

— International Cadet World Championship, Argentina, 2016

In accordance with the Trust's purpose to support young people gain nautical experience, the Trust provided sponsorship to support two teams from South Australia to represent Australia at the 50th International Cadet World Championships, Argentina, 6th December, 2016 to 4th January, 2017. The two teams were part of the 10 teams which represented Australia at the Championships and competed in an international field of some 60-70 yachts. The two teams were Allyssa Kelsey and Mitchell Kelsey, Port Lincoln, and Sam Paynter and Gil Casanova, Port Lincoln. The Trust appreciated the support of Mr Ian Leeson, Regional Manager, South Australia, Australian Sailing, with this sponsorship.

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The two teams were Allyssa Kelsey and Mitchell Kelsey, Port Lincoln, and Sam Paynter and Gil Casanova, Port Lincoln.

The following account of their experience was provided by Allyssa Kelsey:

“Recently my brother, Mitchell, and I were lucky enough to participate in the 2016 Cadet World Championships in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was an experience I won't ever forget and the people that I met from other countries became lifelong friends of mine. The people within the Australian team also became close friends of mine as we all supported each other all year leading up to the world championships.

My brother and I arrived in Buenos Aires on the 19th of December 2016 completely jetlagged and the next day we got straight to work setting up the cadets that the Australian team chartered for the regatta. We then trained for the next 6 days excluding Christmas so we could get used to the light conditions as we had never sailed at the mouth of a river. We spent approximately 6 hours per day on the water training and needed to be towed for approximately an hour to and from the course.

The regatta began on the 28th where we all participated in an invitation race to get a taste of what the real races would be like. I managed to get a 10th in that race but then realised that I was over the line within a minute before the start, which earned me a disqualification. From then on I was pretty careful on start lines.

The first day of racing had always been the most nerve racking for me as I had no idea where I fit in with the fleet of cadets, so I was pretty stoked to get another 10th in the first race for the regatta. The next race was a little more difficult as the chop became more prominent and the wind was quite shifty so I ended up getting a 28th for that race, which put me in 21st position on the first day. From then on I kept climbing up the leader board, being 7th overall at one point. I was then protested by an Argentinian boat which led to me being disqualified for that race and was pushed back to 15th position.

The rest of the regatta had its ups and downs and I learned a lot from the conditions presented to me on the water. I learned how to work with the tide as it was very strong in Argentina. I could pick the wind shifts better which benefited

me greatly when trying to work my way up through the fleet during a bad race. The chop and waves became easier to work through and I actually gained a lot of speed from them. Finally, I learned that regattas weren't always about the final result and the experience has prepared me for my future sailing endeavours. I finished 16th overall in the end and I was proud that I was the top placed Australian boat at the world championships.

I would love to thank everyone who supported my brother and I by donating and motivating us to train and partake in the world championships. I'd like to thank my coaches, Tony Bull, who was the coach of the Australian team and Francisco, who was our Argentinian coach for the regatta. Finally, I'd like to thank my family who have always supported me and have helped make this experience possible."

*International cadet specifications: Monohull yacht 3.2m LOA; Bermuda rig — mast 5.22m, mainsail 3.9m², mainsail 3.9m², jib/genoa 1.26m², spinnaker 4.25m².



Allyssa Kelsey at the helm and Mitchell Kelsey in Argentina



Allyssa and Mitchell tackling the choppy waters in Argentina



Mitchell attending the spinnaker in close encounter with another competitor