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### Introductions

- **Instructors**
  - Rod Smallman  
– [rod.smallman@orcv.org.au](mailto:rod.smallman@orcv.org.au)
- **Moderators**
  - Neville Rose
  - Paul Roberts



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### House rules & explanation

The sessions will go for approximately 2 hours including presentations, chats and exercises  
There will be a 10 min break in the middle

**Teams – protocols and tools**

- Chat bar – student participation is very much encouraged
- Moderator – might not raise a question to the presenter if they know the topic is coming up
- Raise hand
- Audio and Video selections
- Polls, Quiz's
- Select "View" & "Focus on content" will provide a better experience



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**Acknowledgements**

Australian Hydrographic Service, PredictWind.com THE WORLD LEADER, MUSTO 60 YEARS OF INNOVATION, QUANTUM SAILS THE PERFECT QUALITY, NAVIONICS A Garmin Company, ORCV

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ORCV  
Session TWO

The chart shows the Tasmanian coast with labels for The Narrows, Rocky Point, Point Lonsdale, The Flats, Great Ship Channel, and Benbow Rocks.

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**Exercise #02**

- You passed Fawcner Beacon at 10am when your GPS stopped working. You keep sailing on a reach when after 2hrs fog sets in. You weren't really keeping track
- The course you have steered, using the magnetic compass was 165 Deg
- The wind is strong, from the West (270 Deg True)
- You expect around 5 degrees leeway
- Your boat has been doing 8 knots

Where are you ?

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### Exercise #02 solution

Compass bearing (magnetic)	165 degrees
Adjust for compass variation	+11 degrees east
True direction steered	176 degrees T
West wind – adjust for leeway	-5 degrees to the east
True direction sailed (COG)	171 degrees
2 Hours at 8 Kn = around 16 nm	



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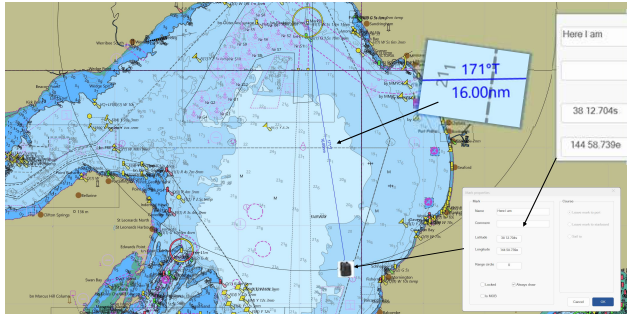
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### Exercise #02 solution



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Electronic Charts –  
Quality aspects  
by  
Mike Prince



Ocean Racing Club of Victoria (ORCV) 2025 Navigation Course



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**Introduction to  
Electronic Navigation Charts**

*Mike Prince  
National Charting Program Director  
Australian Hydrographic Office*

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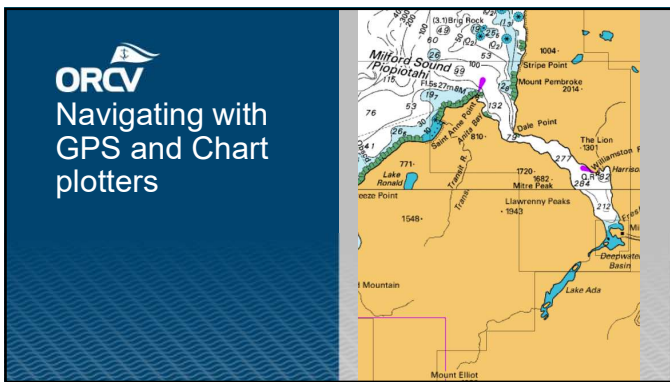
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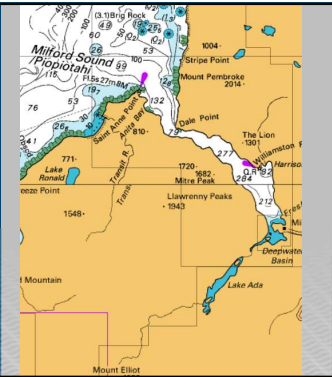
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**Navigating with  
GPS and Chart  
plotters**



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**Reliability of Information**


When you turn on your chart plotter the first thing you get is a message like this...

- This product is an aid to navigation.
- Does not replace Official Charts
- "Only official Government charts and Notices to Mariners contain all the information needed for safe navigation."

B&G are a bit more strident...

"Do not rely on this product as a source of navigation....."

Behind these messages there are some key points:



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### Reliability of Information - key points

- As we discussed last week, the charts used in chart plotters do not contain all of the information available in the Official Charts ( ENC or paper charts)
  - "zooming down" to lower levels helps BUT
  - **Zone of Confidence information not shown or used**
- **When you look at an image of your boat imposed on a chart with an apparent accuracy of just a few meters it's very easy to have a false sense of security**



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### The GPS System

- The GPS system comprises:
- 32 coordinated satellites ( though only 24 active at any one time) each orbiting Earth twice a day plus ground control stations and the user's GPS receiver.
  - Each satellite transmits a unique microwave signal including orbital parameters and very accurate time.
  - The user's GPS receiver calculates its distance from the Satellites and with a minimum of three satellites can determine its position ( at sea level!), four satellites for a 3-dimensional fix
  - The GPS receiver automatically selects the best satellites
  - Accuracy at sea level can often be as good as a few metres
  - The GPS system uses the WGS84 map datum



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### How good is your GPS?

