

Sailing for a sweetie without a sextant



☐ **WAVE-BUSTER:** Solo sailor Anthony Steward taking a breaker head-on at the start of his voyage from Brisbane to Darwin.

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SOLO sailor Anthony Steward has arrived in Darwin after an eight-day voyage from the Cape York Peninsula.

After his arrival he immediately began to prepare the 5.8m **NCS Challenger** for his 7 000-mile non-stop voyage to Durban.

Meanwhile, the plucky South African is spurred on by the prospect of wedding bells.

Speaking from Darwin, Steward said his wedding had been set for August 29 in Port Elizabeth, where his childhood sweetheart, Sue Middleton, was waiting for him.

"I want to get this trip off my back and get home," said Steward.

But while his heart might be in Port Elizabeth, Steward has to face a daunting voyage to Durban in a yacht that has taken a terrible beating since he left Cape Town in February last year.

Steward said he had not expected the voyage to Darwin to be so hard but he did not have enough charts, nor was his direction-finder working. To cap it all, his navigation tables had been washed overboard, which meant his sextant was useless.

However, the never-say-die sailor crossed the Torres Straits between New Guinea and Australia and navigated the Gulf of Carpentaria by the Polynesian method — the sun.

Finally he moored his tiny yacht at the Darwin Yacht Club and headed into town to find a hamburger.