

26000 Vodka the Exclusive Vodka and a major Corporate Sponsor of the 2009 Millennium Cup Superyacht Regatta in Auckland

NZ Millennium Cup Pacific Series a great success

With the sailing races contested with great enthusiasm and an equal passion demonstrated for the night-time entertainment, everyone involved in the recently-completed New Zealand Millennium Cup Pacific Series in Auckland said it was a thoroughly enjoyable regatta.

“The main purpose of the Millennium Cup superyacht regatta is to profile the New Zealand marine sector and its very strong links to international markets, such as the luxury superyacht market where several New Zealand companies feature strongly as world-class designers and manufacturers,” says Mark Wightman, chairman of NZ Marine which developed and organises the Millennium Cup. “The event also highlights New Zealand as a yachting destination for international sailors.”

The Millennium Cup was first sailed in Auckland in 2000 between the Louis Vuitton Series and America’s Cup events as an exciting way for New Zealand to host many influential people in the superyacht industry. The regatta was contested in Auckland again in 2003, and then followed the America’s Cup to Spain in 2007 where a one-day regatta was sailed off Palma de Mallorca.

This year the Millennium Cup Pacific Series was again linked to the Louis Vuitton Pacific Series with organisers having just four months to put the event together.

The three-day regatta ran from 9 to 11 February and having won three of the four races, the crew of 33.8m sailing yacht (SY) Silvertip now happily holds the Millennium Cup until such time as the regatta is next run; this timing is dependent on when the next America’s Cup regatta is sailed.

“On the waters of Auckland Harbour you could not have asked for better sailing from the Millennium Cup entrants,” says Wightman. “Each of the three courses was very different. Out around the Hauraki Gulf islands of Tiri Tiri Matangi and Rakino, then back to Takapuna beach on the first day for Alloy Yachts race one, and then the Robinson Marine Interiors-sponsored close-hauled inner harbour race was sailed on day two. Wednesday’s races followed a short triangular course off Takapuna beach, with Fitzroy Yachts race three in the morning, then Southern Spars race four to complete the regatta.”

The race courses were developed by Millennium Cup organisers and officials from the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron who administered the IRC handicap system and ran each of the races.

Each of the six entrants were allocated a start time based on their IRC rating, which saw the smallest of the division one competitors, 32m SY Naos the first to start each race. The order was then SY Zenji, a 55.9m ketch, on the one day she raced, then SY Thalia, a 48.4m ketch. Silvertip started the first race from third with 39.6m SY Janice of Wyoming fourth. These two larger, quicker yachts swapped their starting position for the remaining three races. The sole division two entry, 19.8m SY Ragtime got her starting orders five minutes after the division one yachts.

Silvertip proving the quickest yacht in virtually all the varied conditions and despite giving the rest of the field nearly half an hour advantage in start times, the innovative Ed Dubois-designed sloop came through to cross the line first in three of the races.

“It was excellent racing on our courses near the Louis Vuitton Pacific Series,” comments Richard Selby, Silvertip’s captain. “Hal Wagstaff, the RNZYS-appointed race officer, did a great job with the handicaps, which made for interesting racing for all involved. In all, despite the small fleet, the races were all very good and the whole Silvertip crew enjoyed the functions very much.”

Chris Wilson, captain onboard Janice of Wyoming, says their crew and owners also thoroughly enjoyed the sailing. “While we would have loved greater participation from other superyachts here in Auckland, that didn’t lessen our enjoyment of being able to sail these great courses so close to Auckland city. The racing was really well run and the format couldn’t have been better. The inner harbour race was particularly good fun and everyone onboard Janice of Wyoming has really enjoyed these few days, possibly even more than we enjoyed the regatta in Palma in 2007! It’s been brilliant.”

The Millennium Cup Pacific Series also featured the Integrated Marine Group golf challenge at the spectacular Gulf Harbour Country Club on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. Twenty-two golfers teed off on the challenging 6,400 metre, par 72 course and enjoyed the hospitality provided by Gulf Harbour, IMG and

Oceanbridge Shipping. Lunch and refreshments were served to players from golf carts and the clubhouse as they went past.

“Again, it was a thoroughly excellent way to get together and celebrate the Millennium Cup and what it means for the New Zealand marine sector,” says Wightman. “As CEO of Integrated Marine Group, the golf event sponsor, we have been blown away from the positive response from all our competitors. Our hearty congratulations to Tom Sherwood, a guest of Millennium Cup sponsor Lufthansa Private Jet, who was the winner on the day.”

An essential component of events such as the Millennium Cup is the involvement of relevant sponsors. New Plymouth-based Fitzroy Yachts was one of the out-of-Auckland sponsors and managing director Rodney Martin says the event is a great way to enjoy the Louis Vuitton series.

“The Millennium Cup works well alongside the competitive atmosphere of the Louis Vuitton series and the Auckland Viaduct Harbour is a great venue for events of this kind,” says Martin.

“Fitzroy Yachts involvement at this and other international regattas is all about our commitment to the superyacht world, staying current with the latest builds, and the classics, and with the people in it. We really enjoyed catching up with the owners and crews of the yachts participating in this year’s Millennium Cup and with such a well-run event, it makes our involvement very worthwhile.”

Jakub Tayerle, sales and marketing manager for 26000 Vodka, says the fast-growing company was delighted to come onboard as a corporate sponsor of the Millennium Cup Pacific Series.

“The Millennium Cup is one of the largest sponsorships we’ve undertaken in New Zealand and we were absolutely delighted with the response to our premium vodka from the many guests at the event’s functions,” says Tayerle. “In terms of helping get our product known nationally and internationally, our involvement with the Millennium Cup was very worthwhile and we thank the event organisers, particularly project manager Cherie Brown, for their support and enthusiasm in creating a fantastic event.”

The 2009 Millennium Cup Pacific Series was made possible with the support of Boat International Media, Alloy Yachts, Integrated Marine Group, Southern Spars, Fitzroy Yachts, Robinson Marine Interiors, Events Clothing, Viking Crew Management, Hall Spars, Electronic Navigation, Oceanbridge Shipping, Harken NZ, North Sails, IC Frith & Associates, Maxwell Marine, Mulcahy Engineering, Yachting Developments, 26000 Vodka, Lufthansa Private Jet, Lexus, Antipodes Water, Arano Juice and Domo Collections.

ENDS/

2009 Millennium Cup official results

(Division one yachts only, which the lowest total winning the regatta)

Points per race	Alloy Yachts race one	Robinson Marine Interiors race two	Fitzroy Yachts race three	Southern Spars race four	Total
Silvertip	1	1	1	3	6
Janice of Wyoming	2	2	2	2	8
Naos	4	4	3	1	12
Thalia	3	3	4	4	14
Zenji	-	5	-	-	N/A

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