- GPS effectively solves the problem of knowing where you are on the globe.....
- It's not infallible
  - Most boats have numerous GPS receivers on board and they may not all agree!



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### GPS – What makes the GPS position shown in your plotter inaccurate ?

- Antenna position and inability to see the satellites
- crew sitting on it
  - is it under the sail (especially a carbon sail)
  - effectiveness of antenna at severe angles of heel
- The position and number of available satellites
- User equipment failure – antennas do fail and degrade



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### GPS – Precautions

- You NEED to KNOW what your plotter does when/if the signal stops
  - Does an alarm sound ?
  - Can the skipper and crew hear the alarm when on deck
  - Does it continue with current position?
  - Does it use dead reckoning?
- Keep watch, cross check where you can
  - Depths, Light houses, transits
- Utilise HDOP & HPE (Horizontal Dilution of Precision),(Horizontal Position Error)
- Satellite tracker/map in your plotter



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### Setting up the Chart Plotter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiCeUMI1xvU>

Check all the settings – professional assistance in the initial set up may help – e.g.

- Are GPS and Chart plotter set to the same datum ?
- GPS set to degrees, minutes and decimal minutes?
- Helpful to set chart plotter and instruments to display compass True
- Include "confirming data" on Chart plotter displays - depth sounder readings displayed next to your chart are especially useful
- Ensure course over ground is displayed ... where you are going is usually more important than where you are pointing!



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### Once you're all set up....

Your instruments do all the hard work for you

- Course over ground (no need to adjust for tides and leeway)
- Bearings, distances and expected sailing time to waypoint
- Speed over ground and Boat Speed
- Velocity made good to your course (VMC)
- Boat speed vs target speeds ("polars")
- Tide levels and some tidal flow information

- .....And the list goes on



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### GPS – your settings

- How is your GPS set
  - dd mm ss
  - dd mm.mmm
  - dd.dddd

- **Question**
  - 38.29934s 144.54397e
  - 38 29.934s 144 54.397e
  - How far apart are these two positions?



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### Convert decimal degrees to decimal minutes

- To Convert Decimal Degrees 38.29934
- Multiply 0.29934 by 60 = 17.960
- Position in Degrees & Minutes is 38 deg 17.960 minutes
- To convert 144.54397
- Multiply 0.54397 by 60 = 32.638
- Position in Degrees & Minutes is 144 deg 32.638 minutes
- Via the internet <https://www.pgc.umn.edu/apps/convert/>



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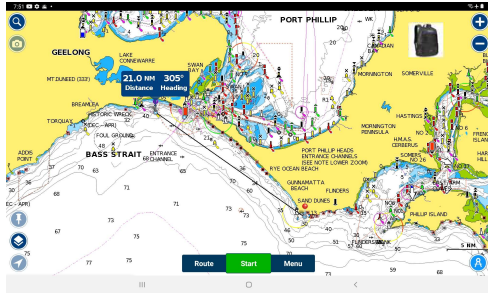
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### A 21NM difference!



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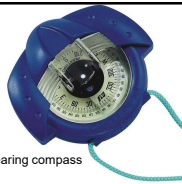
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### Quick #02



- You're somewhere in the vicinity of Port Phillip Heads in 11m of water
  - You take a bearing to the Lonsdale lighthouse of 270° on your hand bearing compass
  - You see a white isophasing light just to the left of the Hume Tower
- 
- What is your position in Lat/Long in DD mm?
  - What is the light & why?
  - What would your bearing be to the light off your hand compass?



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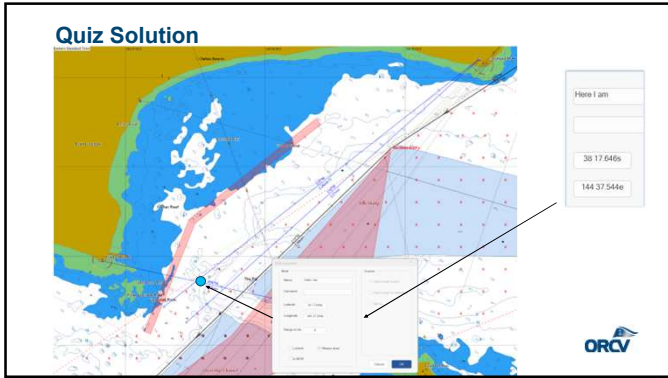
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### Quiz Solution



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### Compass Variation (Declination)

- If your instrument settings are TRUE make sure you are fully aware of the difference between your instruments and your wet compass



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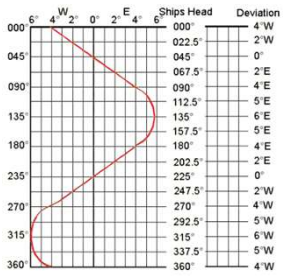
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### Compass Deviation

Compass deviation is another magnetic error affecting the steering compass. Variation is a magnetic interference common to all vessels. **Deviation is a magnetic interference unique to the vessel itself.**

The term 'deviation' is used to describe the effect of interference from magnetic fields created by the vessel's own equipment. This can be from things such as batteries, large metal objects like the engine, speakers, VHF radios etc.



