

Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race 2025

Sister Cities linked by the Ocean

In 2025, the Osaka-Kansai Expo will be held in Osaka. It may seem far away, but two and a half years will be gone in no time! Today, I would like to introduce Mr George Shaw who is organising a Yacht Race from Melbourne to Osaka to align with the opening of the World Expo.



Mr George Shaw (Sandringham Yacht Club)

Mr Shaw is a veteran yachtsman belonging to the Sandringham Yacht Club in Melbourne. As the chairperson of the executive committee, he is organising the Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race, and in August this year he has also visited Japan to explain and consult with the government, Osaka City, and city council officials.

The race is a double-handed race starting from Melbourne to Osaka over a period of three to seven weeks without stop-overs or outside assistance. Over 100 yachts from ten countries have already entered the race. Apparently, it will take three weeks for the fastest yacht and seven weeks for the slowest, so handicaps are given at the start of the race based on the past data. Yachts that are assumed the slowest will start first and it will follow that order. The fastest yacht will start four weeks after the first yacht, and they will arrive at the finish line in Osaka about the same time. It is such an extraordinary race.

Mr Shaw's main objective is to contribute to the fight against global warming through this race. He has requested all participating yachts to cooperate in collecting data on water quality and is also considering the possibility of combining the use of hydrogen fuel. I am certain that there are numerous challenges to overcome before this can be realised, but as you know sister city relationship between Melbourne City and Osaka City dates back to half a century. I believe that the Yacht Race linking the two sister cities will further strengthen the cooperative efforts between the two cities. I hope that Mr Shaw will successfully accomplish his objectives. Good luck!



Melbourne Osaka Cup Logo

SHIMADA Junji

18 August 2022