



Regional Roundup 2008 – Southern NSW and ACT

Dragons Abreast Australia has been compiling reports with the cooperation of all the groups since April 2008, and here is a summary of the information provided. This is a bumper issue of *Regional Roundup*, but in the future I will report back to you on a more regular basis (this idea for a Regional Roundup just struck me suddenly one evening – I wish I had thought of it sooner!). I promise next time this will be a one-pager, and apologies for the boring format, but I am writing this in the middle of the night!

Jan, Regional Rep.

Profile of Groups:

DA ACT <http://www.dragonsabreast.com.au/ACT/index.htm> have been operating since 1999 and have a membership of approximately 40 survivor members, 19 supporter members and 10 associate and dual members (members of other dragonboat clubs who paddle occasionally with DA ACT). They paddle 3 times a week on Lake Burley Griffin.

DA Merimbula <http://www.dragonsabreast.com.au/NSW/Merimbula.htm> have been paddling on Merimbula's Top Lake twice a week for more than six years. They have 14 survivor members and 13 supporter members (their parent club, Sapphire Water Dragons).

DA Wagga Wagga <http://www.dragonsabreast.com.au/NSW/Wagga.htm> have been paddling the pool in Wagga for several years now, but at last have a boat, though often are unable to use Lake Albert due to water conditions. They have around 11 survivor members and 9 supporter members.

DA Dubbo <http://www.dragonsabreast.com.au/NSW/Dubbo.htm> have 8 survivor members, and are part of Orana Dragon Boat Club (Outback Dragons). They have been paddling since December 2005 and have teamed up with other DA teams to participate in Chinese New Year, Abreast in Australia 2007, and other regattas.

Interim team at **Orange** paddles with their parent club Colour City Dragons, who participated in Chinese New Year.

All teams have participated in regattas in the region – Jindabyne's Flowing Festival, Canberra Day, Shellharbour Regatta, Dragons Abreast ACT's annual October regatta, Narooma regatta, and Chinese New Year at Darling Harbour – often forming composite crews with other DA teams.



Early 2008

Anna Wellings Booth received life membership of Dragons Abreast ACT at a presentation at the Dragon Muster on 19 February, which was attended by DAA's founder, Michelle Hanton.

DA Merimbula, DA Wagga Wagga, DA Dubbo, Colour City Dragons and DA ACT all participated in Chinese New Year on Darling Harbour in February, forming composite crews in many cases.

DA Wagga Wagga, DA Dubbo (as Outback Dragons) and Sapphire Water Dragons Merimbula all participated in the Canberra Day regatta in March.

Helen Britten and Pat Helmore from DA Merimbula participated in regattas in New Zealand at the end of March to make up a composite team with the Gold Coast DA team.

DA ACT planted bulbs, with permission from local authorities, on their favourite island, Springbank, and watched them bloom in the springtime.

And everyone sold lots of M&Ms!

April 2008

DA Wagga appeared on Win tv a couple of times, taking delivery of their new trailer on 14 April, and interviewed following a rally for Lake Albert – the lake is frequently unusable, and water sports enthusiasts have lobbied the local council for a clean up. Paddlers were filmed using the local pool for training, emphasising that though they have a boat, they often are unable to get out on the water.

In memory of former DA ACT member, Sylvia Flaxman, two of Sylvia's bush walking friends, Jenny Moore and Sharon Field, honoured her memory by walking the Hume and Hovell track from Yass to Albury – a distance of 440 kms over 24 days. Dragons Abreast ACT met with the walkers in Wee Jasper to walk part of the way, and DA Albury accompanied the two women on the final leg into Albury.

Dragons Abreast ACT appeared on the ABC's "The Insiders", they were asked opinions on current political happenings. Though it was a short segment, the boat and the dragons were very pink in the background.

Olympic Torch Relay – Dragons Abreast ACT was part of a flotilla for the Olympic torch as it passed through Canberra on 24 April.