Ships Head	Deviation
000°	4° W
022.5°	2° W
045°	0°
067.5°	2° E
090°	4° E
112.5°	5° E
135°	6° E
157.5°	5° E
180°	4° E
202.5°	2° E
225°	0°
247.5°	2° W
270°	4° W
292.5°	5° W
315°	6° W
337.5°	5° W
360°	4° W

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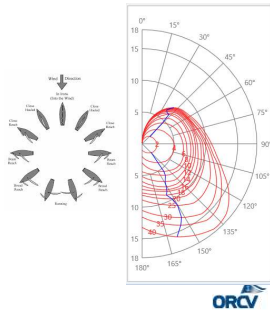
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### Predicting boat speed

- Every yacht is different, you should know approx. Your boat speed at various wind angles and wind strengths
- This can be represented on polar diagrams or tables
- If you don't have one, start a diary and create your own
- Most current chart plotters include "polar diagrams" for select yachts and will generate target speeds at measured wind strengths and angles.
- This "polar data" is the basis for weather routing.




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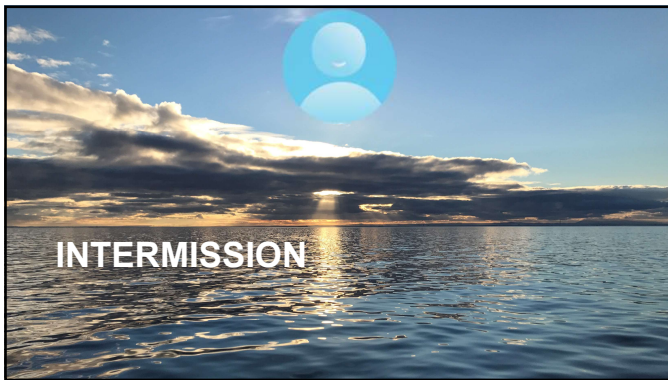
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### Exercise #03 Navionics Exercise

- Plot a course from the exit of the Martha Cove Marina at Safety Beach to the entrance of the Queenscliff Cut ( use the automatic course option)
- Any shallow water issues we need to keep an eye on?
- What are the key marks we will encounter on the passage?
- Are there any conventions we will need to obey along the way?
- What is the key danger?




