



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND YACHT SQUADRON

The History of the TANAKA CUP

The Tanaka Cup is named in honour of Tanaka San, a Japanese businessman who was the agent for Roger Land Yachts in Japan who imported a number of 88's to Japan. With the demise of Roger Land Yachts he acquired the Young 88 moulds and moved them to Princess Motor Yachts and appointed them as the licensed builder of the Young 88. Unfortunately Princess Motor Yachts went into receivership and the moulds were in danger of being lost in the aftermath of winding up of the company.

At this time Colin Carran a life member of the Y88 Owners Association and a Squadron Committee Member, became involved and commenced negotiations with representatives of Tanaka san's company to ensure the survival of the moulds. The result was that the moulds were gifted to the association along with the condition that a major trophy contested by the class be named after Tanaka san hence the Tanaka Cup.

The National Championships have always attracted so called 'rock star' sailors so the Y88 Owners Association Committee felt that the Tanaka Cup should be awarded to the first owner/driver at the National Championship in order to provide recognition of the achievement by the boat owner.

Since its inception in 2000 the Tanaka Cup has been keenly contested and produced strong rivalry between the Auckland and Tauranga boats and from this aspect it has some similarity to the America's Cup.

The Tanaka Cup was first contested in 2000 after being 'donated' by Auckland and was won by Peter Blackie from Tauranga, for the next two years the cup stayed in Tauranga. In 2003 the cup returned to Auckland for the first time thanks to the efforts of Graeme Duncalf who finished second in the Nationals in 2002. Who will take it home this year?

