

**SIENA (SAIL NO: 99)****Report on 1998 Telstra Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race**

To: I. Moray/J. van Ogtrop

From: T. Evans

Date Prepared: 4 January, 1999.

**BASIS OF REPORT:**

This report is based on notations made on Chart Aus 4601; notes made in a rough handwritten Log; position reports at the times of various Radio Skeds; recollections of radio traffic and observations.

Radio Skeds took place at 2005 on 26 December, 1998 and at 0305 and 1405 on 27 December, 1998 on 4483 kHz. Positions reported were as at 2000, 0300 and 1400 (not at the time of reporting), as per the Sailing Instructions. The distance run between Radio Skeds was not reported. A listening watch was maintained on VHF Channel 16.

All positions were derived by GPS. No fixes were taken by any other means.

Approximations and recollections are noted as such.

Each Radio Sked comprised of a weather report; then a position report from each boat and then a repeat of the weather report. Each Radio Sked took approximately one (1) hour to complete.

The Rhumb Line ("R.L.") referred to is the course 194°T (182°C) from South Head to a position 5 NMS East of Tasman Island. Minor variations would be required to take into account the change in Variation over the course. The R.L. comprises a distance of 570 NMS. In this report, courses are referred to in Compass bearings.

**Summary of Weather Report at Briefing at 0900 on 24 December, 1998.**

In so far as it was relevant in the circumstances, the following is a summary of the weather report.

Saturday, 26 December, 1998 -

North East winds 10 to 15 kts.

Predicted Southerly change at about 1600. Winds 20 to 30 kts, but gusting.

Slowly abating with Winds changing South East/North East.

Sunday, 27 December, 1998  
(at 2200) -

High will move up to NSW Coast.

South to South West Winds 15 to 20 kts, tending  
South East to South.

Monday, 28 December, 1998  
(at 2200) -

North to North East Winds 10 to 15 kts, with a  
cold front with South to South West Winds 15 to  
20 kts moving up the Coast.

### Synoptic Charts published in SMH on 26 December, 1998.

The synoptic charts issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, with forecasts as at 2100 on 26, 27 and 28 December, 1998, showed a cold front moving over NSW during the evening of 26 December, 1998, with a Low situated off the East Coast of Tasmania. Isolated showers and thunderstorms were forecast near and ahead of the front. Fresh to strong South to South West Winds were forecast to follow the passage of the front. The Low did not appear to be particularly intense and was forecast to move away to the South East of Tasmania over the next 24 to 48 hours. A High was forecast to extend a ridge over the Southern part of Australia, above the series of Lows below Tasmania. This weather pattern indicated that the NSW South Coast, Bass Strait and the East Coast of Tasmania would experience fresh to strong West/South West Winds, with some shower and thunderstorm activity over the next 24 to 48 hours. The isobars were not particularly close and very strong winds did not seem to be indicated. Also, there was no indication of the formation of an East Coast Low, although these Lows can and do form very rapidly.

In view of what actually happened, further comment on the synoptic charts seems to be superfluous.

### 26 December, 1998 (Saturday)

1300:	Start.	High tide at 1431.
	Sails	- Main & No.2.
	Wind	- 10 to 20 kts North East.
	Log	- 210.4 NM.
	Sea Mark	- After rounding and bearing away to the South East for some time, the $\frac{3}{4}$ Spinnaker was set.
	Average Course - over Ground.	173° C.
1615:	Position	- 34° 15' S. 151° 14' E.
	Log	- 235.3 NM.
	Distance Run - (By Log)	24.9 NM.

Average Course - 173°C  
 over Ground.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 7.66 kts.  
 Sails - Main / 3/4 Spinnaker  
 Comments - Approx 5 NMS East of R.L.  
 Approx 10 NMS West of Continental Shelf.

1800: Position - 34° 32' S  
 (JVO) 151° 09' E.  
 Log - 249.0 NM.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Log) - 13.7 NM (since 1615)  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 15.0 NM (since 1615)  
 Average Course - 189°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 7.83 kts.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 8.57 kts.  
 Sails - Main / 3/4 Spinnaker.  
 Comments - On R.L. Approx 12.5 NMS East of Wollongong. Approx  
 5 NMS West of Continental Shelf.

1845: Position - 34° 47' S.  
 151° 06' E.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - Approx 11 NMS.  
 Average Course - 173°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) 14.66 kts.  
 Sails - Main / 3/4 Spinnaker.  
 Comments - Approx 5 NMS East of R.L. Near Continental Shelf.  
 Approx 12.5 NMS East South East of Kiama.

