

SUNDAY

TBIBWNE

31-10-93

Racer project boosts local yacht building

A young crew with an unlimited budget and the target of competing for South Africa have set their sights on one of the world's top yachting events, the Rothmans Week regatta.

Their ambitions have meant a boost for local yacht building technology with the construction in Cape Town of a multi-million rand ultralight racer meant to thrash all comers at Rothmans Week. The project, an investment by a Hong Kong electronics company in the local yacht building industry, is equal and even superior to similar projects worldwide.

The lines of the Orion Express flowed from the laser printer of local naval architect Alex Simonis, who designed several fast Cape to Rio entries and the winner, Broomstick. Her hull and deck are taking shape in the Epping shed of master yacht builders



HOT YACHT: Builders John Robertson and Jerry Caine with Orion Express.

Picture: BRENTON GEACH

John Robertson and Jerry Caine, which is where Broomstick emerged.

Components and instruments are being collected to provide Orion Express with the highest technology yet added to a locally built yacht since the BOC racer Allied Bank built for John Martin three years ago. —
Tribune Reporter