

Tasman Double 2017 - Race 1 - Sydney to Hobart

The Tasman Double is one of the races that I use to mark my years in Sailonline. It was during the second race of this series in 2015 that I had my first strong finish, where I felt I knew what I was doing. Unfortunately, I wasn't very consistent back then, and my 40th place finish in race one of that year left me 12th in the series.

By 2016, I had gained some consistency, and races of this length were becoming a favourite of mine. Everyone else was getting faster and more consistent as well, with racers like **Alexandria** who found a ton of new speed in 2016 keeping us all on our toes. In that year, 8th and 3rd place finishes in the two races left me just off the podium for the series.

Fall of 2017 has been busy in *Longreacherville*. Real life has kept me from being as competitive here as I'd like to be. However, with the holidays, and a bit of time off of work, I was happy to see the Tasman once again on the schedule. A good start time meant I could get safely out to sea before hitting the rack, and morning found me in a good position amongst the usual suspects.

The only fly in the ointment was the strong trailing wind would having us rounding Tasman Island in the middle of the night, and entering the harbour in the early hours in this time zone. Oh well, nothing for it but to carry on. Grab a few hours' sleep here and there, and hope for the best from my DCs.

As we entered the Derwent River, *Alexandria* was once again showing us the way, with **Dingo** and his local knowledge pushing me hard. I headed to the East bank of the river, looking for more wind, while *Dingo* stayed west, chasing the shift. I realized too late that he was gone, and thought I might have given him second place by not covering. However, when we crossed again, there was little change in the gap, and I managed to follow *Alex* to the line.

Thanks to the SOL team for putting this on. Hopefully my trip north in leg 2 next week is just as quick, and maybe.. just maybe... I can climb one more step on that podium.



*An "Oops" moment? I missed covering Dingo (on left).
Fortunately for me the shift wasn't huge.*

*-longreacher
December 27th, 2017*