



# Newsletter

No. 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**OSAKA CUP 2018**

Melbourne to Osaka Double-Handed Yacht Race

## Melbourne to Osaka double-handed yacht race 2018

Two sailors, one boat: 5,500 nm yacht race from Melbourne to Osaka

The Melbourne to Osaka (M2O) double-handed yacht race was officially launched at Sandringham Yacht Club (SYC) on 6th March 2016. A large number of previous participants made up an impressive Q&A panel and the Victorian Consul General for Japan, Ms Keiko Haneda, witnessed the opening which was conducted by Kate Mitchell, Commodore of SYC.

The race is scheduled to start in March 2018 and was initially capped at 25 entrants due to space constraints in Japan. Because of this, some yachts have been anticipating the launch for some time, with Matt Lawrence's Jazz Player quickly becoming the first boat to enter on the night, followed by Rod Smallman's CB2 and Grant Dunoon's Try Booking.com.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> May, Amendment 1 of the Notice of Race was published, which lifted the cap to 30 and formalised the waiting list.



*Matt Lawrence & Matt Setton, entrant #1 Jazz Player*

As of the start of June, there were 30 entrants and 7 on the waiting list.

No	BOAT NAME	DESIGN	SAIL NO	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	STATE
1	JAZZ PLAYER	Bakewell-White 239 M	SM390	Matt Lawrence	Matt Setton	VIC
2	CB2	Moorea 45	SB100	Rod	Smallman	VIC
3	TRYBOOKING.COM	Moody 54 Ds	B1	Grant	Dunoon	VIC
4	MISTER LUCKY	Jeanneau Sun Fast 36	RQ3600	Mark	Hipgrave	QLD
5	KRAKEN	Jeanneau Sunfast 360	HY3600	Todd	Giraud	WA
6	APOLLO VI	Lexcen One Tonner	C6	Paul	Stuart	QLD
7	THE EDGE	Jeanneau Sunfast 320	AUS3200	David	Kenny	WA
8	RED JACKET	Redford 12.2	H000	Annette	Hesselmans	NSW
9	RATTLE N HUM III	Adams 15	HB14	Ed	Gibson	QLD
10	MORNING STAR	S&S 34	R251	Joanna	Breen	TAS
11	DARE DEVIL	Farr/Cookson 47	RF5095	Sibby	Ilzhofer	NSW
12	SURF DUDE	Felci 45	HKG1345	Steve	Ho	Ove
13	FORCE ELEVEN	Adams 11.9	B2580	Jamie	Cooper	TAS
14	SPIRIT OF DOWNUNDER	Cameron De Lange 12m	R1200	Lawrence	Ford	VIC
15	TATOU MITI	Samoa 48 Mod	SM1934	Michael	Reinehr	VIC
16	UTOPIA 2001	Joe Adams 16.4	2001	John	Fletcher	QLD
17	FIRST LIGHT	Adams/Radford 16.4	4826	Robert	Giblin	TAS
18	RUNAWAY	Sayer 11	B101	Daniel	Turner	SA
19	UNKNOWN	Sayer 11	M8	Jon	Sayer	QLD
20	TBC	TBA	TBC99	Garry	Golding	QLD
21	ALIVE	Reichel Pugh 66	52566	Duncan	Hine	QLD
22	LORD JIMINY	Class 40	SM119	Chris	Barlow	VIC
23	EUPHORIA II	1982 Beneteau First 13m	E2	Marc	Stuart	QLD
24	ALEX - TEAM MACADIE	Jones/Hart 14	SM1400	Jock	Macadie	VIC
25	ELEKTRA	Beneteau 47.7	R2009	Chris	Wilson	VIC
26	ESCAPE	Farr 38 lms	H538	Robert	Bradley	VIC
27	MELTEMI SYC	Wauquiez Centurion 4	SM701	Ian	Howarth	VIC
28	BLUNDERBUSS	Beneteau First 40	H4000	Eric	Marsh	VIC
29	WILL ADVISE	TBA	M497	Stephen	Chapman	NSW
30	N/A	TBA	TBA	John	Bacon	NSW
31	CHIKARA OUTLAW	Sayer 44	S770	Jo Norbury	Bill Trueman	VIC
32	KOMATSU AZZURRO	S & S 34	3430	Shane	Kearns	NSW
33	LAST HURRAH	Elliot 13 One Off	1195	Peter	Bush	NSW
34	ALLEGRO	Warwick 67	6723	Adrian	Lewis	VIC
35	SAMURAI JACK	Farr 39ml Mod	88888	Michael	Lazzarini	QLD
36	SAILORS WITH DISABILIT	TBA	TBA	David	Pescud	NSW
37	ZEPHYR OF LYMINGTON	Shipman 50	7700C	David	Sharples	Ove

