



in the LOOP

The monthly e-newsletter from Dragons Abreast Australia - January 2010

2010 is shaping up to be another exciting year for Dragons Abreast across the country as we enter into a new phase of our development and growth in line with the ever changing needs of those travelling the journey with breast cancer.

A highlight of 2010 will be the inaugural Dragons Abreast Australia National Convention. The convention will provide opportunities for both supporter and survivor members to come together to share skills, enjoy some wonderful paddling experiences and self development workshops. The dates are Friday 17 to Sunday 19th September with events based around the Hobart areas. A full program will be released shortly.

Another new addition for 2010 is a series of Induction Courses designed to assist those members that may be considering a committee position with either their Dragons Abreast local group or becoming more involved at the national level. All will take place at our head office in Darwin. The first course is 30 & 31 January. Please contact office@dragonsabreast.com.au for more details.

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Around the Nation

Pink Friends around the nation.....

A very long term supporter of Dragons Abreast is the **Hon Delia Lawrie, MLA**. Even though Delia is now a very busy Minister in the Northern Territory Government (she is the only female Treasurer in Australia) she has never forgotten Dragons Abreast and continues to support us each year with a Pink Party.

The 2009 event was a combination with a Christmas Party for her constituents and as always was held at the Karama Tavern.

Senator Trish Crossin, a national Ambassador for Dragons Abreast, also managed to squeeze time in for a visit as she too has a heavy schedule but has always been a staunch supporter of Dragons Abreast from our very earliest days.



Delia Lawrie and Trish Crossin

We were thrilled with the Pink Christmas theme and astounded at the beautiful pink Christmas Tree that took pride of place. It was one in a million and was snapped up at auction by **Trish Holyoak** from the Karama Tavern.

Giovanna Webb of Crocodylus Park once again donated a beautiful stingray purse which was a hotly contested auction item as was the pink sapphire.



Barbara Baggley and Giovanna Webb

A total of almost \$2,500 was raised on the night thanks to the generosity of the crowd and the donation of \$1,000 from Mrs La Pira.

Thank you Delia & thank you Karama Tavern and everyone who supported this event. Great to see you all again.

To view photos of the party visit this link.

Sending photos for website inclusion



1. Snap your photos!
2. Download photos to your computer.
3. Email photos to dragonsabreastaustralia.dragon@picasaweb.com
4. In the subject line include a description, e.g “Dragons Abreast Devonport Come & Try Day”.
5. If possible, name the individual photos – “Mary paddling”, Jo sweeping” etc. NB: this step is not essential.
6. NOTE: the email can be sent by any member of the group, it does not have to be the Coordinator.
7. Email webmaster@dragonsabreast.com.au to inform that photos have been sent to the above address.
8. Webmaster will then create an album of these photographs.
9. This album will be placed on the appropriate team page, and on the “Gallery” page
10. Webmaster will load to relevant album.

The Regatta Dilemma

The question of member participation at regattas organised for breast cancer survivors but not under the official Dragons Abreast Australia (DAA) banner is sometimes raised.

DAA members have long clamoured for more 'Dragons Abreast' races so if we are to expand and grow in this area, we need to collectively focus our support on only those Dragons Abreast designated races officially sanctioned by DAA (this refers to pink races only and does not exclude racing in State or AusDBF organised sporting regattas).

Now that DAA has grown to the stage where we can successfully host 'pink' regattas, such as the very successful November 09 DAA regatta in Queensland, it is important to remember that such regattas can only succeed and proliferate if they are supported by the membership.



With this in mind, we strongly encourage members planning to race in 'pink' races to attend and participate only in those pink events officially sanctioned by Dragons Abreast Australia as this will collectively make for a stronger national entity and will eventually result in the long term goal of more 'pink' races for our valuable members – both survivors and supporters.

Bearing in mind the economic situation, it is important member groups exercise good judgement as to which regattas they recommend members attend so that budgets do not become exhausted.