May 2008

Wagga hosted the TOP (Touch of Pink) luncheon on 4 May, attended by a couple of Canberra paddlers, as well as a large number of Wagga paddlers and friends. Coverage appeared in the Daily Advertiser. Donation from the profits was made to Dragons Abreast Australia. Wagga presented Certificates of Appreciation to many contributors to the TOP luncheon

Merimbula News Weekly featured Helen and Pat winning gold medals in New Zealand.

Winter edition of ZEST, Riverina Division of General practice magazine, which is free to GPs in the Wagga district, featured Dragons Abreast Wagga at the 2007 ACT regatta – see <http://www.dragonsabreast.com.au/images/waggaZestforlife.jpg>

ACT paddlers took part in the NBCF Mothers Day Classic in Canberra, paddling the course alongside the runners.

Past Merimbula Coordinator, Helen Britten, was the Patron for the **Cancer Council's Relay for Life** in April 2008 and combined with Sapphire Water Dragons members, DA Merimbula raised over \$3000 for the cause. Helen Britten spoke at the event, and many of the Merimbula team took part. Story appeared in the **In the Know magazine**, featuring Helen. Pat Helmore gave a presentation to Rotary.

ACT received a **Sport and Recreation grant** of \$7000 towards buying a 'baby' 10-seater boat.

The wish list for April/May included:

- **RAIN** for Wagga to fill the lake
- A **baby boat cover** for ACT
- **Boat trolley and banner** for Dubbo
- **Laptop** for Merimbula

Wagga reported that they are **negotiating sponsorship of racing shirts and pfd's**, Canberra is planning a **Gecko Hunt**, while Dubbo have a number of upcoming events, including a **Film Premiere** and a **Dollar Night** at a local hotel. Canberra asked about the issue of Patrons for Dragons Abreast.

June 2008

Dubbo held a **Fun Night at Westside Hotel** to raise funds for Dragons Abreast, a **Golden Oldie Truck Show** and a **film premiere** to raise funds for their parent club, the Orana Dragon Boat Club. And they were selling M&Ms for DA. Media coverage of the events in the local newspaper

Wagga received a **cheque for \$10,000 from the Rotary Club of Wagga Wollundry** to purchase a new dragon boat. Lee Massey and Denise Flockton gave a presentation to the group to thank them for their generous donation. Media coverage in the local newspaper, the Daily Advertiser.

Regional Express Airlines (**REX**) **article in their inflight magazine OUTthere** on the Wagga Touch of Pink luncheon.

Wagga received **sponsorship for 24 pfd's** from a local real estate firm, and sponsorship for their **team racing shirts**, shared between a Foot Clinic and a food outlet.

Wagga **incorporated under the name of Dragons Abreast Wagga Wagga Inc**, have been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR), have Charitable Fundraising Authority status, and are now operating independently of Wagga Breast Cancer Group.

The ACT's Marion Blake attended a **Community Reference Group for ACT BreastScreen** program to discuss breast cancer month activities and how DA can assist in promoting screening mammograms via the October regatta.

Merimbula **received sponsorship from Merimbula Nursing Home** for their uniform.

July 2008

Wagga at last got their boat wet, not in Wagga, but in **Temora** on 26 July, with a sweep from Canberra, Lee Mavanna (Ice Dragons) and a sweep from Sale in Victoria, Pete Boreham, who previously lived in Wagga.

Wish list was similar to the previous report!

August 2008

Denise Flockton spoke at a **Wagga Jazz function** and at a **rugby presentation** night.

Wagga Coordinator Lee Massey was interviewed by **ABC Radio Riverina**, and the **Daily Advertiser** printed a story on DA Wagga, with picture showing the team on Lake Albert.

Dubbo had media coverage of the start of paddling season.

DA ACT members Gillian Styles and Robyne Kellett earned their **IROC (International Race Officials Certificates)** in Penang.

September

Wagga's friend and first sweep, **Pete Boreham**, was killed in a gliding accident. Pete was a great supporter of DAA, and DA Wagga members travelled to Sale in Victoria to attend Pete's funeral. DA Wagga have named one of their boats "**Pete's Dragon**" in memory of Pete.

