



AUSTRALIAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

December 31

2007

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

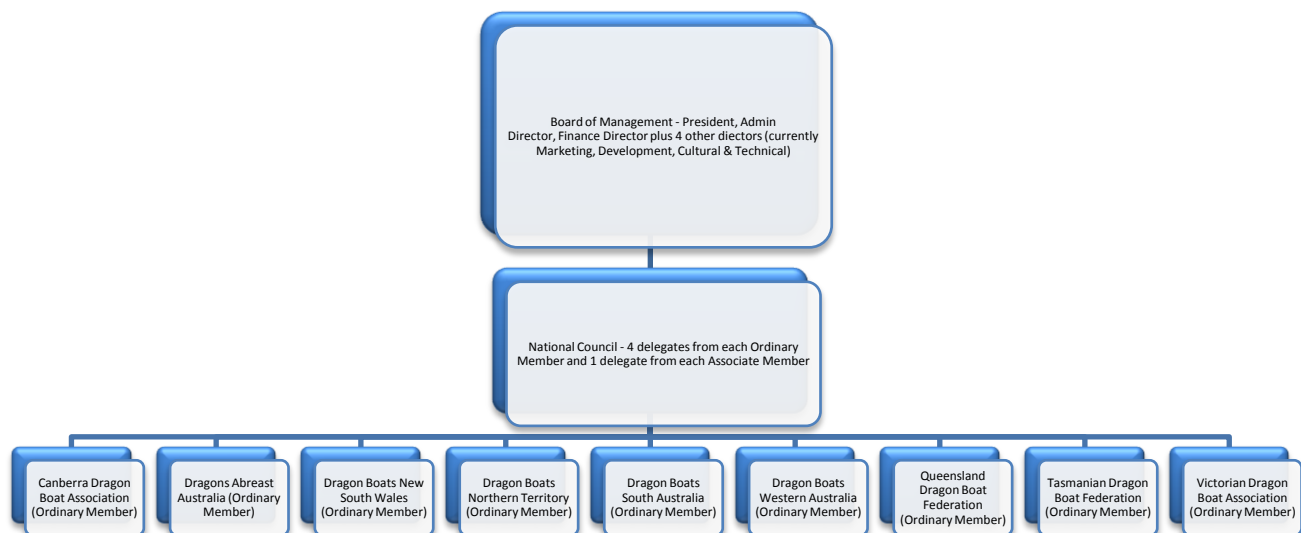
The growth of interest in dragon boat racing has been astonishing and much of the credit for this belongs to the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA), which arranged the first Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival International races in 1976. Since then, the HKTA and its overseas offices promoted the sport 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

Administration Director, Janine Lette

The past 12 months have been challenging to say the least. Teleconferences were introduced monthly and were attended by 100% of the Board most times – though there were a few months where the teleconference wasn't held. A considerable amount of business was discussed and completed. I now wonder how the Board ever got through with meeting only twice a year with 1,000s of emails and individual telephone calls in between!

Communication is still a problem for AusDBF in that although I send emails very rarely is a response promptly received from the majority of our Members, if at all. The incoming Board needs to look further into better communication systems ensuring responses are received from Members when required.

Although the ID card system was accepted by AusDBF and its Members in December 2006, we are still to see an operational National database. Initially the system was in the control of Tanya White. However, at the December 2007 meeting it was decided that I would be the coordinator. In the 5 months, a contract was negotiated and signed with Eyede – who then a week before Nationals withdrew service to their Australian customers. However, persistent hard work and numerous phone calls by Eva Kessler from DBNSW to various previous Eyede contacts saw the missing templates reinstalled on Friday for printing by Melanie Cantwell (DBNSW were the only ones with system operational as they were using it before AusDBF's acceptance) the weekend prior to Nationals for the Victoria, South Australian and West Australian paddlers to have at Nationals. A new National database system will be sourced that will be compatible to all of the printers that our Members have already purchased. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tanya, Eva and Melanie in their continual struggle to get this system functional.

The AusDBF Development Plan expired at the end of 2007. A planning weekend will be conducted in the next couple of months where a representative from each Member will attend careof AusDBF. This will be a great opportunity for the Board to hear what its members and paddlers are asking for given that the Board is for the paddlers.

Finally I would like to thank every single person involved in making Worlds happen, especially all the volunteers with the majority from DBNSW, as without you guys it just would not have happened and I personally acknowledge that without the huge efforts and sacrifices put in by DBNSW that it was the success it was.

Finance Director, Christopher Alexandrou

Appendix 1

Cultural Director, Austin Chin

As the Cultural Director for the past two years, I would like to thank all the people who have supported me, especially my predecessor Mr Raymond Leung and good friend and personal motivator, Mr Chris Alexandrou, aka "Zeus".

I will keep this report as brief as possible as my previous report was quite extensive and comprehensive. The report is still available on the AusDBF Website and can be located under the heading of "Publications" / "Minutes" / "Cultural Directors Report" 3/28/2008. The report contains draft instructions on the "Ceremonial Procedure for Conducting the Traditional Launching of a Dragon Boat".

It is with great regret that I have decided to stand down as Cultural Director. However I have the utmost faith in Dr Richard Lim "should he be elected" as the new Cultural Director. Richard will no doubt continue the good work of Raymond Leung and me. We will be assisting him in any way we can and I know that the majority of Dragon Boaters will also offer him their strongest support as we are very fortunate to have these very traditional cultural aspects to our sport.

I have totally enjoyed my experience on the AusDBF Board and have extreme admiration for Jon Taylor and Janine Lette who are the two most "driven people" I have ever had the good fortune to have worked with. Their dedication to the development of the sport has been inspirational and they are without a doubt, one of the many reasons why Dragon Boat has been so successful not only in Australia, but the World.

Having said that, I encourage all of the Australian Dragon Boat Fraternity to support and understand Dragon Boat Administrators who are all volunteers and who put a lot of not only time and effort, but much valuable personal finances. It is too easy to complain and criticise about things that you don't happen to agree on. I therefore encourage all paddlers to consider joining their local Dragon Boat committee and make this sport, the best and biggest world sport of the 21st century.

In closing, AusDBF has recently been accepted as a member of the Asian Dragon Boat Federation (ADBF) and has won the right to host the 2010 Asian Dragon Boat Championships here in Australia. I encourage all paddlers in Australia to travel to competitions throughout Asia, especially China, to truly experience not only the cultural aspects of Dragon Boats, but the fabulous hospitality associated with this sport. I encourage that these traditions are adopted and fostered with a passion here Australia.

My best wishes for all the nominees for the on coming elections. From what I have seen of the nominees, I think we will be in very good hands indeed.

May the Dragon Spirit always protect and guide you.



Austin James Chin
AusDBF Cultural Director

Technical Director, John Holland

At the AGM in Penrith I was elected to the position of Technical Director and started on a very steep learning curve.

