



DRAGONS ABREAST AUSTRALIA LTD

A.C.N 104 261 029

www.dragonsabreast.com.au

NEWS BULLETIN No. 1 - 22nd April 2003

National Coordinator

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Greetings fellow paddlers!

It's been a while since we've had a Weekly Bulletin! There's been lots of activity and many changes happening. So grab yourself a cuppa and sit down for a rather long - but very important read of this News Bulletin!

You may or may not have been aware, that in March 2002, BCNA took on board Dragons Abreast as a Project for a 12 month period. I made my final report to BCNA in February 2003. As a result, BCNA brought all Dragons Abreast team leaders together in Melbourne at the end of March 2003. The outcome of the meeting was that BCNA is no longer able to continue supporting Dragons Abreast financially. They have advised us all to be autonomous groups working alone. However, many groups had a strong desire to continue working together and promoting ourselves as ONE united front.

I am pleased to announce that Dragons Abreast Australia Ltd is now a registered, not for profit company. The founding directors are Janelle Gamble (Qld), Yvonne Dolman (Qld) and myself. **Bruce Smith** has most generously provided our legal work pro bono from **Smith & Stanton Lawyers** in Brisbane.

Dragons Abreast Australia Ltd is an independent, autonomous organization and plans to be inclusive, open and fully accountable to members. We intend to work side by side with BCNA much like any other umbrella group & BCNA have agreed that they will continue to promote us via the *The Beacon* magazine.



has most generously provided Web Site hosting and our new address is www.dragonsabreast.com.au. Jan Skorich from the ACT is our Web Master.

I have, temporarily, continued to take the mantle of National Coordinator & Sue Bowen (Qld), a qualified accountant, has agreed to act as Treasurer. Please note these are just interim measures so we can continue to move forward. At the Masters Games in November, we will have a meeting with representatives from each of the groups who choose to join as members. At this time, all positions will be declared vacant & it will also be an opportunity to revisit our Policy.

The Policy Document of Dragons Abreast Australia Ltd is located on our web site www.dragonsabreast.com.au. It is, in essence the same as the previous Policy Document (under BCNA), which all States, with the exception of South Australia, signed off on.

Following feedback from team leaders, we have specified that Dragons Abreast Australia Ltd does not permit sponsorship money to be used to fund overseas travel - although sponsorship of team uniforms & entry fees is permitted. There is also a clause regarding the pharmaceutical companies.

Membership Fees - initial membership fees are \$100 per regional group plus \$10 per individual. In areas where there are people wishing to support this initiative but their committee may not, individuals can sign up by paying \$10, without having to pay a group fee of \$100. This fee will take you up to December 31st 2003.

The membership fees will go towards basic running costs (web site & company registration etc). Members will receive a copy of the newsletter, either electronically or via snail mail & be included in plans for future joint participation in regattas - (like NZ, Nationals, Shanghai etc) as well as interesting information as it comes to hand.

Members Groups - of Dragons Abreast Australia Ltd to date include Newcastle & Hunter, Central Coast, Sydney, ACT, QLD, NT, WA, Tasmania.

HELP WANTED! - We plan to set up small groups to work nationally on PR, Sponsorship, Event Coordination, Web site contributions, Newsletters, Merchandise, and Registrar. If there are any of you out there who would be interested in working on one of these groups please contact me. Alternately if you have a bright idea for something we need to address!

Weekly Bulletin - due to time constraints I am unable to produce this on a weekly basis. Rather I am proposing a **News Bulletin** as and when I can manage it! If there are some volunteer helpers we can hopefully get this out more regularly, as I know everyone enjoys it!

Check the Web Site for the latest photos from New Zealand and Adelaide. Also details of happenings around the country - we plan to utilize this more to circulate news & photos! Remember, this is YOUR site - so don't be shy about contributing & making suggestions for content etc.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Shanghai, China Aug/Sept 2003 -We have a couple of vacancies as 2 members have pulled out due to SARS scare. Please let me know if you are interested in filling any vacant slots. IDBF are closely monitoring the situation and if they deem it necessary event will be cancelled. Expect a firm decision by 31st May 2003.

MASTERS GAMES - CANBERRA ACT - Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th November. Plan to arrive on Wednesday if you can! This will be a fantastic event with lots of social happenings beforehand!

NATIONALS 2004 - Perth WA. Dates are not yet finalized but expect it to be around April.

WORLD CLUB CREW CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004 - Cape Town, South Africa - April 2004. You should be able to do Perth and then continue on your flight to South Africa!

Dragons Abreast Australia Ltd has some expressions of interest for all these events. Please contact me if you are interested & I'll see how the numbers stack up.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Membership to Dragons Abreast Australia Ltd - if yes, please email me
2. Would you be able to volunteer for some sort of role listed in Help Wanted?
3. Masters Games? If attending contact Elspeth Humphries
humphries44@ozemail.com.au

I look forward to hearing from you in due course. Please feel free to pass on this newsletter to any of your friends who are not on email or not on our distribution list. I believe this is an important newsletter as it explains about Dragons Abreast Australia Ltd. I hope many of you will choose to join with us as we move forward on our journey with the dragon spirit.

I think it appropriate to end with the poem written some time ago by our wonderful Robyne in ACT - she sums us up very nicely!

Come and Paddle with Us

Come and paddle with us
Put your backs towards the sun
The paddles dipping strongly
As the boat just glides along.

We're fighting feisty females
With a passion we'd like to share
We call our strokes out loudly
And the noise does fill the air.

As we power through the water
We all stroke out as if one
We're a band of friendly fighters
For the challenge we have come.

We're fighting feisty females
Full of fun and full of fire
Of the challenge set before us
We will never ever tire.

Robyne Kellett, ACT Dragons Abreast, Dec 2001

Check out the web site for Robyne's latest poem! It is just wonderful.

Michelle Hanton
National Coordinator