

AUSTRALIAN
DRAGON
BOAT
FEDERATION



31 December 2008

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Our Mission

The mission of the Australian Dragon Boat Federation:

“ ... is the management, coordination, development and promotion of dragon boat racing at a National level throughout Australia.

To represent the interest of its Members to the public, media, sponsors, government and international dragon boat associations”.

Our Vision

“The Australian Dragon Boat Federation is committed to providing its Members with superior service in its management of National issues and the National agenda. The association aims to provide access and equity for all communities in Australia to participate in dragon boat racing while maintaining its traditions and values.



Our History

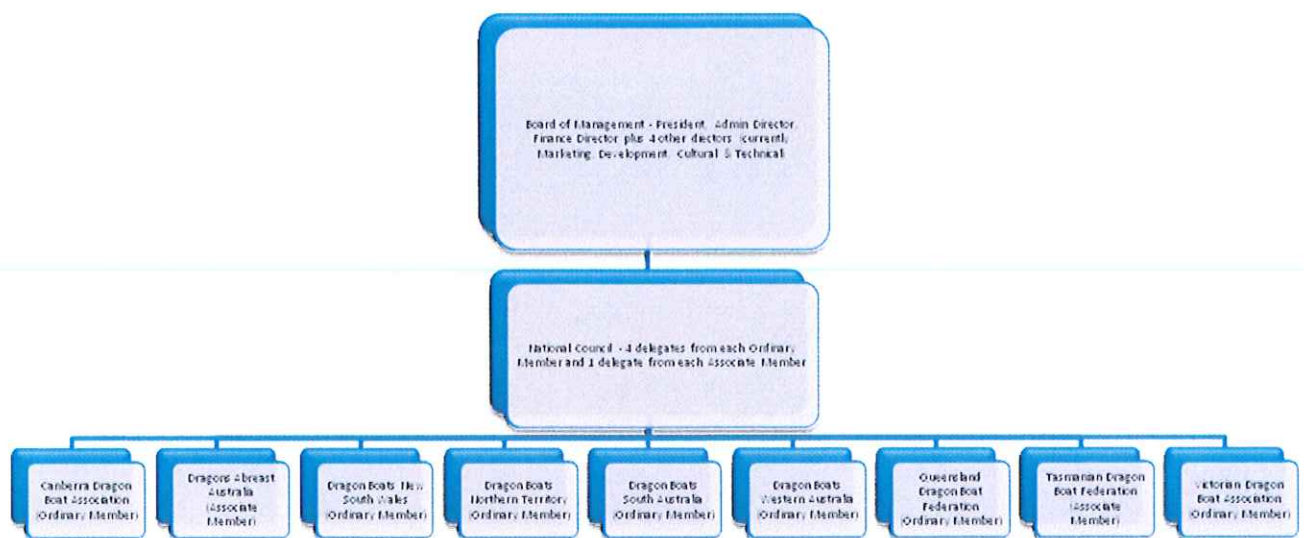
The growth of interest in dragon boat racing has been astonishing and much of the credit for this belongs to the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA), which arranged the first Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival International races in 1976. Since then, the HKTA and its overseas offices promoted the sport throughout the world, arranging to ship traditional wooden dragon boats and other equipment to cities where interest in the sport was expressed.

Dragon boat races are held in Australia from Broome to Brisbane, from Perth to Sydney and from Adelaide to Darwin. The first Australian involvement occurred in 1980 when the Penang Tourist Development Corporation invited the WA Surf Life Saving Association to send a team to the Penang Festival. This was followed the next year by invitations from the HKTA to WA and NSW to send teams to what was then considered the unofficial world championships on Hong Kong Harbour. In 1984 Sydney held the inaugural Sydney Dragon Boat Festival at Farm Cove. The Western Australia Dragon Boat Association formed in 1985. Most other states have subsequently formed State Associations. Australian Clubs tour regularly overseas and have been sighted at least once at all the major international festivals.

Until the formation of the Australian Dragon Boat Federation in 1997 there had been no cohesive, unified national body managing the sport of dragon boat racing in Australia. Several earlier attempts to form a national body foundered through either lack of proper management or lack of support from clubs and paddlers. AusDBF is the most recent and most successful attempt to organise dragon boat racing at the national level. It is the first group to implement a formal National Sporting Organisation structure.



Organisational Structure



Director Reports

President, Kel Watt

The 2008-2009 AusDBF year should be remembered for a bevy of achievements and advances for our sport and our community. However, while we will come to those, this annual report demands to be started on a more sombre and sadder note.

This time last year AusDBF President Jon Taylor was saying his farewells to paddlers, having decided it was time to stand aside and let a new era of administrators take the reins. And while we knew JT had bravely battled cancer for some time, it appeared to be the case he was returning to good health. Sadly, in December, JT passed away.

His loss is immense, but the celebration of his life will take place every time the Australian Championships are contested, and even as we gather together as a national peak body. It is apt that the final pieces of AusDBF – the acceptance of Tasmania and DAA as full members – occurred in JT's final months. Our coming together and meeting as a completed Federation is a landmark achievement, and we should also remember it as helping to fulfil the grand ambitions of JT and other early architects of our beloved sport.

AusDBF will be paying Jon our highest honour when we announce him as a Life Member at the 2009 AGM; an honour he refused to accept at last year's AGM when he insisted the proper processes and protocols be respected and adhered to.

JT will be joining the first three AusDBF Life Members announced this time last year – Ray Leung, Trevor Huggard and Les Williams.

It has been a tremendous privilege to be associated with the 2008-09 AusDBF Board and be involved with its ground breaking activities. The event most readily springing to mind is the September 'Boot Camp' – our Strategic Planning weekend. A large investment of time and money saw the results of excited discussions, brain storming, and passion from representatives of every state executive burst out onto butchers paper and whiteboards. In the first meeting of its kind for AusDBF, every stakeholder actively helped develop a document that will guide the future of our Federation, and it was inspiring to see renewed cooperation and enthusiasm from around the country. Our Tasmanian delegates and representatives from our newest member captured the essence of the weekend when they ventured that they now know they were part of a collective and a group dedicated to the same grand visions and goals. You sometimes feel all alone in battling away to develop dragon boat racing, but when the oft-cynical and sometimes jaded bureaucrats left the weekend motivated and with adrenalin pumping, there was no doubt the weekend had been worth every minute and dollar.

Other keys events were the establishment of the Oceania DBF, meetings with grass roots members in Tasmania and Victoria, the expansion of the AusDBF Coaches and Officials courses, the Asian Championships in Penang, December's Mid-Year meeting, and ongoing discussions between all members and the national board on proposed rules and constitutional changes. Greater communications and interaction between states and stakeholders on sub-committees to discuss risk management and rules changes, and new tools like the revamped website and AusDBF Facebook Group, are breathing life into the relevancy of AusDBF to members and to grass roots paddlers. A deliberate opening up of processes and greater opportunities for

contribution to the Federation were key policies for the incoming AusDBF Board members. It is with pride that we can say these objectives have been achieved.

And out of the combined efforts from all those meetings and discussions emerged the AusDBF Development Plan, which listed the 'Big 5' areas we have committed to as a federation to focus on over the next five years:

- Junior Competition
- Professional Governance
- Communication / Website
- 'True' Australian representation team, international recognition
- National Dragon Boat Festival

There's no doubt that junior development will be the key to our future, and the effort invested into this area will reflect its importance. Governance and communication improvements have been the hallmark of the last 12 months and we will be continually seeking to raise the bar. The next notch up will be the inclusion of a state president at the regular monthly Board meeting where they can raise concerns directly with the Board. We will also be instituting a 'Presidents' meeting' every two months where I will ask each member president to join a bi-monthly phone hook-up to discuss issues and contribute regularly to the national direction and governance.

The Asian Championships gave a quick glimpse to the future when the ACT and NSW Executives worked together to field an Australian team for the 2008 Asian Championships. It proved to be a successful model off the water, with the first Australian Training Camp held in Canberra, involving the contributions of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA), nutritionists and physiotherapists. The Camp also saw the first formal Australian squad captains announced – a model AusDBF will be applying into the future. Congratulations to George Louie (NSW - Captain), Matthew Roberts (NSW - Vice Captain) and Tina Bain (ACT – Vice Captain) on their appointments and claiming a piece of AusDBF history. Michael Dooley (NSW) and Rachelle Irving (ACT) were also appointed crew captains in Penang and led their respective boats remarkably well and with a rare level of inspiration.

