

The race started at the end of a large shift off Sydney Harbour and set up a beat down the coast but fortunately not too close inshore. Off Jervis Bay or a bit south, it was then a matter of tacking out to sea and using the rotation to begin the wider path south. I remembered Outlaw's cunning move last year and tried to keep him in my sights as we headed down into Bass Strait.

The winds favoured the lead boats and we were able to keep up with the slowly dropping breeze which snared quite a few boats behind us. From there the wind built nicely to allow us a good fast passage, shooting us down the east coast of Tasmania. With the breeze dropping out as we approached Tasman Island, the fleet around me bunched up, with only fractions of a mile between most of the top twenty boats.

As we gybed past Cape Raoul, I elected to stand a bit wider hoping to get a better angle up to Iron Pot, but the distractions of the newly arrived 0430 WX and the xmas race distracted me, and I stood too far before gybing and lost two positions very quickly.

From there, and my wider position, I managed to regain a very slender lead over Kenza with Outlaw disappearing in the distance somewhere between half a mile and a mile ahead. Turning at the Iron Pot, it was a matter of avoiding any more mistakes and staying between Kenza, Karmafish, and the line. In a dying and shifting breeze I opted for the fastest passage to the line.

It's always good fun to do this home race for me, and have a chat to the other southern hemisphere boats which seem to increase in number for this famous race. Congrats to Outlaw who established an early lead and never lost it. And thanks all for a fun race...sorry about the start and finish time for my northern hemisphere friends!!

Dingo / December 2014