Fortunately, Melanie Cantwell, who preceded me had most areas under control and had the upcoming World Championships well in hand. Melanie remained as the Technical Director for the World Championships and made my first year in the national role relatively stress free.

One of my duties was to review the IDBF rules and regulations and identify areas where AusDBF may need to further expand to cover our requirements and enable us to work with them. The area of eligibility and residence was an issue but at the Council meeting at the World Championships the rules were changed and they are now adaptable for our use.

There have been a number of queries from Clubs wishing to “borrow” members from other clubs to allow them to race at the Nationals. The Nationals are our highest level of competition and we must uphold the integrity of these championships and strictly follow the rules. I know that it is hard when a State Team paddler’s club is not participating in the Club Crew Competition but we cannot make exceptions and must maintain a fair competition for all. To be chosen to represent ones state is the highest honour apart from representing our country and should be valued as such. Racing in the Club Crew competition is a bonus for those whose clubs are participating and perhaps State Crew members whose clubs have chosen not to compete could put more pressure on their clubs to get involved.

Early in my year I visited the Champion Lakes course in Perth for their official opening. It is a most impressive venue and although there is still an amount of infrastructure yet to be completed, I am confident that the 2008 Nationals will have a course of the highest standard and it will provide an excellent level of fair competition.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the extremely high level of skills exhibited by our volunteers on a national basis. A large number have completed our Race Officials Accreditation program and I must thank Melanie Cantwell again for her efforts in compiling this course.

Our Sweeps Accreditation system is now well established and some fine tuning in regard to removing the need to re-accredit after three years, has seen it working very well. (As long as a sweep continues to sweep a minimum number of races per year, their accreditation will remain valid)

Thank you to all who have assisted me throughout the year and to those participating in the Nationals – good luck.

Our Education

Officials Course, Melanie Cantwell

The AusDBF Officials / Volunteers Training Course was born out of the idea of having a minimum set of standard requirements for hosting a National Championships no matter which State / Territory of Australia they were held in. Version 1 was released and rolled out in April 2006. At this point I would like to acknowledge the Australian Sports Commission and IDBF for all their input and assistance and all of the States for accepting the course. Hopefully over the next 12 months, States will encourage more of their members to complete the course.

Having had held 2007 Nationals and Worlds and conducted the Officials Course around Australia, it was time to take all this new knowledge, skills and feedback to create Version 2. This was released in January 2008. As always, feedback is most welcomed as it will certainly come in handy for Version 3.

A true testament of any course is 'does it actually work' and / or 'has it been a success'. I would like to think that it has as I know the standard of volunteers, experience, knowledge and skills has certainly improved. Point in case was hearing one of the IDBF officials comment to that the Volunteers at the 2007 World Championships were the best that they had ever worked with. The volunteers were very enthusiastic, eager to help, able to do jobs without being told and actually knew what they are doing. It is appropriate to include two quotes from emails received after the World Championships:

'On behalf of USDBF and Team USA who may have been a bit of stressful work, everyone including spouses and guests with Team USA had a wonderful time. Your organization sets a new bar for hosting, (in my opinion).

Sometimes, coming in and taking over how things are done is a problem for local organizing committees, especially those who have been doing this kind of event for a long time. But I've got to tell you that your Volunteers were very easy and fun to work with.

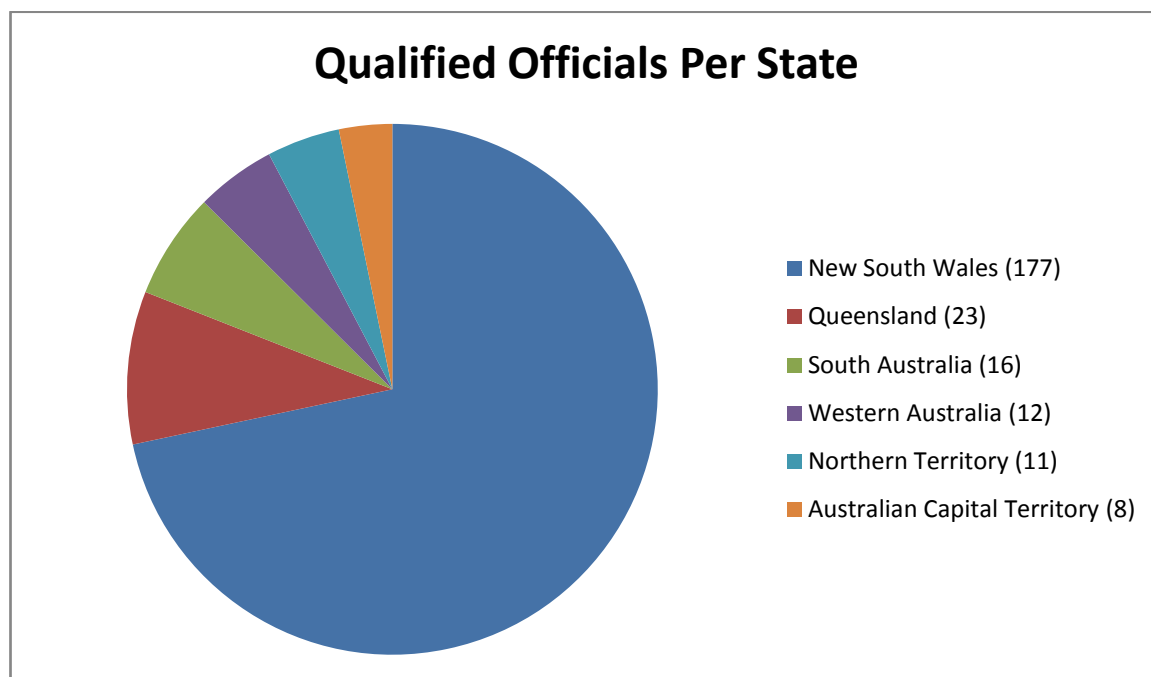
I am extremely impressed by your volunteer organization. From the printed manual, which should be required reading by all IDBF World organizers to the warm welcome and 'no problem (no worries) attitude exhibited by each and every volunteer I met, I was always made to feel at home. The people who took care of ceremonies did so with respect and great care, it was our (presenters) pleasure to have volunteers give out some medals. They deserve medals as well! Volunteers in marshalling and gate control areas were great. Perhaps we can import everyone when Tampa rolls around in 2011.' - Gary Carstens, president, United States Dragon Boat Federation & IDBF official

'On behalf of us all in the GB Premier Women's Team can I thank you and your team for an excellent World Championships in Sydney.

From the paddlers point of view we thought the competition organisation was by far the best we've ever encountered, and your team of volunteers in particular were always very helpful and courteous to us. You even managed to organise good weather!