The Development Plan, Boot Camp and Mid-Year meetings identified a range of ways we can progress, but also acknowledged the many challenges we face as a sport – mainly financial and its early development relative to other sports – which we will need to work cooperatively on to overcome.

The challenges are daunting, but not insurmountable. The way forward will be tested by a smorgasbord of options and a variety of opinions. Regardless, I am extremely confident things are going in the right direction. Enthusiasm for the development of the sport is universal, and grand plans and dreams for the excitable are held by all. The biggest obstacle to our growth and success comes from within, however.

It is important to remember that we will have differences of opinion on how the States and AusDBF carry our sport forward. Differences of opinion aren't an anchor – they mean we discuss and debate and consider all possibilities to a depth that ensures implementation and execution is of a high quality.

However, we must not let disagreements become an excuse to be disagreeable.

When a challenge to our collective and unified thinking arises, we need to ask if we are opposed because it threatens a personal ambition, or a long-held way of thinking by our own State, or if it is genuinely because we believe the National agenda will not be progressed.

Of course, the right to differences of opinion should be respected if all parties pass this test. No one wants to undermine or sabotage dragon boat racing. Finger-pointing and white anting with those sorts of scurrilous, whispered accusations do nothing other than to push good people out of an organisation that desperately needs them. It's time we all accepted that no one wants anything other than what they feel is best for the sport they love. Everyone who has bothered to fill a Board position does so because they love paddling and want to reinvest in the sport that has given them something special. Acknowledging and effecting this will deliver a better working federation, and the sport, including the paddlers we are elected to serve, will have an administration they can respect and believe are advancing the sport in all facets.

So, while focussing on the positive way forward, I would like to acknowledge the great work and countless hours put into our landmark event – the Australian Dragon Boat Racing Championships. The QDBF Organising Committee has done an incredible job for many months in creating the experience we are all about to enjoy. Marie Mann's and Deb Mathews' leadership and countless hours deserve special mention and praise for ensuring the 2009 tournament is one to remember.

My personal thanks are also extended to a handful of personalities who were an inspiration to me throughout the last 12 months. Brendan Byrne, Steven Davidson, Andrew Churches, Kim Murray and Lynne Donoghue became champion cat herders when they stepped up as national coaches and managers for the Asian Championships. They became so much more to the team and to me as national president. As friends and sounding boards they have been the motivation and foundation for many an advancement and idea, and ensured AusDBF never strayed too far from its brief of looking after the interests of ordinary paddlers. Likewise, Blair Gamble, Trevor Huggard, John Holland and Vic Fazakerley were unrelenting in advocating for their respective States and contributing to the national agenda.

I would also like to pay tribute to two of AusDBF's outgoing Board members – Michele Hanton and Austin Chin. Michele and Austin have given immeasurable hours to AusDBF for many years and have been instrumental to the sport's national development and to the growing stature of Australian dragon boating internationally. They are wonderful people as well as dedicated sports administrators. We have been incredibly fortunate to have benefited from their selfless work. Thank you Michele. Thank you Austin.

The remainder of the Directors – Janine Lette (Administrative), Loretta Lewis (Finance), Melanie Cantwell (Technical), Christopher Alexandrou (Development) – will be standing for re-election and I look forward to their return. They are an incredibly dedicated and talented group. Melanie and Loretta have overseen great change in their portfolios and the Australian Dragon Boat community will be reaping the benefits of their management for many years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the sport and the Federation. It is a great honour and one I have been humbled to accept for another year.

On the water!



Kel Watt
AusDBF President

Administration Director, Janine Lette

The past 12 months have gone by quicker than expected. The Board has continued monthly teleconferences and have invited our members to a couple as well.

At the start of 2008, I underwent the enormous task of preparing the 2007 AusDBF Annual Report. This was presented at the 2008 AGM and was the start of the professional look that AusDBF wanted to move forward to.

2008 has also seen the revamp of the AusDBF website and the introduction of generic email addresses for all Board Directors – though these aren't being utilised to their fullest. Communication is still a problem for AusDBF though has improved from previous years. However, some Members are still not responding to requests.

DBNSW have taken on the mighty task of being the AusDBF guinea pigs with the National database / administration system 'ClubsOnline'. The system was presented at the Boot Camp held in September in Sydney and those who attended appeared to think that the concept and proposed system was what was being looked for. Like all new systems, there have been teething problems and I would personally like to thank Eva Kessler (DBNSW Administration Director) for not only being driving this system through NSW, but also ironing out the problems when encountered.

I believe that this system will be ready for roll out to all Members by the end of July 2009.

As a result of the Boot Camp, the skeleton of the new Development Plan was established and the Board has been working on this and a draft will be presented at the General Meeting held in Caloundra on 22 April 2009 after the AGM.

I would like to thank the Board that I have served with over the past 12 months as we have all be fortunate enough to have encountered the dragon spirit who has guided us through some interesting times.

Janine Lette

Finance Director, Loretta Lewis

Since taking on the role of finance director in April 2008, I have found it to be a very busy year. I was challenged to prepare the accounts for Dragon Downunder Pty Ltd which was the company established for the World Championships in 2007.

Dragons Downunder Pty Ltd

The accounts were finalised in July 2008 and sent to the auditor / accountant. The company was formally deregistered with ASIC on 27 March 2009. The profit of \$52,717.28 was transferred to AusDBF however AusDBF has the taxation liability for income tax and finalisation of GST to pay the Australian Taxation Office.

Risk Management

A community of practice for risk management was established with a representative from each state. The goal was to write a risk management policy which has been finished and has been uploaded to the AusDBF website. The risk management procedure statement is currently in draft format and will be finalised at the next meeting. Quality improvement will underpin the project to ensure the risk management document will continually be revisited and updated.

The AusDBF Board would like to sincerely acknowledge and thank the following members:

Fred Lehman	ACT
Eva Kessler	NSW
Liz Gillian	TAS
Shirley Boucher	VIC
Maria Darby	SA
Grace Baker	NT
Allan Lena	QLD
Loretta Lewis - facilitator	AusDBF
Jennifer Bould	SA
Mark Kusin	WA

Difficulties were incurred in trying to organise teleconferences when dealing with day light saving time and the time differences in the states.

There were three identified stages for this project:

1. Write a risk management policy, procedure statement and tools.
2. Write a training course for clubs and state members.
3. Implement the training.

The project is currently in stage one of the development.

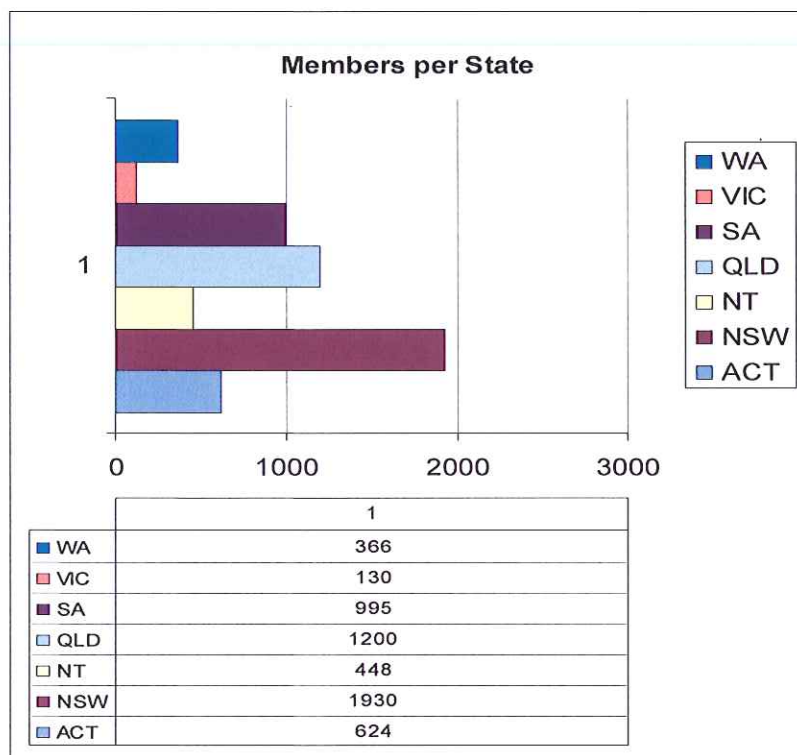
AusDBF Audited Accounts (Appendix 1)

After the financial reports that were audited by Enterprise Taxation Services are tabled at the 2009 AusDBF AGM, the accounts will be lodged with the Office of Regularity Services in Canberra using Form 706.

