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Media Release

Brisbane gains international race

THE Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club has joined the international racing stage after signing a deal to join the new Sister Cities Cup series.

The new-format race series, formerly known as the Sister City Cup, a race between Adelaide and Christchurch, will now include the Brisbane Club and Auckland.

The concept of the race will feature each City provide two finalists for a \$27,000 (NZ\$40,000) grand final to be hosted on a rotational basis at a different City each year.

This year's final will be in Auckland, with next year's (2010) to be hosted in Brisbane at Albion Park. Assistance will be provided for travel of finalists and their handlers.

Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club general manager Luke Gatehouse said the race was part of the Brisbane Club's vision to further cement its status in the national and also international greyhound racing industries.

"We are very proud to be involved in such a fantastic race that promotes the sport at an international level," said Mr Gatehouse.

"This race will not only provide another avenue for greyhound owners and trainers to win great prize money, but also provide a crowd-drawing event in Brisbane in 2010," he said.

The Brisbane heats, as well as Adelaide's, will be run on Thursday night September 10, with Auckland on Sunday September 13 and Christchurch running them on the following Tuesday September 15.

Mr Gatehouse said the Club hoped to grow the every fourth-year final into a key event for Brisbane.

"The race will give a flood of recognition to the industry in Brisbane, and Queensland in general, and this is what we need," he said.

"The success of the Winter Carnival this year showed that the Brisbane people love the top greyhound racing, and this new race will definitely be providing this for them."

The Brisbane Club experienced record interest over its 2009 Sky Channel Winter Carnival, with growth of 11 per cent on attendance and near 30 per cent increases of on-course TOTE turnover.

The rotation of host clubs for the final will be:

2009 – Auckland

2010 – Brisbane

2011 – Christchurch

2012 – Adelaide

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