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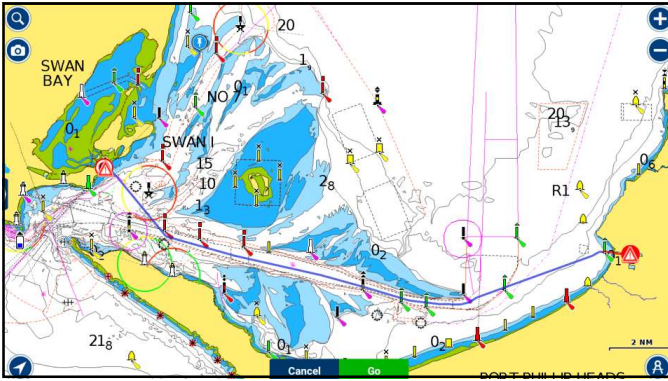
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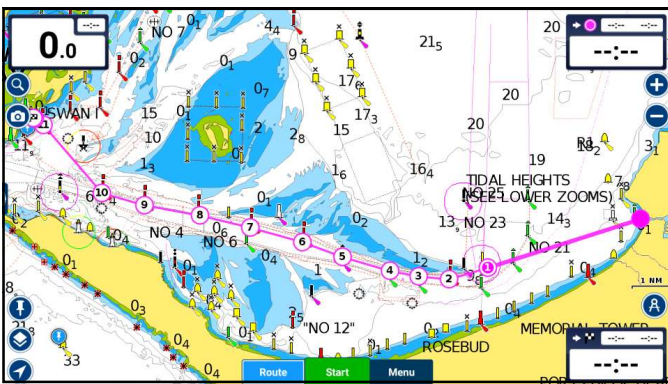
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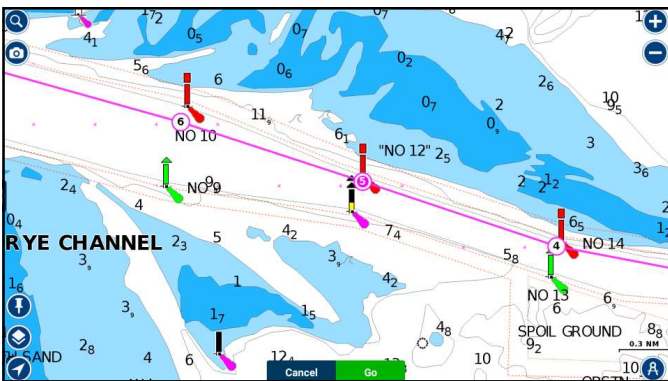
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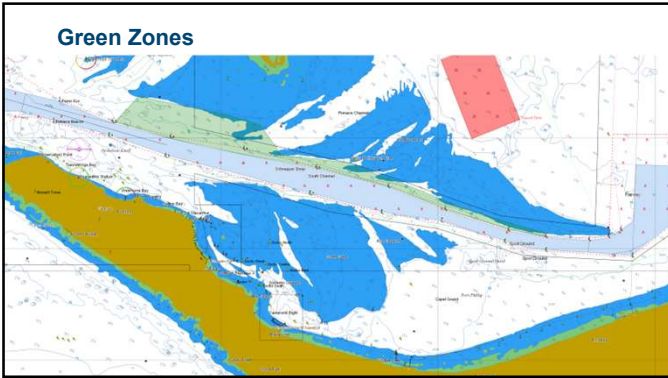
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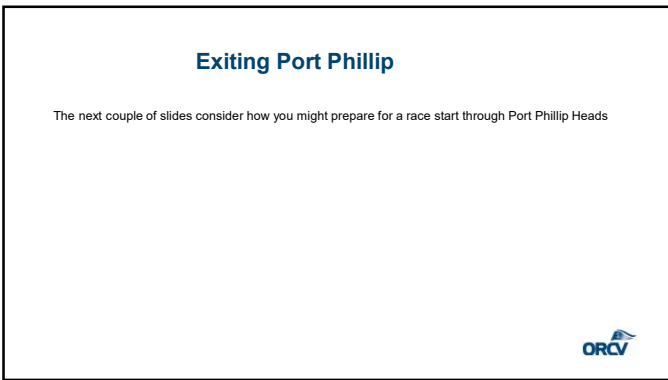
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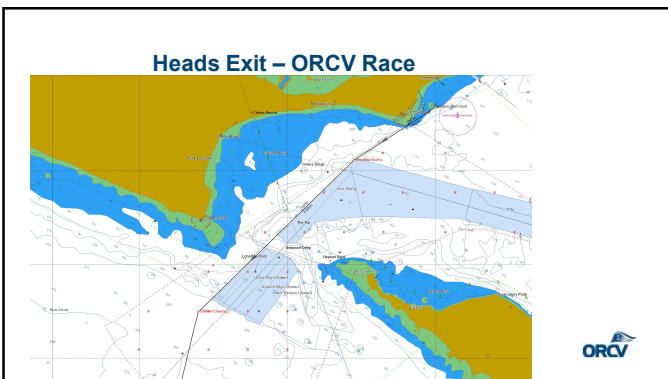
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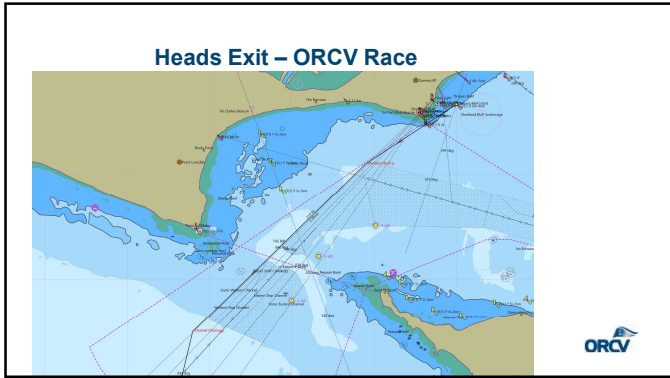
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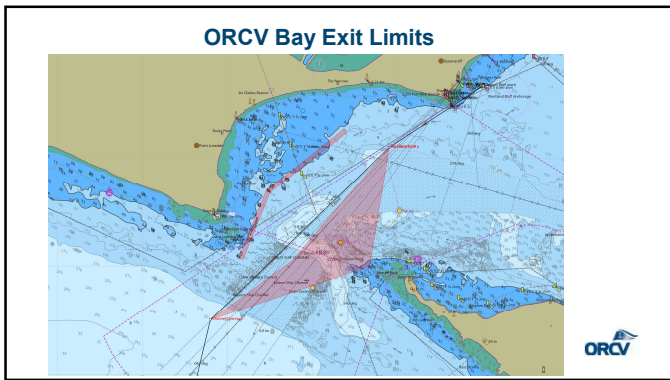
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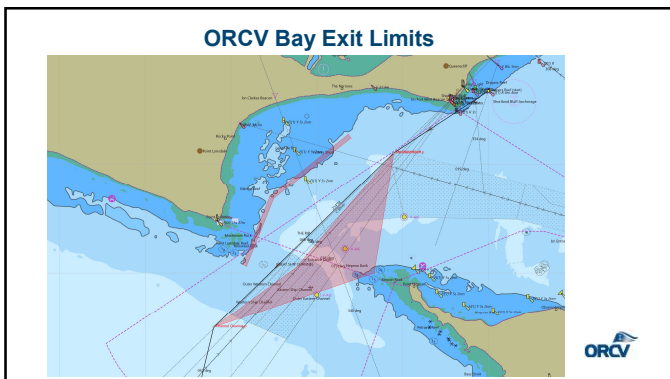
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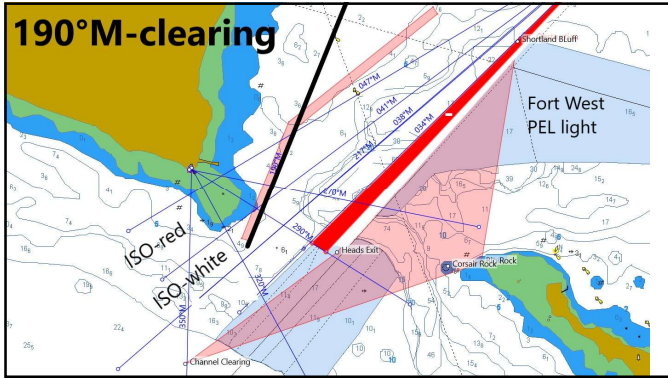
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**Exercise #04 – Heads Exit**

- What is the bearing from sea of the Clark's Beacon and Marcus Hill transit on the chart? What does it indicate?
- What would be the bearing when viewed from the land?
- What lights are displayed by the three beacons on Victory Shoal?
- What is the distance between the ORCV Heads Exclusion Zone and the 5m line of Lonsdale platform?