AusDBF and GST

Prior to March 2009, AusDBF was not registered for GST. On 23 March 2009 a submission for GST was sent to the Australian Taxation Office and from that date, GST implemented. The finances for the Australian National Championship has been managed by AusDBF hence the revenue exceeded the \$150,000 threshold and for AusDBF to be compliant with the ATO / GST legislation we had to register.

AusDBF Statistics – AusDBF levy paid 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008



I would like to thank the current outgoing board for their valued professional input and friendship and I will support the new incoming board in the future.

Loretta Lewis

Marketing Director, Michelle Hanton

As I come to write this report I must be honest and say that I am disappointed that I have been unable to achieve a great deal of movement in engaging with AusDBF members to pursue the marketing of the sport at the national level apart, from the growth via Dragons Abreast.

The definition of marketing according to the dictionary is – *the business activity of presenting products or services in such a way as to make them desirable.*

Marketing and sponsorship are closely intertwined. Sponsors are only attracted to a commodity that gives something in return – usually brand exposure to a target audience.

Paddlers are the key to the success of the sport – paddlers are the reason the sport exists and grows and paddlers are the commodity that AusDBF has to market.

However, my observations to date are that paddlers generally see themselves as remote from AusDBF and so they are disengaged from the need to marketing collectively and cooperatively. This lack of understanding needs to be worked on before we are going to be in a position to move forward in a successful manner that will benefit all levels of dragon boat participants.



Paddlers need to understand that essentially they are AusDBF, it is their State body – the delegates - that elects the Board of AusDBF. The State body represents the paddlers in each state and this means that **all paddlers**, via their State body, have a say in who their representatives are nationally.

Once everyone understands this position and actively works to ensure that the views of the majority are able to be

heard, via their elected representatives, then we will have a much more co-operative working relationship and should be able to move forward to a mutually beneficially outcome which is the marketing of the sport at all levels.

Face Book

The introduction of a Face Book page – the brain child of President, Kel Watt – brought AusDBF into a new realm of communication and the idea was that is this would be place to engage in discussion and an opportunity for individual members to communicate openly and to make suggestions etc.

Although there are 175 members on Face Book there is not a great deal of real input or discussion taking place.

Boot Camp Presentation

The Boot Camp in Sydney was open only to invited member delegates and again seemed like a great opportunity to gather members from around the country and brainstorm, with the assistance of a facilitator, how to move the sport forward.

The responses to the marketing suggestions and appeals for assistance have been extremely poor in terms of volunteers coming forward to engage nationally or ideas being adopted.

This leads me to the conclusion, rightly or wrongly, that it is perceived by the membership that Technical or Risk Management committees are far more important. This is not the case. **All are equally valuable** and I do not believe it is not possible to separate them because one area, without the others, cannot achieve the maximum benefit for the paddlers.

The cultural components are also a vital and integral part of the marketing of the sport as these cultural aspects are a Unique Selling Point – they are exclusive to dragon boat racing.

CONCLUSION

I am not re-standing for a Board position but I submit the suggestion that the Marketing Director be replaced by a Communications Director. It is my opinion that this is the area where AusDBF needs to concentrate in order to connect at the grass roots level so that we are able to develop a marketable commodity with buy in from all levels of the sport,

I believe, as I have always done, that dragon boat racing is a unique sport with so much to offer both weekend warriors and those who aspire to be elite level athletes of all ages.

Dragon boating is also a sport which has some very high achievers – not only on the water – but in the background too. None more so that Jon Taylor who I had the honour of serving with on the Board of AusDBF for two previous terms and I am delighted that we, as the current board of AusDBF, have been able to ensure that his amazing contribution to the sport will always be remembered through the **Jon Taylor Memorial Award** which is being presented for the first time in 2009.

Michelle Hanton

Cultural Director, Austin Chin

Firstly due to unforeseen circumstances, Dr Richard Lim unfortunately had to stand down as AusDBF Cultural Director early last year and I was asked by AusDBF to stand in again as interim Cultural Director.

In Penang last year whilst still an Executive Committee member of the Asian Dragon Boat Federation (ADBF), it was a great honour to be elected as Marketing Director on the ADBF Board of Management which showed the respect that AusDBF and the Australian Dragon Boat Fraternity held throughout Asia.

At the "Boot Camp" held by AusDBF in Sydney last year, it was heartening to see that the Cultural aspects was voted as one of the most important facets of Dragon Boat Regatta along with the important development of youth in our sport.

The reasons for standing down last year at the AGM in Perth are still present and I won't be able to stand as a candidate for the AusDBF Board at the AGM to be held in Caloundra this year. Many paddlers have often expressed to me that they are proud and excited about having the strong Cultural ties to our sport and share a strong belief in the ancient customs of Dragon Boats.

Many people I know feel sad that Australia doesn't have an ancient culture. Well, I say that we have the best culture in the World because we have been able to select all the best parts of the wonderful and colourful cultures from the many nationalities that have travelled to our shores to live.

Most important of all, as a result of the recent tragic Victorian Bush Fires and the terrible floods in Queensland, our real Australian culture of looking after mates and other people in need and to lend a helping hand at a drop of a hat was truly displayed. The camaraderie shown by the incredible donations and volunteer work made by people from all over Australia is reflected in the camaraderie shown amongst the many Dragon Boat teams and their clubs.

You all have a passion, and it is this passion that has made this sport what it is today. However it is this very same passion which has sometimes caused great angst and negative energy amongst us.

If you look at the Legend of "Qu Yuan" it is ironic that it was actually "Politics" that caused his death. His drowning started what has become known as the Dragon Boat Festival over two thousand years ago in China.

I encourage you all to support my successor and I wish great success and appreciation for the new AusDBF Board. The board members are all volunteers and are there for no other reason than to ensure that our sport is developed appropriately.

In closing, I strongly encourage all Dragon Boat Teams to consider travelling to events in Asia to experience not only the racing but the rich and colourful culture that is of Dragon Boats.

May the Dragon Spirit guide and protect you.



Austin James Chin

Technical Director, Melanie Cantwell

At the AGM in Perth 2008, I was elected back to this position so thank you to everyone for having the confidence in me for another 12 month term. A note of thanks to John Holland who was Technical Direction in 2007 which allowed me the time to concentrate on the World Championships.

Having had the unique opportunity to be part of the World Championships "in my own backyard" and work closely with incredibly knowledgeable people like Mike Haslam, Mike Thomas and Alan Van Caughberg who were wonderful to work with and great mentors and I have to say I really "soaked up" the experience and the knowledge they were able to impart. To back this up was the opportunity to officiate at the Club Crews World Championships and Asian Championships in Penang last year, running 2 separate events in one was definitely a challenge!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Janine Lette who successfully passed IDBF Level 2 and 3 accreditation during the Championships. Phil Reader, Jonathan and Jenny Mayne for Level 2. Belinda Chung, Karen Taylor, Gillian Styles and Robyne Kellett for successfully passing their IDBF Level 1 exams.

