

The shortened Melbourne-Portland race was a quick upwind-downwind course. Halfway into the upwind leg the wind would settle for a near constant TWD, which gives an easy VMC target. I did add a tiny bias to south/offshore to pick up more pressure early on. (That's with 12-13kn TWS, the real bad winds would only hit later.)

The fleet would then tack towards the shore to play on a minimal shift. I think on paper this put the entire course in the wave shadow from Cape Otway, too bad the real race had to be cancelled. Boats tried different lines but I don't think there were big differences. Aiming at the mark I left a bit of cushion to set up an easy rounding. That paid off, I had a flawless rounding, boats that pointed at the mark had it a bit harder.

The return trip was strange, to keep the boat in maximum winds (good thing our boats are indestructible) the VMC target shifted 25 degrees in 5 hours. You don't see that often!

Fortunately the final VMC matched the finish line very well, so I could just aim right in the middle on DCs. Sleep through an early am finish - nice.

outlaw / November 2014