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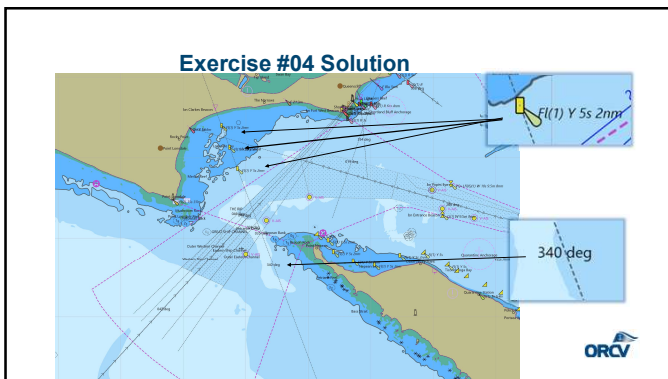
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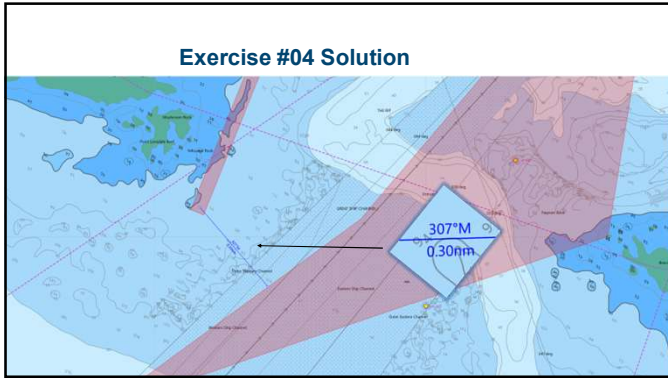
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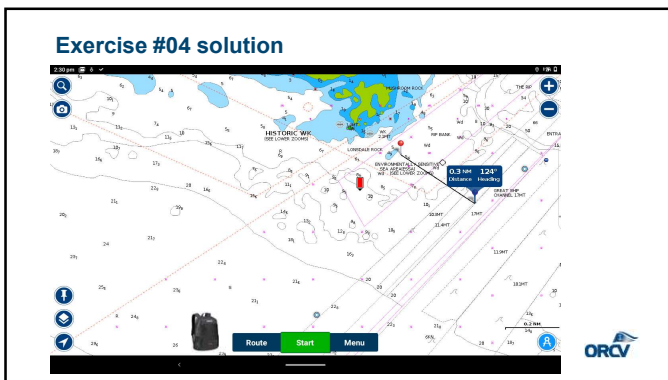
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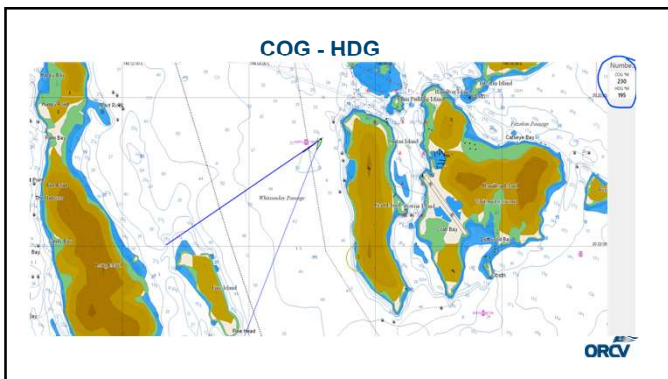
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### Quiz #03 Time – Distance Exercises

- I am travelling at 6 knots. How far will I go in 36 minutes?
- It is 10.00am and the start line for the race is 5 nm away. What speed do I need to motor/sail to arrive by 10.50am?
- I am located at Mornington Pier. I wish to meet another boat at Fawkner Beacon at noon. What time do I need to leave if I think I can travel at 6.5knots



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### Answers

- Speed is distance /time. Distance is 6\*(36/60) = 3.6NM
- 50 minutes is 50/60 hours, Speed=Distance /Time, speed = 5NM/ (50/60) hours = 6 knots
- Distance to Fawkner Beacon from Mornington Pier is 16.6NM. Speed is Distance/Time so Time= Distance/Speed, the time at 6.5knots is 16.6/6.5=2.55 hours= 2 hours 33 minutes, leave at about 9.30am



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### Automatic Identification System (AIS)

- What is AIS? (compulsory Cat 1 & 2 races)
- Automatic tracking system
- Identifies & locates vessels by electronically exchanging data with other nearby ships and AIS Base stations
- Class A and B (smaller vessels)
- Vessels continually transmit their ID, position, course, speed and other data by VHF.
- Receivers only and transceivers



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### AIS - Overview

Unlike radar and other aids to navigation, the AIS systems do not need to have visual line-of-sight to share this information.

- Yachts reliant of VHF coverage – ship to ship or ship to station

Benefits of AIS

- Collision avoidance
- Aid to Navigation
- Identify other vessels
- AIS MOB device

Beware of "old" positions



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### AIS - Features

- Networked AIS displays show vessel positions across the world (marinetraffic.com)



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### Collision Avoidance

Vessel details, position, course & speed shown on chart plotters

Chart plotters can be interrogated to find:-

- Whether boats on collision course
- Passing distance
- When closest passing distance will be reached.