Some of the projects that I have worked on over the last 12 months include:

- AusDBF Australian Championships Hosting Guidelines
- AusDBF Level 1 Officials Course – version ??
- AusDBF Member Protection Policy
- AusDBF – Guide to Best Privacy Practices for Sporting Organisations
- ASADA Anti Doping Policy
- AusDBF "Harassment Free Sport"
 - a) Racial Discrimination and Harassment
 - b) Ethical Rights and Responsibility
 - c) Tribunal Hearing Procedures
- AusDBF State Regional Team policy
- AusDBF Australian Team Representative Policy
- AusDBF Australian Representative Team positions guidelines
- AusDBF Bylaws to IDBF Race Rules
- AusDBF Club Policy
- Assisted with the organisation of AusDBF inaugural "Boot Camp"
- Submitted idea's for AusDBF training DVD's
- Submitted idea's for AusDBF paddling camp

I was also a part of the AusDBF delegation that visited both Victoria and Tasmania. As part of this visit I was able to run the AusDBF Officials course for a group of the Tasmanians.

Along with Kel Watt, I was invited as a guest to attend the New Zealand Dragon Boat Federation AGM which was a great opportunity to forge a better relationship and establish links with our "kiwi" counterparts. During the visit we were able to discuss the future direction of the "Oceania Federation". More work will need to be put into this over the coming 12 months with the opportunity for both Boards to meet up to discuss long term vision and opportunities. In January 2009, I was invited by the NZDBF to run the AusDBF Officials course (as it was viewed as more financially viable than flying IDBF out). Whilst I was there to primarily give them information, it was an eye opening experience to learn what they do. In all honestly, whilst they are light years ahead of Australia in Junior development, Australia far out strips New Zealand in terms of the standard of officials, running of regattas and the sheer numbers and growth who are participating in our sport.

Melanie Cantwell

Our Education

Officials Course, Melanie Cantwell

Included in this report is a list of all the current IDBF Officials from Australia. Below is a snap shot of the numbers.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
22	4	3	Nil

To enhance the AusDBF Officials Course and to encourage more paddlers to officiate and increase their knowledge and skill base, the following projects and policies have also been implemented.

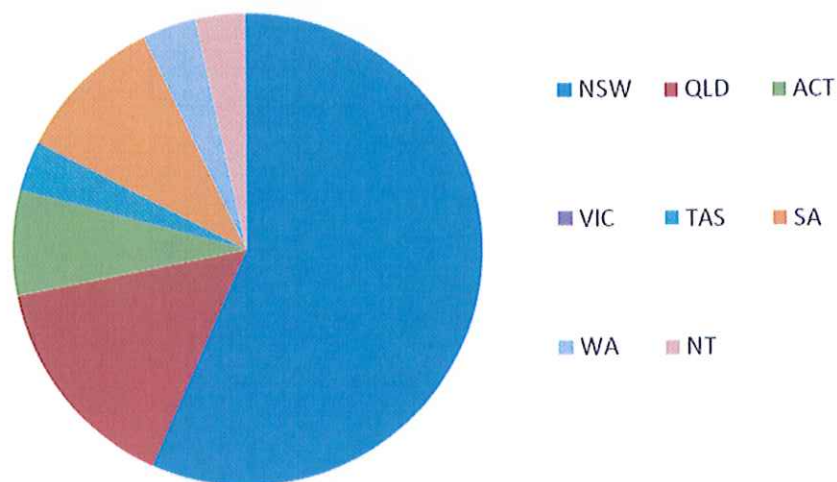
- Formalised the process of running the courses for the Presenters and the State Members.
- AusDBF Officials License Booklet, which people receive when they complete the course. It is modelled on the IDBF one, and allows AusDBF Officials to keep a record of the regattas that they officiate at and what roles they have performed.
- The certificates were redesigned and updated as well.
- Guidelines were provided with the booklet explaining who could sign off and what they needed to do.
- Once individuals complete the course, they are required to fill in and send back the AusDBF Officials "Code of Behaviour" agreement form, which is from the Australian Sports Commission template.
- In addition to the AusDBF Officials "Code of Behaviour", is the "De-Accreditation of Coaches and Officials" Policy also from the Australian Sports Commission template.
- AusDBF would like to be proactive when it comes to encouraging its members to sit for IDBF exams when they become available. In order to do this and to stay on top of whom in Australia is interested in sitting these exams, AusDBF put together guidelines for each State member to follow. Hopefully this will streamline the process more efficiently both for

AusDBF and IDBF. When IDBF exams become available, AusDBF will email each member to let them know and ask for each member to get back to them with any recommendations of people who are interested. AusDBF will then send 1 email to IDBF with the list of all the Australians who are interested in sitting for the various IDBF exams.

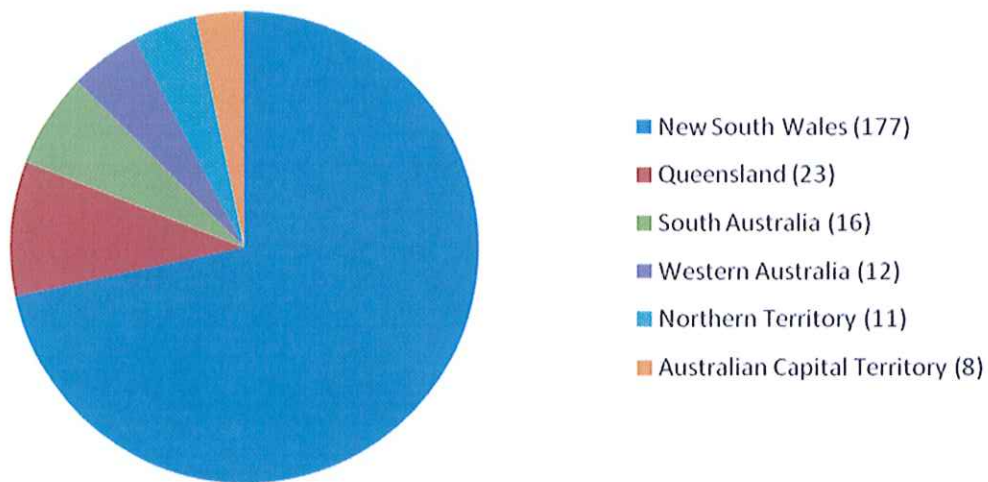
The current number of AusDBF Officials in Australia (who have completed the course)

States	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
QLD	29	14	6	49
NSW	105	61	16	182
ACT	16	5	2	23
VIC	0	0	0	0
TAS	11	0	0	11
SA	25	4	4	33
WA	7	1	4	12
NT	4	3	4	11

2008
Qualified Officials Per State



2007 Qualified Officials Per State



In the last 12 months we have run the following AusDBF Officials Course

- 12th July – New South Wales (10 attendee's)
- 17th August – Tasmania (10 attendee's)
- 06th September – Australian Capital Territory (15 attendee's)
- 31st January and 01st February - Queensland (27 attendee's)

If you would like to run a course in your State, please email me at tech@ausdbf.com.au

Coaching Course, Gavin Godfrey and Ian Peters

Course Dates	Presenter	Location	Number of attendee's
17th/18th May 2008	Ian Peters	Adelaide, South Australia	22
24th/25th May 2008	Gavin Godfrey	Sydney, NSW	19
30th/31st Aug 2008	Ian Peters	Mackay, QLD	15
30th/31st Sep 2008	Gavin Godfrey	Port Macquarie, NSW	19
6th/7th Dec 2008	Gavin Godfrey	Canberra, ACT	14
		Total	89

Accreditations to Date:

State	Number	% of those who have done the courses
ACT	3	21%
NSW	24	11%
NT	2	11%
QLD	9	12%
WA	6	21%
SA	6	11%
VIC	0	0%
Total	50	12%

Sweep Accreditation Update, Melanie Cantwell

It is planned to review the AusDBF Sweeping Accreditation Guidelines during the winter months ready for the start of the 2009/2010 season.

State	Level 1 (Restricted)	Level 2 (Provisional)	Level 3 (Full)	Level 4	Level 5	Total
QLD			52			52
NSW						
ACT		4	46			50
VIC	54	12	26			92
TAS						
SA						
WA						
NT		16	16			32

Members Reports

Canberra Dragon Boats Association, Kel Watt, President

The last twelve months has been a remarkable year for the local dragon boating community. It has seen the sport gain greater credibility and importance on the ACT sporting scene, and heralded the arrival of the CDBA on the national stage – on and off the water.

It is a period of increased numbers, higher profile, greater professionalism in our administration and systems, and unrivalled racing success.

