



## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Since our last newsletter we have run a number of successful events and the highlight would have to have been the Dragon Boat event for the Australasian Masters Games. This competition was one of the largest events in the Games and arguably the most successful. In excess of 500 participants were involved in two days of highly competitive and exciting racing on the picturesque Torrens Lake. We were also involved in the closing ceremony in bringing the Games flag up the lake on a dragon boat for handing over to the organizers of the next Games in Geelong in 2009.



The Torrens 10's Race day followed on the weekend after the Games and was an action packed day with 44 races programmed. The day ran very well and the trial of a different format was quite successful.

The most recent event was the Torrens 20's Race day where we again used the format trialled at the 10's day. This format allows teams to compete throughout the day without fear of elimination and as a preseason competition, encourages clubs to experiment with combinations and crews. The weather was ideal and the competition vigorous.

We have also had some recent administrative issues resulting from one of our Board Members being cleared from Black Dragons to Power Blades. Ashley Allchurch was appointed by the Board under the constitution amendment which was passed at the last AGM and she has enthusiastically taken on the Volunteers portfolio. Unfortunately when she changed clubs, it gave Power Blades three members on the Board and the constitution limits members from any club to two without the approval of the DBSA membership. The Board has sought approval from the membership and at this stage the membership have withheld approval while we investigate the availability of any other suitably skilled potential Board appointees. The Board has recommended that Ashley be approved to continue on the Board – good volunteers are hard to find and we need all we can get. Recently the West Lakes boatshed has again been cleaned and tidied and I ask you all too please return equipment to its home after use and let's make the maximum use of our limited space. Discussions with the Mayor of Charles Sturt indicate that the boatshed will be extended next year which will be just in time to cope with our burgeoning membership.

Our Port Pub Challenge and Corporate Day is being held on November 25<sup>th</sup> and we will need volunteers to help with the day – I look forward to seeing a number of you there on the day.

Good luck to everyone in the forthcoming Island Race and the first of our Season's Regattas.

*John Holland*  
President – DBSA

## (SAFMS) "FIREPOWER DRAGON BOAT TEAM"

### WINS GOLD AT THE AUSTRALASIAN MASTERS GAMES 2007

Team Firepower: Neil Parker, Annette Turner-Duggan, Noel Dodd, Adrienne Clark, Tim Slaven, Mark Searcy, Simon Hogben and Kevin Kelly (all from SAMFS), Lisa Jager (Customs), Veronica Maidment (Powerblades).



Firepower Australasian Masters Games Dragon Boat Team photo

Two events, two gold, what more could anyone ask for! Corporate and Masters Mixed 10's champions.

Team "Firepower" blasted through two days of Dragon Boat racing on the picturesque Torrens River, an extremely competitive and disciplined team gelled together perfectly to set times that some of our regular sports teams would be envious of.

The competition was pretty fierce; everyone worked hard and were determined to win prior to the start of each race. Tactics used worked perfectly as the team cut seconds off their race times from the previous day. Day one - Winning the Corporate Category with only 9 in the boat for our last race was a fair effort for this team and to win the Masters Mixed 10's was just amazing (for a team that didn't train).

I would personally like to thank the Team Manager - Neil Parker and all of the "Firepower" members for allowing me to be part of this great team. (If all you paddlers in Dragon Boat - land think I'm competitive, you should paddle with these guys!)

Many thanks to the D.B.S.A. Officials, and all the volunteers that work the long arduous hours to

make these events run smoothly. To Steve Clinch (D.B.S.A.) for sweeping the team to victory on day two and to Donna Daly (Powerblades), Julie Fisher and AJ (SADAB) on their excellent drumming skills. Best wishes to the team travelling to Vancouver, Canada for the World Police and Fire Games.

*Veronica Maidment  
Powerblades Dragon Boat Team.*

**POWERBLADES DRAGON BOAT CLUB**

**"Powerblades Social Team is up and racing at the Torrens' 10's event."**



Powerblades Social Team in action

After much work by a number of people in the off season, the new Social Team is up and running and enjoying the experience immensely. The team



↑ Powerblades Social Team photo

paddled well and improved with each race. Everyone was keen and enthusiastic (and looked great!). Well done to all involved.

