



# Dragons Abreast Australia National News Bulletin

JUNE 2006



## Celebrating Life!

This last month has been exceedingly busy as the Abreast in Australia Committee have been fielding enquiries, processing registration and a couple of us have also had further visits to Caloundra. The town is just so excited about this event! Check out the website [www.caloundratourism.com.au](http://www.caloundratourism.com.au) to gain an insight into this lovely little oasis which will become Dragon Central in Sept 2007 – they've even got the event listed on the website [http://www.caloundratourism.com.au/info.php?f=view\\_info&i=1304](http://www.caloundratourism.com.au/info.php?f=view_info&i=1304)

The June issue of our hard copy newsletter is now out and all coordinators and State Reps have been sent a supply. So if you have not seen it being distributed just ask your coordinator for a copy.

As we come to the end of another financial year, I want to say a very big thank you to all those members who have supported us with Pink Parties, purchasing raffle tickets, donations and volunteering to assist on so many levels. It is truly appreciated! As we move into our renewal phase for insurances and also sourcing funding to make *2007 Abreast in Australia* a huge success, I would just like to remind all members that as we grow we continue to need your support – now more than ever!

All members should be looking at funding for DAA as a top priority. I know many of you are willing to get behind local causes but at the end of the day, it would be wonderful if you can think of DAA in the same way. It is our national profile and efforts that have made it possible for all groups to get going in Australia. For 8 years we have run on the sniff of an oily rag – fuelled only by our determination to make sure that DAA experience remains open to all that need it. We have seen local groups spring up everywhere – which is wonderful!!! We are very proud of everyone and we love to hear of your achievements!

DAA has always been available to help out with difficult times, with assisting new groups set up, helping to source cheap insurance costs, telling you who to contact at State level, organizing composite teams and generally making it possible for you to get on the water. At the national level we gained absolutely nothing from this – nor do we expect to. But what we do expect is to be top priority for our members so that we can continue to be a strong organisation that can continue to be supportive of all those new groups who want to get started – so we can share the magic that is the dragon boat.

If it were not for the wonderful donations from the AFMA Conference, thanks to Carol Arnold of MBT, the support of Dragons Abreast Sydney with the CNY Races, and Dragons Abreast NT's donation from the Crab & Quail Night plus all the little Pink Parties around the country, we would not have managed to survive the last 12 months. Thank you one and all for all donations of all sizes!!!!

*Michelle Hanton, National Coordinator*

## DRAGONS ABREAST AUSTRALIA RAFFLE 2006

### FIRST PRIZE

Australian South Sea drop pearl set on 18ct white gold pendant mount with three brilliant cut champagne diamonds. Generously donated by The Pearl Shop in conjunction with Darwin Human Resource & Computer Academy. Value \$1,800

### SECOND PRIZE

Beautifully handcrafted quilt. Double bed quilt donated by The Hunters Hill Quilters Inc. Value \$500

For more information and to order Raffle Tickets check out <http://www.dragonsabreast.com.au>

Tickets are \$2 each; one book of tickets consists of 10 tickets - a total of \$20 per book.

*Total prize value \$2,300.00 Lottery will be drawn at 5pm on Friday 25th August at Darwin Human Resource & Computer Academy, 2/2 Sheppard St, Darwin NT. 3,400 tickets to be sold. Permit Number D2715*



**Jo Parry & Pete Cardell,  
of DA team Missabitattitti enjoyed a  
day learning how to sail recently**

### Aussie-wide Breast Cancer Discussion Forum

Inviting all those who are affected by  
breast cancer to join in our friendly  
new online community at  
<http://www.bcaus.org.au>

