

2009 WA INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.

75 International Optimists competed in the 2009 WA State Championship over the Labour Day Weekend. The fleet was split into Gold, Silver and Bronze depending on sailing experience. On the first two days Gold and Silver raced a trapezoid course in Freshwater Bay, the Bronze fleet sailing in Mosman Bay. The first two regatta days provided a mix of conditions which tested both the competitors and the speed of the course re-laying team.

The windy conditions on the third day kept both the bronze and silver fleets ashore but the gold fleet hit the race course to complete four races in conditions ranging from 15-25 knots. At the front of the fleet, a fabulous display of boat handling and strong wind racing entertained spectators. Further back, the determination and persistence of the young sailors was impressive. As the wind increased to twenty five knots and above during the last race some sailors determined that it was time to go to shore. However 17 hardy young sailors finished the regatta off in style.



Race Leaders approaching the finish line - Photography Madeleine Stephens.

Race officer, John Taylor completed 11 Gold Fleet races. Racing was very close with 8 different race winners; however it was current National Champion and RPYC member, Doug Campbell who took the title of State Champion. Sam Blackburn (RPYC) was 2nd and Fieke

Koelemij (RPYC) 3rd. Fieke also took the title of Female State Champion. Second Female was Paris Stowell, Ragna Agerup 3rd. Thomas Blaauw (RFBYC) was awarded Most Improved Skipper and Brendan Drew (MOFSC) was delighted to receive the Encouragement Award - a new Quantum Optimist Sail.



Brendan Drew, winner of the Encouragement Award for 2009.
Photography – Madeleine Stephens

First in the Silver Fleet was Jack Brett, Joshua Thomas 2nd and Samuel Tennant 3rd.

First in the Bronze Fleet was James Stewart, Edward Townsend-Arellan 2nd and Sannah McLean 3rd.

The WA Optimist association was thrilled to welcome for the first time, Optimist Sailors from Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club and South of Perth Yacht Club.

Full results can be found at
<http://www.rfbyc.asn.au/sailing/regattas.html>