Media coverage in Dubbo on arrival of new boat.

The ACT's **new baby boat, Gecko**, was launched on 9 September, with extensive media coverage.

In preparation for the upcoming **October regatta**, several radio interviews, and ACT Coordinator Marion Blake spoke at the Australian Tax Office, and received **a surprise donation of \$2000** from members of the ATO's social club.

DA Wagga **received \$2000 entry fee sponsorship** for the inaugural DAA regatta on Darling Harbour from NAPT Wagga.

7 DA Wagga members travelled to Canberra for **sweep training** provided by CDBA and DA ACT, as did Thelma from DA Albury-Wodonga.

Utopia – The genius of Emily Kame Kngwarreye - Margo Neale gave a very insightful talk and tour to DA ACT members and friends of this amazing exhibition at the National Museum of Australia on Sunday 7 September.

October 2008

DA ACT annual corporate and social regatta, from which was donated \$12,000 to Dragons Abreast Australia, \$2000 to Clare Holland House (Hospice), \$2000 to Otis Foundation, \$1000 to BCNA and \$500 to Queanbeyan Palliative Care. DA Wagga and DA Illawarra participated in the regatta as the Bidgee-Warras. Extensive media coverage of the event, on radio, television and in print.

Members of DA ACT attended the **launch of ABCD at Parliament House**.

Wagga participated in the **inaugural DAA regatta** in Sydney, together with a DA ACT member.

Wagga team was **interview for an article in Style magazine**, see their webpage for details.

Wagga and Dubbo sold **Keyrings of Hope** and Wagga sold **DAA lanyards**, a Wagga initiative. All crews participated in **BCNA's mini-fields on Women** in their local areas, and held fundraising raffles during Breast Cancer Month.

Wagga spoke to Wollundry Rotary and displayed their boat at St John's Flower and Music show.

DA Merimbula, as Sapphire Water Dragons, **presented a \$2000 cheque to Bega Valley library** for library resources.

DA Dubbo held an **Open Day** on 11 October, and a **Picnic in the Park** on 18 October.

Dubbo local breast care nurse took a group of her 'girls' for a taste of paddling with DA Dubbo.

Current Coordinator Marion Blake, and past Coordinator Judy Richmond, received "**Thanks Awards**" from ACT Sport and Recreation in recognition of their contribution to sport and recreation in the ACT.

Judy Richmond contributed \$1000 towards a boat cover for the ACT's 10 seater boat, Gecko, in memory of her late mother.

November 2008

Dubbo's new boat was named and blessed in a very moving ceremony, enhanced by the performance of a smoking ceremony by a local aboriginal elder. The boat was named in honour of Faye Rea, who lost her life to breast cancer, and was attended by members of Faye's family, and a **Flowers on the Water** ceremony was held.

ACT regatta windup to thank participants, volunteers and sponsors, with Susi Gross speaking on how the recipient organisations had benefitted her during her journey with breast cancer.

DA Wagga gave a presentation to the **Wagga YWCA Encore** group on the benefits of DA and dragonboat paddling, as did DA ACT in Canberra.

DBNSW's **Melanie Cantwell** attended Wagga's club meeting on 13 November, and her informative presentation was most appreciated by DA Wagga.

Kerrie Griffin received the **ACT's annual Dragon Spirit Award**, as the person most in keeping with the spirit of Dragons Abreast. Announcement made that Kerrie had won a competition for Dragons Abreast Australia, giving **DAA free postcards will appear in Jetstar's onboard magazines** in January 2009, a prize worth around \$2000.

DA **Regional Rep meetings in Darwin**, together with **10th Birthday of DAA**, attended by Anna Wellings Booth, Elspeth Humphries, and Jan Skorich.

December 2008

DA ACT's **Christmas Carols on the lake**.

DA ACT Christmas party at Margo's house.

Wagga is keen to participate in the 2010 breast cancer regatta in Peterborough, Canada, and would like to form a composite team. Please contact wagga@dragonsabreast.com.au

2009

I promise the next Regional Roundup will be shorter! Jan