Vic boats	14	38%
NSW boats	6	16%
QLD boats	9	24%
WA boats	2	5%
TAS boats	3	8%
SA boats	1	3%
Other	2	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	

## Virtual race



In April 2016, armchair sailors embraced the opportunity to participate in the spirit of the M20. With little fanfare but a large following, Sail Online launched the virtual M20 race which attracted 338 entries from around the globe. It is also evident there are many thousands of onlookers which is creating

great interest around the nation and internationally. In the virtual race you compete from your armchair against real weather conditions in your own selected & rated yacht. Two missing elements are dealing with current & tidal flows which are significant for this race but nevertheless, an interesting and exciting opportunity for all to get involved.

The virtual race will be run again at the same time next year. It is planned to have two divisions in 2017, one for those registered entrants in the actual 2016 race and the second list for supporters. The virtual race is a great way to learn the route and fickle winds. It is hoped many more supporters take the helm in the next virtual event.

To find out more go to [www.sailonline.org](http://www.sailonline.org).

## Information sessions

A series of information sessions have been held around the country and beyond. Leading up to the launch in Melbourne, an information session facilitated by Martin Vaughan was held in February at the Royal Akuna Yacht Club in Auckland. Special guests for the NZ Q&A session were past competitors Brian Petersen, Heather and John Lidgard, Greg Elliot and Brian Murray.

With six boats now registered, the roadshow went to Brisbane on 20th April with George Shaw and Julie Davis speaking at a very interesting facility. The old Port of Brisbane reception centre had been sliced up and floated down to the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron (not just for our event!) to be reassembled as an auditorium. It must have been a successful evening as we currently have ten entrants from the Sunshine State.

With now entries from most states, it appears we may have a *State of Origin* competition on our hands as well. We also have two international boats, who knows Australia may be denied a win.



Jon Sayer and John Bankart joined Michael Lazzarini for the Q&A panel at RQYS. Jon Sayer has completed four M2O races and John Bankart sailed in both the 2003 and 2007 races. Michael has some unfinished business from the 2013 race, and we are glad to see him entering the 2018 event. Rumour has it that the night has also rekindled Jon's passion for this event and he's retired to his boatshed to start on a new design for the next race.

Legendary ocean racer, Robin Hewitt, who has completed two M2O races, took the roadshow down to Hobart on the 4th May where he was ably supported by Kenn Batt, retired BoM meteorologist and solo circumnavigator Ken Gourlay at the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria's (ORCV) 'home away from home', the Derwent Sailing Squadron. It is fantastic to have Tasmania provide three entries already.

George Shaw flew to Perth at the end of May to see what interest there might be among the seasoned ocean racers from the west. They visited Royal Perth Yacht Club on the Swan River and almost gate-crashed their keelboat presentation night to spruik the race but restrained themselves. Royal Perth have an impressive display of the Australia II mast and the canons which started the America's Cup defence in 1987. They also have an annexe for their ocean racing events down on the coast in Fremantle, where the ocean racers gather.

Fremantle Sailing Club has a huge facility with 677 berths in their floating marina. It is the home of the Perth to Bali race and their ocean series is conducted on the waters of the Indian Ocean and Great Southern Ocean. There are many competent sailors who call FSC home, including the multiple round the world sailor John Sanders. Their boats are tough and their sailors are, too. Our host for the visit was Rob Thomas, Rear Commodore Sail, who himself has the very seaworthy Finistere, a M2O capable boat. The afternoon prior to the info

session was spent sharing anecdotes with the movers and shakers of FSC and the information session included two entrants, Kraken and The Edge as well as a number of other hopefuls.