So well done, and many thanks, Best Wishes' - John Griffiths, GB Premier Women's Team Coach

At the time of printing, the following volunteers have successfully completed the course:



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

Coaching Course, Gavin Godfrey and Ian Peters

Members Reports

Canberra Dragon Boats Association, Kel Watt, President

The Canberra Dragon Boats Association (CDBA) is coming to the close of another season of growth in numbers, sponsor dollars, media profile, and racing standard.

Over the last three seasons, the CDBA has worked towards a number of goals and is slowly but surely meeting them. With membership growth increasing over the last 18 months by around 65%, the larger numbers of paddlers on Lake Burley Griffin is perhaps the most visible and spectacular result for the Committee's and club's leadership groups. While female and older paddlers were the overwhelming demographic just a couple of seasons ago, younger and male paddlers are now making up bigger slices of the paddler pie than ever before. This has come about as a result of the concerted effort to develop the sport at a school level, and also to ensure the Defence Force Academy's participation in the sport is cemented. Developing the corporate and sporting side of dragon boating has not been an easy thing. The long pink shadow cast by the 'heart and soul' of the sport in Canberra - our beloved DA ladies - takes some work. While DA have been very busily promoting themselves throughout the ACT, the sports clubs have traditionally not been so active.

That is now changing though. Our sporting and corporate regattas are now features on the Canberra sporting calendar, and the achievements of the Grammar crews in representing Australia at the 2007 Worlds, where they grabbed four medals; and the Ice Dragons competing with distinction in China, has captured good column inches. Throw in the Titans GM women getting set for the Worlds in Penang, strong interstate performances from ADFA, Navmat and the Dragon Flyers, and suddenly it's very hard to ignore the Canberra teams. The CDBA's escort of the Olympic Torch over Lake Burley Griffin in late April is a just reward for every paddler who has worked hard to build the sport and Association.

But it's not an isolated couple of incidents. New kids on the block - all girls crew, the Diamond Phoenix - have become a force in just 12 months, and the reinvigorated Griffins, and the Saints school club have also been making a steady climb to the top of the heap on race day.

As the CDBA now sets its sights firmly on the magic '1000 member' glass ceiling, the on-water success has flowed onto the important areas of sponsor dollars, and increased media and community awareness. The ACT team will be racing at the Nationals this year with a naming rights sponsor - Agile Digital Engineering - and our landmark season event - the Canberra Festival Regatta - attracted corporate sports company, Adrenaline Edge, as race day sponsor, along with government dollars in record amounts. The fickle TV, radio and newspaper sports journalists have now embraced us as needing regular coverage, and the interstate clubs who competed at the Canberra Festival regatta will confirm good entertainment and facilities, and faster times than they are used to seeing from Canberra crews.

With all the off-water activity, including a massive investment in equipment and facilities, the CDBA paddlers have responded on race day by giving their all and shaving big chunks off times they previously saw as 'good enough'. The efforts of the CDBA committee over the last couple of seasons to give members the best resources available has lifted the performance of ACT paddlers, and the ACT crews heading to Perth are confident of attracting attention from their more fancied opponents.

With dragon boating now bursting out of the 'niche sport' category it had grown accustomed to in the ACT, the CDBA committee and club leadership groups are looking at maintaining stability, focus, and a shared goal of growth and success in the 2008-09 season. We used to talk about the

sport being at the cross roads in Canberra, but the CDBA feels confident we have chosen the right path to head down, and are now looking at continuing our journey of success.

In close, I would like to take the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the tremendous CDBA team. They have worked in a unified and dedicated fashion this year and deserve the praise - Andrew Churches, Michele Moroney, Kylie Bromwich, Tran Tran, John Crickmore, Louisa Slade, Lisa Smallacombe, Robyn Whytcross, and Robyn Kellett. While loathed to start singling others out for fear of omitting and hurting the great work of many others, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and guidance of Tarquin Ralph who is overseeing our Olympic Torch relay plans, immediate past President Fred Lehmann who set the ball rolling on this year's work, Australia Day and Navy Day events organiser Alf Pawlicki, and ACT Coach Brendan Byrne. And of course, not a single regatta would have come close to being run this year if it wasn't for Mavis Fowler and June McMahon.

The CDBA has focussed on servicing members, and all the other benefits have flowed from that. It's a plan we intend to push on with again this coming year.

Dragons Abreast Australia Report, Michelle Hanton

The past twelve months have been an amazingly busy time for Dragons Abreast Australia and we have pleasure in sharing with other AusDBF members some of the highlights.



A Dragon's Tale – the story of Dragons Abreast in Australia was published in September 2007. The forward was by Professor Don McKenzie and the book was reviewed by the Hon Julie Bishop and Professor John Boyages.

A whirlwind tour followed around the country and included all capital cities with the exception of Sydney due to the APEC conference and timing. Launches were hosted in conjunction with Hogs Breath Cafe franchisees and Profitable Hospitality.

Abreast In Australia - the largest 100% breast cancer survivor international dragon boat regatta that has ever been held in the world (2000 participants) was hosted by Dragons Abreast on the last weekend in September, immediately after the World Championships in Sydney.

The event was a massive exercise in collaboration between all our member groups across the country and also the mainstream paddlers of Australia. We would like to record a **formal vote of**

thanks to Dragon Boat NSW and Queensland Dragon Boat Federation who so generously supported us with volunteers and equipment.

Professor Don McKenzie, founder of the breast cancer survivor dragon boat movement, travelled from Vancouver – courtesy of Goway Travel and Qantas - and Professor Neil Pillar, from Flinders Medical Centre also attended, lending support, conducting presentations and providing inspiration to the pink ladies.



Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) constructed a Field of Women, much visited and photographed by the media. The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) ran a Pink Ribbon BBQ and sold their merchandise. Amazon Heart and Encore had promotional booths as did the Lymphoedema Association of Queensland and the Sunshine Coast Lymphoedema Group.

At the local level, the Cindy McKenzie Breast Cancer Foundation and Wesley Choices program also attended.

The event was a fantastic showcase for the breast cancer cause and also for the sport of dragon boat racing as there was extensive media coverage received across Australia.

