

Auckland Teams Sailing Cup

Last week over 100 sailors from 14 different schools competed in the Auckland Cup, a high school teams racing championships held at the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club.

High school teams racing is sailed in a team of three 420 yachts, with 6 sailors and up to 2 reserves.

This year's event was split into two seeded pools, gold and silver fleets. The gold fleet sailed on Monday and Tuesday while the silver fleet sailed on Wednesday and Thursday.

After completion of the first round robin in the gold fleet, the home teams of Macleans College and Glendowie College were tied for first on 6 wins 1 loss, while event favourites and defending champions Westlake Boys High School were sitting in 3rd.

Macleans College and Glendowie College made short work of their quarter finals defeating Kristin School and Kings College respectively 3-0. Westlake Boys High School had to fight from 2-1 down to knock out Saint Kentigerns College 3-2. After some close racing Auckland Boys Grammar defeated Diocesan school for girls 3-1.

As the winner of the round robin, Macleans College chose to race Glendowie College in the semi-finals, this almost proved a fatal error as they had to battle back from 2-0 down to eventually win 3-2 and progress to the final. Westlake Boys High School defeated Auckland Boys Grammar 3-0.

The final showed some fantastic racing in 15-18 knots of wind, both teams traded points with Macleans College coming out on top 3-2 to take the win.

This is a huge accomplishment for MacLean's college who were only placed 20th at the National Championships last year.

In the silver fleet the action was just as close. A strong south easterly meant there was no racing on the first day. But with perfect conditions on the Thursday the race committee managed to get through a full program.

After a double round robin Rangitoto College were clear favourites not dropping a single race. Sitting in 2nd were the Auckland combined Girls (ACG) team with Saint Kentigerns development team in 3rd.

The finals proved a big upset with ACG showing some serious boat speed in the 15-20 knots of wind to sail around Rangitoto College on the last beat of the last race to win 3-2.

Final results

Gold Fleet

- 1st Macleans College (BBYC)
- 2nd Westlake Boys (MYC)
- 3rd Auckland Grammar (AYC)
- 4th Glendowie College (BBYC)
- 5th Diocesan School For Girls (AYC)
- 6th Saint Kentigerns College (BBYC)
- 7th Kings College (AYC)
- 8th Kristin College (AYC)

Silver fleet

- 1st Auckland Girls Combined (BBYC)
- 2nd Rangitoto College
- 3rd Saint Kentigerns College development team (BBYC)
- 4th Long Bay College (TYC)
- 5th Saint Cuthbert's (AYC)
- 6th Pakuranga College (BBYC)

The teams have been training since October preparing for the national championships which will be held at the end of April at Algies bay in Warkworth. There they will compete against the top 30 schools in the country with the podium finishers going on to represent New Zealand against Australia later in the year.