

## Dragon boat awakens

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LOCAL NEWS

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A large crowd of supporters gathered at Brennan Park on Sunday morning to witness the awakening of the Spirit of Bribie, Dragons Abreast Bribie Island's new dragon boat.

The ceremony entails dotting the eyes and ears of the dragon to awaken its spirit. Sue Droughton, president of Zonta Club of Caboolture Inc; Roger Platt, president of the Rotary Club of Bribie Island; Carryn Sullivan, State member for Pumicestone; and Dawn Worley, president of Dragons Abreast Bribie Island all participated in this important rite.

Hazel Cowburn, who designed the Spirit of Bribie emblem which is painted on both sides of the boat, signed her artwork. Hazel's vibrant artwork is also featured in the Pinkaboutit logo on the back of the members pink shirts.

Bishop Raymond Smith blessed the boat and all crew who will paddle in her.

Si Fu Brett Fenton assisted the paddlers with the traditional incense burning, showing respect to the dragon and the sea to ensure good luck and safe paddling. This was followed by a colourful and noisy lion dance which enthralled the crowd, especially the children.

Amongst the supporters present were Councillor Allan Sutherland, Mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council; Division 1 councillor Gary Parsons, Jo Parry, the Qld state representative of Dragons Abreast Australia (DAA) and Lexie Warren, National Community Liaison for DAA.

This special ceremony was the culmination of months of hard work and the generosity of several local community groups. Zonta donated the entire amount required to purchase the dragon boat, while Rotary donated money for paddling equipment and members' shirts.

Unfortunately it was too windy to launch the dragon boat, but everyone enjoyed the festivities, and some new breast cancer survivors expressed an interest in paddling with Dragons Abreast Bribie Island in the future. DABI is not just for those who live on Bribie Island: breast cancer survivors and their supporters from Caboolture/ Morayfield and surrounding areas are all welcome to join.

For more information on Dragons Abreast Bribie Island, please contact Dawn on 3408 8824 or Janet on 3400 1828.