

AUSTRALIAN
DRAGON
BOAT
FEDERATION

December 31

2009

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

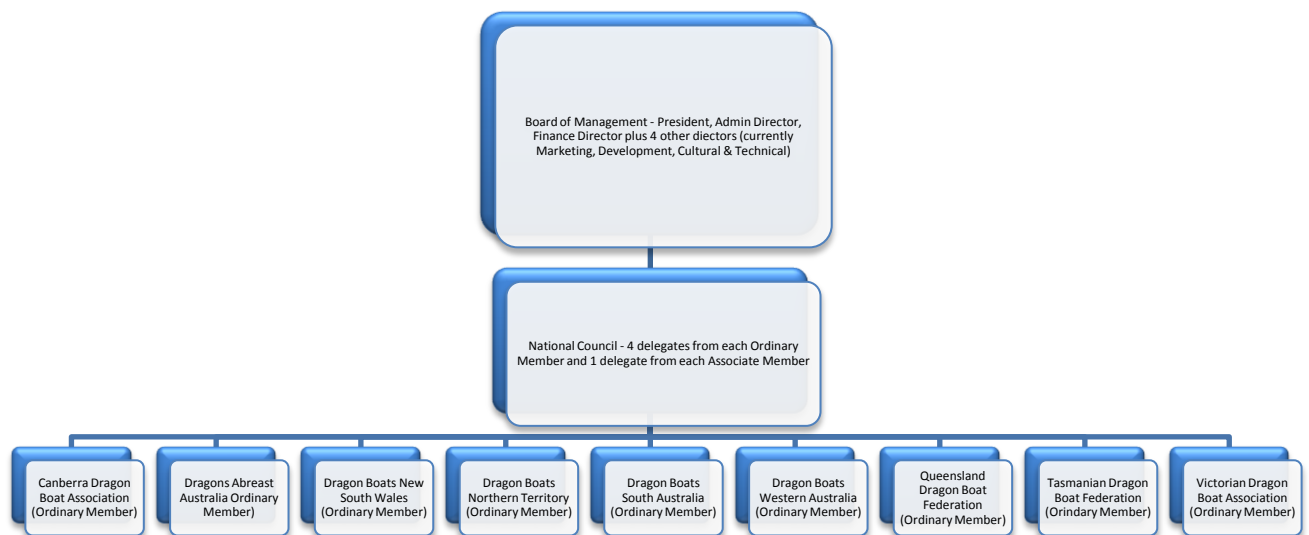
The growth of interest in dragon boat racing has been astonishing and much of the credit for this belongs to the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA), which arranged the first Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival International races in 1976. Since then, the HKTA and its overseas offices promoted the sport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

This time last year I outlined the large body of work the new AusDBF Board had undertaken, including the development of the Strategic Plan to take us into the next five years and beyond.

Following extensive consultation and planning with all Australian States and Dragons Abreast Australia, the consensus on what the AusDBF focus would be delivered the following top priorities:

- Junior competition
- Professional governance
- Communication / website
- 'True' Australian representative team
- International recognition
- Development of a national dragon boat festival

It is a credit to the tireless work of the Board that I can proudly report that the last 12 months has delivered an impressive amount of meat to the planning and strategic bones laid out in 2008-09.

Working with States, clubs and key individuals, the junior competition has grown dramatically around the country. The record number of high school students competing at the 2010 Australian Championships shows a large uptake of the sport around Australia, and the record number of junior crews bodes well for the future. In addition to the now well-established Australian Defence Force Academy team – the ADFA Spartans – in the youth category (U23s), we now have a number of former high school paddlers who have banded together to form the Uni Dragons in the same age category. While not competing in Adelaide, they have a good number of members and aim to contest the 2011 Championships in Canberra.

It is AusDBF's goal to have our first U23 team competing in the World Championships in Florida next year, and these young paddlers will help in forming the basis of the crew.

Professional governance has also leapt ahead to a high standard that we should expect of our administrators.

After many months of negotiation the new AusDBF Constitution has been endorsed by the Members and is now in force. It enshrines many important conventions but also removes many archaic flaws remnant from a less sophisticated and unsure AusDBF era.

The AusDBF Members' Protection Policy and Code of Conduct are important documents that will work in partnership with the Constitution. The new Race Rules, operating at the 2010 Championships for the first time, are also the result of many hours of negotiations and consultation with the Members. The Race Rules express important principles in addition to just detailing how a regatta will run. The going back to 10:10 mixed racing has been a long time coming, but is valuable for spelling out clearly that AusDBF is an egalitarian organisation. I had great pleasure in presenting that rule to the IDBF for international introduction, and while it is not yet in place I think the message we send to our female membership about equality is a powerful one.

AusDBF has also delivered a number of other important policies and documents relating to how we conduct our daily business affairs. They are based on principles of transparency and accountability, and in the case of the Purchasing Policy, for example, ultimately ensure that every paddler in Australia knows their money is being spent wisely.

