

TWIN TITTIES TALES



July 2011

Dragons Abreast Townsville Inc.

Our philosophy is that we are already winners because we are here and able to participate. Our race is against breast cancer – not each other.



We are part of Dragons Abreast Australia, a group of women who are or support Breast Cancer Survivors. The Townsville group formed in August 2004 & started paddling with the Outriggers at the Strand. When we got our 1st dragon boat we moved to the Ross River in Thuringowa. We became the Twin Titties in 2006 & now paddle on Cleveland Bay with beautiful Magnetic Island in the back ground. Our boats can be seen paddling along the Strand on Saturdays commencing at 7am from behind the Tobruk swimming pool.

Inaugural North Queensland Dragon Boat Regatta Series

The inaugural North Queensland Dragon Boat Regatta was hosted by the Townsville Dragon Boat Club on Ross River on Sunday May 15th May. Teams from Cairns, Mackay Stingers and Dragons Abreast Mackay joined the local sports teams and Dragons Abreast Townsville team (Twin Titties) for an enjoyable and competitive day's racing. The event, the first of three in the Tri Series, has been a long held dream for many of the local Dragons Abreast members. The Mackay Stingers teams dominated the day taking home all four of the sports team trophies on offer – Mixed 20s, Women's 20s, Mixed 10s and Women's 10s. Twin Titties narrowly defeated DAM Awesome (Mackay) by only one second over the two heats, to take bragging rights in the Dragons Abreast Challenge. As both teams were down on numbers they welcomed the Cairns girls with open arms. The fastest time of the day, 1.04.38 was shared by the Mackay Stingers Mixed 20's and Women's 20's teams. The event was hailed as a great success by all who attended. Planning has already started for round two to be held on Sunday 24th July. An Officials Course and Sweep accreditation were also held in conjunction with the Regatta, with valuable advice coming from QDBF representatives Karen & Paul Jarvis and AusDBF Official Janine Lette. Thank you to everyone who helped make the weekend a success. – Story submitter by Desley Ralph.



DAA Raffles – Cowboys League Club - Written by Rebecca Jacobs

The community raffles held at Cowboys League Club on Sunday 26th June was an event organised by Donna-Mae with funds raised assisting members in attendance on the day to go to DAA National Regatta in September. The sale of tickets was made easy as the club had a large crowd of patrons waiting to watch Cowboys play an away game on the big screen in the car park. Our members sold tickets to the value of \$680.00 and were told by the Cowboys duty manager that was a very successful event. Dragons Abreast Townsville will be receiving a cheque from the Cowboys League Club less the amount of any raffle prizes that required payment. Our group (dressed in pink) then enjoyed a social lunch at the Cowboys with one of our members having a little win on Keno.

Just by meeting together socially as a group in pink with our DA logo, we are creating awareness.

Musical – Breast Wishes – By Rebecca Jacobs

Breast Wishes the Musical was attended by a small group of our members on Thursday 30th June at the Civic Theatre. There was a great display of BLING YA BRA in the foyer and what great imagination and creative talents some people possess. The musical consisted for four women, a mother, two daughters, a cousin and boyfriend/husband. The mother of the group was a bra-fitter who's seen it all and haven't we all had a lady with similar qualities in the fitting rooms of a lingerie shop.

I found it very confronting when one of the daughters was then going through the process of a breast cancer diagnosis. Even after 5 years post- diagnosis, hearing the words again is still a raw emotion and is still very close to the surface.

The music was great, quite humorous and if this musical encourages women to be more vigilant about breast awareness then it was \$40.00 well spent.

Bids and Bods.

We would like to remind you all about the Annual Fee of \$10 which is currently due. This membership is purely to DAT Inc. and is regardless of whether or not you paddle. Also be aware that the DAA ID Tags will be coming shortly by post to individuals. Please advise Donna (Secretary) of any changes to your contact details over the past 12 months including your email address. This will ensure you are kept up to date with all upcoming events & news.

