

## **Tasman Double 2022 - Leg 1 - Sydney to Hobart**

This race route seems to have a distinctive pattern, driven by the northerlies common at the time of year. Anyone who looks at possible routes for a maxi yacht a few days out from the race will observe a very similar diagram of long alternating gybes down along the NSW and Victorian coasts. As the coast (and hence the rhumb line) falls away to the west the more one travels south, the ideal route is a balance of chasing the strongest of the winds and not sailing too far.

Once across Bass Strait, things often change with some routes following along the rhumb line and others heading far offshore to come back towards Tasman Island with a good angle. I chose the latter and it paid off fairly well. I managed to recoup the losses I had made with an inattentive start, where I sailed not much too far before gybing south and lost quite a distance on the leaders, particularly rumskib, who made a welcome return to the race.

Once around Tasman Island I plotted a fairly simple tacking route up the Derwent, and was placed around 6-7<sup>th</sup> at the time with only a minute or so separating the top 10 boats. What followed was a bit of a [Steven Bradbury moment](#) as SlideRule and Freyja, who were just ahead of me, either bbq'd or sailed wide of Tasman Island and lost positions. I headed to bed near midnight locked in a battle with Vida\_Maldita for fourth, and with Mirek and ita10267 slightly in the clear. I woke to discover I had placed third, and suspect my simple tacks had probably paid off. I'll look forward to reading other reports for more insights!

**Dingo/January 2023**