While these documents work cooperatively with each other, there is always room for improvement and refinement of our policies. Every Member and paddler should see the AusDBF documents as living and breathing and take the opportunity to recommend enhancements where they may be needed.

I urge all Members, and even clubs around Australia, to strongly consider the adoption of the AusDBF documents and policies, to ensure consistency (not necessarily uniformity) of our national operations within the Federation. My discussions with AusDBF's legal advisors and the Australian Sports Commission support this step as logical and helpful, and will provide for better and more consistent governance nationally.

The 2010 AGM will see the alignment of the new governance standards and systems with the improved AusDBF communications.

Over the last 12-18 months the executive of every Member has come to know each other in a deeper way, following the introduction of regular strategic planning sessions, President's phone hook ups, and the participation of a Member in the monthly AusDBF Board meetings. While familiarity can breed contempt – and I raised strong concerns about emerging divisions in last year's Report - I feel that the better communication and knowledge of each other has led to our States and Territories, DAA and AusDBF developing a greater level of respect and understanding for certain debate positions. While universal agreement is not always possible, I am pleased that disagreement no longer necessarily means being disagreeable.

The AusDBF focus on improved communications has not been just at the 'higher' level either. The AusDBF website's facelift has made it more user-friendly and now provides updated information of interest to all paddlers. The establishment of a Facebook page has also allowed friendships to develop around the country and for regular interaction between paddlers as they showcase the sport with photos, discussions and comments. I am very pleased at the way grass roots members interacted directly with me on the Facebook page when we outlined the establishment of the High Performance Committee (HPC) and the nationally selected team.

The development of a truly 'national' team was a big cultural shift for the sport but one that was greeted far more enthusiastically than I had hoped for. Establishing the High Performance Committee in the second half of 2009 will herald massive long term results for the sport as it guides development of the national team and higher coaching, racing, selection and fitness standards, but it also shaped the 2010 Australian team in dramatic fashion when the Asian Federation brought the Asian Championships forward several months.

While it was hoped the HPC would have many months to help mould a national team program, the professionalism and expertise of HPC members allowed for an immediate response and plan for how AusDBF would produce national crews.

The crew for the 2010 Asian Championships will fly to China the day after the Australian Championships, nursing battered bodies after four tough days of racing at West Lakes. When they return from Wujin with a swag of medals – we hope – the HPC will be resurrected to recommence

work on the broader development issues, including the 2011 World Championships and laying the foundations for how every state and territory can assist in developing its top level paddlers.

I would like to say a special thank you to the dedicated HPC members who have undertaken the work so far – George Bradilovic, Brendan Byrne, Serghei Cuchsa, Vic Fazakerley, Gavin Godfrey, Gary Quartermain and Amanda Wylie. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the many applicants for the Committee who were not appointed.

The Australian team contesting the Asian Championships will build on the great work of the paddlers who delivered such tremendous results at the 2009 World Championships in Prague. No doubt we must pay special tribute to the World Champion Mixed Masters crew who picked up just Australia's fourth gold medal from nine World Champs, but the fistful of silvers and bronzes across the other categories also gave Australia the best ever Worlds' results.

In 2008 AusDBF announced it would be appointing Captains and Vice Captains in the national squad for the first time, and in 2009 we required exceptional leadership from a captaincy group that oversaw nearly 300 squad members. Congratulations and thank you to Darren Ma who captained the squad with such energy and confidence, and to his two vice captains Janelle Gamble and Cynthia Kuiper.

The World Championships was not just about the racing. It also included an exhaustive number of meetings between competing nations, and it was in 2009 that Australia really flexed its boardroom muscle for the first time by calling for a number of rules and policy changes. Importantly, with our own house in order, we can now really start hammering the IDBF and other member nations on rules and the integrity of regattas. For too long Australia has been taken for granted as a model citizen that would supply large numbers of officials, volunteers and competitors, but in 2009 AusDBF ensured the international community knew exactly where we stood on many of the 'inconsistencies' in rule application at major IDBF events. We will continue to do this in 2010 and beyond.

AusDBF will also continue to invest in the Oceania Dragon Boat Federation, which we established with New Zealand mid last year. Oceania is an important regional structure to strengthen the sport internationally and will be the foundations of dragon boat development by Australia's neighbours over the coming years. It has already reaped immediate dividends with a strengthening of the New Zealand organisation already taking place. Although driven internally by the NZDBA Board, the improved Trans-Tasman relationship will see Kiwi and Aussie teams competing against each other on both sides of the ditch, and we are honoured to have a NZ crew competing in Adelaide in 2010. The Hamilton Water Sports patriarch Shane Petley is the NZ President and he and I will be joined by our Boards to progress Oceania, while also arguing over the dodgy Bledisloe Cup results of past years.

The first 'national' Australian team will be presented with their race jerseys at the 2010 Australian Championships in front of the entire Australian dragon boat community. This symbolic gesture will be repeated at every Australian Championships from 2010 on.