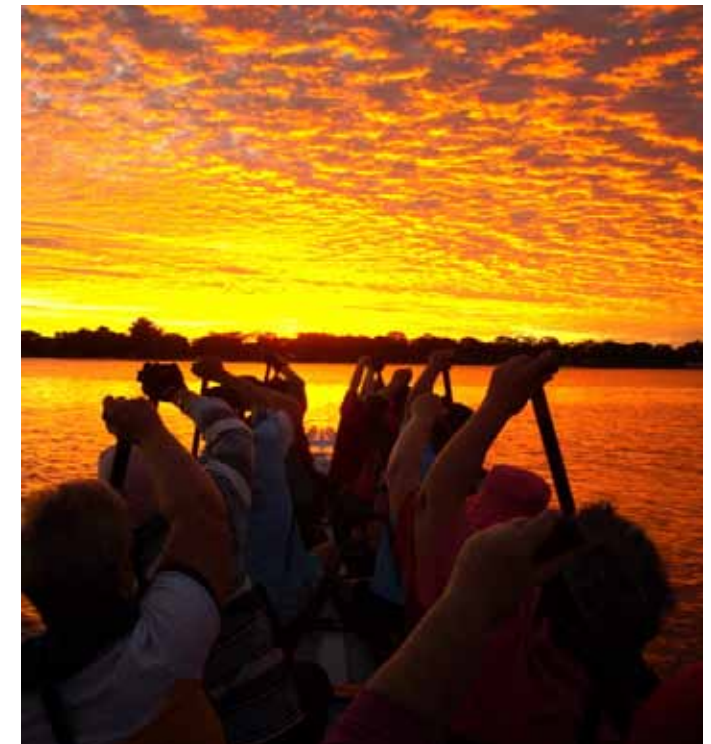
It is also vital that those who cannot afford to travel do not feel they are missing out. Regattas are not the most important part of Dragons Abreast.

All paddling events a group recommends should

offer value for money and, most importantly a quality experience both on and off the water.

DAA is particularly careful to only endorse events that we consider provide a safe racing environment with appropriate risk management in place as well as value for money and a quality experience.

(NB. Regattas hosted by State Dragon Boat Associations also provide a safe, DAA-endorsed racing environment with appropriate risk management for those Dragons Abreast Australia members wishing to race as sports paddlers)



Notes of Thanks

Thank you Dragons Abreast ACT

Many of the dragon boat clubs in the ACT applied on behalf of their volunteers for grant funding - for example, those who volunteer for regattas, or to coach and sweep teams for corporate regattas (including the Dragons Abreast October regatta) and all received money for those individuals, usually about \$100 per person I believe. The clubs have been encouraging people to donate it back to the club to buy equipment - life jackets mainly, but people are free to keep it of course.

However, Dragons Abreast was special, as each and every member is considered a volunteer, so every member was awarded at least \$75.

I was embarrassed to receive \$1000 *“to provide a token one-off payment from the grant to reimburse you for your travel costs in your role as Regional Representative etc., and was going to donate it back, but reconsidered, and decided instead that I will use this towards a new laptop.*

The one I am currently using is so overloaded that it takes me 10 minutes to do something on the website which should take 1 minute.

I would like to acknowledge publicly that Dragons Abreast ACT very much sees the big picture, and that applying for grants like this volunteer one benefits not just the ACT member group, but also the groups in our region, as well as the national body.

So thank you Dragons Abreast ACT, for supporting Dragons Abreast Australia, and for working so hard to maintain the spirit brought to our group by our founder, Anna Wellings Booth.

*Jan Skorich
Regional Representative ACT & Region*

THANK YOU..... Jo and I would like to thank everyone for all your support for Jenny (as well as for Jo and I) over the years, and in particular for us over the last six months or so.



I am not sure why it seems so hard to say thank you. It might be that it is hard to know where to start. It might be that I feel I need to write something profound, though these words are hard to find. It might be that I fear that I might miss acknowledging someone.

So, it is in this context, that I have attempted to write a “Thank You” of sorts, starting here:

I hope that in these words, pictures and video, you will feel the depth of gratitude and appreciation that Joanne and I have for everyone in our Pacific Dragon’s Family (in particular) and the rest of the paddling community.

Joanne and I look forward to sharing many great adventures with you all as we move forward.

With Thanks
Geoff Eldridge and Joanne Petterson

Praise for the Candle of Hope..... I just wanted to let you know that I love the Candle of Hope which I received as Christmas gifts. I loved the fact that is totally eco-friendly with no wastage and the quality of the massage oil that the wax turns into is amazing! It’s great to know the sale of this benefits Dragons Abreast - I will be ordering my own candles from now on.

Yvonne T, Queensland



Dragons Abreast Orange

DRAGONS ABREAST ORANGE AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FIELD DAYS

Each spring the hamlet of Borenore in Central Western NSW comes alive as farmers their families and anyone remotely connected with rural industries throughout Australia descends on the tiny village and the Australian National Field Days. 2009 was no exception with a crowd in excess of 20,000 attending over the 3 day event.

