

## ORCV Melbourne to Devonport Race 2016

Very pleased to have both started and finished 2016 with a podium. I've learned so much about the SOL environment in the past year. At the start of the year, my strong finishes were mostly due to good luck, but as I've gained experience, I've started to figure out when to make a beeline for the next buoy, and when to look for stronger winds. I've also learned to balance my intuition with some of the many tools that are available.

That said, I know I've still got lots to learn. I really only do consistently well in races less than 200 miles in strong winds. I still find myself lost in the blue in ocean races, and up on the beaches in sprints as I try to shave a few seconds to stick with the leaders.

The **Rudder Cup** fits into my wheelhouse well. 198 nm, about a day in length, with lots of wind, and a well-timed exit out of Port Phillip Bay. Once we'd rounded Queenscliff Mark it was just a matter of balancing pressure and angle while keeping aimed toward Devonport.

Thanks to the SOL team for putting together some great races and fun series over the past year. I look forward to 2017, especially to the new **40' Series** which I think will add a new wrinkle of strategy and decision making. Thanks too to the many great competitors that I've met and learned from in 2016. Happy Holidays, and we'll see you in 2017.



-longreacher

December 27, 2016