2000: [2005 RADIO SKED]

Position - 34° 55' S.  
 151° 04' E.  
 Log - 267.1 NM.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Log) - 18.1 NM (since 1800).  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 27.5 NM (since 1800).  
 Average Course - 178.5°C.  
 over Ground

Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 9.05 kts.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 13.75 kts.  
 Sails - Main /  $\frac{1}{4}$  Spinnaker.  
 Comments - Approx 5 NMs East of R.L. Near Continental Shelf.  
 Approx 16 NMs North North East of Point Perpendicular.

Positions/Relative  
 Positions of other  
 Boats in CHS

Boat	Position	Relative Position
Aera	35°00'S. 151°02'E.	5 NM Ahead Slightly West
B52	35°09'S. 150°58'E.	14 NM Ahead Slightly West
Challenge Again	35°12'S. 150°57'E.	17 NM Ahead Slightly West
Foxtel	35°18'S. 151°01'E.	23 NM Ahead Slightly West
Hi Flyer	No report.	-
Impeccable	34°53'S. 150°59'E.	2 NM Behind Slightly West
Loki	34°58'S. 151°01'E.	3 NM Ahead Slightly West
Ocean Designs	35°11'S. 150°57'E.	10 NM Ahead Slightly West
Son Jay	35°06'S. 150°58'E.	11 NM Ahead Slightly West
Tilting at Windmills	34°57'S. 151°02'E.	2 NM Ahead Slightly West
Vagrant	34°50'S. 151°08'E.	5 NM Behind Slightly West

Positions/Relative  
Positions of other  
Boats of interest -

Boat	Position	Relative Position
Forzado	34°55'S. 151°01'E.	Level. Slightly West
Hogsbreath	34°56'S. 150°59'E	1 NM Ahead. Slightly West.
Jack Guy	34°54'S. 151°05'E.	1 NM Behind Slightly East
Pippla	34°54'S. 151°02'E.	1 NM Behind Slightly West
Turtan	34°54'S. 151°03'E.	1 NM Behind Slightly West

Weather Report - Issued as at 1450 on 26 December, 1998.

High near New Zealand ridging into NSW Central Coast. Slow moving Low (995 hpa) near Lord Howe Island. Cold front over Central Victoria.

Gale Warning South of Broken Bay. Storm Warning South of Merimbula.

Winds North to North East 20 to 25 kts tending briefly North to North West 15 to 20 kts ahead of a West to South West change 25 to 30 kts (with stronger gusts) expected near Jarvis Bay at about 0000 on 26-27 December, 1998.

Further change with Winds South to South West 30 to 40 kts expected later tonight off the Illawarra Coast. Swells 3 to 4 metres. Waves 1 to 2 metres.

Outlook: Winds West to North West 40 to 50 kts late Sunday (27/12/98) until Monday (28/12/98) night, then moderating.

2100: Position - 35°08'S.  
(IM) 151°00'E.  
Log - 276.3 NM  
Distance Run  
(By Log) - 9.2 NM (since 2000)  
Distance Run  
(By Chart) - 17.0 NM (since 2000)

Average Course - 173°C.  
 over Ground.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 9.2 kts.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 17.0 kts.  
 Sails - Main /  $\frac{3}{4}$  Spinnaker.  
 Comments - Almost on R.L. On Continental Shelf. Approx 10 NMS  
 South South East of Point Perpendicular.

2200: Position - 35°25'S.  
 150°42'E.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 20.0 NM (since 2100)  
 Average Course - 201°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 20.0 kts.  
 Sails - Main /  $\frac{3}{4}$  Spinnaker.  
 Comments - Approx 5 NMS West of R.L. Just inside Continental  
 Shelf. Approx 12.5 NM East South East of Warden Head  
 (Ulladulla).

2315: Position - 35°35'S.  
 150°50'E.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 11 NM  
 Average Course - 138°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 8.8 kts.  
 Sails - Main /  $\frac{3}{4}$  Spinnaker  
 Comments - Approx 5 NMS East of R.L. and approx 10 NMS East of  
 Continental Shelf.

2345: Position - 35°45'S.  
 150°45'E.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 10 NM  
 Average Course - 191°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 20 kts.  
 Sails - Main /  $\frac{3}{4}$  Spinnaker.  
 Comments - On R.L. Approx 10 NM East of Continental Shelf.

