

Auckland to Noumea Ocean Race 2009.

Press Release 27/6/2009.

The Auckland to Noumea Ocean Race is underway, with an unusual Auckland fog lifting just before the start.

A dense fog has surround Auckland and the Waitemata harbour all day, which lifted just before the start of the 2009 Ocean Race, just in time for both the Race Committee onboard HMNZS Resolution and the competitors to make out the entire start line.

It must of been arranged for the fleet from someone above, as shortly after the start, the fog set back in again with only 200 – 300m visibility. This plus a light breeze meant that smart sailing was in aide after the start if you wanted to get into a good position, and Route 66 the smallest boat in the fleet had done very well to be in the front half of the fleet just 3 hours after the start.

REV'S the Ross 40 from Opuia had a 'blinder' of a start and was leading the fleet past Rangitoto Light. But at 1715hours, without knowing where Limit is due to the tracker not switched on yet, V5 is well ahead with Lion NZ in second currently, and Bare Essentials in third.

Live Tracking which can be accessed through www.rayc.org.nz updates each yachts positions every 15 – 20 minutes, along with their current speeds. Messages from the yachts competing will also be updated on this website, along with the predicted results and time of finishing after each radio schedule at 0640hours and 1840hours every day.

Current News From the Fleet:

1633hours - Saturday 27 June, 2009

Lagoon Ozone - " It's gone very light out here, but the fog has lifted, and we can see Bird on the Wing and Mustang Sally behind us, REV's is having a blinder! Lion is just in front."

1600hours - Saturday 27 June, 2009

Route 66 - " we are drifting along quite nicely in about 1 or 2 knots of breeze, can't see any boats around us, except Limit a short while ago who we are now ahead of"

1522hours - Saturday 27 June, 2009

Lagoon Ozone - 'Well after a conservative start, we are now back in the games, everyone has their big kite's up and battling to get depth with 2 knots of wind speed. We had good visability for 20 minutes off rangi light, but now it's down to 300m, all pretty close out here.'

1400hours - Saturday 27 June, 2009

The fog lifted in time for start to get underway, all lining up in a light breeze, V5 in clear air by the HMNZS Resolution, and Route 66 the smallest boat in the fleet getting a good start at the other end.

After about 10 minutes or so of sailing the fog came back in, with a large container ship looming that no one could see, but could certainly hear the fleet were set off towards rangi light, with no more than 200 m of visibility.