The move towards open meetings with the CDBA requesting a dedicated club representative to attend and be involved in discussion has improved communication, and extended the 'ownership' of the CDBA to all paddlers.

The results of our some hard work has been obvious – through our better equipment and infrastructure and more vibrant regattas – however, the majority of the work is actually less visible. Increased attention on our governance and Association-wide communications has reaped benefits, as have many hours of regatta preparation and ACT squad administration. I now believe we have a state sporting Association that matches anything else grass roots sport can offer. Two statistics support this assertion more than any other that can be presented to you this evening – our growth and our investments.

The first statistics is that 200-2009 saw our sport grow by 20% in total paddler numbers – making a total rise in the Association's of around 70% growth from just two years ago. The new Uni Dragons club fills an important void in our growth goals and provides a link between our juniors and the senior clubs. We have a record number of paddlers and members this season.

The second is seen in the Treasurer's books. \$139,000 has been spent on resources and services for the CDBA membership, with over 99% of our total outward monies going directly towards local paddlers. I challenge any other sporting or community organisation to match that sort of commitment to providing value to members, and running an administration that is so efficient and cost-effective.

The Committee has already begun preparations for the next year and it is shaping up as an even bigger and better season. The season draw and meetings have already been set – well ahead of our regular scheduling – and a draft budget is now in place for us to move into a period of consolidation and strong financial management after our important year of investment into assets and resources.

The standard of local racing has improved significantly, and we are now home to national champions at state and club level, three teams who qualified for World Club Championships – Titans, Ice Dragons and Grammar - and our juniors have four world championship medals and three national records to their credit. Every club has improved over the course of the season, and strong recruitment being undertaken by each team.

The CDBA's decision to move towards a genuinely representative state team model has reaped immediate dividends. The ACT Premier women won gold at the 2008 Australian Championships and the Mixed Premiers won a bronze – the ACT's first Premier medals. This year we have adopted a name – the ACT Fire – and the selection trials have seen every senior club represented in the Premiers squad. A great achievement showing the racing standard across all clubs in improving and competition is more than just a motherhood statement. The ACT Fire squad, now with juniors and GM women on board, head to Caloundra for the 2009 Australian Championships with high expectations.

The CDBA was successful in attracting sponsorship dollars and commercial benefits from local businesses, and the new season should see a significant sponsorship deal announced. 2008-09 saw the CDBA partner with local sports and events company Adrenaline Edge, the Canberra Trophy Centre, and our ACT squad naming rights sponsor Agile Digital Engineering, who played an important part in assisting us to deliver the resources and services to paddlers. Our chief sponsor was the Canberra Southern Cross Club group who have assisted us greatly with storage, money, and events venues.

The CDBA has also been a significant feature of the AusDBF scene this last year, with several personalities contributing to, and being recognised on, the national stage. I had the great privilege of being elected AusDBF President in April and Andrew Churches has taken on the Public Officer's role for the Federation. Kylie Bromwich was a member of the National Council who contributed to 'Boot Camp' - the national Strategic Planning day.

Les Williams became one of AusDBF's three inaugural Life Members, in recognition of his more than decade long service to the sport and his vital role in establishing AusDBF, and Tina Bain was appointed the first Australian Team Vice Captain at the Asian Championships in Penang.

The CDBA also introduced the Life Member category this last year, with the first recipients announced – Les Williams, Alf Pawlicki, Robyne Kellett, Michele Moroney and Anna Wellings-Booth. The criteria demands excellence and dedication to the CDBA, and the recipients are more than worthy of their recognition. Thank you to the members who nominated our Life Members and played their role in recognising our history and great contributors.

We played host to a number of events, in addition to our regular race regattas. The CDBA hosted the very first AusDBF Training Camp in July, and we also had our boats on the water for Australia Day celebrations, the Navy Day demonstration, and we were able to witness the Olympic Torch Relay up close as we played our part in the historic event. The corporate regatta, as part of the Canberra Festival, made a return, and the future in big events looks very positive, with inclusion in the National Multicultural Festival as part of Chinese New Year celebrations. We are looking to build the Canberra Chinese New Year regatta into a big event that will attract entrants from interstate. The Canberra Festival regatta is always host to plenty of NSW crews and we want to see the ACT become a regular destination. Our new annual 15km marathon event is also a tournament we want to see on the national sporting calendar.

A large thank you to Alf Pawlicki and Tarquin Ralph who took on the organiser's roles for the Navy Day, Australia Day and Olympic Torch Relay.

I would like to close by making specific mention of the CDBA Board members and offer them my heartfelt thanks for their efforts this year. They have operated as a professional, cohesive and dedicated unit. Their countless hours of work have been performed in a selfless fashion that would put most professional organisations to shame. They all deserve collective and individual thanks from every CDBA member. Everyone has added and improved upon the CDBA's operations this last year and most are – remarkably – prepared to shrug off the fatigue and go hard again for

another 12 months, recognising the benefits in stability. CDBA Secretary Andrew Churches, Treasurer Kylie , Vice President Michele Moroney, Membership Officer Natalie MacLean, Training Officer Robyne Kellett, Equipment Officer Robyn Whytcross, Development Officer Tran Tran and Events Officer Ben Dal Broi are worth their weight in gold.

While the timing of this report prevents me from revealing the official results for the ACT's point scoring and club championship, the 2009 ACT state championship in March saw the Ice Dragons claim the ACT's first ever clean sweep of Open, Womens and Mixed titles. The club has built on its good and unexpected 2008 Australian Championship medals and will be eager to test itself against the big name crews from Queensland and NSW who did not compete in Perth. They will be joined by almost every CDBA club, none of whom intend on making up numbers in Caloundra. The Diamond Phoenix are an all-female crew who intend to stamp their mark in Queensland, and the Dragon Flyers are eager to add a Nationals Masters medal to their locally won trophies. And the resurgent Griffins – one of the CDBA's oldest clubs – are eyeing off a good result in the 2000m race. The ADFA crew have special reasons to step up at the Australian Championships as they mark Anzac Day. They re a young and developing crew, but are already putting down times that should make people sit up and take notice at Kawana Waters, and are aiming for A Finals.

The CDBA's adoption of national standards on racing, officials, racing standards and governance is complementing our improving on water results, and we are hopeful the coming year will again be a step towards being a national leader in the sport.

Kel Watt
CDBA President 2008-2009

Dragon Boats NSW

The 2008/2009 season has again been a big one for DBNSW Inc. With new Clubs forming, over 12% increase in membership, and regattas being held not only in Sydney, but also in many regional areas, dragon boating continues to be one of the fastest growing sports in New South Wales.

We often talk about dragon boating being a seasonal sport and 10-15 years ago this was probably the case. However, in NSW we have found that dragon boating has become a year-round sport, with clubs undertaking fitness training in the off-season, and clubs and individuals training to participate in overseas competitions. The Australian Championships is now the sign to start planning for the next season, rather than a signal to hibernate for the winter.

One aspect that has been challenging to date has been the introduction of dragon boating into High Schools. This year for the first time, High Schools have been approaching DBNSW Inc. to include dragon boating as a school sport. Watch out other States, as New South Wales is about to be competitive in this Category.

Overall DBNSW has seen significant growth and development in 2008/2009.

Some of the notable highlights are:

- At the end of March 2009, DBNSW Inc. had over 2,300 members.
- During 2008/2009 we welcomed five new clubs: Camden Haven, Kempsey-Macleay, Different Strokes, Lithgow Flash Dragons and Colour City Dragons (Orange). Clubs now total 43.
- Paddlers from NSW formed the Open and Mixed crews in the Australian Team that went to Penang to participate in the 2008 Asian Dragon Boat Championships.
- Four NSW clubs competed at the IDBF World Club Crew Championships in Penang: City Dragons, DASzlers, Pacific Dragons and VADB.
- The 2009 NSW State Team is the largest we have fielded, with 342 members including Juniors, Regional, Premiers, Masters and Grand Masters.
- By the time the season concludes DBNSW Inc. will have organised 16 regattas, which includes sport racing, regional regattas and corporate events.
- DBNSW Inc. was successful in its application for a Disability Sport Assistance Program grant from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation.
- The Junior category is looking promising with Moruya High School, Mackellar Girls High School and Marist Sisters College taking up dragon boating as a school sport. DBNSW Inc. has also received a number of enquiries from other schools who are keen to add dragon boating to their school sports programs in terms 3 and 4. Developing the schools program

is a long process, however the efforts are paying off and hopefully DBNSW Inc. should see more schools permanently taking part in dragon boating over the next 2-3 years.