Serghei Cuchsa has done a magnificent job in selecting and moulding a national team that looks more athletic than many we have seen in the past. New fitness standards and technique benchmarks are being supported by the AusDBF Board, and AusDBF will no longer be sending a team in every category if we simply have enough competitors to fill a boat. If the crew is not worthy of wearing the green and gold, it simply won't be.

It is now up to AusDBF, the HPC and Member Organisations to implement programs to ensure that is never an issue. I am sure the result will be outstanding race results as well as the drawing of better athletes to the sport and greater respect from the sport community, as well as acknowledgement from official bodies such as the Australian Sports Commission.

Serghei Cuchsa has been assisted by AusDBF Development Officer Christopher Alexandrou in each of the exhausting training camps, and the management team of Jen Reilly, Majella Richie and Ali Buck have done a superb job in a campaign with no available blueprint. They have AusDBF's sincere thanks.

The captaincy team for Wujin is Michael Fogliani and his two VCs Michele Chim and Richard Balkin. Their crew mates will be drawn from Queensland, New South Wales, ACT and Victoria, giving it a decidedly 'national' feel. This time next year I hope to be presenting jerseys to squad members drawn from every state and territory.

The national team also has a new identity – *The Auroras*. The 1st XXII will join a number of other iconic Australian team names such as the Wallabies, Matildas, Opals, Kangaroos and Socceroos.

All aspiring paddlers should start investing in their health and fitness now, as selections for the Florida-hosted 2011 Worlds will take place later this year, giving AusDBF the best part of 12 months to prepare a team.

The expense of producing a top national team, drawn from around the country will be significant. It is hoped we can use the strengthening AusDBF finances to provide appropriate support, but it is envisaged that a National Dragon Boat Festival will be the mainstay of the Auroras' finances.

AusDBF has approached Dragon Boats Victoria to partner with us to establish the Festival, which will compliment rather than compete with the Australian Championships. Rather than facing pages of rules, the festival will focus on cultural aspects often neglected in the excitement of Championship racing, and teams will not face the same level of scrutiny as at the Australian Championships. In fact, I can see a bidding war much like that of the IPL 20Twenty cricket tournament as paddlers around Australia rush to get paddlers into their boat, without the worry of state borders, age criteria or membership status. The relaxed and fun atmosphere will be an excellent reminder about the sport's heritage and fun. Watch this space for further development.

AusDBF's first President, and still longest serving – Trevor Huggard – remains an active member of the Victorian Board. While he will have a key role in developing the future national festival, it is important that AusDBF recognise Trevor's outstanding history and contribution during the Federation's early years. In 2010 the 'Trevor Huggard Trophy' will be presented at the Championships to the Australian Club Champion. It is a worthy honour and will place him alongside his good friend and fellow visionary Jon Taylor who was honoured last year with his own award, presented to an individual for outstanding service to the growth and development of the sport.

While Jon was honoured in death, passing away just four months before the 2009 Championships, it is tremendous that Trevor will join us in person and have the honour of presenting the trophy to the 2010 Champions.

Trevor was one of three inaugural Life Membership recipients announced by Jon Taylor at his last AusDBF AGM as President, while JT was awarded his posthumously last year in Queensland. This year I have the great pleasure of presenting a fifth candidate for AusDBF Life Membership to the AGM - Michele Hanton, the founder of Dragons Abreast Australia. Michele is a living treasure and the growth of the sport around Australia can be directly attributed to her work with the pink ladies. Wherever DAA has popped up, sports clubs soon follow. Michele has been a leading personality on the Australian paddling scene for more years than most people can remember, and her initial experiment with a dragon boat paddle in home town Darwin has spread to every state and territory. She has served on the AusDBF Board and has promoted our sport and organisation at every opportunity.

While I have waxed lyrical over the past and future, the most important thing that remains in my annual report is the acknowledgement of the outstanding work of the present AusDBF Board. They have been an outstanding team and deserve your support to continue into 2010-11.

Admin Director Janine Lette has clocked up more internet hours than the rest of the paddling community combined this year. Finance Director Loretta Lewis is not far behind and has delivered a transparency and monitoring of accounts that should soon see her head hunted by the Treasury Department. Communications Director Janelle Gamble was an outstanding Australian VC in Prague, but has also overseen the website, newsletter, and brought AusDBF communications to a more professional era. Cultural Director Phil Chan has just completed his first year in AusDBF, but has delivered a tremendous body of work with his cultural survey and now oversees the cultural committee, ensuring the sport honours its heritage. I feel extremely fortunate to have them as team members, and am privileged to have developed friendships with each.

Of particular note, I would like to acknowledge the two directors facing a ballot in 2010 – Melanie Cantwell and Christopher Alexandrou.

