

hosted at St Kilda, having previously been based at Sandringham Yacht Club, Yachting Victoria chief executive Steve Walker said. But they were keen to move the regatta to a more public space, he said.

"As well as showcasing these world-class sailors and letting the sailing community have access to them, we also hope to use it as a platform to introduce new people to the sport," Mr Walker said.

Sailors from Great Britain, Germany, Italy, US, Sweden, Ireland and Norway are among the 23 coun-

was comprised of the 10 Olympic sailing disciplines.

The Melbourne regatta includes youth, giving young sailors such as 12-year-old Linus Talacko from St Kilda the chance to mill about the boat park with their heroes.

Linus, who has been named an ambassador for the event, said it was a thrill to have the world's best sailors coming to his patch.

"It would be pretty cool to meet them," he said.

Linus will be racing his Opti dinghy in the regatta.

The World Cup is on Monday, December 7, St Kilda Beach. Details: sailingworldcupmelbourne.com



Up-and-coming sailor Linus, 12, will boat with the world's best at St Kilda. Picture: BRENDAN FRANCIS

Stolen number plates are also often used to commit other offences, such as stealing fuel from petrol stations or for travelling on tollways without paying, he said.

More than 100 number plates have been stolen from vehicles in Port Phillip in the year to June, and 53 thefts were recorded in Stonnington, according to figures provided to the *Leader* by Sgt Melrose using information from the Crime Statistics Agency Victoria.

Ana a total of 255 handbag thefts were reported across both municipalities in the same 12 month period.

Sgt Melrose said police were building a database of businesses with street facing CCTV cameras that could be used to investigate incidents of theft in along shopping strips.

Signs were also being put up in public spaces by the Stonnington Council.

ST KILDA

Mums go all out to raise money for baby-care items

Belinda Humphries

ST KILDA Mums is making a last-ditch bid to raise funds for essential baby-care equipment including cots and car restraints before Christmas.

The organisation had a wait list of more than 250 such big-ticket items for about 100 families in the last week of November, according to chief executive officer Jessica Macpherson.

Many were items it did not

have in stock and would have to purchase in order to get them out in time to those in need, she said.

While the organisation received many donations of second-hand goods such as prams, Ms Macpherson said

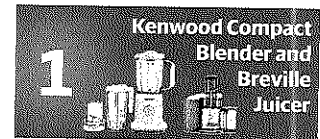
they required time and often money to fix, and they did not currently have much of either.

"It has become very pressured for us — we close for three weeks over Christmas and then a lot of social

workers don't work for part of January."

Items on the wait list last week included 67 cots and 20 bassinets, Ms Macpherson said.

Cash donations via stkildamums.org.au



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