## The 2006 Wilson HTM and Womensport Queensland

### Business Luncheon 19 July 2006

The 2006 luncheon will be held on 19 July at Sofitel Brisbane. Guest speaker is Ms Julia Gillard MP as well as an interview panel with Libby Lenton, Leisel Jones, Weightlifting champion Deb Lovely, and the amazing stars of cycling, Anna and Kerrie Meares. Jillian Whiting from Channel 9 will MC the event. We thank our fantastic sponsors Wilson HTM, our Naming Rights Sponsor; The Courier-Mail, our Guest Speaker Sponsor in addition to event sponsors Castlemaine Perkins, Coca-Cola, Fine Wine Partners, Printpoint Australia, Channel 9 and 4BC/4BH. To find out more about the luncheon click here to go to our website [www.womensportqld.com.au](http://www.womensportqld.com.au). To register for a place at the luncheon contact Angela Morrisby at Straight2 on fax: (07) 3358 3012 or email: [ange@straight2.com](mailto:ange@straight2.com)

Join us for this fantastic event which assists in supporting Womensport Queensland's aim in inspiring and creating winning opportunities for women and girls in sport in Queensland.

## Bravehearts – well done

Brave Hearts Dragons Abreast was nominated for the Inaugural Albury City 2006 Celebrate Albury Community Awards, in the Group Section, along with the Indoor Netball Association, St. John Ambulance and the Outdoor Netball Association.



The Award was for the Exceptional Commitment to the Albury Community.



## TWIN TITTIES - TOWNSVILLE

At last we have had a break for the heat in far north Queensland and the weather has turned very mild, even a little cold on Saturday mornings when Twin Titties members take to the water off the Strand in Townsville. This time of year is beautiful in this part of the world. Our membership is growing and more women are experiencing the magic of dragon boating. Twin Titties are increasing in confidence, having a great time and making lots of new friendships.

Two of our members, Joan and Chris Billingsly completed a level 1 dragon boat coaching course which was held in conjunction with the Nationals at Nagambie just before Easter. We are now benefiting from the skills they brought back. This coaching addition to our club has been great for us as there are no other dragon boat clubs in north Queensland from which we can draw experience.

### Relay for Life

Twin Titties members participated in the Relay for Life over the Mothers Day weekend. We had a team of about 40 people and even though the weather that weekend was wet and cold it did not deter the spirit of all involved. The event this year had a circus theme. Twin Titties rose to the occasion with our craft committee responsible for black tutu's beautifully decorated with glitter and diamonds, a bright pink dragon tail, tiara's and of course our trade mark decorated black bras worn on the outside. It was great fun and the Queensland Cancer Fund was very happy with the money raised for cancer research.

### Arrival of Croc Boats



Twin Titties have been the very lucky recipients of a donation of two beautiful wooden crocodile boats. The Atherton /Mareeba Rotary Club contacted Twin Titties earlier this year with the offer of these two half size boats that have a crocodile head and tail carved on them. These dragon boats had been used by the Rotary club some years ago and were then stored in someone's shed for a number of years. Kevin Wadley from the Atherton/Mareeba Rotary Club told us they wanted to give them away to a good home where they

knew they would be used for the benefit of a group. We feel very honoured that they thought of us. Shortly after this, Cyclone Larry hit North Queensland and passed over the Atherton Tablelands where the boats were stored. We didn't hear anything further for a while in the aftermath of the cyclone. Contact was made again recently with the Rotary Club and the boats have now arrived in Townsville. As yet we have not had a chance to take them to the water. They will need to be checked over by a shipwright as they have not been in the water for a number of years. We feel that the presence of these wonderful boats in the water off the Strand will spark interest in the Townsville community for the establishment of a dragon boat club here. We are just so grateful to the Rotary club for their very kind donation.



## DRAGONS ABREAST CENTRAL COAST NEWS.

From the depths of a very cold winter, there has recently been a wonderful new splash of **PINK** on the waters of the Budgewoi Lake.

Our boat has been transformed with the application of a new gleaming hot pink gel-coat, thanks to the amazing generosity of Gary Maxworthy from Maxworthy Marine, Gosford.



In keeping with the Chinese origins of dragon boating, a very special blessing ceremony was performed by a local Buddhist spiritual celebrant, Trudee MacGregor-Scott, before the official launch. The boat has been named "Spirit" in recognition of the strength of spirit which unites all past, present and future members.

