



## Tasman Race START

*From left to right in the above photograph can be seen Solveig, Leda, Rangi, Ghost, Hope, and Tara. Taken just after the start, Orakei wharf is in the background at the left.*

Promptly at 10.30 the starter sent the nine entrants on their way to Sydney. Conditions were perfect for entrants and spectators alike. For some time beforehand hundreds of vessels had been foregathering at Orakei, getting in each other's way but remarkably amenable to the informal discipline imposed by the many patrol boats that kept the starting area clear. Generally speaking the watching boats co-operated well, and there were few skippers who caused inconvenience.

The start itself would have done credit to a harbour race, indeed there were many far worse on Anniversary Day. To the accompanying cheers of the onlookers *Solveig* crossed the line first followed by *Leda*, *Hope*, *Rangi*, *White Squall*, *Tara*, *Ghost*, *Southern Maid*, and *Sea Wolf*. It was a flat run, and spinnakers were set at once, though not always drawing. As the yachts drew away and sailed down harbour the following craft mingled freely.

It was a wonderful spectacle, brilliant sunshine, a rich blue sky flecked with white puffs of cloud, the sea blue and dotted with crests of foam, with hundreds of yachts and launches of all sizes and descriptions weaving amongst the competitors. As the yachts settled down the escorting fleet gradually dwindled to two or three dozen at Rangitoto Beacon. At this stage *Leda* was ahead and going well.