Date Published	Publication	Section/Page	Ed/Ad	Title/Description	Product
November	Probus	Double page spread Pg 8 & 9	Ed	Promoting Breast Cancer Awareness	Dragons Abreast
November	The Senior	General	Ed	Breast Cancer survivors rally at regatta	Dragons Abreast
October	Hospitality Magazine	Management, Pg 47	Ed	Sponsorship can work	Dragons Abreast
Oct-07	Notebook	Awareness, Pg 182-184	Ed	New Beginnings	Dragons Abreast
01/10/2007	Illawarra Mercury	General news, pg 118	Ed	Taming the dragon boat	Dragons Abreast
01/10/2007	Sunshine Coast Daily	General news, pg 9	Ed	Strike me pink!	Dragons Abreast
02/10/2007	The Irish Times	Health Supplement, pg 4	Ed	Pink dragons take to the water to fight breast cancer	Dragons Abreast
03/10/2007	Sunshine Coast Daily (Maroochydhore)	Editorials, Pg 18	Ed	Key to survival in your hands	Dragons Abreast
03/10/2007	Sunshine Coast Weekly (Maroochydhore)	General News Pg 8	Ed	Celebrating life after the battles Women from Seven Countries paddle in Abreast Regatta	Dragons Abreast
04/10/2007	Weekender Sunshine Coast	General News, Pg 35	Ed	Unexpected Blessings	Dragons Abreast

07/10/2007	Sunday Canberra Times	Sport, pg 63	Ed	Keeping Abreast	Tickled Pink, Dragons Abreast
10/10/2007	Northern Territory News	Advertising feature, Pg 31	Ed	Tale Full of inspiration	Dragons Abreast
10/10/2007	Northern Territory News	Advertising feature, Pg 30	Ed	Dragons celebrate in style with huge festival	Dragons Abreast
30/09/2007	Sunday Mail (Brisbane)	General news, pg 9	Ed	Dragon ladies have a dip	Janelle Gamble, Denise Willis, Dragons Abreast
30/09/2007	Sunshine Coast Sunday	General news, pg 8	Ed	5 things to do today	Dragons Abreast
30/09/2007	Sunshine Coast Sunday	General news, pg 10	Ed	Lust for life fuels the will to survive - Paddlers leave cancer in their wake	Dragons Abreast
30/09/2007	Sunshine Coast Sunday	Editorials, pg 18	Ed	In our opinion - Celebration of life good for the soul	Dragons Abreast
29/09/2007	Leader Messenger	General News, Pg 45	Ed	SA dragon crews abreast of life's joy	Dragons Abreast
29/09/2007	Style	General News, Pg 29	Ed	Book Launch	Dragons Abreast
29/09/2007	WIN TV Queensland	End of news	Ed	Dragon's Abreast Event	Dragons Abreast
29/09/2007	Gympie Times	General news, pg 46	Ed	Life after breast cancer, oar-some	Dragons Abreast

29/09/2007	Sunshine Coast Daily (Maroochydore)	General news, pg 118	Ed	Gus gets trumped for award Don't miss Dragons Abreast	Dragons Abreast
29/09/2007	thedaily.com.au (Sunshine Coast Daily)	http://www.thedaily.com.au/blogs/ashley-robinson/2007/sep/29/gus-gould/	Ed	Gus gets trumped for award Don't miss Dragons Abreast	Dragons Abreast
29/09/2007	Sunshine Coast Daily	General News, Pg's 10,11	Ed	Cancer fight keeps powering along/Dragon's fire shade of pink	Dragons Abreast
29/09/2007	thedaily.com.au (Sunshine Coast Daily)	http://www.thedaily.com.au/news/2007/sep/29/breast-cancer-survivors-join-dragon-quest/	Ed	Breast cancer survivors join Dragon quest	Dragons Abreast
29/09/2007	thedaily.com.au (Sunshine Coast Daily)	http://www.thedaily.com.au/news/2007/sep/29/sea-dragons/	Ed	A sea of dragons	Dragons Abreast
28/09/2007	ABC News online	http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/09/28/2046015.htm	Ed	Breast cancer survivors take to dragon boats	Dragons Abreast
28/09/2007	The Redland Times	General news, pg 46	Ed	Survivors abreast in dragon boat racing	Missabittatitti, Dragons Abreast
28/09/2007	Sunshine Coast Daily	General News, Pg 8	Ed	They've all done it tough, but these Dragons are breathing fire	Dragons Abreast

28/09/2007	Herald Sun	Health Watch, Pg 34	Ed	In the same boat	Dragons Abreast
27/09/2007	Noosa Journal	General news, pg 14	Ed	Survivors stir up fun with paddle power	Dragons Abreast
26/09/2007	Caloundra Weekly	General News, Pg 6	Ed	Survivors unite	Dragons Abreast
26/09/2007	Caloundra Weekly	General News, Pg 7	Ed	Economy keeps abreast with gals Tourism head Mike Wilkinson	Dragons Abreast
26/09/2007	Glasshouse Country News	General news, pg 16	Ed	Dragons Aplenty	Dragons Abreast
26/09/2007	Sunshine Coast Weekly (Maroochydore)	General news, pg 14	Ed	Caloundra hosts 2000 survivors of cancer	Dragons Abreast
26/09/2007	Bundaberg Guardian	General News, Pg 18	Ed	Health Lecture	Dragons Abreast
26/09/2007	Nambour Weekly	General News, Pg 19	Ed	Caloundra hosts 2000 survivors of cancer	Dragons Abreast
26/09/2007	Central Coast Express-Advocate	General News, Pg 3	Ed	Busters Confident	Dragons Abreast
26/09/2007	Caloundra Weekly	Editorials, Pg 8	Ed	Support Dragons for life's sake	Dragons Abreast
25/09/2007	The Senior	General News, Pg 22	Ed	Diary Dates	Dragons Abreast
25/09/2007	Essential Adelaide	General News	Ed	What's on in Adelaide SA	Dragons Abreast
23/09/2007	The Age	News, 2:34pm	Ed	Breast Cancer survivors for Aussie study	Dragons Abreast

20/09/2007	Coolum Advertiser	General News, Pg 8	Ed	Community News	Dragons Abreast
19/09/2007	Canberra Times	Times, Pg 7	Ed	Stunning Pink dinner in mix	Dragons Abreast
19/09/2007	South East Advertiser	General News, Pg 13	Ed	Cancer Survivors still breathing fire	Dragons Abreast
19/09/2007	News Weekly	General News, Pg 64	Ed	Water dragons set to take on world's best	Dragons Abreast
19/09/2007	Redcliffe & Bayside Herald	General News, Pg 18	Ed	Paddlers unite in cancer fight	Dragons Abreast
18/09/2007	Knox Leader	General News, Pg 20	Ed	Book charts courageous course	Dragons Abreast
18/09/2007	Port Lincoln Times	General News, Pg 12	Ed	Local Dragons Abreast group launches book	Dragon Abreast
18/09/2007	Byron Shire Echo	General News, Pg 8	Ed	Dragon Abreast	Dragons Abreast
17/09/2007	Woman's Day	Health, Pg 87	Ed	Boating for Breast Cancer	Dragons Abreast
14/09/2007	Courier mail	Today, Pg 47	Ed	Survivors on board	Dragons Abreast
13/09/2007	Courier mail	Today Outdoors	Ed	Survivors on board	Dragons Abreast
September	Qantas - The Australian Way	Diary	Ed	Dragons Abreast Australia	Dragons Abreast
September	Burke's Backyard	Events & Garden, Pg 48	Ed	Dragon Boats	Dragons Abreast
September	Hobart Mercury	General News, Pg 9	Ed	Cancer Survivors Voyage of hope	Dragons Abreast - A dragons Tale
September	Sunshine Coast Weekly	General News, Pg 8	Ed	Dragons Book at regatta	Book launch