Can be linked to alarms



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### AIS Additional Features

AIS AtoN - transmitting position and status of buoys and lights, which can then show up on an electronic chart, display or radar

Synthetic AIS. Transmitter is located near – but **not on** the object of interest – such as submerged rock

AIS received by satellites to give extended reception of the VHF signal - even when out at sea



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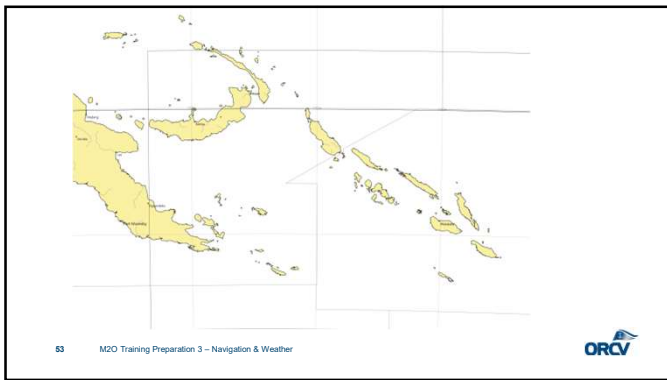
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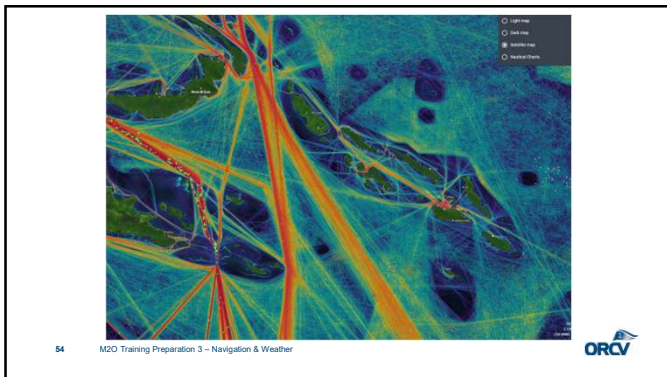
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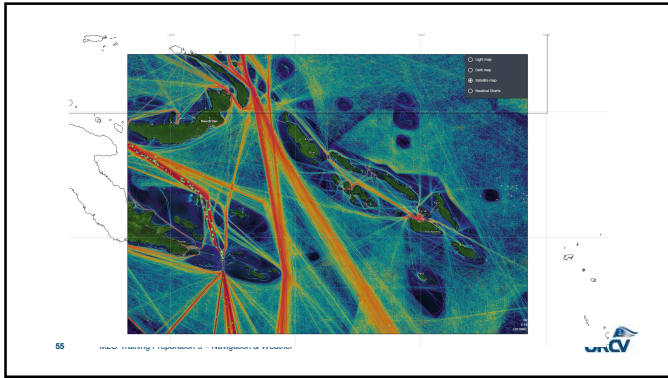
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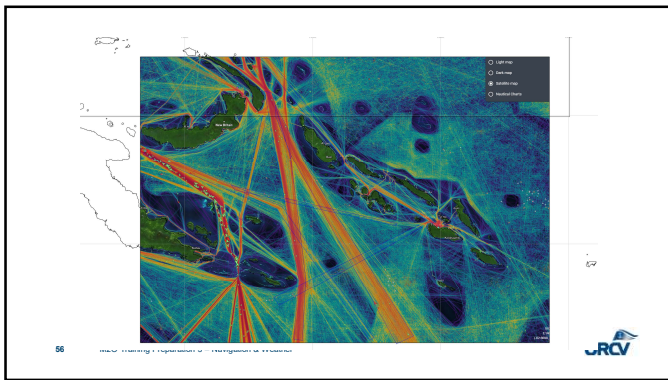
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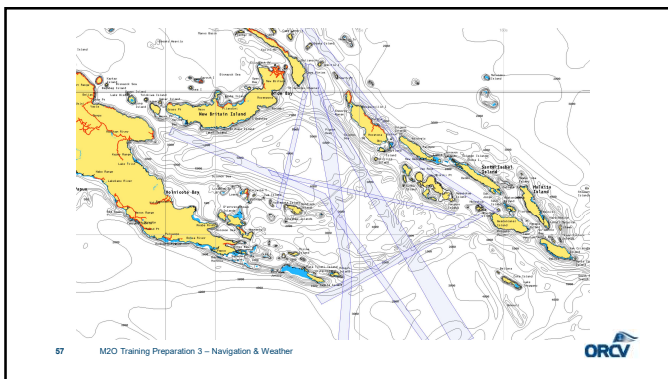
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### Key points

- Everyone on a boat should take an interest in navigation
- There should be redundancy – in equipment and people
- There should be a plan, made well before the trip, including plan B catering to “what if”
- Don't blindly rely on technology, use your observations
- Be conservative !!

**Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance**



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### Passage / Race Planning

Your passage should be a confirmation of what you have already planned.....

- Estimated times along the route
- Conditions to expect
- Dangers & potential dangers

Include contingencies for unplanned events ....what if

- I need a bolt hole ?
- I break a rudder ?
- I need medical assistance?



