

## Auckland to Noumea 2025 race report (by KaSToR)



Departure from Hauckland on Monday February 10 to reach Nouméa.3 days at sea are planned, which is good, I am on vacation and will not be able to miss too many glibs. Departure will be at 5 p.m. for an evening of downwind sailing.The navigation software (Yes, I use a software) tells me that I should plan to raze Elephant Point.What a strange name, let's see...



OK, I understand.

Without getting too near to the coast, you have to reach the high seas before arriving at Taranga Island.



It's pretty too, over there.

No more danger at night ( the next land will be new Caledonia ) and the morning grib will not present an emergency character. Let's gain strength. When I wake up, I see that my boat is between Patrick's (to the west with weaker winds but more efficiency) and Vida's (to the east with stronger winds).

I decide not to decide anything and continue with my middle choice, even if I see Patrick's group taking the lead in the ranking. Tuesday, a quiet day where everyone goes their own way. It's hard to say who's right. On Wednesday, we foresee a very bumpy arrival in Nouméa, which complicates the choices. It seems that the approach to the finish will be decisive. At the 11:30 a.m. grib, a huge stroke of luck, the difficult arrival conditions in Nouméa disappear to leave a more direct arrival, giving me an advantage on my middle lane. I don't know if the Patrick group won't have taken enough of a lead to pass me in front. After the evening grib, I wonder what surprises the night will bring.

And exceptionally, I force myself not to miss the grib on this Thursday morning. Once again, luck smiled on me, I found my boat at the head of a group which seemed to me to be in a good position to win. But Patrick is so close that at the last tack, and thanks to the penalty, I am behind. But with a very slight favorable position. An hour later, thanks to this position, my boat is in the lead of the group of favorites, Patrick, Vida, Kipper...

I then saw myself attacked from my starboard side, then from my port side, but these maneuvers were unsuccessful, and I passed Reef Tabu and Ilot Brun in the lead. Finally, a final straight line to cross the line a few meters in front of my pursuer...

Congratulations to my opponents in this race, Patrick, Vida, Kipper of course, but also to all the others.

KaSToR / february 2025