As Technical Director, Melanie has been directly responsible for some of the heaviest lifting in the sport over the last 12 months, and indeed the last decade. The reform of race rules and regulations has been a tireless effort, and her non-stop travel around Australia to run regattas, deliver Officials' courses, train volunteers and deliver a constant 'up skilling' of coaches and sweeps has been remarkable to watch. As an IDBF Level 3.5 Official, soon to be an international Chief Official, Mel has been recognised this last week by the IDBF for her expertise with an appointment to the IDBF Technical Commission. While it is no doubt that her delivery of the 2007 World Championships in Sydney (still the best ever, according to the IDBF) was a contributor to her appointment, it is the grass roots development for which she is best acknowledged. She is the first Australian to hold that honour and it is a worthy appointment. Mel is ever vigilant, and no Australian Championships will ever be held without her exacting standards and regular upwards shifting of high bars being enforced.

Christopher Alexandrou (aka Zeus) has been the intellectual glue holding the AusDBF progress together at times. His outstanding work with the Constitution has delivered a 'best practice' model that will produce excellence in governance for many years. Zeus has made the 'national' Australian team a reality with his vision and push to establish the HPC, and I am constantly amazed at his wisdom, insight and strategic mind. Like Mel, Zeus sinks many hours into grass roots development away from the 'high level' AusDBF matters that many paddlers see as too abstract. While other Board members struggle to find time to devote to on-water, in-boat training, Christopher is never far away from the sweep oar of a boat, be it his beloved Sloths, or anyone of the developing new club crews or corporate crews he assists on a near daily basis.

Mel and Chris deserve re-election and strong support for their return. Their positivity and genuine dedication to the well-being of the sport is in stark contrast to the alternative.

In closing, I would also like to thank the support of all Member Organisations. State Executives have been focussed and energetic in 2009-10, and supportive of the AusDBF Board's endeavours. Their board room efforts can often go unappreciated by paddlers, but I don't think anyone will be able to ignore the achievements of our Federation when they see all eight state and territories line up in state and club competition this year for the first time.

The support of the Member Organisations for me throughout the year and at the 2010 AGM is also personally appreciated. To be again elected unopposed is an honour and I am keenly aware that I must work hard to retain your trust and confidence. As part of this AusDBF team, I am certain that we have delivered a year of excellence, and will continue striving for further improvements in 2010-11.

On the water!



Kel Watt

AusDBF President

Administration Director, Janine Lette

Once again the last 12 months have been full on and I now spend more internet hours at home for AusDBF than I do for personal use. Having said that, it has been a very rewarding 12 months as the AusDBF Board, in consultation with the AusDBF Member Organisations have updated the long overdue Constitution in July 2009 and the Strategic Plan in November 2009.

These documents are regularly referred to by the AusDBF Board and our governance can only move forward in leaps and bounds. In fact, there are a number of courses for board directors that I am investigating in order that the AusDBF Board as a whole can continue to move forward with improved governance.

Electronic online entry and payment for the 2010 Australian Championships has been introduced and this was a very large project, with a very steep learning curve for me. IMG Clubs Online Sports Technology were engaged as the supplier and created the basic Club Entry before handing it over to me to 'tweak'. Unfortunately 'Creating an Online Entry System 101' was not a subject offered in my Associate Degree so some of the terminology it used was very foreign. In fact, things that I thought were there offline, disappeared when it went live. Further 'tweaking' will be made for the 2011 Australian Championships and your constructive feedback will be much appreciated.

One particular item to be 'tweaked' is the entering of paddlers – not only has this been time consuming for the Team Managers, but for every paddler entered in either State or Club Days, I also received an email – a total of approximately 3,600 emails received since 1 March 2010. This is not to mention the general customer enquiries from our website, general emails regarding the Australian Championships, emails between the AusDBF Board and the 2 overseas campaigns to Prague and China. In fact, in the 12 months since the AGM in Caloundra, approximately 11,000 emails have been received or sent by me regarding AusDBF.

At this time, I would like to thank all the AusDBF Member Organisations for their patience and assistance in allowing me to be your Administration Director and serve our sport hopefully beyond expectation.

The 2010 Australian Championships also find me back in the boat as I was required by the club. This has been a challenge in itself and although at times difficult to balance attending training and completing the AusDBF administration work, it has been extremely rewarding being back at the grass roots level – though I am sure my coaches would have preferred to see me more in the boat!

The coming 12 months will see the updating of the AusDBF Members Protection Policy, which all AusDBF Member Organisations will be strongly advised to adopt in their Organisations as well as further improvement in the area of complaint handling.

AusDBF have now entered our 'teenage years' and when we all move in the same direction, together we can advance our sport further.

Janine Lette
Administration Director

Finance Director, Loretta Lewis

Appendix 1

The role of the finance director is now a very demanding role and one that is constant. It has been a very busy year with lots of fantastic achievements.

Australian Team - Prague

AusDBF facilitated sending 273 competitors and support crew to Prague in July 2009. From the accounting perspective this was a massive task and one that was extremely time consuming. I would like to thank Yuen Nirmala – Australian Team Manager for 2009 IDBF World Championships in Prague for her professional management of the campaign.

Development Plan

The 2009/2010 – 2012

Development Plan and budget was finalised and the goals gradually progressing.

