

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 21st August 2009



Perth Largest marathon builds impressive field

Next Sunday's Inaugural City to Surf marathon will be the largest marathon field ever assembled in Perth. Registrations are already over 750 participants with registrations still open for another week.

An impressive international field led by 8 Africans will line up at the front of next Sunday's event. Amongst the front runners most Personal Best times sit around the blistering pace of 2:12. Included in the International field is Philip Makau Muia, 2007 Pune Marathon winner (India) and 2nd place taker in the 2008 Sydney Marathon, travelling to Perth specifically to compete in this event.

Ethiopian runner Gemechu Woyecha is back, this time in the longer distance and aiming for the win in the marathon after taking out the Half Marathon in 2008 in a course record of 65:39. Gemechu has already this year taken out the Great Ocean Road Half Marathon in Victoria. Woyecha's countryman Welay Amare Weldegiyorgis & Zintu Meaza, training partners in Ethiopia will also be in the mix having already clocked 2009 times of 2:12:45, and 2:12:35 respectively.

Kenyans Joel Kiplimo Kemboi and Gilbert Kiptoo, who have been training in Perth for the month of August, are poised to challenge the win also.

Organisers are hoping with the strong field a fast inaugural run will be on the cards. There is an added incentive to the front runners with a time bonus offered to the winner in the men's and ladies events. A winning time of sub 2:10 men's or Sub 2:20 ladies will be rewarded with an additional \$10,000 on top of the first place purse of \$25,000. Sub 2:15:00 men's and sub 2:25 ladies will add \$5,000 to the pool.

The guaranteed prize pool of \$100,000 will make the City to Surf Marathon, in its inaugural year, Australia's richest road race and organiser's decision to pay prize money down to tenth place has helped grow a deep elite field.

Along with elite runners, organisers expect that more than 50% of the field will be first time marathon runners. Organisers are encouraging participants in other events to get back on the road after they've finished their events and cheer in the tail of the field. Encouragement they will no doubt need after a gruelling 5, 6, 7 hours out on course.

The City to Surf Marathon will showcase some of Perth's most beautiful scenery from the picturesque Swan River, through beautiful Kings Park and finishing on the Indian Ocean at one of Western Australia's most stunning beaches, City Beach. It is arguably one of the most beautiful city marathon courses in the world.

The full 42.2km City to Surf Marathon will start at 7:00 am on Sunday.

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