

24th December 1989 - Day 1 34' 47" S 115' 34" E

The electronic compass is 10 degrees out. The radar was quite iffy as we went round Cape Naturaliste. To tell the truth I have hardly been more frightened than going round this Cape. I couldn't get a great Sat Nav fix. The reefs around this Cape are horrid and we are really close in at the moment to get the best wind. Keeping an eye on the charts. The wind then dropped and it eventually came aft.

We came around Cap Leeuwin at 0800 and missed the chat show. Schlussel was top port and losing ground to us. The appeared to have stopped in the night; we did actually wonder if they had hit the reefs. We are all pretty close in. The weather was cloudy in the morning. In the evening I changed course to a more southerly route to get the wind and to cover Rucanor and L'Esprit.

This is such a weird leg; the girls are already asking me 'are we there yet'! The leg is so short it almost feels like a delivery to get her to NZ for the real leg into the Southern Ocean again. We really want to get stuck into it again and get going. Even I am feeling a bit like this. It's going to be difficult to stay motivated and keep boat speed up.