- DBNSW Inc. is also developing a new Constitution to ensure it aligns with the ASC and NSW Department of Sport and Recreation requirements.
- DBNSW Inc. has successfully piloted the AusDBF new Administration System "ClubsOnline" and will be looking to rolling out the full online payment functionality to its clubs before the beginning of the new season.

Dragonboat SA, John Holland, President

My report will concentrate on a review of our progress with our Strategic Plan followed by the highlights of some of the more significant items from the past year.

Our plans revolve around five Core Business Areas and I will comment on each in turn.

ADMINISTRATION – OBJECTIVE – Maintain and improve the administration of the sport to ensure that DragonBoat SA has the capacity to grow and develop.

- We are outsourcing our minute secretarial, registration and some administration functions to Admin Focus and our newsletter and some policies to Sport SA.
- The size of the Board was reviewed last year when we created two additional Board appointed positions. Only one of these positions was filled last year and we will be looking for potential candidates to fill both these positions due to the resignation of our first appointee.
- A Web Master has been appointed and we purchased the necessary software to facilitate the role. Julie Kouba was provided with training and is now regularly updating the site.
- All policies have been reviewed and this will be a continuing role for the Board
- The service provider for our initial Registration and Data Base decided to withdraw support for the system in Australia and after many hours of work we have a new Australian provider and will be further developing the capabilities of this system in the not too distant future.
- The cultural area still needs addressing and could be a responsibility for a new Board Member.

PROMOTION AND MARKETING – OBJECTIVE – Maintain and develop the image and profile of Dragon Boating in the community.

- We have promotional brochures available but they are in need of an update which should be undertaken later this year.
- Our website is regularly updated and the appointment of the new web master has seen this improvement with race results now up within a day.
- We have had some Press and Television coverage through the Masters Games and had some other coverage on Community television.
- We had planned to utilize a section of the proposed boatshed development for clubrooms but unfortunately the development has been put on hold. The Charles Sturt Council were relying on some grant money from the federal government but the Labour Government has cut funding to that particular grant program.

- A Development Officer was appointed to promote the University Challenge, Corporate Cup and Pub Challenge. Unfortunately she had to move interstate but the good news is that we have been successful in contracting a skilled replacement.
- We intend to arrange a workshop to assist clubs in managing growth and to help them with ideas on strengthening their administration to enable them to prosper. This was originally planned for last year but will be a focus for later this year.
- Junior participation was a focal point for the year which had limited success but there is a nucleus of juniors which we can build on.
- Sponsorship is very difficult to obtain and we really need to identify our product and target market it to potential and appropriate sponsors. This is a major process and will remain in our plans but will not happen in the short term.

ACCREDITED OFFICIALS - OBJECTIVE - Develop and improve the skills of coaches, sweeps and officials in accordance with National Accreditation Programs.

- Both a Coaches and Officials Courses were held during the year and were each attended by over 20 people which is great support from our members
- The Sweeps Accreditation scheme has been further refined and the numbers of accredited sweeps are healthily improving. The details of the scheme are on the website.

PARTICIPATION – OBJECTIVE – Increase participation through expanding the available venues for training and competition and the availability of boats and equipment.

- We have had contact with Mawson Lakes and are working with a Community Officer to establish a presence there.
- Our Development Officer will be tasked with approaching other sports to look at Dragon Boating as a cross training/out of season activity. We already have contact with several Netball, Cricket and Football Clubs.
- Our Induction Manual is planned for revision in 2008/9
- A team from Port Lincoln, Port Lincoln Dragons Abreast, took up membership of the Association increasing our membership numbers to twelve.
- West Coast development continues with a strong presence in Port Lincoln, Streaky Bay and Ceduna. There is considerable interest from Port Pirie, Port Broughton and Port Augusta.
- South East development is on hold while we consolidate the West Coast.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT – OBJECTIVE – Develop volunteer resources to ensure that the sport has a pool of qualified personnel to manage events.

- The Board appointed a member to oversee the volunteer portfolio and unfortunately she resigned at the AGM due to work pressures (from her real job). This role was filled after the AGM.
- The Officials Course in mid 2008 has increased the pool of qualified officials
- We now need to establish volunteer job descriptions for all roles. The volunteer area is one we need to focus on.
- We recognized the services of our volunteers at our Annual Dinner where the Race Day Volunteer of the Year and General Volunteer of the year were awarded. Congratulations to Jennifer Bould and Rick French respectively.

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS.

- The new racing format in its second season has proven successful and has allowed our country members to participate. There is still some work to be done in refining this format and this will be an ongoing project.
- The second year of separate State Championships was well received again and there is still work to be done on the format but the concept works well. New regulations have been formulated and are currently under review for adoption before our next season.
- There was an accident on West Lakes at training during the season which alerted the Department of Transport to the fact that we were not wearing PFDs. We submitted a request for exemption at West Lakes and were successful for West Lakes only and in daylight hours.
- Two very successful events, the Masters Games and The SA Police and Emergency Services Games, were held during the year and both contributed to our funds.
- The new Rowing Course is currently under construction and due for completion in three months.

Dragons Abreast Australia Report - 2009 AusDBF AGM – Prepared by Michelle Hanton

2008 marked the 10th birthday of Dragons Abreast in Australia. Over the last 10 years we, the women living with breast cancer, have become our own advocates – the strength always lay within us but often, it was not until diagnosis that this inner core of strength and determination emerged and became the catalyst for action. The dragon boat has been the vehicle that has allowed us to promote our message of awareness and education about this insidious disease. The dragon spirit has guided our path.

We have also been very fortunate to have received excellent support from the dragon boat community of Australia and especially from **Jon Taylor**, a founding member of AusDBF and a passionate advocate for the sport of dragon boat racing, who sadly, lost his own personal battle with cancer in December. Those of us who were lucky enough to have known Jon think fondly of him at all times and are eternally grateful for his support, guidance and friendship, especially in those early days when we did not know a thing about dragon boat racing. It was at his invitation that Dragons Abreast became a part of the AusDBF family all those years ago.

The first of the 10th birthday celebrations took place in Darwin in November and the second in Canberra this March celebrating 10 years of Dragons Abreast ACT and we were privileged to have AusDBF President Kel Watt attend.



This past year has also seen Senator Trish Crossin (NT) and John Senes (NSW) both accepting our invitation to become national ambassadors.

Membership Numbers

We currently consist of 43 (last AGM report was 35) member groups across Australia and our data base system is now working well. In conjunction with a full roll out of the ID card system Dragons Abreast has introduced Individual Member Handbooks which are sent out with the ID card to each members address. This contains important information not only about Dragons Abreast but of the sport in general and how we all fit together.

Response to the Handbooks has been very positive and they will continue to be an integral part of individual membership.

Collaborations

We continue to work in collaboration with the other major breast cancer organisations including the International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission which links us to the IDBF with whom we enjoy a good relationship.

Dragons Abreast presented a workshop at the **World Conference for Breast Cancer in Winnipeg** (June 2008) and have continued to undertake and service an ever increasing demand for public speaking across Australia.

Fundraising Initiatives

Our fundraising initiatives have seen the addition of the *Inaugural National Dragons Abreast Corporate and Community Regatta* held on Darling Harbour in October. This was a great success and we record a formal vote of thanks to DBNSW and Dragons Abreast Sydney for their support in making this run so smoothly. The regatta has had spin off to sports teams with several of our corporate discovering how marvellous the sport of dragon boating is.

Over the last 10 years women with breast cancer have achieved a great deal – breast cancer is very much in the public eye and there are pink products galore – including many in dragon boats! It seems hard to believe that in 2000 there were only 20 Dragons Abreast members to be found and that was after scouring the length and breadth of Australia for a team to go to the AusDBF Nationals at Penrith. That team did not even realise we needed to supply our own paddles and came a very distant last each race – but always first in our lane.

