

The following details are an outline plan for the Round French Island sail next weekend, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January. The weather forecast at this stage looks good. All three forecasts that are commonly available agree and are favourable – the possibility of drizzle or an occasional shower on Saturday morning, with a southerly wind of 10 to 15 kts. Sunday is forecast to be overcast or sunny, with a SE wind at about 10kts and moving to the E later in the day.

### **Outline plan**

After leaving Yaringa at midday we will sail roughly East, keeping Joes Island on the port side, and sail towards the entrance to Boulton Channel, which is at approximately S 38° 16.5" E 145° 24.0". (Note: the final digit in the lat/long coordinate pairs is a decimal fraction of a minute of arc, not seconds of arc. The lat/long data were all taken from Google Maps and are subject to verification on this weekend cruise. Note also that one minute of arc is about one mile, so, a final decimal figure of .1 indicates 1/10 of a mile, or about 150m. This accuracy is adequate for this trip as visual markers are available at most waypoints.) This first leg will be a total distance of about eight miles. Following east along the Boulton Channel we will sail just under three miles to the South Cardinal mark at the head of the Channel (S 38° 16.5" E 145° 27.4") on a bearing of about 72° Mag. On a clear day this mark is visible from a distance of about half a mile. At this point we will change course and sail approximately SE for about six miles on a bearing of about 135 Mag towards Spit Point. If the visibility is good, we will be able to use the shallow triangular shape of a sand quarry in the hills behind Grantville as a transit mark. As we sail this leg we will pass over the Hump, which, at about 1.7m, will be the shallowest water depth for the weekend, not counting deliberate or accidental groundings! On this leg, fishermen's shacks on the Lang Lang foreshore beach and the red cliffs of Jam Jerrup will be visible on our port side. The lat/long data for the waypoint, which is about half a mile past Spit Point, is S 38° 21.7" E 145° 30.5". Once we are past Spit Point we will change course and sail approximately SSW to the next waypoint which is in open water at S 38° 41.0" E 145° 27.9". This leg, which is approximately four miles, will keep us clear of a mud shoal that runs almost due S from Spit Point. We will then turn towards the West and sail about three miles towards an open water waypoint at S 38° 22.2" E 145° 26.6". Near this point we should see a port pile mark, which we will keep to port as we sail towards the McLeod beach. Those boats that will be beaching for the night will have the opportunity to seek a clear sandy bottom. Our arrival time at McLeod beach should be about 7pm. (The sun should set a little after 8:30pm.) The tide will be about one hour into the ebb at this time. The high tide on Sunday morning will be at about 6am and will be higher than the high tide on Saturday night.

If contrary wind and tides look likely to delay our arrival at MacLeod's beach, we will have to resort to motor cruising for part of the trip.

On Sunday, all the course legs will be sailed using visual and familiar reference markers. On Sunday morning we will sail off the beach approximately SW keeping close to the French Island shore and well to the port side of the four port pile markers. We will then sail between French Island and a starboard mark at Schnapper Rock, keeping the starboard mark to port. (Why is this so? It is because the starboard mark is for vessels entering the East Arm of Western Port sailing N or NE.) The water is likely to be turbulent for a couple of hundred metres as we pass Schnapper Rock. We will continue to sail approximately SW, keeping Elizabeth Bluff and the Elizabeth Island on our starboard side. Once past Elizabeth Island the homes on the hills above Rhyll will become visible at about four miles distance, at a bearing of SW. We plan to stop at Rhyll for an early lunch, then sail back to Yaringa passing Tortoise Head Bluff on the starboard side, then sailing up the Middle Spit Channel, returning to Yaringa late afternoon.