

I really enjoyed the trip to Mooloolaba.

This race hit a sweet spot, long enough for challenging open water navigation, but without the sheer duration of an ocean race.

On the coast there was a small high pressure system with low winds that blocked the rhumbline. With wind flowing around it one had to find the best balance between shortest distance and better wind. It's all VMG, but timing of gybes proved crucial. Franci handled this the best. I attacked a couple times, but could not get close. Late on Friday I was 1 minute behind.

My course overnight must have been more efficient, I came out of the final gybe with a small lead. The second day was a drag race north, the leading boats benefitted from better pressure and slowly pulled away. One still had to stay a bit offshore for maximum wind, and turn to the coast as late as possible. By 2230 I was safely pointed at the finish.

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