



Dragons Abreast Sydney
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Racing to the end of the year

The 2010/2011 regatta season is in full swing with three club regattas to report on in this edition of Paddles Up.

First up was Roseville on Sunday 7th November.

DASzlers teams competed well in the Masters Womens and Mixed Masters categories with our Masters Women coming second in the final.

The beautiful surroundings and perfect weather helped make the day extremely pleasant, despite the late arrival of the extra portaloos. As always at Roseville, it was a challenging day for sweeps with several "bingles" and near misses providing thrills for the crowds on shore.

And just when you thought you had experienced all that dragon boating regattas had to offer, a very high tide meant we had to learn to abseil down a very steep bank to load the boats. It's a good thing we are all so young and agile!



The beautiful surroundings at Roseville make for a very relaxing day (above), despite some very novel boarding techniques at the beginning of the day (below).



Deb Hirst looking happy with her sweeping performance at Roseville.

In the edition of Paddles Up we cover three regattas in November and December and report on DA Sydney's annual "over the top" Christmas celebrations.

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Next on the agenda was our annual pilgrimage to Orange. Here Wilma Kippers reports on another DASzling weekend away.

The regatta at Orange saw a large number of DASydney paddlers, partners and children descend on the town for a weekend of wineries, shopping, relaxing, eating, and of course, paddling.

Many of us arrived in town a day or two early in order to fit in all these activities, and quite a few members also volunteered on the Saturday with sweeping and training of the social teams, many of whom were getting into a dragon boat for their first time.

In contrast, Martin and I, together with Di and Tony Williams, spent Saturday afternoon wine tasting;

however, we were really doing important research and think we've found the perfect venue for the club dinner next time we come to Orange.

On Saturday evening 55 of us headed off for dinner together, and of course fuelling our bodies for next day's regatta. After dinner Deirdre appraised us of her skills in whistling to get everyone's attention – ask her how she learnt to do that – and Di informed us we only needed to be at the site by 7.45 am, which in regatta terms is a sleep-in (except of course for the volunteers who had to be there early for the briefing).

Sunday morning saw an overcast, cool day which was perfect conditions for racing. When we arrived Cynthia, Vicki F, and co were tucking into a magnificent breakfast picnic prepared especially for them by their B&B. Fortunately for the rest of us there was a coffee van in attendance and a local school preparing bacon & egg sandwiches and other calorific goodies.

Racing was divided into Schools, Social and Club categories with DASydney competing in the Mixed, Women's and Men's 10s categories. The lake conditions weren't too bad. It was a bit shallow in parts, weed could catch on your paddle and the wind made lining up a bit tricky, but on the whole everything worked quite smoothly with very enthusiastic participation by all teams.

Our main competitors were the young Mavs and Tsunami teams, as well as the combined MavNami team; however, the locals also kept us in form and gave us a run for our money. I'm told that "weight for age" (whatever that means) we would have won every time.

Again we had a number of club members volunteering as sweeps and drummers, as well as Michael O'Donnell at the start line and Yolande Presland returning for her first regatta this season. Yolande had a bird poop on her in the coffee queue and says this augurs good luck – thanks Yolande for taking one for the team!

The rain held off until about the last hour of racing when the steady drizzle set in. DASydney was in all the club finals, coming third in the Women's and Men's, and 4th in the Mixed. Everyone was pretty sodden at the end, but hey, it's a water sport!

The regatta was all over by 3.30 pm. Some of us stayed on overnight while others headed back home to Sydney. It was another very successful weekend away with the club – relaxing, good company, interesting location and fast and furious racing. We're already planning for next year.



Of course, a trip away with DA Sydney wouldn't be complete with the shopping expedition, but Carol Taylor is yet to be convinced.



Chris Mitchell is a great believer in loading up with carbs before a race.



Everyone lent hand at the regatta.



Celebrating Tracey Bowne's birthday.



The weather held until the last hour of the regatta at Orange, but there was shelter on hand.

And then on December 5th, the 500m regatta at Penrith. Fairlie Stanish was our reporter on the spot.

Another great regatta day out at Penrith. The weather was OK, though a bit warm at times, and looking very threatening as the finals were being run. But it then cleared again, the wind died down, and the always fun 2000m turns race went ahead, with some boats getting very close, so that paddlers had to lift their paddles to prevent clashing with the boat next to them! Well done Cynthia for getting us through safely!

