



## RISING STAR

## World in her hands

*Keep an eye out for Sarya D'Ath in the future, she'll be the one working tirelessly to save the planet.*

Saraya D'Ath went away for the summer holidays last year just like any other 15-year-old schoolgirl, but instead of returning with a suntan and some solid hours logged on Facebook, she came back as the coordinator for a dog sledding 'eco project' in Russia.

The young sailor from Scarborough, Queensland was one of just 16 teenagers from across the globe selected to take part in environmental crusader Mike Horn's 'Young Explorers Program'. The 11th grader was whisked off to Russia, and then to Borneo, for a two-month-long crash course in caring for the planet.

While in Russia for her first expedition, D'Ath and her team employed a local sledding company for transport and, in doing so, found probably the most unlikely cause for a teenager from sunny Queensland to champion.

"They are trying to do good for the environment by using dog sleds as a non-polluting form of transport," says D'Ath, adding that she is currently raising funds and building them a website to promote their business.

It's the kind of environmental action Mike Horn encourages in all the talented teenagers who join his program, which operates under the mantra, 'explore, learn, act.'

Horn personally leads the expeditions using his 35-metre sailing

yacht *Pangaea* as the platform for research and teaching. He chooses only the most gifted and passionate teens to become Young Explorers.

Saraya's time in Borneo – just weeks after her Russian jaunt – was spent aboard *Pangaea*, scuba diving and collecting scientific information about the Sabah coast of Malaysia.

"We were scuba diving every day and doing reef checks along transit lines, and identifying different fish species and corals. We also did a lot of beach clean ups," she says.

D'Ath has a particular affinity with the ocean, having grown up in a yachting family. She has sailed with her family all her life, including crossing the Pacific from the east coast of the USA to Australia before she was 10 years old. With a few years of school to finish yet, D'Ath is now itching to start her life as a full-time explorer and eco warrior.

"Mum wants me to finish high school, so I'd better do that," she says.

D'Ath is particularly keen on further studies in marine biology and hopes to combine her passion for the planet with a passion for sailing.

"Maybe in my gap year, I might work on the big sailing boats, or maybe Mike Horn's boats."

[www.mikehorn.com](http://www.mikehorn.com)



**YOUNG EXPLORERS**  
Top: Saraya D'Ath (third from left), hands in the air, with her fellow Young Explorers at the Kamchatka camp in Russia. Above: Saraya enjoying just about the only thing Queensland can't offer.



## MINI TRANSAT

### Sticky situa

*Sailing across the A  
boat made of crazy*

It's almost that time when the crazy nut Mini Transat class v into their tiny boats single-handed across Atlantic. Taking place two years, the Mini 6.50 race features single-handed off boats allowed to race the Atlantic, measured at just 6.5 metres being solo and unglorified skiff wasn't the boundaries en team will take on the race from France to a yacht made of 50 flax fibres. That's 4 miles in a boat essentially made of super glue friendly boat has *Araldite* after its sponsor (joke) and is currently water in France. A Scott Cavanough on the race this year [www.classemini.com](http://www.classemini.com)

## CHARITY APPEAL

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