It was a pleasure to have the other 2013 father and son team, Trevor and Daniel Taylor as the panel guests for the information session at FSC. Unfortunately (lucky for him), Trevor is unavailable for the 2013 event as he will be competing in the Clipper Around the World Race. Dan is looking for something a little faster than Dad's Martin 49' Optimus Prime before he commits to the race again.

## Entrants – reserve the date

Entrants (inc waiting list), please reserve 5pm-6pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 for an information webinar. We will send login details through closer to the night – it will be a chance to ask questions too. No promises but we will try to record the session and put it on the internet for anyone who misses it.

## Australia & Japan relations

Out of respect for the strong ties between Japan and Australia which underpin this race and with the assistance of Ms Keiko Harada, Consul General of Japan in Melbourne, we have been able to brief both the Japanese Consul General in Queensland and Western Australia about the event. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet with Japan's representatives about the event.

In Queensland, George was able to meet with [Mr Hidehiro Hosaka](#) at dinner and the WA Consul General of Japan, Masanobu Yoshii was able to attend the information session in Fremantle. In George's inimitable style, he invited the Consul-General of WA, to join him in a visit to the Yokohama yacht club to assist with a problem of prosperity which now faces the Organising Authority for the M2O 2018.



Further contact with Japanese-Australia groups is anticipated to celebrate the sister city relationship between the Melbourne City Council and the City of Osaka throughout the race lead up.

## Problems of Prosperity

As previously mentioned, the Organising Authority set a limit of 25 boats for the race. The reason for this limit is the capacity of Osaka Hokko Yacht Club to accommodate more yachts. Another consideration is the generosity of Sandringham Yacht Club which has offered haul-out, hard-stand and pen facilities for a period of time, prior to the race.

In May, the capacity was increased to 30 boats and this limit was reached within one week. As a matter of urgency, the Osaka Hokko representative in Australia

is heading to Osaka for discussion with the Club, Osaka officials and the Japanese Sailing Federation to see if an expansion of the entry cap is possible.

In Melbourne, discussions will be held with the City of Melbourne to see if the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sister city relationship can assist to extend the capacity of the fleet. The Organising Authority is confident these issues will be overcome in the coming months, providing the opportunity to expand the fleet further.

## Available M20 yachts

In anticipation of a successful outcome in hosting boats, here and in Japan, we are aware of individuals who are interested in buying or leasing a suitable boat for the event. In future newsletters, we're happy to mention yachts that come to our attention, which may be suitable for a race of the magnitude of the Melbourne to Osaka race.

For example, in WA, it was brought to our attention that a Pogo 40 and a J122 are for sale in Fremantle Yacht Club. Similarly in Melbourne Cadibarra 8 is for sale. These would make fantastic M20 boats.

## Boat and team profiles

We are incredibly lucky to have Ian Mac Williams helping out and interested in the race. You may have already seen some of his work through the interviews with past competitors. While in WA, we were able to catch up with both entrants for the 2018 race. Stay tuned for the Sunfast interviews with David Kenny and his training partner Giles on The Edge, and also with Kraken team, Todd Giraud and Dubbo from Hillary's Yacht Club.

They are both looking forward to the competition from the Queensland Sunfast 3600 entrant, Mr Lucky and we are hoping to make this a separate division with an invitation to any other Sunfast 3600s from other States and Territories.

## Communications

We plan to send out newsletters regularly to keep you all abreast of what's happening. If people are interested they can subscribe via the web site [www.melbourneosaka.com](http://www.melbourneosaka.com). Contributions, articles, news, photos and videos, from participants and others are most welcome and may be posted to the Facebook page: Facebook/melbourneosaka or sent to [editor@melbourneosaka.org.au](mailto:editor@melbourneosaka.org.au).

Those wishing to discuss issues relating to the event, may contact the following Organising Authority representatives:

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