Australian Championships – Kawana - 2009

This was the first time AusDBF formed a joint venture for the Australian Championships. . AusDBF pays all accounts and manages the financial and accounting aspect for this event. This was the first year for the joint venture. I would like to thank Marie Mann and Deb Matthew for the management of this event. I also acknowledge the efforts of all others that worked to make this event the success it was.

Annual Membership

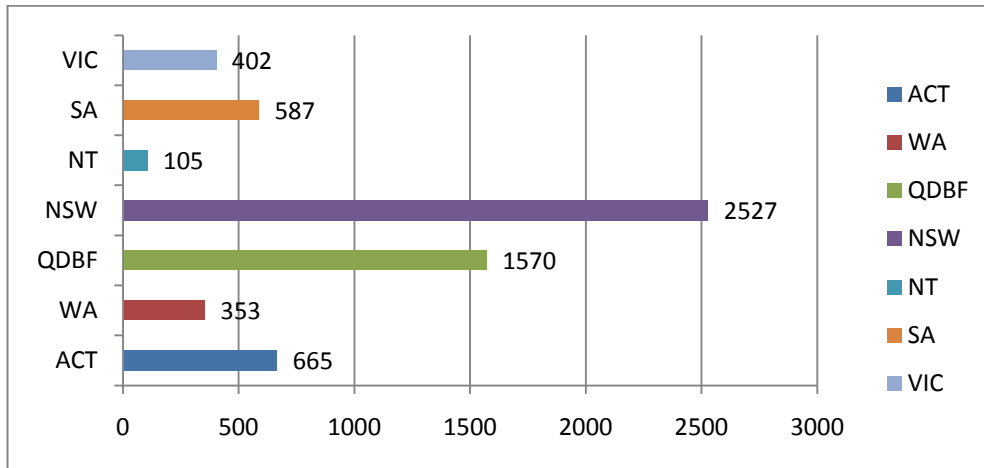
All members paid their annual membership of \$440 for 2009 financial year. The memberships for 2010 of \$770 inclusive of GST has been paid so all Members are financial.

Annual Paddler Levy

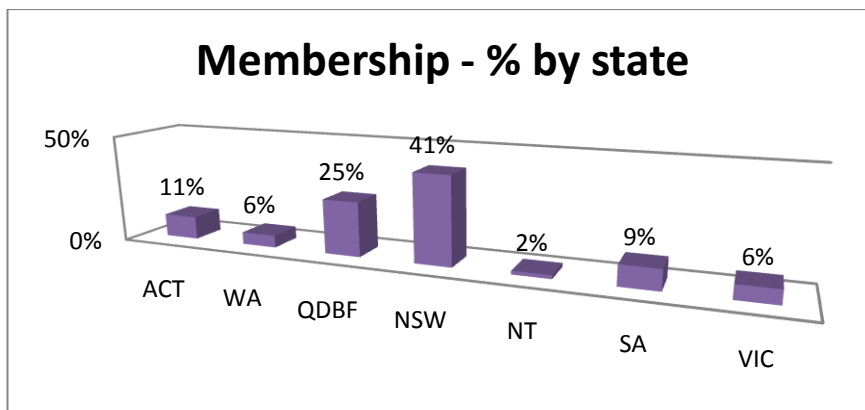
The state membership numbers for payments received in the 2009 calendar year is 6209. The revenue generated was \$31,834. At the AGM in April 2009, it was voted to change the paddler levy from \$5 per person to \$7.70 inclusive of GST per person. Later in the year, Dragon Boats New South Wales commenced a trial of some of their clubs to use IMG Commerce (Clubs online) process. The clubs pay the \$7.70 direct to IMG Commerce and then a fee of 5% is charged leaving \$7.31 being transferred to AusDBF.

With the exception of New South Wales, the net paddler levy is \$7.00 per person after GST and in NSW it is \$6.65 after GST.

The charts below illustrate the numbers per state levy paid and the % of the whole Australian numbers per state.



Membership 2009



% Membership per state 2009

A comparison between 2008 and 2009 financial year paddler levy shows there has been growth in membership from 5693 in 2008 to 6209 in 2009. This is a 9.1% growth in registered paddlers in Australia. In relation to the AusDBF Development Plan for 2009/2010 - 2012 with an expected growth per annum of 10%, we are tracking close to the projected growth.

Australian Championships

As mentioned previously, AusDBF establishes a joint venture with the hosting state each year to host the event on a 60% host state profit and 40% AusDBF profit sharing ratio in accordance with the Australian Championship Hosting Guidelines. It has been decided that AusDBF will have a full audit report completed by the AusDBF auditor for this event each year before the profit sharing distribution is completed. This is being done to ensure transparency to all parties. This way any costs associated with hosting the event and also taking into account materiality of resources can be decided by the auditor and is at arm's length to all parties. This in no way reflects on any past, present or future hosting states but is purely to ensure transparency and accuracy before distribution of profits. Clubs on line now allows greater data to be collected and maintained as required.

AusDBF Auditor

The AusDBF accounts were audited by Enterprise Taxation Services, Public Accountants and Registered Tax Agents of Loganholme Queensland. I formally acknowledge the \$1272.73 honorary discount deducted off the account as their contribution to supporting the sport.