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**Observations**

- Things to note on plan:-
  - Expected sighting of shore line changes (e.g. a headland)
  - Navigation markers
  - Lights and beacons
  - Significant chart features – oil rigs
  - Depth changes
  - Shoaling Water
  - Consider writing them down
    - In your logbook




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# Red Zones

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**What makes a Red Zone Red ?????**

- Potential outcomes if you get it wrong
- Likelihood of getting it wrong..
  - Crew fatigue, especially the helm and navigator
  - Weather - visibility, difficult conditions
  - Tides – possibility of rips, breaking waves
  - Inherent difficulty..... navigation lights and shore lights, condition of leads
  - Been there before ??..... do you know what the entrance looks like in the dark ?
  - Reliability of charts
  - Shipping, fishing boats, cray pots



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### Red Zone Procedures – some general rules

- Identify likely red zones when you do your trip plan....
  - Awareness matters – discuss with crew, watch leaders and both navigators
- One person steering... not steering and navigating
  - Nav Person ..... not down below
  - Lookouts
  - Protect night vision – of skipper and lookouts
- Ensure you have boat under proper control before entering red zone
  - Know the limitations of the boat and crew in the conditions you could expect to experience



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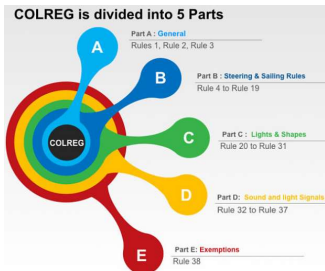
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### COLREGS

- Know and follow the rules
- Maintain a proper lookout (windward and leeward)
- Travel at a safe speed
- Allow for the actions of others, both reasonable and unreasonable.
- Know how to recognise lights of ships
- Knowledge of the Col Regs



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Available on the **App Store** and **Google play**



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### Further Exercises

- Exercise #05 – Port Arlington – Cole Channel Beacon
- Exercise #06 – Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron (BYS) – Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club (QCYC)
- Exercise #07 – Return trip from Hobart – Melbourne
- Exercise #08 – Fastnet



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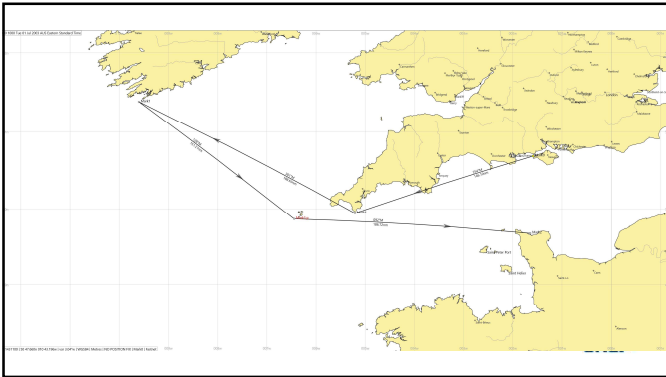
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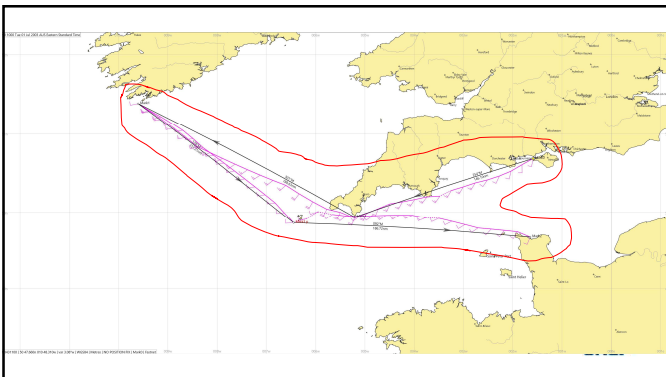
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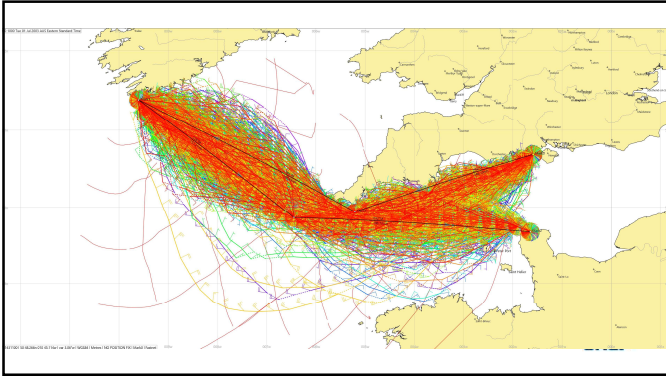
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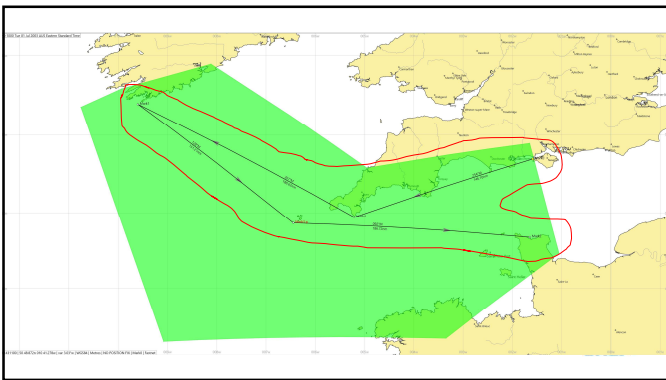
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hours	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150		balls	Hours	%
34																
32	0.00	0.00						0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2.92	2.0
30	0.01	0.01	0.00					0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	28.19	26.3
28	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.36	0.4
26	0.12	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.10	0.18	0.87	0.87	0.87	3.06	3
24	0.21	0.16	0.11	0.08	0.12	0.18	0.11	0.11	0.15	0.12	0.18	0.26	1.76	1.74	24.67	24.6
22	0.42	0.23	0.14	0.11	0.09	0.14	0.14	0.22	0.23	0.24	0.18	0.40	2.65	2.64	4.84	4.8
20	0.68	0.33	0.23	0.17	0.12	0.28	0.18	0.29	0.24	0.28	0.31	0.85	3.94	3.93	8.56	8.6
18	1.44	0.56	0.38	0.29	0.18	0.28	0.22	0.32	0.37	0.42	0.53	1.18	6.38	6.33	17.99	17.9
16	2.11	0.72	0.47	0.39	0.30	0.21	0.26	0.44	0.48	0.56	0.75	1.89	8.59	8.57	1.28	1.3
14	3.79	1.39	0.66	0.44	0.41	0.30	0.37	0.41	0.51	0.53	1.25	3.32	13.14	13.10		
12	6.43	1.98	0.99	0.52	0.49	0.40	0.51	0.51	0.56	0.74	1.42	3.25	19.89	19.83		
10	5.26	1.38	1.12	0.62	0.51	0.47	0.56	0.72	0.63	0.93	1.54	2.33	16.07	16.03		
8	3.99	1.08	0.95	0.67	0.51	0.41	0.57	0.78	0.78	2.02	0.79	12.99	12.89			
6	2.79	0.71	0.62	0.60	0.55	0.51	0.56	0.61	0.77	0.71	2.00	10.21	10.19			
4	0.93	1.01	0.28	0.25	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.37	0.34	0.32	1.28	5.80	5.78			
2		1.17	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.11		2.81	2.81			
?	25.75	10.21	6.10	4.30	3.78	3.62	3.89	4.58	5.19	6.40	11.94	14.10	100.24			
	25.69%	10.18%	6.08%	4.29%	3.75%	3.61%	3.88%	4.97%	5.18%	6.39%	11.91%	14.07%				

