

AGage's Around Australia Series

When I saw this series published, I thought it might be one that I could do well in. Most of the leg lengths were right in the 'sweet spot' for me. Any longer and I'm strategically outclassed by the better sailors of SOL, any shorter and the sprint specialists win the day. Also, for some strange reason, I always seem to race better south of the equator, and in particular, in waters around Australia. I blame it on some weird linkage between the Coriolis Effect and my left handedness.

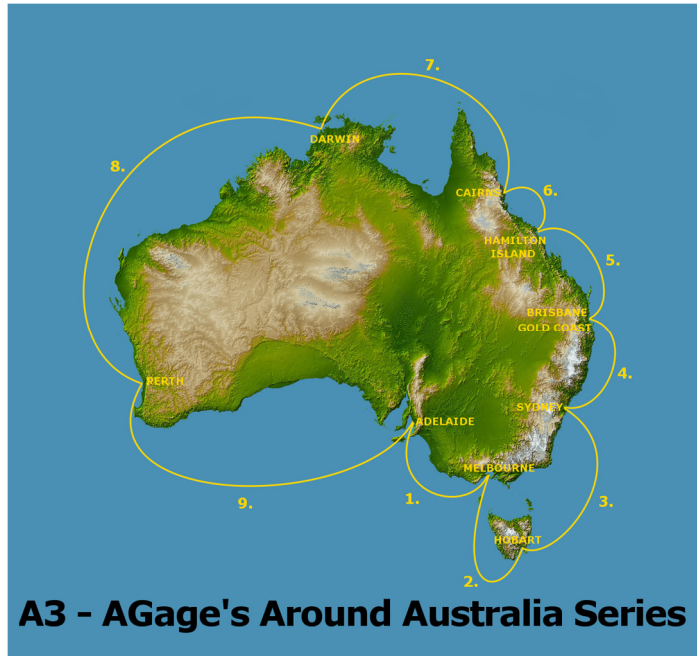
In the series, I got off to a good start, with a 2nd place podium in race 1. Races 2 & 3 were respectable for me, and when I looked at the series results after landing in Sydney, I saw that I was still in contention. Some of the strong finishers hadn't raced all 3, or had had some misfortune along the way.

The trip north along the east coast yielded 3 strong finishes, and saw Dingo and PetrM emerge as the main competition. I hadn't had a really bad result in any of the first 6 legs. However the last 3 legs would be the longest, and would require a bit more long range planning than out trip up the east coast.

Leg 7 yielded a 4th place finish, which mathematically locked me into a podium spot. But, as predicted, the final longest two legs would yield my poorest performance, and so it wasn't until the very end of the final leg I was able to celebrate this fun series win.

I never knew Aaron, but have read so much of about him, both through the posts of others, and through his own writing and coding here on SOL, that I can see how helpful and dedicated he has been to the SOL community. When I first started sailing here, I realized I needed some tools in order to compete, and so started building a very clunky spreadsheet to give me the best angles to sail at. After working too many hours on it, I found Aaron's optimal angles tool, which did exactly the same thing, except 200x more elegantly.

Thanks to Aaron for all the legwork he put into this, and to the current SOL team for hosting a fun series.



longreacher
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