AusDBF Board Members

I would like to thank all of the AusDBF Board members for their professional support and friendship during the year. Acknowledgement is given for the support given by the Members of AusDBF. I look forward to working with the new AusDBF board.

Regards

Loretta Lewis

Technical Director, Melanie Cantwell

I have now completed my second year as Technical Director for AusDBF. The last 12 months seem to have spun by very quickly. The current AusDBF Board have been a delight to work with, they are a very passionate group of people who have shown professionalism and vision to keep AusDBF moving forward.

During the last 12 months, the following 2 major projects have been undertaken:

- AusDBF Rules and Regulations; and
- Update of the National Sweepg Guidelines.

I would like to thank all the members for the collaborative effort which has gone into producing by of these documents.

Along with Kel Watt and Janine Lette I attended the inaugural meeting in Wellington (New Zealand) on 11th/12th July 2009 to assist in the formation of the Oceania Federation. Whilst it was a jam packed weekend with many hours devoted to setting up the Constitution and governance, I do believe it has assisted in opening up better communication between New Zealand and Australia.

I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the following people who passed their IDBF exams at the World Championships held in Prague in August 2009:

- Level 1
 - Janelle Gamble
 - Steven Davidson
- Level 2
 - Sylvia Wong
- Level 3
 - Phil Reader
- Level 4
 - Janine Lette who passed Level 4 training and is now waiting on the practical component (Chief Official at a World Championships)
 - Melanie Cantwell who passed Level 4 training and is now waiting on the practical component (Chief Official at a World Championships)

AusDBF Rules and Regulations

It is always hard to know how rules are going to work in the 'practicality sense' until they are put into use. However, at the 2010 Australian Championships, it will provide us better insight into what rules need 'tweaking' to make them more workable or easier to be understood. Any major changes will be put to the members at the midyear in November 2010.

Thus far, they have made an improvement in the way that the Australian Championships are being run and appear to have had a positive response from members.

AusDBF Sweep Guidelines

The AusDBF Sweep Guidelines were adopted nearly 10 years ago. Since that time, all States have adapted them to suit their requirements as well, these Guidelines have not kept up with the change in growth from State regional areas, new clubs forming, safety standards etc. As such, a major update was long overdue. I would like to thank everyone for their contribution. The new draft document has much more information and is more concise than it used to be. I'm sure this does not mean the end of it, and AusDBF will need to continually review the Guidelines on an annual basis with feedback from all Members.

AusDBF Level 1 Coaching Course

There has been a huge improvement in the last 12 months of people actually completing the course and gaining their ASC accreditation. Being able to enter all the details online to the ASC database I'm sure has streamlined the process (with anything new there are always technical glitches, but they seem to have ironed these out now and the backlog is decreasing).

Courses held in the last 12 months:

- QLD – 08/09th August 2009
- NSW – 19th/20th Sept 2009
- ACT – 21st/22nd November 2009
- QLD – 05th/06th December 2009
- TAS – 16th/17th January 2010

New initiatives

- Implementation of a National 12 month Calendar, rather than the adhoc approach which has previously been used. Hopefully this will encourage Members to search the AusDBF website to find where and when courses are, thus allowing members to plan it into their calendars as well. This will also assist the Presenters with planning around these dates. I am looking forward to trialling this system for the next 12 months to see how we go.
- Increasing the number of course presenters from the current 2 to a possible (at the time of writing AusDBF has received applications and together with the course presenters are reviewing the applications) so watch this space.

AusDBF Australian Championships

Current

I would like to formally acknowledge and congratulate the great work that John Holland and his Organising Committee have made to the hosting of the 2010 Australian Championships. I certainly look forward to returning to West Lakes and have fond memories of the Championships which were held there in 2003. I know the course has had improvements since 2003 with the update of the finish tower, start pontoons, loading pontoon and starters huts, so I am looking forward to seeing the course in action.

From forecasts at the moment, this is going to be the biggest championships yet. For the first time AusDBF will see the inclusion of all States of Australia participating and look forward to welcoming Tasmania to their first Australian Championships. The 2010 Championships have also seen the inaugural trial of the Great Grand Dragons Division in State v State and the second year for the Regional Championships.

There is going to be some exciting racing – some clubs will use this opportunity to fine tune their races before heading to Macau whilst others will be striving hard to qualify in the remaining spots available.

Below is the number of clubs from each state who will be participating in the Championships.

QLD	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT
7	20	7	1	1	6	4	1

Future

I have been giving this some thought as I was putting the race draws together over the Easter break. In a positive way, we need to acknowledge that the Australian Championships are not going to be getting any smaller - in fact with the Championships proposed in 2011 for ACT, 2012 for Victoria and 2013 for NSW, the numbers are only going to continue to grow. Which means that we now need to start asking the question of how do we manage this growth? How can we accommodate all the crews?