September	Australian Country Style	A month in the country	Ed	Queensland	Dragons Abreast
September	Australian House & Garden	Events, Pg 175	Ed	A month in the country/Abreast in Australian Regatta	Dragons Abreast
Aug/Sept	Fernwood	What's On, Pg 65	Ed	Abreast in Australian Dragon Abreast	Dragons Abreast
Aug/Sept	Roadahead	What's On	Ed	28th-30th Dragon Boats	Dragon Abreast Regatta
29/08/2007	Canberra Times	General News, Pg 2	Ed	Sep-07	Dragons Abreast
29/08/2007	Darwin Sun	General News, Pg 2	Ed	Dragon's tale spreads hope	Dragons Abreast
29/08/2007	Weekly Times Messenger	General News, Pg 49	Ed	Crews abreast of life	Dragons Abreast
28/08/2007	Northern Territory News	General News, Pg 5	Ed	Our Friendly dragons in pink after publishing	Dragons Abreast
22/08/2007	Caloundra Weekly	Community weekly, Pg11	Ed	Donation just 'oarsome'	Dragons Abreast
21/08/2007	Backpacker Essential	What's On	Ed	Abreast in Australia 2007	Dragons Abreast
13/08/2007	Northern Star	General News, Pg 6	Ed	Lennox Head	Dragons Abreast
Jun-07	Living Now	General News, Pg 62	Ed	The Breast in Australia Dragon Boat Regatta	Dragons Abreast
Winter 07	GetUp & Go	Calendar	Ed	Seniors card Northern Territory	Dragons Abreast Regatta
Winter 07	Senior Queensland Edition	Feature, Pg 9	Ed	Keep abreast of things	Dragons Abreast Regatta

10/03/2007	Geelong Advertiser	General News, Pg 27	Ed	In oar of their fighting spirit	Dragons Abreast
Date Published	Publication	Section/Page	Ed/Ad	Title/Description	Product
RADIO					
29/09/2007	4BC Radio	Newsbreak	Interview	Janelle Gamble/Walter Willaims	Dragons Abreast
28/09/2007	4BC Radio	Newsgrab	Interview	Janelle Gamble	Dragons Abreast
28/09/2007	Hot 91 FM	Newsgrab	Interview	Anna Wellings Booth	Dragons Abreast
28/09/2007	Sunshine Coast Daily	Newsbreak	Interview		Dragons Abreast
28/09/2007	Gold Coast Bulletin	Newsbreak	Interview		Dragons Abreast
04/09/2007	612 ABC drive	Newsbreak	Interview	Scott Spark/ Janelle Gamble 3:20pm	
12-Jun-07	ABC mid North Coast Radio	General News	Ed	Flaming dragon race off	Dragons Abreast
22/02/2007	ABC Studio in Ultimo	The Sports Factor	Interview	Mick O'Regan 8.30pm	
Date Published	Publication	Section/Page	Ed/Ad	Title/Description	Product
TELEVISION					
28/09/2007	Channel 9	Newsgrab	Interview	Parade	Dragons Abreast
28/09/2007	Channel 7 PRIME	Newsbreak	Interview	Parade	Dragons Abreast

Membership numbers

We currently consist of 35 member groups across Australia with the largest concentration being located in NSW, although Queensland is steadily increasing numbers too.

We are pleased to report that Dragons Abreast Port Lincoln has completed the formal application process to becoming members of DBSA. Dragon Abreast Australia would like to record **a formal vote of thanks to DBSA** for their patience with our members in Port Lincoln as they worked through the process.

In Tasmania we now have three clubs with the recent establishment of the Dragons Abreast group in Launceston. All come under the umbrella of the Tasmanian Dragon Boat Federation. Dragons Abreast in Hobart were also very pleased to be able to lend their boats to help the sports club establish in Hobart. The sport is growing rapidly on the island and it looks like the dream of an AusDBF national titles on the island may become soon a reality.

There are also 12 more groups in various locations around the country (NSW, QLD, WA) that are keen to become a part of our national body and who are currently undergoing the application process.

As Dragons Abreast Australia we occupy a valuable and unique position within AusDBF. Whilst we do have individual members who are competitive, Dragons Abreast is not, and never will be, a dedicated sporting body. Our competitive streak can be satisfied but not at the loss of our foundations – that of participation and inclusiveness - hence we will always recommend the formation of a sports club under which Dragons Abreast teams can fall.

It is also interesting to note that Dragons Abreast has been responsible for the formation of 20 new dragon boat groups across Australia and these have been in areas where there has previously been no dragon boat presence. An additional spin off is that the interest generated in the local community by Dragons Abreast has led to the formation of several sports clubs.

Protection of our name

The continued interest in and growth of Dragons Abreast has caused our Board to review our structure in order to ensure that there is always consistency, ethics and professionalism displayed by those who share our name which is protected by trademark. We have taken, and will continue to take, legal action against any attempted misuse of our intellectual property or trademarked events.

ID tags

In line with the protection of our name Dragons Abreast Australia has adopted the Eyede System for all our members. This serves several purposes, not least of which is to establish the bona fides of individual representing Dragons Abreast within the community. We wish to record a formal vote of thanks to **DBNSW and especially Tanya White** for all her assistance in establishing this system.

Collaborations

Our collaborations increase on a yearly basis as we are increasingly recognised as the only ready-made breast cancer population grouping. We cooperate with not only other breast cancer advocacy, peer support and of course the National Breast Cancer Foundation but also several scientific researchers on a wide range of projects. The most recent being the effects of airline travel on the condition of lymphoedema.

Dragons Abreast increasing features in various Health reports – and just this month our images and the sport of dragon boat racing were mentioned in the Rural Health Education Foundations broadcast to GP's around Australia. Dr. Verity Ahearn was on the panel and is also a regular participant in the Dragons Abreast Hospital Challenge held during Chinese New Year in Sydney. We record a **formal vote of thanks to DBNSW** for their unwavering support of our cause and assistance.

Dragons Abreast has also been invited to present a workshop at the World Conference for Breast Cancer in Winnipeg (June 08) on the Dragons Abreast Australia model as we are seen as leading the way internationally for breast cancer survivor paddlers.

Fundraising Initiative

We are thrilled to announce that MARS FUNDRAISING has designed a very special box of M&M'S® Pink & White especially for us. You may be aware that MARS FUNDRAISING has partnered with the McGrath Foundation in recent years. This year, MARS FUNDRAISING has committed to partner with Dragons Abreast due to the overwhelming support from Dragons Abreast and our supporters during previous campaigns.

These specially marked packages are **the only fundraising M&M'S® Pink & White** on the market, and will be distributed nationally. They are available from **1 May 2008**.

Each box has a side panel with information, including contact details, for Dragons Abreast.

