

# SA youngsters will be setting sail soon

Young sailors will be given the opportunity to experience deep-sea sailing on a new yacht built in Cape Town. By Yachting Reporter SYBRAND MOSTERT.

YOUNGSTERS who have never experienced the thrill of the sea will soon have the chance to set sail in a newly launched 22m gaff rig schooner.

The Paco, owned and built by Mr John Paquito of Sea Point, will be handed to the South African Sail Training Association (Sasta) to use for a year.

Sasta is a non-profit organisation dedicated to giving youngsters a chance to learn deep-sea sailing.

A long-term aim of the association is to build a 30m sail training "tall ship".

"Mr Paquito has made a generous gesture which will assist us greatly in giving young people who would otherwise never have found their way on

board a sailing vessel a unique experience," said the Sasta director, Mr Bunny Curren.

The Paco would be a welcome addition to the association's vessel the Gordon Burn Wood.

"We will now be able to take out 10 to 15 youngsters on a regular basis instead of five and trips up the coast will be laid on," Mr Curren said.

Mr Paquito spent eight years building the Paco and said she would be completed at the end of September.

"I have loved the sea from an early age and I sailed on Sagres, the Portuguese sail training vessel, during a spell in the navy.

"If the Paco can help getting people to sea who don't have the opportunity, that is good."



Picture: Peter Stanford, The Argus

Mr John Paquito aboard Paco raises his hat to the prospect of many young people who will soon have the opportunity of sailing on the vessel. Mr Paquito has given the Paco to the Sail Training Association for a year.