*Tim Monson  
Powerblades  
President*

**PORT LINCOLN DRAGON BOAT CLUB**



**Dragon Boat Regatta –  
"Dragon Boats  
overturned and paddlers  
drowned without leaving  
the shore".**



Due to gale force winds, hail and heavy rain Blue Water Raiders were forced to cancel their first race regatta held at Laguna Drive Beach, Port Lincoln on September 16. Three dedicated teams braved the elements to launch their boats and slog against a head wind to the beach, four strokes forward, ten strokes back. After losing boats and

shelters, plans for the day were abandoned. Not to be deterred and being a water sport (we were already wet) teams decided they needed warming up. Upon the return journey to the boat ramp we held two impromptu races with all teams being victorious. Although the physical side of paddling was a non event, the social and camaraderie gained by all paddlers was most beneficial. This event will forge strong ties for future Dragon Boat paddling on the West Coast.



↑  
The less than "ideal" conditions at Laguna Drive Beach, Port Lincoln →



**SA DRAGONS ABREAST**



Twelve members of SA Dragons Abreast travelled to Caloundra QLD for the "Abreast in Australia 2007" regatta on the October long weekend. Almost 2000 people registered from seven countries. This included 22 teams from Canada, 9 from the USA, 2 from NZ, 1 each from Italy, Singapore, Hong Kong and 40 teams from Australia. 76 teams out of nearly 100 breast cancer teams worldwide participated in the event. SA was also represented by members of Warriors Abreast, Dragons Abreast Port Lincoln and Adelaide Survivors Abreast.

Eight SADA paddlers formed a composite team of 16, with 4 members of Pink Snapdragons from Redcliff QLD and 4 from Tittytittybangbang from the

Sunshine Coast. SADA provided the drummer and the sweep.

It was amazing how the team gelled after two training sessions and once we were in that boat we had one aim and that was to get to the finish line as quickly as 16 women in a boat could, and even though most of the time we were racing against 20 in the other boats we never doubted that we would all give our best.



The SADA "composite" Team in action at Caloundra. We had two great drummers, Mary Newland who stepped in on our first race and did an amazing job, then Lorraine Bourke took over and as usual inspired, encouraged and yelled at us to give that bit more for our team. Thank you also to Karen Lisk who kept her cool through a collision with a boat who tried to use our lane as well. She did a first class job.

We made it to a final and managed a close second. All participants in the Regatta received a medal as the aim of the event was to promote wellness, fitness, fun and camaraderie for breast cancer survivors. Those who have lost their lives to breast cancer were honoured with a very emotional and moving 'Flowers on the Water' ceremony.

The three days were packed with events including a street parade, opening ceremony, workshops, festival village, party night at Aussie World, a closing ceremony and two full days of racing. It was a wonderful event filled with fun, laughter, dancing, singing, joy and tears, the renewing of old friendships and making new ones and we all came home exhausted.

*Jenny Dowling  
Committee member  
SA Dragons Abreast*

## NEXT DRAGON'S BREATH

Next Dragon's Breath Articles and Pictures are due:

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

## ADELAIDE SURVIVORS ABREAST

Three teams represented SA at the International Dragon Boat Regatta in Caloundra, Queensland, from 28 - 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Dragons Abreast Australia was host to 'ABREAST IN AUSTRALIA' on Kawana Lake in Caloundra for Breast Cancer survivors and supporters in celebration of life.

Having been previously held in Canada in 2005, the first Australian regatta of its kind emphasised participation and inclusiveness for over 2,000 athletes from the USA, Italy, Canada, Singapore, NZ, Hong Kong and Australia.

Men and women at various stages of recovery raced in teams of 20 over 500m during the 2 days of competition.

Held in a Round Robin Competition with times as elimination, the fastest team over the regatta was a Queensland based team "Missabittatitti". Participation Medals were presented at the closing ceremony on Sunday evening, where plenty of "pink" Champagne flowed freely.

Other festivities included a street parade, which was extremely well supported by the Caloundra locals, and was a credit to the teams who went all out to "impress in pink". In fact the whole town coped well with the pink invasion, shop keepers joining into the spirit with great shop front displays.

"Flowers on the water" was an emotional event held on the Sunday, where two members from every team, joined together as 12 boats silently glided across the lake with sweeps and drummers holding hands, all paddles up, moving to the beat of a single drum. Flowers floated for miles while everyone silently remembered the men and women who have lost their race against breast cancer.

These three teams are proud to put a 'face' to the Breast Cancer statistics and spread the message of early detection and life after breast cancer through Dragon Boat Racing.



Adelaide Survivors Abreast and SA Dragons Abreast (SADA Members) are joined by Warriors Abreast for a practice session before leaving for Caloundra, pictured above.

*Jan Ware  
ASA President*

**be active.** go for a paddle