Please don't forget with the Sucrogen Townsville 400 V8 racing on in Townsville you will need to allow extra time to get to paddling due to the road closures for the event. Plan your trip to the Strand and leave home a bit earlier so you don't miss the boat.

I am sure there are a few Ladies around town who are looking forward to the Ladies Day at Cluden Park on the 16th July. Great excuse to buy a new frock, shoes and bag and pamper yourself for the day, don't you think girls! Oh! not to mention the copious amounts of wine and champagne to be had on the day.

I'm sure you all read in the Townsville Bulletin this week about Prince William and wife Kate competing in a Chinese Dragon Boat race during their tour of Canada. Maybe if we all had a go at sweeping, we too could look like Kate! Now there's something to think about.

Fond Farewell to our Beloved Wooden Croc Boats

The Croc Boats had a safe one way trip to Tinaroo in early June thanks to Norm and Beryl. One of the Croc Boats was taken out for a paddle on the lake during our long weekend visit 11th & 12th June 2011, with Cheryl sweeping. The paddling crew included some of the Cairns Wooden Boat members, Vivienne and Ken from Cairns Dragon Boat Club, Olwyn, Debbie, Beryl and Rebecca. The official hand over was held at 2.30pm on Sunday 12th June and it had been kept a secret from most of the Wooden Boat Assoc. members that their club would be acquiring these vessels. Needless to say the members are most excited about this donation.

It was also made possible on Sunday for Bec to have an informal and interesting chat with the past president of the Atherton Rotary Club, Mr Kevin Wadley who was involved in the construction of the Croc Boats in 1983. As a courtesy, we advised Rotary of Dragons Abreast decision to donate these boats to The Cairns Wooden Boat Assoc. Kevin was more than happy the boats will be of benefit to another organisation. Written below is a bit of history for those who are not aware of the Wooden Croc Boats history.

I only info I have was that I think Kevin Wadley said on Sunday that they took 10000 man hours to build.. The only time I have been in the Croc Boats was for Cultural Fest 2010 and on Sunday.

The 'Legend of the Croc Boats aka Kath & Kim' as I recall. – Written by Joan Billingsley

they were designed by a gentleman by the name of Bill Souter (no relation to Norm) and built by members of Rotary Atherton in 1983 for a water carnival. It took 10000 man hours to build the Croc Boats. The heads are made of Silky Oak and teeth designed by a dentist. Norm filled their heads with foam for floatation purposes should they capsize. Approx - 2005/2006 The mother of club member Sue Creece, Ramona Mulligan, facilitated the gifting of 2 Croc Boats to DAT. This was as a result of the long standing involvement and connections Ramona had amongst the Canoe Clubs of NQ. The Croc Boats had originally been handcrafted to take part in the annual water festival on Lake Tinaroo, however over the years with restrictions on Lake Tinaroo and other factors the boats had been sitting/languishing away in a scout shed waiting for a second chance at life. Early 2006 after much talking between parties - Atherton Rotary Club, Mareeba Rotary Club and DAT, Cheryl and Mick Oats drove to the Tablelands to meet with the Rotarians and inspect the Croc Boats. On June 7th with much excitement the Croc Boats arrived in Townsville complete on their trailer, on the back of a semitrailer. After they were unloaded Cheryl and Mick housed them until a suitable storage arrangement was organised.

On 30th June thanks to Carole Douglas' magic, a temporary home was found for the Croc Boats. This is the shed they stayed in until it was demolished last year, 2010. A Big thanks to Richard Ferry for his support in offering this shed and to the local Surf Lifesaver clubs who moved their surf boats around to fit our Croc Boats in the same shed. Mid 2006 the Croc Boats were launched in Ross Creek with champagne. I think this is when they were named Kath & Kim. In Nov 2006 Kath & Kim appeared in all their splendour at the basketball for a Croc's game that was sponsored by Michael and Linda Buck.