We've come a long way in a short time and yes, there may be a proliferation of Dragons Abreast members across the country but the message now remains exactly the same as it was then – about participation and raising awareness of breast cancer – the dragon boat is our vehicle but dragon boat racing is not our core business.



Want to be part of the action at Darling Harbour?



Registrations are now open for the exciting **Dragons Abreast Australia Corporate and Community Regatta** on October 25, 2009. Don't miss out on your chance to do something wonderful for those living with breast cancer, have a go at this popular, exhilarating, team-building sport, feed that competitive urge and have loads of fun and laughs. Visit www.dragonsabreast.com.au or phone us on **1300 889 566** to find out how your corporate or community group can join in the fun on the water while supporting breast cancer survivors and raising breast cancer awareness.

The funds we raise under our national banner are used to ensure we can continue to reach out to those travelling the journey with breast cancer. As our profile has increased so has the demand on our resources, the medical professionals that were once so sceptical are now very happily and actively recommending

Dragons Abreast and dragon boat as a great exercise regime, not only at the physical but also the psychosocial level.

Into the Next Generation

Our Board continues to review our structure in order to ensure that Dragons Abreast is appropriately placed to meet the needs of our membership and work in line with the changing world of breast cancer developments.

Over the last twelve months a series of Regional meetings have been held across Australia with all individual members encouraged to attend. These meetings have been very well received and the Board feels are an essential tool to keep contact with our members as we continue to develop and grow.

Amazing Stories

In an organisation such as Dragons Abreast there are always stories of tremendous courage, inspiration, sadness, joy and always hope. Recently our collective hearts were very moved by a voice from five years ago.

A young woman was in Canberra for the Masters' Games and our 5th birthday. It was a huge milestone in our history with many teams participating and a bit of 'bling' was won along the way. At the presentations the Great Dragon suggested that it would be a nice gesture if those who had received more than one medal might like to share the other with another DA member. Without hesitation medals appeared.

The point of this tale is that the young woman, Louise Zammit, recently approached me to try and ascertain who had given their medal to her. She felt sure it was from someone in the ACT. In response to my email many ACT women said they had indeed given their medals – some indeed parted with two.

This is what Louise says in her initial email to Jan Skorich when advised she thought it was someone from the ACT.

I found the medal I was telling you about. It was October 2003. This also coincided with DAA being 5 years old and there was a dinner on the Sat evening which Don McKenzie attended.

I would love to find the woman who gave me her gold medal. As I was telling you, it was the Sunday and all the DA races were over and Michelle Hanton had taken a group photo of all the women who were there. Michelle had asked that in the true spirit of Dragons Abreast she would like all women who had more than one medal to give away a medal to a woman who did not have one. A woman, and I couldn't even try to remember what she looked like, came up to me and she had 2 medals a gold and another one. She took off her gold medal and gave it to me.

I would love to find out who she was/is and thank her and let her know that it is that medal she gave to me, that means more to me than any other medal I have won. If you can help Jan, that would be great.

I have told this story many times over the last 6 years and it is only recently that I can tell it without choking up and shedding tears. This is probably the single most memorable and significant moment of my life to date. This had a bigger impact on me than having my children. After all I knew I was pregnant and that I would have a baby, this was totally unexpected!

It may never be known whose medal Louise received but her sentiments are exactly what keep the Dragon Spirit alive for all those who share the name Dragons Abreast.

Concluding remarks



My report would not be complete without a mention of the announcement of the Order of Australia Honour which was bestowed on me on the Queens Birthday in June 08.

I was truly honoured to have received this award and am very humbled to have been recognised in this way for doing something I have an absolute passion for – breast cancer advocacy and Dragons Abreast.

The motivation that has kept me going and my guiding light has always been to keep clearly focussed on the reason why we exist and why we were established. To always remember we are **NOT** about competition but about awareness, participation and inclusiveness. The moment we lose sight of these philosophies, we lose our reason for existence and simply become another dragon boat team.

It has been an incredible 10 years and we are confident that the future of Dragons Abreast Australia will continue to prosper and bring hope, friendship and laughter to women with breast cancer as the Great Dragon leads us to new adventures.

The Dragon Spirit!

DRAGON BOATING WA INC.
ANNUAL REPORT FOR AUSDBF 2008

Introduction

DBWA hosted the AusDBF National Championships for 2008. This was a huge success and showed the fantastic facilities we have available. I extend a huge thanks to all the volunteers and organising committee for their hard work and dedication in making it a success.

Key Points from 2008 Season

- Second year of being able to use Champion Lakes for our Grand Prix Regattas and State Championships. Another very successful year.
- At the National Cockburn DBC Open Masters crew 3 gold medals over 1000m; 500m and 200m. This cemented CDBC selection for the World Club Crew Championships in Penang August 2008.
- The State Open Masters crew won a silver medal in the 500m race.
- The Amazons Perth won three bronze medals in the Masters Women and Grand Dragons Womens divisions at the Nationals Championships in Perth. This enabled the club to compete at the World Club Crew Championships in Penang.
- In Penang at the IDBF World Club Crew Championships Cockburn's Open masters crew best performance was 4th in the 500m race behind strong crews from Russia, Canada and Germany. The Amazons were successful in a minor final.
- For the 2009 AusDBF Nationals in Queensland DBWA has put together a team of 70, our biggest and best crew to date.
- The storage shed and club rooms at Champion Lakes are now completed and available for use for regattas. Further facilities will become available over the coming years as demand for the venue increases.
- Regional clubs hosted very successful corporate regattas at Boddington, Harvey, Bunbury and Mandurah. These were great fun and hopefully there will be more next year.
- DBWA and the Department of Sport and Recreation have run a very successful 4 week schools program at Champion Lakes for local schools. This program will continue for the next 2 years.
- DBWA has purchased software and a card printer to produce ID cards for paddlers. This followed the failure of the national ID card system.

Membership

In 2008 there were 9 clubs registered with DBWA namely: -

- Cockburn DBC
- Forza DBC
- Fremantle Swan DBC
- Mandurah DBC
- Perth Pirates DBC
- Sprit of Bunbury DBC
- Amazons Perth DBC
- Harvey Harpoons DBC
- Champion Lakes Boating Club

Department of Sport and Recreation

DBWA continues to have a very good relationship with the Department of Sport and Recreation and I would like to thank the Department for their ongoing support and especially for the 2008 National Competition.

Administration

Despite some Board positions being vacant for part of the year DBWA has continued to function thanks to all the Board members who have assisted.

Challenges for 2009

Some of the challenges for the coming year are: -

- Increase club and individual membership at all levels.
- Increased community participation and corporate events.

Lastly thanks to all the paddlers and volunteers who made 2008 a very successful year. Let's all make sure that we continue to grow and improve and make the 2009 season even better.

Thank you for your support

Victor Fazakerley

President Dragon Boating WA Inc

14 April 2009

Dragon Boat Northern Territory, Grace Baker, President

DBNT was first established in 1998 with a focus on the cultural festivities. The popularity and romance of dragon boating absolutely exploded with enthusiasm in the NT and along with the development of Dragons Abreast the sport became a significant part of Darwin life through the efforts of several key people – particularly Michelle Hanton, Daryl Manzie, Austin Chin and Richard Lim.

There are now four clubs – Arafura Dragons, Dragons Abreast NT, Bayview Sundragons and Kununurra, with approximately 120 paddlers and these make up the peak body.

The newly elected executive has found the lack of forward financial planning an issue. DBNT are very fortunate to have 'unique' boats but as they are now in their eleventh year there is a lot of expense involved with the upkeep. Hence we are exploring options for fundraising/grants/sponsorship.

Even though DBNT is not as large as other states in terms of dragon boating – it was truly appreciated and very forward thinking of the AusDBF Board to have held the 'boot camp' in Sydney in Sept 08.

Arafura Dragons represented the NT at the World Club Crews in Penang.

DBNT are in the process of developing a new website and also holding regular bi-monthly regattas to encourage new paddlers into the sport plus help sweeps gain accreditation. A slow process.

