

After a few long flights from Perth I arrived in Brazil where the World Optimist Championship was going to be held.

Mum and I stayed at a hotel called Solar do Amanhecer which was about 15 minutes walk to the Club Naval Charitas which was where the championship was held.

Leading up to the regatta we planned to have a week of training, but due to lack of wind we missed a few days.

The training days consisted of training with many of the competing countries such as Singapore, Peru, Switzerland, USA, Germany, Thailand and that's just naming a few. During the training days we experienced different wind direction and strength every day. The majority of the wind was light and very shift. On one occasion we had zero knots but on the dot of 2pm a 25 knot breeze came screaming through and stayed for approximately 2 hours and died off to about 10 knots.

Before the championship we had to get all our equipment measured, this was an interesting procedure. Thankfully all the Australian Team was measured with no complications.

Before the Championship started a group of Aussie's and Kiwi's went sight seeing. We visited the Corcovado (Statue of Christ), Sports Stadium; Sugar Loaf Mountain and the famous Copacabana Beach. It was an interesting day with lots of fun.

The Opening Ceremony will be a lasting memory. We assembled in our country groups in alphabetical order and paraded through the yacht club until we reached the area where the ceremony and speeches were held. The speeches were in English and Portuguese and they welcomed us all to the event. Every country had to hoist their countries flag and I hoisted the Australian flag which made me feel very special.

The regatta was held over ten days with two days of teams racing in between. We didn't sail on some scheduled days due to lack of wind. The breeze each day varied from 0 to 14 knots. The regatta was completed with 12 races.

When the championship had finished each sailor was able to swap t shirts, this was a fun thing to do as you were able to take home some other countries t. shirts and memorabilia.

My overall result was 142 it was a great experience and I really enjoyed representing Australia.

Thanks to Diego for coaching the Australian Team and also thanks to Royal Perth Yacht Club for their continued support.