

## NEWS FROM BUNBURY, WA - CREWSADERS ARE STARS!

By Jill Harrison



The Crewsaders stole the show at the end of season wind up of the Forza Dragon Boat Club and their affiliate crew, Crewsaders Dragons Abreast Bunbury, held at the Bunbury Rowing Club on Saturday 13 May 2007. The room was a sea of dazzling pink tulle and reverberated with the smiles and laughter of both the Crewsaders and the audience when the Crewsaders performed their hilarious rendition of Tchaikovsky's Dance of the Reed Flutes from the Nutcracker Suite.

Choreographed by their coach, Jill Harrison, the Crewsaders had been rehearsing the dance for only two weeks before the performance. "The inspiration for the dance came to me suddenly, it was just a matter of finding the right piece of music, and Dance of the Reed Flutes fitted perfectly as it has a definite beat and is easy to hear the changes from one step to the next. Basically the dance steps were warm up exercises we do before paddling. Then our sweep Christine Penny suggested we put in an excerpt of the Birdie Dance in the middle.



I wasn't sure how the whole thing was going to go across until we got out on the floor, and when I saw everyone in the audience was smiling and laughing, I thought "perfect!" Eighteen ladies all dressed up in bright pink, it was just dazzling to look at. I was out in front and had no idea what was going on behind me, but looking at the video it was hilarious to watch."



“Every year at the Forza windup one group, either the male paddlers or the female paddlers do a skit – it’s just a bit of a laugh, nothing serious. This is the Crewsaders second year as part of Forza and when they started talking about doing something my mind started ticking and the idea came along. They all took to the idea, and we pulled it all together in only a few weeks, and two of the ladies that can sew made the skirts for those who couldn’t. A couple of people have suggested we perform the dance at other

“comedy” shows, but I think you would have to be a dragon boater to really understand what it’s all about.”

All the girls thoroughly enjoyed the performance and took to the dance floor after the formal part of the evening was over. Julie and Courtney Scott presented each of the Crewsaders with a “novelty” award, each perfectly suited to the recipient.



Jill says, “Someone asked me if the Crewsaders have more fun than the Forza paddlers, and I replied they definitely do. They know how to enjoy themselves and have a good laugh. They just love life, and that’s what makes them such a special group to be a part of. It doesn’t matter what

sort of week you’ve had, when you come down to Crewsaders training on Saturday mornings, you come away with a smile on your face.”