

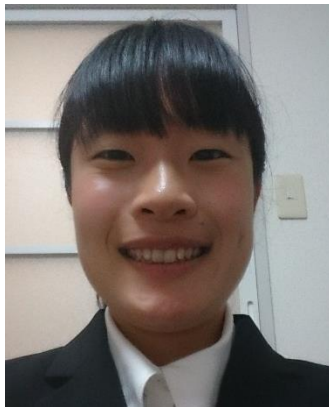
Press Release

Enquiries: please contact Melissa Luyke on 0419 041 508

Photo Opportunity: The invited Japanese runners from Hyogo Prefecture will appear together with the WA runners who have taken part in the exchange by competing in the Kobe Marathon, (Tina Major and Todd Ingraham), 2013 Australian Marathon champion Lauren Shelley and 35 time Perth Marathon finisher Ian Bernadt at the West Australian Marathon Club rooms this Friday 13th June, 2014 at 5.45pm:

West Australian Marathon Club
Burswood Water Sports Centre
1 Camfield Drive
BURSWOOD WA 6100

Perth Marathon warmly welcomes invited Hyogo Runners as Sister-State Relationship Turns Sporty!!



On Sunday, June 15, 2014 at 7:30am hundreds of enthusiastic runners will brave the chilly temperatures to line up at the start line on the picturesque banks of the river in Burswood for the 2014 Perth Marathon. Among them will be Miss Hiromi Saito (22) and Mr Keita Idehara (27) from Hyogo Prefecture, WA's Sister-State in Japan. Miss Saito and Mr Idehara are participating in this event at the invitation of the WA Government. This Marathon Exchange was one of the wonderful outcomes of the 30th Anniversary re-signing of the Sister State agreement in 2011.

Hyogo Prefecture and Western Australia, now in their 33rd year of the Sister State Relationship, have long enjoyed a huge variety of exchange programs in the fields of education, business, culture, and tourism. Now the relationship can boast a successful sporting exchange as well

with two runners from each state invited to participate in the Sister-State's marathon event in alternate years.

In 2011 and 2013 Western Australia sent two athletes to compete in the Kobe Marathon (Tina Major / Todd Ingraham in 2011 and Tina Major / Roberto Busi in 2013). In 2012 two athletes from Hyogo Prefecture joined the marathon event in the Perth City to Surf and the female athlete from Hyogo took out first place. Now, in 2014, it has been determined that the two invited Hyogo athletes will join the Perth Marathon.

Miss Hiromi Saito at just 22 years of age came 2nd in the 2013 Kobe Marathon with a PB of 2 hours, 39 minutes, and 57 seconds. Mr Keita Idehara (27 years old) was placed 6th in the 2012 Kobe Marathon and 11th in the 2013 Kobe Marathon with a PB of 2 hours, 26 minutes, and 08 seconds. Their efforts and placements in this huge event led to their selection for participation in the 2014 exchange visit to WA.

The athletes are looking forward to meeting with WA Marathon Club members and general marathon enthusiasts during their stay. While in Perth they are also fortunate enough to have the guidance and support of the WA athletes, Tina Major and Todd Ingraham, who had previously visited Hyogo for the Kobe Marathon. Governor Ido of Hyogo Prefecture, a long-time fan of Perth and Western Australia, has also encouraged them to make the most of their visit and enjoy beautiful Perth. Certainly the marathon course will take in some spectacular river scenery!

Hon Terry Waldron MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation has also kindly welcomed the athletes to afternoon tea on the Monday following the race to congratulate them on their efforts.

For any specific marathon related enquiries, please contact the WA Marathon Club on 9472 4833 or by email at wamc@wamc.org.au or Eldon George on mobile 0438 502 978.