Based on the fact the 500m Club day starts at 7:30am and finishes at 5:20pm with no lunch break this highlights the problem that we are at maximum capacity now. Some thought is now going to have to be put into place for future nationals:

- Minimum of 3 sets of boats will be required
- Are club numbers limited per State
- Other options.

I would like to wish all the States and Clubs the very best of luck and good racing and friendship during the 2010 AusDBF Australian Championships. To those going to compete at the IDBF Club Crew World Championships in Macau and the Inaugural Commonwealth Championships in Penang, have fun, enjoy the competition and I wish you all success.

Cultural Director, Phil Chan

I wish to thank you for all your support on the Cultural Front so far. I am fairly new to dragon boating from a National perspective but have had great support and advice from the AusDBF board and my predecessors, Austin Chin, Ray Leung and Richard Lim.

A lot has been achieved in this last year!

Cultural Survey

A Cultural Survey was conducted in the middle of last year. There were a total 399 participants in this survey. Paddlers and Board members of each State Body and Dragons Abreast Australia were requested to respond so that AusDBF could understand the level of awareness of:

- the cultural aspects amongst paddlers and board members of each dragon boat body in Australia
- The traditions and activities conducted during each dragon boat race in Australia

The results of the survey showed that although a majority of paddlers had low awareness of the cultural aspects of dragon boat, most were keen to understand as they thought it is a very important aspect of our sport and should not be neglected.



Cultural Committee

At the time of writing this report, the Cultural Committee has been launched, with the Cultural Director (me) as the Chair of this committee. This committee comprises of representation from each Member and are the Cultural Champion for their state. They will be the contact person for any questions around the cultural aspects and will be advisors to each Member's board and teams. The purpose of this committee is to increase awareness of the cultural aspects amongst Australia's dragon boat community and to enable the cultural aspects be part of any formal public dragon boat activities as practically possible.

AusDBF requests that clubs seek out the members of the Committee for advice on how to incorporate cultural aspects into their club activities.

So what activities are coming up?

Collateral

I will be working with the Cultural Committee to create collateral for the cultural aspects, such as step by step procedures of the dotting of eyes that will assist each member board and team across Australia. I will also be in contact with my counterparts in Asia to share insights with them.

Dragon Boat Festival

As the proper day of the dragon boat festival is on the 5th day of the 5th month of the Lunar Calendar (Wednesday 16th of June this year), each Cultural Champion will be working with their state board on ways to celebrate on the traditional day of the Dragon Boat Festival in their state.

I will be also working with the Technical Director on introducing a National Dragon Boat Festival. Planning is in its infancy but some ideas that are stand up racing and inviting international teams to compete. I will be going to China in June and see how China runs their Dragon Boat Festivals.

So What?

For those who do not know me, I am a paddler who believes that there needs to be a balance between the cultural aspects and the competitive aspects of our beloved sport. I remember that Qu Yuan's sacrifice in the Milo River over 2000 years ago makes me think of the **sacrifice** each of us make for dragon boating. Whether it's training or competing; whether we are volunteering, coaching or administrating; we all play our part to make all our dragon boat activities possible.

What keeps me grounded is the fact that this frantic coordinated splashing and drumming we all do on a weekly basis is for a reason; to **remember** the fishermen who tried to **save** a patriotic statesman and poet who loved his country, similar to how dragon boating is helping **save** the lovely ladies in Dragons Abreast!

In closing, I wish to impart some advice I was given recently. Two wise men taught me a combination of the following:

“Play the game for the games sake; be modest in victory and generous in defeat.

Be true. Do what you can for the betterment of dragon boat from the heart. Ignore the politics.

Paddle for each other, not for ourselves.

Work hard. Be strong. Expect no reward and reward will come.”

To me this is the Dragon Spirit (The spirit of Qu Yuan).

May the Dragon Spirit guide and protect you.

Phillip Chan
Cultural Director

Communications Director, Janelle Gamble

Since April's 2009 AusDBF AGM, I have been involved on a few different fronts in my role as Communications Director. My goal is to open up the AusDBF Board so the everyday paddler is able to approach any one of us on any issue, and not be hindered by bureaucracy. To this end, I have invited communications via the quarterly newsletter, Facebook and the AusDBF Website.

My initial foray was in May 2009, when AusDBF invited paddlers from Queensland to join the board members for an informal "Meet and Greet" session during the scheduled meeting, following the Australian Championships held in April in Caloundra. This was attended by approximately eight different clubs, but unfortunately the invitation was delivered late so I was disappointed not to have more join us. Those who did attend, enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and opportunity to chat. This concept of meet and greet was used in Adelaide at the midyear meeting with more success, and this year following the AGM, State's representatives and Presidents, as well as invited VIP's will be entertained at a mini cocktail party enabling networking and a general "getting to know each other" opportunity.

One of the major difficulties I find is, that as a Board made up entirely of volunteers, we are all rushing to complete our duties and often do not have the luxury of the time required to give our full attention to matters in hand. Hence there is unlikely to be a similar gathering to "Meet & Greet" the local paddlers in 2010 unless we all attend the planned After Party.

