

Sydney to Mooloolaba report

Nothing like starting a race with a barbecue, but that's more or less what happened after I got engrossed in a website on fly fishing boats, and ploughed into some beach up around Hawk's Nest just north of Newcastle. These tris cover ground a bit faster than I was remembering and the fly fishing boats were something to drool over. Limping off the coast at 80% full speed I managed to stay close to optimum upwind TWA and just clear Broughton Island, but Rafa, Bonknhoot, Kipper and a number of others had grabbed a mile over me by the time I got back up to full speed. Outlaw meanwhile had headed out towards higher pressure or perhaps didn't have the clear time to be near the computer and tack up the coast.

Once we rounded Sugar Loaf Point, there was a big tack out to sea to find the optimum point to tack once more onto a long reach all the way up to Cape Moreton and Point Cartwright. Most of the boats I was expecting to be in the podium hunt were not too far away from me and there followed a long day of edging north through lightening breezes where I managed to get myself back in the game.

By the time we reached Cape Moreton around 6am my time, I was in the lead by a nose, but there was a difficult decision to make about how to approach the last mark. One option was to stay out east with more pressure, but travel farther by gybing across to the line. The second option was to stay west in lower pressure but sail a shorter distance to the line without needing to gybe. I took the latter, lost a lot of positions for three quarters of the run to the line, but just regained my position as we rounded Port Cartwright where I could pinch slightly and make the mark before the wind shifted too far clockwise.

Thanks to all involved for setting up this nice little coastal race.

Dingo 25.01.2018