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### Key Take Home Messages

- Paper Charts have given way to electronic charts
- Only ENC's are the official charts
- No charts are perfect! Zones of Confidence always need to be considered
- GPS, plotters and AIS are great aids to navigation but need to be set up correctly and constantly monitored
- Plan routes well in advance to identify potential hazards
- Crew vigilance is critical in addition to instrumentation
- Risk management – What could go wrong and how would we cope?



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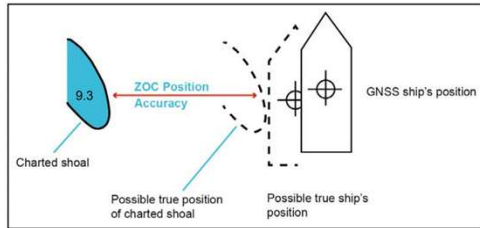
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### ZOC Zones of Confidence



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### Fundamentals of Navigation - Student Resources

Join the Instructor lead session - [click here](#)  
We look forward to you joining us online. To join please click on the above Teams Link, which will be open 30 mins ahead of the training session.

#### Pre Learning

To maximize learning and provide more comprehensive content, we have redesigned the course by providing you course and pre-learning content.  
The key content item is 'Navigation Foundations', a short 30min e-learning module designed to bring all participants up to a baseline level of navigation knowledge. Our instructor led online training sessions will assume this knowledge as we move into more intermediate and advanced content. You may already know this content, so feel free to skip through it if you wish. If not, please work through and watch the embedded videos and listen to the content. Come back with any questions in the first 15 minutes we discuss. We hope it proves enjoyable and informative. Be on the lookout for an email from [info@oceanracingclub.com](mailto:info@oceanracingclub.com) which has your sign and will forward you to this content. Email [training@oceanracingclub.com](mailto:training@oceanracingclub.com) if you can't locate this page.



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**Rip Tour of Port Phillip Heads**  
 Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026



Informative, truly educational and a great day out.  
 Bookings essential



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**ORCV**

**Bowman Course**  
 Master the Pointy End

eLearning +  
 Practical day August 10th

Under 25, ask your club about the  
 ORCV Club Support Program

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**ORCV**

**Safety & Sea Survival Course**  
 Full or Refresher Course

Online Theory & 1 Day in person for practicals



Learn: Yacht & Crew Prep, Racing, Weather, Avoiding and Handling Emergencies

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### Interact with Us

Train	Race	Volunteer
 <p>Navigation On Water Rip Tour Weather Foredeck Essentials</p>	 <p>Destination Races to: Devonport, King Island, Hobart Apollo Bay, Port Fairy, Coastal Sprints</p>	 <p>Support Many Roles Race Management, Media, Training Support, Mentoring</p>

ORCV

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### What we want you to do before the Q&A



Complete the major exercise using your electronic charting software  
Email training @orcv.org.au  
A written Voyage plan  
Screen captures of your electronic route  
A GPX file of your routes

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### What we want you to do before the Q&A



It would be great to know what you're asking beforehand so that we can prepare better for your questions.  
Any questions sent to [training@orcv.org.au](mailto:training@orcv.org.au) beforehand will head the queue.

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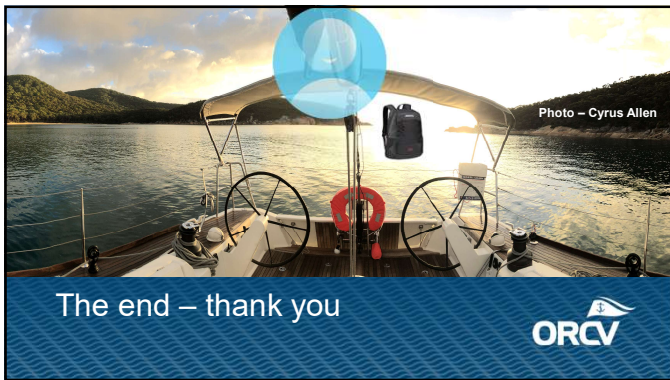
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