

TUGBOATS WILL PUT ON A GREAT DISPLAY

The Tugboat Race and the Tugs through the Ages Parade is on again during the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta on January 28.

This time we have an even bigger event planned, with an improved racecourse and a display put on by Ports of Auckland and Thompson Towing.

The event will kick off with a gathering of the fleet off Princes Wharf starting at 0830. At 0900 the fleet will make its way down to the same starting line as last year. At 1000 the gun will go off and the race will finish line being off Torpedo Bay Wharf. This time we are going to add a little ritual to this event by asking all the boats to wait up-harbour of the finish line until the last boat crosses the line. Then they will all blow their horns. This will create a great scene and sound.

Next the boats are off back to Princes Wharf to stand by while Ports of Auckland show off the capabilities of their flagships Whakakume and Waipapa in the “waltz of the old salts”. Thompson Towing plan to do a pushing match and a “tug o’ war” between similar-sized boats.

We aim to create a spectacle for landlubbers whom we hope will be occupying most of the vantage points on Princes Wharf. After this the boats will line up off the entrance to the Viaduct Harbour and parade through the viaduct. There will be a selection of berths available in the viaduct for boats to berth to allow public viewing. Overall, this event will draw a huge crowd, as the Oceanbridge Auckland Anniversary Regatta will conclude the Auckland City Harbour Festival, which is expected to draw tens of thousands of people over the three days.

Three beautiful trophies are up for grabs, the Professional Skipper Trophy for the fastest boat, The Patterson Trophy for the best presented retired boat, and The Parry Trophy for the best presented boat still in survey.

This event is open to any vessel that is or has been engaged in towing. No age limits, the older the better. IT is run by the Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand and the Auckland Anniversary Regatta committee.

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