to a very classy vessel. *Bushido II* is a Greg Elliott-designed fast deckhouse cruiser, with loads of space, comfort and performance.

Built by Custom Yachts in Silverdale, Auckland, and project managed by Rex Woods, the yacht was launched last October and is the second of three produced to date from the 16m Tourer moulds. According to the Woods, the first boat was for a UK buyer who called it a North Island 53 and wanted a completely different layout, while the third, for a US couple, is closer in concept to their yacht. A fourth one being built for a Sydney buyer is different again, Rex Woods said.

On first impressions, *Bushido II*'s most striking features are the walk-through layout of the cockpit, and the space and all-round vision provided by the deckhouse. You can sit comfortably around the dinette or make yourself a cup of tea in the L-



Wayne Woods aboard *Bushido II* during the Island Passage Race; all sail controls lead well aft for shorthanded sailing

shaped galley without missing any of the action happening around the yacht or in the cockpit, thanks to your elevated position and also the large size of the deckhouse windows. These raise a quizzical look from sailors schooled in the conventional wisdom that large windows can be a weak link in extreme conditions. Woods says special moulds were made to

allow the windows to be made of extra-strength tempered glass, rather than perspex.

The yacht is set up for shorthanded sailing, with roller furling headsail, furling mainsail via hydraulic LeisureFurl boom, electric winchpower and all halyards and sail controls led to within easy reach of the twin helm positions. The boom vang and backstay adjustments are also at hand, using a Navtec hydraulic system.

The mainsheet traveller runs across a targa arch to keep the cockpit free of obstacles and flailing sheets. The ST6000 hydraulic Autohelm system can be used to steer the yacht from on deck or in the saloon.

Other notable features include the hydraulic lift keel, which has three tonnes of lead in the bulb and draws 3.5m when down, 2m when raised.

Additional equipment includes a Raytheon radar unit, currently mounted on the transom but to be moved into the rig, wind turbine generator, Spectra watermaker rated to provide 16 gallons of freshwater per hour, and tankage for 800 lt of fuel and 700 lt of water.

The interior layout places a large double quarter berth and day head to starboard, while the port quarter is devoted to storage space for cruising gear and Wood's sailboards and equipment.

Down a few steps forward of the deckhouse are two more double cabins and the large main bathroom, with a good shower area including a seat that allows it to be used more easily in a seaway, plus a tumble dryer.

Although Wayne Woods says Greg Elliott is quick to remind him this is a cruising yacht rather than a racer, sailing performance has clearly been an important consideration. *Bushido II* loped along upwind at 7-8 kts plus during the 40 mile Island Passage

Race of the Hogs Breath Regatta, and when the breeze puffed up to 15-17kts true it happily sailed at an apparent wind angle of 120°, doing 9-10kts under a huge masthead gennaker set on a retractable bowsprit pole. It would have been handy to have a conventional pole for the long square run, but working the gybing angles harder made an appreciable difference to performance relative to the boats around us.

The word 'bushido' relates to the code of conduct of the samurai warriors of Japan. Although Wayne Woods' plans for *Bushido II* put cruising at the top of the list — where that Zodiac tender and Mercury outboard will make perfect accessories — it's a fair guess that there'll be more of the (friendly) warriors' code of yacht racing on the agenda, too.

Powerful lines of the Elliott 16m Tourer combine with concessions to comfort, including LeisureFurl boom and gennaker socks