We are particularly excited because:

- We are able to share our good fortune with others in the dragon boat community as should they wish to sell this product they will retain the profit from the sales.
- Our message of breast cancer awareness is promoted further into the community whilst we receive much needed funds
- The sport of dragon boat racing receives increased promotion within the community and we are sure there will be spin off for mainstream dragon boat clubs.

Concluding Remarks

Dragons Abreast Australia is a unique breast cancer charity in that we are totally grass roots and hands-on. Wonderful medical advances and important research has meant huge numbers of women no longer die of breast cancer, but their cancer still takes the wind out of their sails and it can be difficult for them to regain a full and active life after treatment. We assist those living with breast cancer.

We are wholly focussed on helping women regain full active lives after breast cancer and on raising awareness in the community. It is clear from the increased numbers in membership that there is a demand for what we offer.

As I come to the end of my report I would like to **formally thank each and every member** of AusDBF for your ongoing support of our organisation. You have very generously supported us in so many ways over the last ten years and I single out for special mention **DBNT and CDBA** who so generously mentored us in those early days (1998 & 1999). You have helped shape our popularity, our credibility and our success in the national and international arena.

The words of the song composed by Vick Cochrane for Abreast in Australia seem a very apt way to end this report:

*On a journey together with the help from above
we will conquer mountains with our bonds of love.
Together we're united, divided we are small
there for one another throughout it all*

Dragon Boats NSW, Melanie Cantwell, DBNSW Business Manager

Well it certainly has been a big year for dragon boating in NSW, 12 months seems to go so quickly particularly when you get no 'off season' or winter's break. Here is just a snap shot of what happened.

NSW has definitely had a big 12 months and I guess the most exciting for us as an organisation was the 2007 NSW Sports Awards. DBNSW nominated in five categories and were finalists in all five - which is amazing considering 160 nominations of the highest calibre, are received.

The two categories DBNSW missed out winning were the **Team of the Year**, which was won by the sailing duo and the **Volunteer Management**, which was won by NSW swimming. However to take away the prestigious awards of **Event of the Year** for the World Championships (and we were against the Ashes and Sydney International Tennis), **Organisation of the Year** and **Administrator of the Year**. To win all these awards in front of some very big sports that receive lots of funding and recognition is a true testament to the hard work that DBNSW has been chipping away at since its inception in 1994. Sports in NSW are really sitting up and taking notice now of the sport of dragon boating!

In the midst of the World Championships, DBNSW also moved office space. Whilst only going next door it was definitely a challenge having only got keys on the Friday night. A big thanks to Janine Lette and Rex who very kindly assisted in moving mountains of boxes and furniture on minimal sleep and having been at SIRC all day setting up. (Though it did take me weeks after Worlds to unpack!) We are very pleased with our new home, especially going from 30 square metres to 125 square metres. We have our own kitchen, toilets and training area (which gets used a lot for meetings and courses). We are able to have all our trophies and memorabilia on display and it really feels like 'home' now.

In January 2008 DBNSW also made the big step in employing a full time administrator, with NSW growing rapidly and expanding all over NSW, it had become increasingly obvious that this was the next step in the growth of NSW - being able to meet the demands of the paddlers more efficiently, as there just wasn't enough hours in the day for the volunteers to keep developing the sport. This was a huge step so the next 12 months are going to be interesting to watch. (Our congrats to QDBF who were lucky enough to receive funding for their Development Officer).

Nationals

We managed to run the biggest and best National Championships thus far, introducing the four day program (as practice for Worlds) and photo ID cards. We were very fortunate that we had the Regatta Centre in our backyard as half of the work is done for us. With 200 races over four days and not one protest – we were pretty pleased with the results. The only downside was the After Party – but then are we ever going to get that right? It certainly provided a very good dress rehearsal for the World Championships.

Worlds

Looking back it all seems very surreal now. (I now understand how organizers feel after hosting the Olympic Games). After the build up of four years, through stress and worry, managing budgets, team requests, IDBF requests the list goes on and on. It was a huge effort by a lot of people from NSW to make this event the success it was. All the DBNSW members contributed in some way – whether it was volunteering over the four days, being part of the organising committee, being a part of the very successful AusSquad, or just supporting everyone involved. (Now don't laugh, but even to all the paddlers who had to keep moving the boats up and down from the racks whilst they were being refurbished – 12 weeks of boat shuffling!) To have IDBF acknowledge it as the best World Championships ever, (yep there were some things that could have been done better) however on the whole it was a great a success. The legacy of this is having lots of very experienced people now who understand how events work and at the top level more importantly.

Clubs

This season we have had new clubs start up in Camden Haven and Kempsey on the North Coast and Jindabyne

(Having an annual event in their town inspired them enough to start up their own club). Wagga have a boat and a training venue but have had to resort to pool training due to the algae in the lake. On the horizon we have Taree ready to start up a club after the event there, and there are rumours of a few more towns interested as well.

Courses

DBNSW has had a very busy year trying to encourage as many members as we can to attend course, so between regattas and courses we seem to be able to keep everyone occupied:

- numerous AusDBF Officials Courses
- first Aid Course
- AusDBF Coaching Course (with another scheduled for May)
- encouraging all the clubs to attend the Child Protection Course, which is actually compulsory for all clubs – this has been run in Coffs Harbour, Sydney and South Coast
- scheduled the Member Protection Information Officer Course, which is again compulsory for all clubs to attend and we have scheduled for Sydney, Coffs Harbour and South Coast over the next 3 months.

Dragonboat SA, John Holland, President

Several years ago the DBSA constitution was changed to enable us to transform the structure of the sport in South Australia. The Board became a non-representative, independent body which oversees the growth and direction of the sport. Sub- committees made up of representatives from each club manage the functions of the sport in areas of Racing, Development, Maintenance, Volunteers and High Performance.

We are currently growing in line with our plans and have 500 participants registered with us and a further 1500 participating in corporate and social events throughout the year. We have increased the number of boats in the state by 100% in the past 3 years. The Association owns 11 boats, leases a further 3 and member Clubs own another 5. DBSA have recently ordered another 2 Champion boats to bring the number of Champions in the state to 9.

As well as the 10 Clubs in Adelaide we also have member clubs in Port Lincoln and Streaky Bay on the West Coast with Ceduna about to join them. There is also a Dragons Abreast Club in Port Lincoln who has indicated that they will join the Association. The interest from country areas is quite keen and both Port Pirie and Port Broughton are looking to starting up clubs. The Regional Masters Games in Port Pirie will this year feature Dragon Boat Racing for the first time and the interest that it is generating is very encouraging.

In 2007 we held two major events which were both highly successful.

The World Police and Fire Games in March featured Dragon Boat Racing for the first time and we received excellent reviews on both the venue and the organization. The venue was the Torrens Lake which although only wide enough for four lanes, is a most picturesque and convenient site.

The second event was the Australasian Masters Games in October where we had about 500 competitors racing over two days. Again the venue was the Torrens Lake which proved an ideal setting for this event and we received a host of compliments on the organization and the work of our volunteers.