Our Grandmasters mixed team did really well. There were two heats this time, so 10 teams altogether and we came fifth overall, with a time of 2 mins 18.05 (the winning time was 2 min 10.73, achieved by Nowra).

Our two Masters Women's teams were racing together as there were only six teams in this category. Our Passion team came 2nd in their first heat, and 1st in the second heat, with exactly the same time of 2 min 26.46 in each!

The Power team did really well as they were racing without a full boat, and with many of the paddlers

never having done a 500m race before (and on fresh water it is harder, we may have forgotten to tell you about that part!)

All teams got through to the final as there were only six, and Passion came 2nd, in 2.23.64, behind Bei Loon in 2.23.28. Power took 4 seconds off their time in the final –well done.

Our men had some good racing in the GM mixed, the Masters mixed, and also in the Premier Opens as a combined team with Pendragons, along with a few of our stronger women. This meant that some of them were doing almost back-to-back 500m races.

Congratulations to all our newer paddlers who were doing their first 500m races, and now you can say you have competed at an Olympic venue!

Well done also to Judy Dykes, who has now completed more than her required number of races to qualify as a sweep, with a bit less shaking knees than her last races at Penrith I think!

We are also giving some of our paddlers more experience in drumming, as we really need some more good drummers so well done Louise, Nicholle and Shannon – it's not as easy as it looks is it?



The DA Sydney Masters Mixed team loaded up for racing at Penrith.

RETURN SEASON

**“Bra-vo!
A cheerful show...”**

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BREAST WISHES

“It’s worth the price of admission, and then some... Mammaries are made of this...”
AUSTRALIANSTAGE.COM.AU

“the atmosphere of sisterhood celebration was palpable... and is likely to follow for a while yet?”
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

An Uplifting Musical

STARRING
SUZANNE DUDLEY (Neighbours) | **ANGELA KENNEDY** (Mamma Mia) | **OCTAVIA BARRON-MARTIN** (The 39 Steps) | **MEGHAN O'SHEA** (The Rocky Horror Show) | **BERYNN SCHWERDT** (West Side Story)

Music and Lyrics by **BRUCE BROWN**
 Written by **MERRIDY EASTMAN, JONATHAN GAVIN, RICHARD GLOVER, WENDY HARMER, SHERIDAN JOBBINS, JAMES MILLAR and DEBRA OSWALD**
 Concept by **ANNE LOOBY**

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Christmas celebrations 2010

Dragons Abreast Sydney members celebrated Christmas 2010 in style with a gourmet breakfast in the park on 11th December. Congratulations to Di Williams and her elves on another successful and enjoyable event.

We also held our annual "Christmas paddle" on 18th December, and as usual, we gave other paddlers and walkers on shore plenty to laugh about with our Christmas get-ups.



Month	Date(s)	Event	Location	Details
January 2011	 Saturday 8th	Tacoma Regatta	Central Coast	Register with Christine Mitchell at chrissie_m_@hotmail.com
February 2011	 Saturday 12th Sunday 13th	Chinese New Year	Darling Harbour	Register with Christine Mitchell at chrissie_m_@hotmail.com
March 2011	 Saturday 19th	NSW State Championships	SIRC Penrith	Register with Christine Mitchell at chrissie_m_@hotmail.com
	 30th - 3rd April	National Dragon Boating Titles	Canberra	Register with Christine Mitchell at chrissie_m_@hotmail.com
June 2011	 12th-13th	Port Macquarie Regatta and Marathon	Port Macquarie	TBA

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all those born in January:

- Wendy Mann 1st
- Bob Smith 2nd
- Angela Aston 4th
- Wendy Jensen 6th
- Cathy Lowndes 6th
- Mary Sheldon 12th
- Lynda Bryan 16th
- Gael Ellis 16th
- Eugenia Raftos 24th
- Dianne Williams 30th

And in February

- Deidre O'Flynn 5th
- Ruth Turnell 10th
- Louise James 17th
- Fay Capes 19th
- Brenda Owen 20th
- Vicki McLean 24th
- Susie Ingram 27th
- Samantha Russell 27th
- Sarah Dunn 27th



Regatta dates – put them in your diary now!