



Shreeve's a Strait shooter

By **AMANDA LULHAM**

SYDNEY-to-Hobart racers dread crossing Bass Strait — even in the relative safety of a yacht — but stout-hearted Allison Shreeve plans to tackle the notorious stretch of water fully exposed to the winds, sea and even sharks.

The intrepid Sydneysider is gearing up for a crossing of the deadly waters, which claimed the lives of six men in the 1998 Sydney-to-Hobart, on a windsurfer.

Shreeve, 26, is also hoping the gruelling 240km trip will raise her profile enough to attract a sponsor to back her campaign to compete at the 2012 London Olympics.

She plans to embark on her

maritime adventure, put together to aid the non-profit Coastcare organisation, in February.

"It's a little scary. Mum isn't really happy about it," Shreeve said. "But I'll have a boat with me and I won't be sitting for long with my legs hanging over the side.

"The worry is losing concentration for even a second and catapulting into the water and breaking a mast, so you need to be switched on the whole time."

Shreeve's goal is to windsurf from Stanley on the north coast of Tasmania to Tidal River, near Wilsons Promontory in Victoria, in seven to eight hours, driven across Bass Strait by south-westerly winds.



ON THE STRAIT AND NARROW: Allison Shreeve plans to windsurf across treacherous Bass Strait