27 December, 1998 (Sunday)

0000: Position - 35°42'S.  
 150°53'E.  
 Log - 302.3 NM  
 Distance Run  
 (By Log) - 26.0 NM (since 2100 on 26/12/98).  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 33 NM (since 2100 on 26/12/98).  
 Average Course - 176°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 8.65 kts.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 11.0 kts.  
 Sails - Main /  $\frac{1}{4}$  Spinnaker. At 0100 the Spinnaker was taken  
 off and the No.3 was bent on and polled out. At 0130, 2  
 reefs were put in the Main.  
 Comments - Approx 7.5 NMS East of R.L. and approx 13 NM East of  
 Continental Shelf. Approx 37.5 NM South South East of  
 Point Perpendicular.

0300: [0305 RADIO SKED].

Position - 36°14'S.  
 150°53'E.  
 Log - 324.0 NM  
 Distance Run  
 (By Log) - 56.9 NM (since 2000 on 26/12/98).  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 80.0 NM (since 2000 on 26/12/98).  
 Average Course - 172°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 8.13 kts.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 11.43 kts.  
 Sails - Main (2 reefs) / No. 3.  
 Comments - Approx 17.5 NMS East of R.L.; 27.5 NMS East of  
 Continental Shelf and 32.5 NMS due East of Montague  
 Island.

Positions/Relative  
Positions of other  
Boats in CHS -

Boat	Position	Relative Position
Aera	36°22'S. 150°33'E	8 NM Ahead, West
B52	36°40'S. 150°37'E.	26 NM Ahead, West
Challenge Again	36°33'S. 150°33'E.	19 NM Ahead, West
Foxtal	36°41'S. 151°09'E.	27 NM Ahead, East
Hi Flyer	36°32'S. 150°31'E.	18 NM Ahead, West
Impeccable	36°09'S. 150°32'E.	5 NM Behind, West
Loki	36°20'S. 150°45'E.	6 NM Ahead, West
Ocean Design	36°36'S. 150°46'E.	22 NM Ahead, West
Sea Jay	36°24'S. 150°32'E.	10 NM Ahead, West
Tilting at Windmills	36°16'S. 150°43'E.	2 NM Ahead, West
Vagrant	35°59'S. 150°59'E.	15 NM Behind, East

Positions/Relative  
Positions of other  
Boats of interest -

Boat	Position	Relative Position
Porzudo	36°14'S. 150°53'E.	Level. Same position.
Hogsbreath	No report.	
Jack Guy	36°06'S. 150°59'E.	8 NM Behind, East.
Pippin	36°10'S. 150°43'E.	4 NM Behind, West.
Tartar	36°10'S. 150°40'E.	4 NM Behind, West.

Weather Report - Jervis Bay to Gabo Island.

A Low situated at approximately 41°S (off Eddystone Point) moving East/North East at 20 kts.

Winds West to South West 25 to 30 kts, increasing to 40 to 50 kts South of Merimbula as the Low deepens. Swells 1 to 2 metres increasing to 3 to 4 metres. Waves 2 metres.

Outlook: Next 48 hours. Winds West to South West 20 to 25 kts, moderating at night, but increasing to 35 kts near Bass Strait.



0600: Position - 36°38'S.  
 151°03'E.  
 Log - 343.7 NM.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Log) - 19.7 NM (since 0300).  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 26.0 NM (since 0300).  
 Average Course - 153°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 6.6 kts.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 8.66 kts.  
 Sails - Main (2 reefs) / No. 3.  
 Comments - Approx 30 NMS East of R.L.; 35 NMS East of Continental  
 Shelf and 55 NMS North East of Merimbula.

0815: Position - 36°55'S.  
 151°00'E.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 17.5 NM (since 0600).  
 Average Course - 168°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 7.7 kts.  
 Sails - Main (2 reefs) / No. 3.  
 Comments - Approx 32.5 NM East of R.L. and Continental Shelf. Just  
 South of due East of Merimbula.

1015: Position - 37°07'S.  
 151°02'E.  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 15.0 NM (since 0815).  
 Average Course - 167°C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 7.5 kts.  
 Sails - Main (2 reefs) / No. 3.  
 Comments - Approx 37.5 NM East of R.L. and approx 30 NM East of  
 Continental Shelf. Just South of Eden and just North of  
 Green Cape. Approx 57.5 NM North East of Gabo Island.

1200: Position - 37°20'S.  
 150°49'E.  
 Log - 385.0 NM  
 Distance Run  
 (By Log) - 41.3 NM (since 0600)

Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 42.5 NM (since 0600).  
 Average Course - 183° C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 6.88 kts.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 7.08 kts.  
 Sails - Main (2 reefs) / No. 3. At 1300 the No.3 was taken off  
 and not replaced. At 1320 the No.3 was bent on again,  
 only to be removed at 1350 and not replaced.  
 Comments - Approx 22.5 NM East of Continental Shelf and approx  
 27.5 NM East of R.L. Approx 42.5 NM North East of  
 Gabo Island.

