



Buddhist Nun, the Venerable Namdag, performed a beautiful blessing ceremony before the launch of Dragons Abreast Bundaberg's new dragon boat 'Linda' at the Bundaberg Sailing Club on Sunday 5 October. The boat was donated by Tom and Joan Head, Directors of local personnel business Challenge21 Pty Ltd., in memory of Joan's mother, Linda who died of breast cancer.

Local breast cancer survivor paddlers, including Pat Orvad, Lynne McKinnon, Bev Cross, Carolyn Saffron, Joann Warburton, Pam Meredith, Anne Holmes, Helen Heidenreich and Rhonda Stafford sprinkled blessed rose petals in the boat, then paddled out and cast them into the river, to spread the blessings across the sea.

The Dragons Abreast team is part of the Bundaberg Dragon Boat Club whose members train Sundays at 7.30am and Wednesdays at 4.30pm at the Sailing Club. New members are very welcome to help our current 14 survivors fill up the boat!

An extract from Ven. Namdag's blessing:

"We bless this dragon boat and all who use or see it. May the joys and pleasure which they bring be treasured by all. As it glides through the water may it bless the water and all the animals in the water and may those who use it respect the water for its life giving qualities. We ask all who are here to protect the environment so that, we and the animals, can not only survive but thrive."





Ven. Namdag sprinkles blessed petals in the new boat



Petals and paddles



Jo Parry shows how to hold a paddle the right way, while Blair Gamble sweeps "Linda" on her very first outing on the beautiful Burnett River.