As well, at our last meeting we voted for a new team name and unanimously chose Liz Hill's suggestion of 'COAST BUSTERS'. So the new team is all fired up and looking forward to meeting you all on the water again soon. Happy Paddling, Claire McConaghy. Central Coast Coordinator

# Pan Pacific Masters Games 2007


You may have heard advertised the 2006 Pan Pac Games at the Nationals at Nagambie. We have gained huge interest from national and international Dragon teams and look forward to hosting a hugely competitive two days of racing, which is perfect competitive lead up to the 2007 Nationals / Internationals.

For more information, please log onto the website at [www.goldcoastdragons.com](http://www.goldcoastdragons.com), games website [www.mastersgames.com.au](http://www.mastersgames.com.au) or email [events@goldcoastdragons.com](mailto:events@goldcoastdragons.com)



## The Gold Coast Dragon Boat Club Proudly Invites you to...

### The Pan Pacific Masters Games Dragon Boat titles 2006



**When:**  
10 & 11th Nov 2006

**Where:**  
Hinze Dam  
Gold Coast  
Hinterland


**Time:**  
8am to 4 pm

**Cost:**  
\$27.50 pp per crew


**What is the Pan Pacific Masters Games?**  
The 2006 Pan Pacific Masters Games is Australia's largest master's multi-sport event with more than 10,000 participants, 39 sports to choose from and 10 days of competition and camaraderie.

**Why Participate?**  
Enjoy the sun and surf the Gold Coast is renowned and compete against other Dragon Boating crews from all over Australia and the world. Thrills of competition one day and relaxing in Australia's premier holiday destination the next!

**Competition and Partying**  
The competition will be held on the picturesque Hinze Dam in the Gold Coast hinterland, a leisurely half hour drive from the Games Village.  
The Games Fee includes unlimited entry into the legendary, fully catered Games Village. Enjoy the spectacular Opening Ceremony and live entertainment every night of the event or relax during the day, indulge in a coffee or cocktail and soak up the atmosphere of this spectacular venue that boasts views across the magnificent Gold Coast Broadwater.

**Proudly managed and sponsored by:**  

To register a team please fill in the attached Application form in the booklet provided or register online at [www.mastersgames.com.au](http://www.mastersgames.com.au)  
Any questions please feel free to call Soren on 0438 767369, email: [events@goldcoastdragons.com](mailto:events@goldcoastdragons.com) or website: [www.goldcoastdragons.com](http://www.goldcoastdragons.com)



## DRAGONS ABREAST BENDIGO CANOE THE GLENELG RIVER

On 26th April, fourteen "pink ladies" from Dragons Abreast Bendigo set off, in picture postcard weather, for Dartmoor in the Western District of Victoria to tackle the Glenelg River by canoe and camp in the Lower Glenelg National Park. The Glenelg River rises in the Grampians, criss-crosses the Victoria/South Australia border and runs into the sea at Nelson. We were thrilled to see the green countryside around us, such a contrast to dry and dusty Central Victoria.

At Dartmoor we checked out the pub for dinner. "That will be our last good meal for a while!" was the opinion of most! Then to Paestan Canoe Hire. Here we were to spend our first night in very comfortable bunk beds! We awoke to a crisp sunny morning and were transported with the canoes and gear in waterproof barrels, to Donovan's Landing, South Australia.

**We were away.** Somehow those canoes did not want to go in a straight line. Some were too heavy in front! Some had problems steering! Some just could not follow directions. "Paddle on the left!" shouts one and her partner paddles on the right! Yes you guessed it, she did not know right from left. Eventually the "penny dropped" and one shouted, "Paddle on the side of your watch hand!"

Lasletts Camp was our first night. Some had never camped in the bush before, one had never slept in a tent before and many had not canoed before. What an indoctrination! Liz decided to swim across the river to freshen up (the water **was** cold!). Another camper, suitably impressed, presented Liz with a bottle of MacLarenvale Shiraz. The "pink ladies" were quite happy with that "swimming trophy" and shared it over the next two nights.