Challenges for 2009

- A 'home' for DBNT
- A computer for DBNT
- Increase membership
- Marketing

Finally, it is still in the early planning stages, but there is the distinct possibility of an international standard regatta course being developed in Darwin. What a wonderful opportunity for our sport!

Tasmanian Dragon Boat Federation

Background

The Tasmanian Dragon Boat Federation (TasDBF) is a relatively new organisation. In November 2008 elections were held and a new board elected. The new board, Lisa Reid (President), Julie Davidson (Vice President), Helen Cordell (Secretary), Jenny Willing (Treasurer), Sue Houghton (Events Coordinator), Robyn Carney and Liz Gillian held its first meeting on the 10 December 2008. Unfortunately early in 2009 Sue Houghton resigned due to personal reasons. Sue was a diligent, enthusiastic and effective board member and has been missed by her colleagues on the TasDBF board. In early April Michael Goodwin was coopted to the Board.

The board is currently exploring options for inclusion of another Dragons Abreast member to fill the vacancy from Sue Houghton's departure.

There are four dragon boat clubs in Tasmania, three Dragons Abreast Clubs, one each in the North, North West and South of the State and the Derwent Storms Dragon Boat Club based at Lindisfarne in the south.

The newly elected TasDBF board have found the lack of forward financial planning an issue in these early days. The TasDBF board would like to thank Dragons Abreast (south) for the generous offer of a loan (gratefully accepted) to cover basic operating expenses in the interim until fees from clubs are received. The board is currently exploring options for fundraising and sponsorship to get the organisation on a sound financial platform.

Planning

- A sub-committee of the TasDBF board is currently reviewing its Constitution to better reflect the current needs and to encompass the future direction of dragon boating in Tasmania.
- Working with the Department of Sport and Recreation a strategic planning day has been scheduled for the 2 May 2009 – all member clubs are invited to participate.

Activities

- Tasmanian clubs have been represented at a number of Interstate competitions including, the Derwent Storms sending crews to compete at the Pan Pacs in Qld and the Melbourne International Dragon Boat Festival (Moomba) and Dragons Abreast crews competing in Sydney for Chinese New Year celebrations.
- A number of Adult Education courses have been offered by the Derwent Storms and these have been very popular. Many of the paddlers have chosen to continue to participate in Dragon Boating following the conclusion of the courses.
- Cooperation between all clubs continues to be strong. A number of Dragons Abreast and Derwent Storms members attended workshops held by AusDBF as part of its road-show to Tasmania, these included paddling and officials' workshops.

- Karen and Paul Jarvis from Broadwater Dragons generously provided a paddling workshop for the Derwent Storms recently – the Derwent Storms formed a strong bond with Broadwater at the Pan Pacs and the relationship continues to provide support for this relatively small Hobart club.
- Accreditation of sweeps is of key importance for growth of local clubs and a small local regatta hosted by Dragons Abreast (South) was held at Lindisfarne early in April 2009 to provide trainee sweeps with the opportunity to gain experience in sweeping in races.

Dragon Boat Victoria, Jonathan Mayne

The VDBA name has been scrapped and **Dragon Boats Victoria Inc** (DBV) is now the official title in line with AusDBF policy and other State bodies.

Trevor Huggard, Secretary DBV has advocated restructure for a more sports oriented DBV for some time and long time Chairman, K C Ong agreed that re-structure of DBV Inc was overdue and outlined the history leading to the present time.

K C Ong explained that in the early '80s Don Dunstan was head of the Victorian Tourist Commission and Melbourne City Council was encouraging the Chinese community to develop a stronger cultural presence in Melbourne, particularly through the Chinatown precinct. Dunstan gained access to funding from the then Cain Government for the task of upgrading Chinatown.

Don Dunstan and former Melbourne Lord Mayor, Trevor Huggard were appointed joint Chairmen of Melbourne's 'Chinatown Historic Precinct Committee'. Their stated role was to promote Chinese culture to the broader community. Melbourne City Council provided seed funding and a storage compound for the International Dragon Boat Festival as part of Moomba and a close working relationship has been maintained, and continuing funding for the Dragon Boat Festival has been provided every year since for the past 25 years.

K C Ong and Mark Wang (son of the late David Wang) were then organizers of the Chinese Food Festival and the August Moon Festival, and as part of their ongoing cultural reforms for Melbourne, secured funding for 10 to 12 Dragon boats at a total cost of \$60,000. The money was not made available immediately but underwritten and paid at \$6,000 per annum over the next 10 years.

For this cultural initiative sponsors came from everywhere. Four-n-Twenty Pies, Crown, Price Waterhouse, ANZ, SMS, BP etc. Gas and Fuel Co even sponsored the 'Three Chinese Tenors' but as time passed sponsors became harder to find and even harder to retain.

The State coordinators role passed from Judy Maxstead to Annie Watson then Neil Crossthwaite and now Jenny Mayne. Under Neil's administration and Trevor's Strategy Plan for change including Neil's appointment the sporting side of Dragon boating assumed greater prominence with AusDBF in full swing and affiliated with IDBF. Victorian teams compete interstate and overseas and DBV has purchased 8 new International Class Dragon boats.

DBV retains a duty to the cultural elements of Dragon boat racing while at the same time expanding the sporting side. The cultural side generates much of DBV's income and without it Dragon Boating cannot progress in the way it should. We intend to re-create some activities on the Yarra, tapping into the 10am till 2pm time slot to avoid clashing with other water activities during the Moomba Festival.

Jenny Mayne, OAM fills the role of DBV Administration Officer but is not a board member.

The new DBV board members are:

- **Jonathan Mayne** - Director: Regional & Corporate Events
- **Paul Boucher** - Director: Metropolitan Events & Sweeps Accreditation
- **Serghei Cucsa** - High Performance Director & State Coach
- **Joe Alia** - Coaching & Events Advisor
- **Gail Williams** - Retains the role of Treasurer

The new board has been chosen for stability, passion and demonstrated commitment to Dragon boating. Secretary, Trevor Huggard was the inaugural President of AusDBF, **K C Ong, Trevor Huggard, Peter Louey and David Wong** have been with Dragon Boating since the beginning as have Jenny and Jonathan Mayne. Paul Boucher (Frenchy) and his wife Shirley have been great supporters. Serghei Cucsa and Joe Alia have been long time contributors bringing their invaluable skills to DBV and after giving outstanding service, Gail Williams has agreed to continue the role of Treasurer.

There is now a method to vote for board members at future AGMs of this newly constituted DBV. Board members are invited according to their merits and elected for a 12 month period after which fresh elections must take place. Applicants may be proposed for board membership but must be voted for and receive approval from existing board members.

Serghei as High Performance Coach has developed a State Team from across the Victorian paddling community and Shirley Boucher represented DBV at the AusDBF Risk Management Teleconference.

For many years Dragon Boating in Victoria out-sourced its officials. That has changed and our 2008-2009 season was almost entirely staffed by volunteers from within the ranks. Paul Boucher has conducted comprehensive sweeps courses and DBV hopes to soon hold officials courses for volunteers.

DBV held the Docklands Cup in December, hosted the Australian Masters Games Dragon Boat Festival at Geelong, fielded teams at Chinese New Year, Adelaide, and had a great Mile High Championship at Falls Creek and a successful Melbourne International Dragon Boat Festival at Dockland and finally a regatta on Lake Guthridge, Sale.

Our corporate involvement has been boosted by the participation of many local companies and organisations. We even presented two boats at Henley on the Maribyrnong at the request of the local rowing club.

DBV has an energetic board and a vigorous program of expansion underway with a major increase of annual events, regular corporate days, paddler recruitment and a negotiated new water sports centre for a permanent home for DBV at Docklands including club rooms, shower/toilet facilities, boat storage, committee rooms, social centre, trophy room and administration offices.

The future is very bright and promising for Dragon Boating in Victoria.

Year in Review

2008 National Championships – Perth

Appendix 2

AusDBF Meeting - Victoria

Appendix 3

AusDBF Meeting - Tasmania

Appendix 4

AusDBF Boot Camp - Sydney

Appendix 5

Acknowledgements

AusDBF would like to thank the following sponsors who supported us during 2008.



AusDBF is a member of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) family of recognised National Sporting Organisations and a member of the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF).



Australian Government
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