1400: [1405 RADIO SKED].

Position - 37°29'S.  
 150°45'E.  
 Log - 396.0 NM  
 Distance Run  
 (By Log) - 72.0 NM (since 0300).  
 Distance Run  
 (By Chart) - 75.0 NM (since 0300).  
 Average Course - 172° C.  
 over Ground  
 Average Speed  
 (By Log) - 6.55 kts.  
 Average Speed  
 (By Chart) - 6.82 kts.  
 Sails - At 1400 the Main was taken off and not replaced. The  
 Storm Jib was bent on.  
 Comments - Approx 25 NM East of Continental Shelf and approx 29  
 NM East of R.L. Approx 35 NM due East of Cape Howe  
 and 40 NM East North East of Gabo Island.

Positions/Relative  
Positions of other  
Boats in CHS -

Boat	Position	Relative Position
Aura	37°55'S. 150°31'E.	26 NM Ahead, West
B52	37°57'S. 150°05'E.	28 NM Ahead, West
Challenge Again	37°55'S. 150°01'E.	26 NM Ahead, West
Footel	38°04'S. 150°56'E.	35 NM Ahead, East
Hi Flyer	37°39'S. 150°08'E.	30 NM Ahead, West
Impeccable	37°26'S. 150°04'E.	3 NM Behind, West
Loki	37°36'S. 150°25'E.	7 NM Ahead, West
Ocean Design	37°59'S. 150°21'E.	30 NM Ahead, West
Sea Jay	37°36'S. 150°26'E.	7 NM Ahead, West
Tilting at Windmills	37°39'S. 150°27'E.	10 NM Ahead, West
Vagrant	37°16'S. 150°57'E.	13 NM Behind, East

Positions/Relative  
Positions of other  
Boats of Interest -

Boat	Position	Relative Position
Forzado	No report.	-
Hogswath	37°20'S. 150°54'E.	9 NM Behind, East
Jack Guy	37°32'S. 151°01'E.	3 NM Ahead, East
Pipita	37°31'S. 150°43'E.	2 NM Ahead, West
Tartan	37°05'S. 150°03'E.	24 NM Behind, West

Weather Report -

Tasman Island reported to be NOT LIT.

Storm warning South of Merimbula.

A Low (988 hpa) centred East of Flinders Island will move to the East/South East.

Winds West to South West 25 to 35 kts (greater in the gusts) increasing to 30 to 40 kts offshore and 40 to 50 kts near the Victorian coast. Swells 1 to 2 metres increasing to 3 metres. Waves 2 to 3 metres increasing to 4 to 5 metres.

Outlook: Winds South of Merimbula easing to 25 to 35 kts early on Monday (28/12/98) morning and then easing further to 20 to 25 kts by 1200 on Monday (28/12/98). At 40°S (Flinders Island), Winds South West 30 to 35 kts, easing to 25 to 30 kts early Monday morning (28/12/98) and then easing further to 20 to 25 kts by midday. South West swell of 3 metres with 5 to 6 metre seas, slowly abating. South West Winds will moderate on Monday and Tuesday (29/12/98) and will swing to the West and then North West/South West at 10 to 15 kts on Tuesday (29/12/98), followed by North East sea breezes of 15 kts. Note: "Sword of Orion" reports it is recording gusts of 70 to 80 kts.

1515: Position - 37°40'S.  
150°40'E.

Distance Run  
(By Chart) - 12.5 NM (since 1400)

Average Course  
over Ground - 180°C.

Average Speed  
(By Chart) - 10 kts.

Sails - Storm Jib.

Comments - Approx 20 NM East of Continental Shelf and approx 30 NM East of R.L. Approx 35 NM East South East of Gabo Island.

Between 1515 and  
1730:

ABC TV Helicopter monitored on VHF Channel 16 called "*Wild Thing*". No response.

Responded to MAYDAY sent by "*VC Offshore Stand Aside*" via communications with ABC TV Helicopter. Altered course to stand by and maintained radio communications with ABC TV Helicopter on station near "*VC Offshore Stand Aside*", until a member of the crew was injured and "*Siena*" retired from the Race. With the permission of those co-ordinating the rescue of "*VC Offshore Stand Aside*", "*Siena*" motored North with the intention of seeking refuge at Eden.

Exact positions and times of response to MAYDAY and of retirement from the Race were not recorded.

Continued to monitor VHF Channel 16 and heard (but did not record time and position of) MAYDAY from "*Winston Churchill*".

Annexure:

1998 Telstra Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race Provisional Division List.