

the world

COMPETITION COMPELLION

TOPtoTOP is holding a global climate solution contest. To enter, write four pages on a climate solution of your choice. The winners will be invited to Switzerland next year to see the most exciting projects on climate change. They will join the TOPtoTOP team expedition for three weeks, and cycle, climb a 4000m mountain to a glacier, study what's happening to glaciers in the Alps, and sail over lakes. For more information visit the website at www.toptotop.org or call Dario on ph: 0423 450 255.



Choosing their own adventures: 1. Wildespitz Mountain in the Glarus Alps, Switzerland. 2. Setting out in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. 3. Cycling 2500km to Aconcagua, the tallest mountain in South America. 4. The family on one of their many bike rides. 5. Scaling another of the world's highest mountains. 6. The TOPtoTOP volunteer support crew.



TOPs of seven continents:

- Mt Blanc 4807m (15771ft), Europe
- Aconcagua 6959m (22831ft), South-America
- Denali (Mt McKinley) 6198m (20335ft), North-America
- Mt Kosciuszko 2230m (7316ft), Australia
- Mt. Everest 8846m (29022ft), Asia
- Kilimanjaro 5895m (19222ft), Africa
- Mt. Vinson 5140m (16864ft), Antarctica
- The Schwoerers will sail 70,000 nautical miles, bike 18,000km and climb 400,000 altimeters

"We came down with empty bags, so it's the cleanest mountain so far," Dario said, laughing.

Initially the time frame for the trip was four years, but it has turned into seven years so far and the family expects to take a further seven years due to unforeseen circumstances.

Dario explained: "We were on the way for four years and then we had a big disaster when

we went to Antarctica in the southern ocean, where we hit a floating container.

"The repairs took one year in Patagonia, so we had heaps of time to visit schools in Argentina and Chile.

"Then Sabine got pregnant and we didn't know if we could continue, but it has been more fun with the kids, and it has opened more doors I think."

Dario loves working with

children in schools.

In primary schools, the couple asks the children to draw pictures of solutions to climate change, which Dario calls "pearls" and in secondary schools, the children write essays.

"Kids are so optimistic and full of energy and creativity," Dario said.

"I really believe we should listen to them because they are so open and have no limits and that's just what you need when you want to find new solutions."

In December the TOPtoTOP team entered the Sydney to Hobart yacht race which drew great publicity for their expedition but it didn't work out quite as planned and they ended up leaving the race without completing it.

"Our message is to go with nature, not against nature,"

Dario said. "It was sure hard to turn back in Bass Strait but when we saw the broken rudder, which took us one month to fix on the Gold Coast, it was quite clear we had made the right decision."

What an adventure it has

The boat itself is on loan and has to be sold and the money derived from the sale given back to the owner upon its return.

The couple was very happy when they eventually secured sponsorship for their medical

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been and the expedition has only reached its halfway point in Cairns.

From the moment the couple conceived the idea, they battled – firstly to build the boat, and then to raise sponsorship.

All the woodwork and the interior is the work of members of TOPtoTOP.

and travel insurance from companies Victorinox and SGS.

Their adventure will continue despite the delay in Cairns and they've so much still left to do. They are even writing a book due to be published in October.

Next stop is Mt Everest, then the rest of the world.