

Queen's Birthday Storm

June 1994

Jacaranda departed Bay of Islands in New Zealand the same day that the large rally left. We were on our way to Tonga with an excellent forecast that we waited for almost 3 weeks to arrive. Pushing hard right out of the gate to get north in reaching conditions flying our new #5 jib with no main. We made hull speed for the next few days. It was wet and cold with lots of water coming on deck.

Forecasting before the internet was not as accurate as it is now days. Checking into the HAM radio net run by Arnold in Rarotonga we were warned about a deepening low pressure system to the north of us. With no where to hide and unable to make enough miles to get around the storm we pushed on. Finally resorting to a tiny storm jib. We continued to sail trying to keep the boat moving in terrible conditions. The following is a NZ documentary they made about the storm and the rescues.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rx9A-tjJMR0&t=13s>