Over 300 exhibitors from around the world were there to display and hopefully sell their wares and Dragons Abreast Orange was right in the middle of it. The Board of the Australian National Field Days allocated us a stand in main pavilion so we were in the ideal location to meet the public and sell the merchandise.

While it cannot be said a 'roaring trade' took place it was very much a worthwhile exercise. Over the three day event the Dragons Abreast stand was rarely without visitors.

People just wanting to talk to someone who's 'been there done that', a few even appeared surprised that people travelling with cancer could be so active and into sports.

New member Sandy, was the right person in the right place at the right time. A recently retired but very switched on nurse, Sandy was the ideal

person answering questions from High School students and really getting the message of awareness across to many young people.

One man was clearly distressed because his partner 'may' have cancer, spent about 20 minutes asking questions and looking through our photo album. He was amazed as he realized the people he was talking to have been through the mill and emerged unscathed – well pretty



well. This seemed to help and give him hope as he saw page after page photos of our members up to all sorts of crazy and fun activities.

Take a look at the photo above and note our great display stand at the back. Phil Lambert, a member of the Colour City Dragons kindly designed and had one of his apprentices make this for us. It gave the stand a professional look with The Dragons Tale and other merchandise eye-catching.

With people like Phil and, members of the Colour City Dragon Boat Club helping us run the stand over the 3 days, Dragons Abreast Orange consider ourselves so lucky to be part of a such a supportive sporting club.

Pearl Butcher, Dragons Abreast Orange

**THANK YOU TO OUR
GENEROUS DONORS IN DECEMBER**
and with particular mention to



AMAZON HEART FOUNDATIONfor an incredible \$25,000 grant. We were blown away when we open the mail on the 22nd December to find this - it really was Christmas.

Dragons Abreast - Merimbula for the gift of \$1,000 raised from a Seriously Pink Trivia Night

Deb Hirst's friends - for a further \$200 in lieu of 50th birthday gifts - the gift that keeps on giving has contributed a total of \$540.00 to DAA.

We would also like to thank those who make an ongoing regular contribution to Dragons Abreast and prefer to remain anonymous - you know who you are - very much appreciated.

Members offer...

Merlin is partnering with Dragons Abreast Australia to offer a special DAA TD2 paddle and bag.

Actual paddle design



The DAA TD2 is the perfect paddle for DA paddlers. It is light, durable and with a flexible tip that makes the paddle easier to control and reduces injuries. The DAA bag is also our latest slimline design.

Paddle and Bag from \$207.00 (10 plus)

Limited stock available
from 1st April 2010. Order
now @ www.merlingear.com
or call 02 9905 8700

**See samples at our stand
at Darling Harbour,
27th February 2010.**





2010

Events

- Jan 30 - 31** Darwin Induction
- February 28** - Chinese New Year Regatta—Sydney
- April 9** Mackay Regional Meeting
- April 11** Gold Coast Regional Meeting
- April 15** Albury Wodonga Regional Meeting
- April 17** Geelong Regional Meeting
- April 22 - 25** -AusDBF Australian Championships Adelaide
- April 25** Adelaide Regional Meeting
- April 30** Newcastle Regional Meeting
- May 1** North Coast Regional Meeting
- May 14 - 15** Darwin Induction
- May 16 - 18** - Simply the Breast Yacht Race Darwin
- June 11 - 13** - International Breast Cancer Participatory Festival - Peterborough Canada
- August 29** - NT Regatta
- Sept 17 - 19** Hobart Induction
- September 19** - Tasmania Regatta
- October 24** - ACT Regatta
- October 31st** - DAA Corporate Regatta—Sydney
- Nov 27 - 28** Darwin Induction

- JANUARY -

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- FEBRUARY -

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- MAY -

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- SEPTEMBER -

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- OCTOBER -

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- NOVEMBER -

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- DECEMBER -

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■ National Public Holidays

The Year that was...October Regatta 2009



DIARY DATE

**DRAGONS ABREAST REGATTA
SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2010**

DARLING HARBOUR, NSW

Make sure you mark the date on your calendar for this not to be missed highlight event of the Dragons Abreast calendar!

JANUARY 2010

BADGE DRAW WINNER

ILA RUNDLE

DRAGONS ABREAST TASMANIA

