

December 18, 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

Dear supporters and friends of the Melbourne Osaka Cup – Double Handed Yacht Race

In its 31st year, the cities of Melbourne and Osaka are extremely proud of the long-standing sister city relationship we share. It is a relationship we remain strongly committed to progressing the diverse range of programs that deliver benefits to both cities in a range of different fields including business, education, arts and culture and sport.

The Melbourne Osaka Cup – Double Handed Yacht Race (Race) began as a once off event to mark the 120th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Osaka in 1987. Since its inception it has evolved into an event that is widely recognised as a unique sporting challenge to all involved. Unfortunately in terms of entrant numbers and sponsorship, the Race has steadily declined since the inaugural race.

Following ongoing consultations with race partners the Sandringham Yacht Club (SYC) and the Osaka Hokko Yacht Club (OHYC), it is with regret that the Cities announce our intention not to hold a 2011 Race. Further, as custodians of the Race, it is our intention to postpone the event indefinitely until such time that a clear solution can be found, through the future discussions and studies between the race partners SYC and OHYC, to yield a professionally and financially managed race that ensures the utmost competitor safety to be delivered by a defined, legally structured race organisation of the appropriate international standards.

Yours sincerely

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