

Friday, November 22. 2013

Fiji to NZ - Almost there

Saturday, 2013-11-23, 05:05, 34:19.925S 174:33.349E, COG 202, SOG 6kn, Wind 20kn SE

Almost there, only 55nm to the entrance to the Bay of Islands and then 10nm more through the bay past Russell and Paihia to Opuia, the official port of entry. The way it's going at the moment we should be there in 10-11 hours = 4pm. That would be just 30min short of 7 days, I'd like that.

Only little has changed since yesterday but they make a difference. The wind's the same but the sea is a little calmer and we have less water coming over. Rob spend a few hours in the cockpit yesterday watching seabirds. We have no more water coming dripping the companionway and the inside of the boat is clean and dry again " I cannot say how much that adds to the comfort level.

The stars came out again last night and Rob had a long look from the companionway, but decided that it's too cold to lie down in the cockpit and gaze up at them. After sweltering hot nights in Fiji this here sure feels like we're almost in the Antarctic. I also only climb out to work the sails and have a good look around every 30-45 minutes. More often now that we're getting closer to shore. Another few miles and we have to look out permanently, but at the moment we're still far out of sight of land.

At 1am we passed another sailboat. It was on a heading of 60 or so, trying to make some way towards east. Very painful, I'm very glad we choose early to make east and can now use that capital. Again "Beginning with the end in mind" has paid off for us and we could avoid getting stuck in an uncomfortable situation (Thanks Dad for your lessons). Rob thinks this is all rather uncomfortable, but when I hear my friend's stories of their passages to NZ I think we got off very easy. One tack all the way, not becalmed, no storm, no high seas, little rain, medium winds (more or less). A bit bumpy and wet but hey, that's all part of the experience.

Thanks Ruth for the phone number of the customs guy. My brother and Liz both forwarded me your comment to the blog, which I cannot read at sea. Thanks Ralf and Liz .

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 10:53