

Sail Away **(1)**

O _____ H _____ **(2)**

Out of the blue, [student name] was invited to participate in the Sailing Regatta representing New Zealand in Tokyo, Japan, which was hosted during the Term 1 holidays 30th April- 7th May 2014.

“[Student name] was out running when we received the call,” says [student name] mum “It came as a surprise, and we knew [student name] was a great sailor but never knew quite how good” **(4)**.

Being selected to represent New Zealand in the Junior Regatta and International Friendship Regatta was based on commitment, reliability and personal achievement **(3)**. Many times [student name] has attended regattas nationally and has placed highly including 1st female. She had never taken the sport too seriously, it was something that she was fascinated in and enjoyed spending her weekends doing**(3)**. It’s a regular commitment of practicing, Sunday coaching and frequent National Sailing Regattas **(5) (6)**.

When [student name] was offered to go over to Japan mixed emotions were running high, she took the opportunity right away but was finding it hard to come up with the financial sums to pay her way there **(6) (7)**.

[Student name] was the only girl out of the three who got chosen to represent New Zealand. [student name] was entered in the Laser 4.7 class – open race for girls and boys between the ages of 13-18 years old. She was competing internationally against opposing countries teams such as; Japan, China, Singapore, Great Britain and Denmark, who all wanted to make their country proud. “It just showed me how good the competition is in New Zealand and how respected Kiwis are internationally,” says [student name] **(1) (3) (5)**.

Representing Japan was one thing, but bringing home 3rd and 1st female internationally was something else entirely. No doubts she made New Zealand proud **(3) (7)**.

“I thought it was a great experience and I have made heaps of new friends, some of which are probably going to come to New Zealand next year,” says [student name] **(4)**.