

Groote Eylandt – 2015

Groote is an island in the Gulf of Carpentaria of about 140nm in circumference. The coast line is a mix of low cliffs and beaches and the island's highest point is a hill of c 210m elevation. Topological facts are important when trying to understand the windgribs generated by the NCAR/UCAR WRF model now being used for all sprint races; so, only 14° below the equator, the shrub interior of Groote gets hotter and hotter over the course of the day, creating a steadily spreading centre of no wind over the island, and causing the prevailing wind to deflect in towards all coasts.

On the day the prevailing wind was from the South East and it was clear from Qt that a passage over the North of the island was going to be by far the quicker route. It was also clear that Qt was tending towards keeping offshore a bit for stronger breeze. Now, "NB, Jan, AGAIN!" qT has far less opportunity to be inaccurate when routing a high res grib, but, nevertheless, I second-guessed its proposal once again and:

- sailed tightly close-hauled to stay on the inside of the bend going up the North coast, and
- put in two hitches at the North East corner with BS near 14kn to get inside the bend further,

whilst the winners:

- sailed slightly free to romp along in stronger breeze,
- just tacked once well beyond the North East capes and rocks for a straight lay to the finish.

And that was that. P12, grr some more.

bonknhoot / July 2015