

## **Tucker's Primed to take on Marathon**

Mark Tucker represented Australia at the 2009 World Marathon Championships; recently won the Great Ocean Road Marathon in Victoria; and in August 2010 will challenge a contingent on international runners in the Chevron Marathon at this year's Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ.

Mark lives in Melbourne and under the guidance of coach Bruce Scriven is looking to improve on his personal best Marathon time of 2:13:49 set late in 2008 at the Fukuoka Marathon in Japan. Mark also set an Australia record over 50km in 2008, and is well positioned to continue his improvement in Marathon running at the upcoming Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ on Sunday 29 August.

"We are excited about one of Australia's finest Marathon runners making the trip to Perth to take part in the Chevron Marathon. The event offers Australian Athletes a unique opportunity to take on some of the world very best runners on home soil, as well as compete against the best local talent" Thomas Wagner, Media Manager.

His time of 2:21:57 was good enough to place 47<sup>th</sup> at the World Marathon Championships in 2009. After making the transition from middle distance running to long distance after the disappointment of missing the 2008 Beijing Olympic team; the dream of representing his country at an Olympic Games is now firmly back within his grasp.

A 30 year old teacher from Melbourne, this is Mark's first trip to Perth to take part in the iconic Perth City to Surf. The Chevron Marathon is the richest road race in Australia. While \$20,000 is up for grabs for the first male and female across the line, the Chevron Marathon also offers the fastest Australian runners the opportunity to share in a substantial and separate prize pool dedicated to local (Australia) athletes. This includes a \$6,000 winners check for the first Australian male and first Australian female across the line in the Chevron Marathon.

Mark says his focus is on being as competitive as possible in the race, looking to position himself with the lead group in order to challenge for the win. Based on the winners times set in last year's City to Surf Marathon, Mark believes he is a good chance to win. "The time is not my main focus. If it is a competitive race and I am up there, the time will take care of itself" Mark Tucker. On the event Mark stated; "It is pleasing to see the standard of Marathon Running in Australia on the rise, with the Chevron Marathon playing a big part. I am looking forward to taking part, especially since I can race in a quality Marathon without having to travel overseas".

The Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ is WA's largest community sporting event now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year and includes the Chevron Marathon, Westpac Half Marathon, Channel Nine 12km Run, Appealathon 12km Walk, Westpac 11km Wheelchair and the Nissan 4km Walk/Run. The event will be taking place on Sunday 29 August.

Organisers are expecting a field of over 40,000 participants across all events in 2010. Registrations are now open.

Website: [www.perthcitytosurf.com](http://www.perthcitytosurf.com)

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