2007 – This was the time that Norm Smith lovingly restored 'the girls' to their former beauty in preparation for the return to their homeland. Norm took 10 months to restore them and during that time, after paddling each Saturday, the girls would then go to the shed (Townsville Wooden Boat Assoc) and turn them in readiness for the next coat of varnish. In June 2008 the Croc Boats went to Tinaroo Dam to join in the annual Wooden Boat Festival at the invitation of the Cairns Wooden Boat Club. There was much excitement in the air for the builders of the boats to see them again, from the Wooden Boat fraternity as the word had spread that they were 'alive and well' thanks to Norm and DAT. DAT member, Anne Pincott and her husband Raymond towed the Croc Boats up to Tinaroo and back again. At the festival the boats were officially gifted to DAT for the handsome sum of a kiss. Since 2008 they have appeared in street parades, Cultural Festivals,, Riverway celebrations and displays. This is, as I recall, some of the early days of Kath & Kim.



Upcoming Events:

- Training Day – Club Govenence 23rd July
- Tville Regatta – 24th July
- DAA National Regatta – 10th September

Events Around Town:

- Sucrogen Townsville 400 – 8th-10th July
- Ladies Day – Cluden Park 16th July
- Mini Field of Flowers- 2nd Oct (TBC)



Birthday Celebrations:-

- Sue, Ros & Libby - July
- Joan & Cheryl - August
- Judy & Gail – Sept

Next Meetings:-

DAT Inc. General Meeting – 6th August & 1st Oct 2011.

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Sponsors: Mater Health Services, BHPBilliton, Townsville Port Authority, Arena Engineering, Storage King - Hyde Park.

Poem – by Joan Billingsley in 2009.

Five years ago at a public meeting
The heart of our dragon started beating,
Lead by Sandra and Karen we came
To hear about this new 'pink' name,
Dragons Abreast Australia we were told
Had much for us all to embrace and uphold

Thanks to the outriggers we learnt how to paddle and float
While we gathered enough money to buy our dragon boats,
In these boats we sit two by two
With a drummer and sweep it makes twenty two

Some of antics we have been known to share
Includes how we wear our blinged underwear,
Tiaras and tails we put on for fun
Though it is not a rule for everyone,
The Celebration of Life when all said and done
This is the bond that makes us all one

We have grown in our first five years
Through love sweat and sometimes tears,
To have fun and get fit helps us to face many fears
As a pink club we have much cause to give cheers

To say how we feel and what it is that we do
That is something special made up of me and you,
Breast Cancer survivors and supporters too
Paddling together and sharing a bubble or two,
Thanks to a Canadian Doctor's medical study
We have the opportunity to become breast buddies.

Stories of Interest.

Highway for Hope : In an article in the Townsville Bulletin on May 18th the son of our very own Breast Cancer Survivor – Carole Douglas had a story of his charity run from Townsville to Cairns. Rob Douglas will do the run for Breast Cancer Research. Rob will run a marathon a day for nine days but will split it up so he does 20km in the morning and 20km in the afternoon. What an epic journey of 370km Rob will begin on 15th July. Rob decided on raising money for NBCF as they focus on the research side of new drugs to assist in treatment of those already with cancer as well as hopefully finding a vaccine one day to stop it. Anyone wishing to sponsor or donate can contact Rob Douglas via his facebook page "Highway for Hope" or by email bob.douglas89@gmail.com - As per Townsville Bulletin 18th May 2011

Live2Play Expo

Members had an enjoyable couple of days on May 21st and 22nd as they manned a display at the Live2Play expo looking to recruit new members. It was a joint effort by TDBC and DATi members who spruiked the benefits of dragon boat paddling to anyone who would listen. Special mention must go to Cheryl and Tony who managed to combine hula hooping and a paddling demonstration to the amazement of onlookers!

We have had some great news with regards to the storage of our equipment currently placed at **Storage King – Hyde Park**. Michelle has extended our free storage for another six months. We would like to extend our thanks to Michelle and her team at Storage King for her kind donation to our club. We would like to encourage anyone who is in need of storage space at any time to contact Storage King Hyde Park.