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WEATHER FOR SAILORS

MODULE 3 - TRANS OCEANIC (COURSE NOTES) SESSION 1 AND 2

OCEAN RACING CLUB OF VICTORIA







Your Instructors and Moderators







Robin Hewitt

Neville Rose



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- Weather awareness
- Contingency plans







ORCV Warm Front At a Warm Front, a slowly moving warm air mass collides with a slowly moving cold air mass. Because cold air is denser than warm air, the warm air rises over the cold air. Clouds, storms and rain often accompany warm fronts. If the warm air is diry, scattered douds form. If the warm air is hurrid, showers and light rain fall along the front where the warm and cold air meet. Because warm fronts move more slowly than cold fronts, the weather may be rainy or foggy for several days. 5













Same thing ... different names









































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SE Trade Winds Strongest in Australia April to September when ITCZ has shifted to Northern Hemisphere. El Nino weaker, La Nina Stronger Diagram is season neutral

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Planning tools.

- Ocean Passages of the world
- Admiralty pilots
- Climatology of global ocean winds
- http://cioss.coas.oregonstate.edu/cogow

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Bathymetry

- Which way to go?
- Big wide ocean!
 No!-Undersea mountains
- Undersea valleys
- Rifts
- Reefs
- Currents follow features

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Australian currents-Red is surface























 About Windy Currents
 Forecast model: NESDIS 22km Provider: NOAA
 Updated Updated
 Updated
 Updated
 Surface sea currents as estimated for actual time. Close to the shoreline, the actual value is influenced by the shoreline and the sea bottom. Also the actual value is a unrents on the surface can be influenced by wind.

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Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and the tropics

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Questions ?

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SAILORS

OCEAN RACING CLUB OF VICTORIA

WEATHER FOR

MODULE 3 - TRANS OCEANIC (COURSE NOTES) SESSION 2















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La Nina – Weather Influences

- Trade Winds are strengthened
- Cyclone potential more in SH eg. Yasi, also high in Northern Hemisphere.

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- Low pressure 'troughy' weather can persist on eastern seaboard – high rainfall, unstable weather i.e. Qld Floods 2011
- Higher East Coast Low potential

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Questions ? ORCV



















Northern Territory at 18^o S lat.









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MJO – Weather Influence

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Phases 5-7 of most interest for eastern seaboard/SW Pacific sailors

- More difficult (more thunderstorms), flukier winds if crossing ITCZ (i.e. Osaka Race)
- Assist cyclone development in Coral Sea
- Assist El Nino sending Kelvin waves west March 2015
 example
- Not just tropics Phases 5-6 can weaken subtropical High over continent, westerly band can move up over SE Australia

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Streamline features

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Muthill Howit Child Howit Coolung Provin History Howit	Streamline Analysis SYMBOLS & TEST CHART NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HONOLULU HAWAII KVM-70 RADIO FACSIMILE BROAD		CEAN I MANNES
And A		Construction C	Note Circulation Symbols NH & SH



























































After landfall, converted to an extratropical cyclone and proceeded to NZ

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Phillipines PAGASA's Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals (TCWS) ²⁰⁽²⁰⁾		America		
		New Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale		
Warning Signal	Meaning	DESIGNATION:	WIND SPEED:	
ICWS #1	winds of 30-60 km/h (20-37 mph)	Tropical Depression	38 mph or less	
are prevaling or expect	are prevaiing or expected to occur within as nouve	Tropical Storm	39 - 73 mph	
TCWS #2	pre-prevailing or expected to occur within 24 hours	Category 1	74 - 95 mph	
TCWS #3	winds of 121-170 km/h (74-105 mph) are prevailing or expected to occur within 18 hours	Category 2	96 - 110 mph	
TOWS	wands of 171-220 km/b (106-137 mph)	Category 3	111 - 129 mph	
ICHOR	are prevailing or expected to occur within 12 hours	Category 4	130 - 156 mph	
TCWS #5	winds greater than 220 km/h (137 mph) are prevaiing or expected to occur within 12 hours	Category 5	157 mph or greater	

























































































Upper Blocking Pattern Upper Vinds 'S' Blocks Passage of Upper Trongha

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Brisbane/Auckland to Noumea Race June 2012 - tale of two fleets - Tasman low pressure system

- Brisbane fleet dream downwind run
- Auckland fleet relentless bash to windward



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Routing Software

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- Use of GRIB (Gridded Binary) files overlaid on electronic charts, eg.
 - Expedition navigation software
 - PredictWind GRIB
- Download pre-race ashore and update during race/cruise as internet connection(s) allow

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Contingency plans

Possible difficulties

- Cyclones
- East Coast Lows
- Persistent (adverse) patterns

System avoidance, passage comfort, adjusting passage plans, use of sea room.

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ORCV is dedicated to promoting ocean sailing, growing its participation, providing sea safety programs and value to our members.

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