

## Recent picture of Simon

Friday, 12 June 2009

(Not for the faint hearted)

A ready made blog today, courtesy of the Desiderata (I am sure that they will not mind, especially if I give their excellent website a plug <http://blog.mailasail.com/desi/23>) Eventful day for Desiderata and her crew, with the addition of Simon Prior as a crew member of Desiderata yesterday for the remainder of the voyage our plans took a shift today, we had enough fuel to sustain for 20 more days with an additional reserve of 15 days thereafter, the initial plan was to head for Mauritius and refuel before rejoining the fleet. Woodvale race office UK liased with RCC Canberra resulting in a rendezvous at sea with HMAS Toowoomba. We took on additional fuel and fresh supplies and enjoyed a couple of hours liberty aboard one of the Australian navys finest and most impressive warships. The whole crew and officers of Toowoomba made a great effort to make us feel comfortable and welcome for the duration of our visit and showed great interest in the rowing race and voyage itself. We were treated to hot showers and fresh food and enjoyed a tour of the ship. Simon was given a medical examination after his 55 day ordeal and apart from one or two issues was given a clean bill of health. We are now back aboard Desiderata and continuing with our own voyage after waving farewell to Toowoomba who we would like to express our gratitude and warmest thanks too. As a postcript, Simon's weight had dropped from his normal 83 kg which had risen to 93 kg before starting to just 77 kg (73 kg minus the beard). Now that they no longer have to return for fuel, Simon is likely to remain at sea for another 4 weeks.