The South Australian Government has announced the upgrading of the rowing course at West Lakes to international standards and this will be available for our 2009 State Championships. With movable start pontoons, consistent depth and fully buoyed lanes, this course will allow us to meet the standard for National and International events.

DBSA has recently approved the employment of a Development Officer and the Charles Sturt Council has approved extensions to our boatshed which will more than double our storage space.

The Sport is thriving in South Australia and the challenge is to successfully manage the growth to ensure that everyone involved enjoys the sport and we leave a positive legacy for those who follow.

Dragon Boating WA Inc., Vic Fazakerley

Key Points from 2007/08 Season

- The Champion Lakes Regatta Centre is now available for regattas. This is a fantastic facility for dragon boating on a world class course. All Grand Prix regattas and the State Championships for 2008 were held at Champion Lakes.
- DBWA will host the Australian Championships at Champion Lakes from 9 April to 12 April 2008. This will be a fantastic event at the new regatta course and great for dragon boating, the first national championship to be held at the venue
- 7 new boats arrived in July. DBWA has purchased 6 boats in partnership with FSDBC; MDBC, CDBC and the Pirates, 1 has been purchased outright by the Amazons. A further 6 new boats arrived in February, 1 for the Amazons 2 for the Armadale Raiders and 3 purchased by DBWA. It is hoped 4 of these boats will be stored at Champion Lakes.
- At the 2007 Nationals in Sydney the Cockburn Dragon Boat Club (CDBC) Open Masters Crew won silver, and 2 bronze medals over 1000m; 500m and 200m. As a result CDBC have been offered the right to participate at the World Club Crew Championships in Penang August 2008.
- Corporate regattas were held at Harvey, Bunbury and at East Fremantle during the year.
- DBWA now has 9 member clubs. New clubs for the year were Armadale Raiders and Harvey Harpoons. Other member clubs are Amazons, Spirit of Bunbury, Mandurah Vikings, Fremantle Swan, Forza, Perth Pirates and Cockburn Blades.
- In 2006/07 there were 310 paddlers registered with DBWA and 18% increase over the previous years membership, at this stage final figures are not available for 2007/08
- In June a workshop was held to revisit and update the strategic plan.
- The accreditation of sweeps, race officials and coaches continues to grow.
- Focus for 2008/09 will be on corporate regattas, increasing publicity for dragon boating in WA and improving the elite race performance.

Queensland Dragon Boat Federation, Annette Densham, Communications Director

Dragon boating in Queensland has never looked so good! Two years ago, there were 17 clubs and at the start of 2008, there are now 21 clubs across the Sunshine State.

Queensland welcomed four new clubs:

- The Lakes District Dragon Boat Association
- Manly Dragon Boat Club
- Redland Sea Dragons
- Mackay Dragon Boat Club

...and QDBF knows of three more clubs that are in the start up phase.

At the 2007 World Championships, 250 Queensland paddlers represented Australia. Queensland crews won over 40% of the total medal haul for Australia, which is a wonderful result.

Queensland paddlers won 2 Gold, 1 Silver, and 7 Bronze medals from the 24 medals available and Australia was placed 2nd overall.

The strength of Queensland's paddlers is exciting and the commitment of clubs to develop their paddlers to a competitive level is apparent by the success of all clubs at the 2008 Queensland State Titles at Lake Kawana, Sunshine Coast.

Eleven clubs entered teams at the State Titles...even our newer clubs and the effort they have been putting in over the past 12 months is fantastic...some of the more established clubs better look out!!!!

One of the most exciting things to happen in Queensland is the recognition of the growth of dragon boating by the Queensland Department of Sport and Recreation.

QDBF was awarded almost \$200 000 over three years under the Sport and Recreation Development Program. This money will be used to increase the profile of dragon boating, develop more regional teams in north and central Queensland, and improve the administrative and governance practices of the Federation.

QDBF is working on developing more in-depth training programs for all paddlers with particular emphasis on risk management, coaching, and skill development. Queensland will also focus on harnessing the inventiveness and imaginations of our younger paddlers to help attract more young people into the sport. To do this, QDBF will hold junior development camps and form closer ties with other community groups.

In 2008, the QDBF new website will be launched that will help new clubs and paddlers find the information they need to get started. The new website will more vibrant and colourful reflecting the spirit and essence of dragon boating. On the new website will be the final version of a project started last year – *Dragon Scales; a guide to dragon boating* – this nine module manual will have everything anyone ever wanted to know about starting and managing a club.

The foundations are set for a huge season in Queensland; new clubs in the wings, a development grant to give the sport a huge boost in terms of publicity and awareness, and paddlers dedicated to moving the sport forward.



Tasmanian Dragon Boat Federation

The Tasmanian Dragon Boat Federation (TasDBF) was established on 7 July 2008. This coincided with the incorporation of the Lindisfarne Dragon Boat Racing Club with 14 paid up members. The Lindisfarne Dragon Boat Racing Club is the first sports and social club in Tasmania with membership open to males and females 12 years and over.

Interest in Dragon Boating has grown considerably since that time and the Tasmanian contingent have proved to be hardy and committed with paddling continuing through the very cold winter months.

Activities

- Summer 2008 – first Tasmanian Adult Education course of 6 weeks duration in Dragon Boating offered. This course proved very popular and most of the paddlers from the summer session continue to participate in Dragon Boating.
- Autumn 2008 – second dragon boating course offered through Tasmanian Adult Education with excellent take up.
- 9 March 2008 the Lindisfarne Dragon Boat Racing Club participated in the Melbourne International Dragon Boat Festival, part of the Moomba celebrations at Victoria Harbour. For a young crew with only 6 months paddling it was quite a feat to return to Tasmania with two trophies –
 - 2nd in the 200m women's competition (with only 16 paddlers)
 - Finalist in the Parks Victoria International Cup 200m mixed event
- 13 March – two new boats arrived and in the next month will be blessed by the Monks from the Buddhist temple in Hobart.
- Corporate paddling sessions have been conducted for various Hobart businesses from second half of 2007 to current.

Current Situation

- At present there are 135 paddlers on the water a week.
- 5 members are training up as sweeps.

Future planned activities

- A series of regattas for the latter part of 2008 is currently in the planning stages
- Dragon boating to be showcased as part of the school's sports program
- Promoting the benefits to women's health that paddling has to offer, and also men's health issues such as prostate cancer.