Next morning we set out for Patterson's Canoe Camp. The further we paddled upstream, the more beautiful our surroundings, the narrower the river and the more birdlife we saw. We passed tall limestone cliffs with many caves and crevices harbouring who knows what. We saw kingfishers, night herons, egrets, ducks, moor hens, pied cormorants, and shags.

At Patterson's there are huts, welcome cover for our gear as the weather deteriorated. Beside our camp fire was an enormous tree. Sitting underneath one spotted something strange on her leg. It was a leech. More leeches were found on others but were wiped off before they too had chance to feast! Through the night the possums went on the rampage, attacking garbage bags, jumping on barrels and knocking things on to the hut floor with a crash. Maureen had had enough! She chased a huge possum up a tree. After that peace reigned. During the night the rain cleared.

We awoke to a peaceful, somewhat misty morning. We paddled off, destination Forest South camp, the last night. Here two went off bird watching/plant spotting. Seen were Rufus whistlers, a swamp wallaby, wonderful moss, flowering bushes and an enormous flock of gang gang cockatoos which flew in over the camp and came down to drink in the rainwater tank. Every night we heard the mopoke calling. That last night was really special with a singsong around the camp fire. Even the possums even thought we were OK as they foraged around close behind us. Not all took too kindly to this! And everyone made sure their tent was well zipped up to keep out marauding possums!

On our last day we paddled 3.4kms. It had been a great adventure, with a wonderful group of women. They showed such guts and determination. They absorbed the beauty of the river and the serenity of this amazing area. It was a trip we all want to repeat. For many, it was over far too quickly!

## DRAGONS ABREAST TASMANIA

Even though you have not heard from D.A.T. for a while, this most southern club has not been idle.

In January 2006 "Boobialla" and paddlers went to the lagoon at Cremorne. It was a glorious day for us to practice our safety drill overturning the boat. Those who wished to dive under the boat discovered there really is an air pocket underneath. The drill was followed by a barbeque at a member's home. The lessons learnt this day proved to be valuable when Boobialla capsized on May 13<sup>th</sup>. When all were flung into the very chilly waters of the River Derwent, there was no panic. Every one survived the mishap looking like drowned rats.

We have been very fortunate that Eastern Star, the ladies Lodge, and Zonta Storm Bay Club have chosen us as their charities for 2006. On Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> Eastern Star held a barbeque and quiz which many members attended. Zonta held a fashion parade on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Lindisfarne Rowing Club to raise funds for us. Another huge success. Three of the Dragons were models and proved very entertaining.

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> saw us at the Hobart Regatta where we challenged the Navy dragon boat team made up from sailors from the 3 visiting ships. Again it was a lot of fun. We managed to beat them after working out pre-race tactics.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> with "Boobialla" in tow a crew travelled to Devonport to participate, with the Devonport girls, in the Devonport Regatta. We had the weekend there, attending a dinner on the Saturday night. Sunday was race day. As the winning crew, we were presented with the inaugural Pat Mathew Memorial Challenge Trophy. This will be an annual event.

Our goal this year has been to raise enough money for a second boat. One of many functions, a soup lunch and auction, was held at a member's home on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The auction was hilarious as the auctioneer was the home owner. When *she* wanted an item *she* closed the bidding. Members of Santa attended and presented us with a cheque for \$900 towards the new boat.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> "Boobialla" and a group travelled north to Launceston. Along with the Devonport girls, we demonstrated our expertise to the crowd at the Duck Derby and spread awareness of Dragons Abreast, with the hope that a team will get going in Launceston.

Over Easter. a D.A.T. crew along with 3 North Island members paddled at Nagambie. Just to have a team participate was a wonderful achievement for D.A.T. The majority had never competed in an official race before. It has whetted the appetites of many to take part next year at Caloundra. In the euphoria of Nagambie we ordered our 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragon Boat.

With the end of Daylight Saving we now only paddle on Saturday mornings and will continue with this during the winter to keep the momentum going. Thursday evenings are social get togethers with fun exercising at the Lindisfarne Rowing Club.

There are more events planned for the winter season, and our membership is growing slowly. A first time paddler was tipped into the Derwent and came back the following week.