6th January 1990 – Day 14

We are racing a high pressure system. In the early evening we spotted land ahead – New Zealand! If only we can hold on. We managed to reach with the spinnaker. At 2000 we rounded Cape Reinga at the tip of New Zealand: Just about 200 miles left. We went quite close into land which could have been a stupid thing to do as we may have lost the wind. But we have a secret weapon on board with local knowledge – Mandi!

We have been pottering along to the North Cape right under the cliffs. Just as we did on Atlantic Privateer 4 years ago. We came round at 1000 and we could see Creightons coming in. L'Esprit were 9 miles behind us, Schlussel were 13 and Rucanor 30 miles behind. Everybody kept coming on deck and looking astern – it is almost as if we are sailing backwards, at least by the direction in which everyone is looking! It is amazing that 4 years ago I was on the first boat to ever finish only 6 minutes ahead of the boat which came second – NZI Enterprise and yet here I am again!