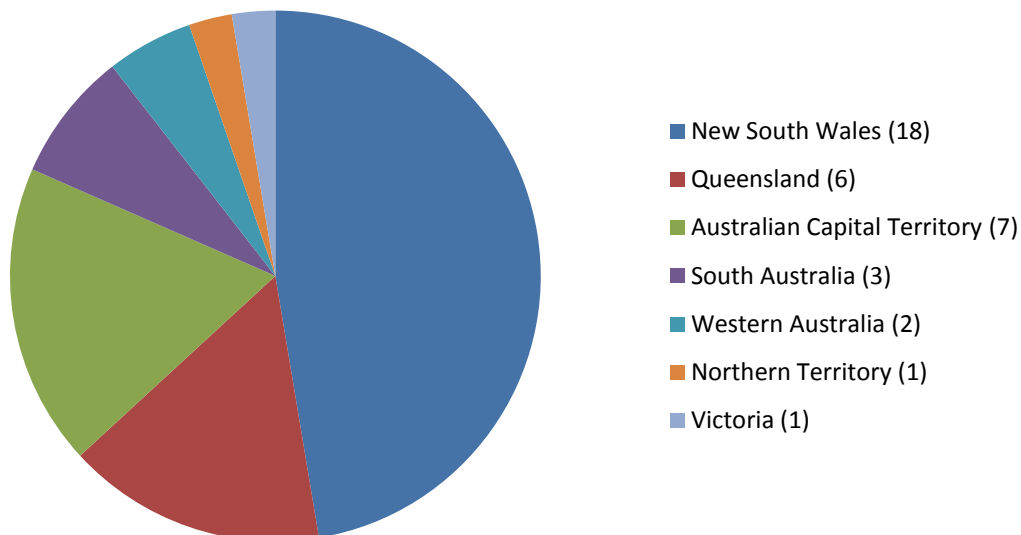
Year in Review

2007 National Championships – Sydney

The last time the Nationals were in Sydney was back in 2000 and it was just a 1 day event. Seven years later, NSW had the privilege of hosting again – this time over four days with a record number of crews. Whilst there was an interesting debate about whether to run Nationals over Easter or not, it did prove to be a good option as paddlers could take the least amount of time off work.

DBNSW set itself a challenge - to run the Nationals as a dress rehearsal for the IDBF 8th World Championships. Therefore, extra infrastructure that would not normally be used was added to see what would work - in our heads and on paper it did but in reality would it. 2007 Nationals saw the introduction of photo ID cards and a big thank you goes to Tanya White who spent many hours trying to get this organized for all the clubs within a short time frame.

Clubs Attending Nationals 2007



A huge thank you to all the volunteers (over 100 of them) that pitched in and helped out, particularly to the individuals who were roped in at the last moment.

Whilst thinking that having three fleets of boats would really help, in the end it didn't (although was a god send when two boats went out of action). The reason three fleets didn't work was because we constantly had to hold up races as clubs were waiting for paddlers to return from the previous race.

However, by Sunday afternoon's final we had run 200 races with not one protest (a big improvement compared to previous Nationals). My fondest recognition was from Justin Barrett (our starter) who came in after the Premier Open Final and said "I have now just said 'are you ready', 'attention' 200 times".

Having introduced a 1000m race day for the first time, I know lots of clubs grumbled about it, but at least it made Sunday's 200m over in a blink. I know Justin Barrett preferred the 200m - he was closer to the coffee and bathroom and didn't have to pack his passport to get to the start line! Though, I am pleased to say that the majority of the clubs took up the challenge and gave the distance a go.

Finally, what a good idea it was having the After Party at the Regatta Centre outside where paddlers couldn't hurt themselves on the grass or noise pollution? From the feedback, the was well liked by the majority of people and there were certainly a lot of people dancing. Okay we could have done with a bigger tent and had the caterers decided not to be difficult, the food would have been served quicker - the quality was good but people just couldn't get to it quick enough.

At the end of 2007 Nationals, we took away lots of feedback and suggestions from all paddlers and volunteers as to how to make the venue and infrastructure work even better for the IDBF 8th World Championships. We have also been able to utilize some of the success at normal DBNSW Regattas.

World Championships Sydney 2007

It's a long way to Australia but over 2000 athletes made the journey to compete at the 8th World Dragon Boat Racing Championships, held on the Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith NSW. The Australians make the journey in reverse almost every year to compete in Championship Regattas but this time the 'Worlds' were on their home turf and the boys and girls from 'Down Under' were determined to make a good show of things – and they sure did!

The one thing that will remain forever in the minds of everyone was the friendliness and helpfulness of both the Organisers, affectionately known as the 'Mel, Jon & Janine Show' and their 'band of volunteers' recruited by the Aus Dragon Boat Federation to meet, greet and look after the Teams and Officials during their time in Sydney.

They were everywhere, helping out, advising, showing people around and generally creating a great atmosphere for the Teams to compete in. The verdict from everyone was – they were 'simply the best'.

But what of the Championships themselves? Without doubt the regatta facilities were as good as you could get and the racing, as the times show, had moved up a gear or two since Berlin in 2005, despite the absence, as expected, of some of the strongest Teams from Europe, due to the high costs of travelling to and competing in Oz.

Organisationally too, the event was of the highest order with the Competitors Village, along with an array of marketing stalls situated behind it, neatly positioned overlooking the 200m racing area. A large grandstand between the Finish Tower and the Village completed an enclosure in which an atmosphere of enthusiasm and much verbal support for the crews on the water was in evidence throughout the Championships.

Mike Haslam
Deputy Vice-President, IDBF

Every dragon boater should be delighted with the efforts of the AusDBF organising committee's efforts in producing a first class World Championships. I should like to offer my congratulations to the AusDBF for producing an excellent Championships that has set new standards for us to emulate. The volunteers worked tirelessly to assist the IDBF Officials, doing all the unseen jobs that are so important to the smooth operation of a Championship; they need a special vote of thanks. Many new records were set in the Champs including a record medal haul for the Australian Team – perhaps all the preparation and hard work was worthwhile.

Congratulations and a huge thanks to everyone involved.

Mike Thomas
Chair
IDBF Competition and Technical Commission

Sponsors

AusDBF would like to thank the following sponsors who supported us during 2007.



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
Australian Sports Commission



Appendix 1

Table of Contents

Our Mission	2
Our Vision	2
Our History	3
Organisational Structure	4
Director Reports	5
Administration Director, Janine Lette	5
Finance Director, Christopher Alexandrou	6
Cultural Director, Austin Chin	7
Technical Director, John Holland	8
Our Education	9
Officials Course, Melanie Cantwell	9
Coaching Course, Gavin Godfrey and Ian Peters	11
Members Reports	11
Canberra Dragon Boats Association, Kel Watt, President	11
Dragons Abreast Australia Report, Michelle Hanton	13
Dragon Boats NSW, Melanie Cantwell, DBNSW Business Manager	24
Dragonboat SA, John Holland, President	26
Dragon Boating WA Inc., Vic Fazakerley	27
Queensland Dragon Boat Federation, Annette Densham, Communications Director	28
Tasmanian Dragon Boat Federation	30
Year in Review	31
2007 National Championships – Sydney	31
World Championships Sydney 2007	33
Sponsors	34
Appendix 1	35