2009 and March 2010 saw the quarterly Newsletter issued via email, on the website and also on Facebook in order to reach as many of our paddlers as possible. These Newsletters have been a round-up of what AusDBF has been involved in from regattas to rule changes. I plan on inviting more content from other sources to make the Newsletter more interesting as well as informative to our readers. It has been encouraging to receive helpful comments and suggestions as well as the trickle of articles and photos from a few people who have made the effort to contact me.

Facebook is not my favourite medium, but the take up of membership of our group has gradually been increasing. There is the opportunity to reach a worldwide audience through this group, but there has not been much input from the registered members.

I am finding the website far more interesting and have been applying myself to learning how to edit the site with much appreciated assistance from people with far more knowledge than I - including our webmaster Michael at Fresh Creative. Our website now has greater capacity and gradually I am tweaking the pages to update them and make them more user friendly. Take a look - the countdown clock for the Australian Championships was useful, and photos have been updated.

As Board members with individual areas of responsibility, we have various tasks allotted to each directorship but our areas do overlap, and we rely upon each other to support decisions we make as a whole. Some directorships are more onerous than others and I am aware the role of Communications is one of the lighter loads. I am endeavouring to learn more about successful media and marketing strategies through a media course and in these areas where we are sadly lacking, I will be focusing my attention in the coming months of 2010.

Development Director, Christopher Alexandrou

The last 2 years have been a time of significant change for AusDBF, and on current trends the next two years will see an accelerated increase in our profile and activities.

Adoption of a new AusDBF Constitution

The adoption of a new Constitution for AusDBF was significant in a number of ways. Firstly, the old Constitution was over 10 years old and did not conform to current AusDBF practice. Secondly, the new Constitution conforms to best practice corporate governance. Thirdly, it is also “future proofed” to the extent that it allows for a conversion to a company structure, if required.

Movement towards a nationally selected Australian team

The second major area of activity was the movement towards a nationally selected Australian team. Whilst there have been ad hoc instances in the past of Australian teams being comprised of paddlers from more than one State, the norm was for paddlers to come from the State that won that particular division at the Australian Championships. For various reasons including time and logistical constraints, in 2009 Members voted to support the concept of a genuinely selected Australian team for the 2010 Asian Championships.

The benefits of a nationally selected Australian team are considerable:

- (a) It increases the skill base of the team – it is generally accepted that the larger the base of skilled paddlers a coach has to select from the stronger the eventual team will be. This is seen in the case of larger clubs, States, and countries which are generally more successful than smaller ones or ones that have a smaller base of paddling talent.
- (b) Transfer of learnings across States – there have been significant benefits delivered to smaller clubs when States have moved towards a representative model. It is expected that the same benefits would be achieved using a nationally representative model since smaller States will be able to access the best knowledge and training methods.
- (c) As a national organization AusDBF has a mandate to ensure that all Members are given equal access to our programs.
- (d) Eliminates discrimination across States – for various reasons, often related to the particular stage of development of a State, paddlers from some States have little or no chance of representing Australia at the present time. This further hampers the development of dragon boating in that State as prospective members are not able to be encouraged to join with the lure of a chance of Australian representation. The movement towards a nationally selected team ensures each paddler across Australia has the right and opportunity to attain national representation.
- (e) Removes burden from an individual State to supply team – increasingly it has been difficult to individual States, even larger States, to supply a team. This is often due to competing paddler interests and cost.

Despite the above, there are a number of challenges in the implementation of a nationally selected model, and these should not be taken lightly:

- (a) Putting together an effective nationally selected team takes considerable money and time. Challenges are magnified and therefore the quality of coaches and managers must be greater.
- (b) Considerable buy in will be required from paddlers and coaches across all States, and this will take time and experience. Initial feedback has been extremely positive, and it is hoped that this feedback will filter down through the States.
- (c) Logistical and communications challenges are magnified.
- (d) Team bonding and team dynamics will be tougher – surprisingly, the experience this year has shown that the team bonded very well across the first four day camp, and have maintained their contacts through their time apart.

Additional areas

In addition to the above, work has commenced in areas that should bear fruit within the next two years:

Junior Australian Titles

Feedback has been obtained that shows that the current dates of our Australian Titles is not always the most effective time to hold an Australian Titles for Juniors. Further thought and planning may allow specific schools/juniors Australian Titles to be held at a time that suits these members.

Australia/New Zealand alliance

An Australia/New Zealand alliance was formalized with the formation of the Oceania Dragon Boat Federation last year. It is expected that in the next two years there will be an increasing amount of Trans Tasman activity.

Our Education

Officials Course, Melanie Cantwell

IDBF Qualified Officials in Australia

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (pending practical assessment)
23	4	2	2

On an international comparison

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
243	48	29	8

- Malaysia total 36 Officials
- Australia total 29 Officials
- UK and Japan total 26 officials
- Macau total 23 officials

AusDBF Officials Course

The manual has been revamped slightly over the last 12 months, but a review of the course delivery and additional course presenters will be looked at over the next 12 months.

Courses held in the last 12 months:

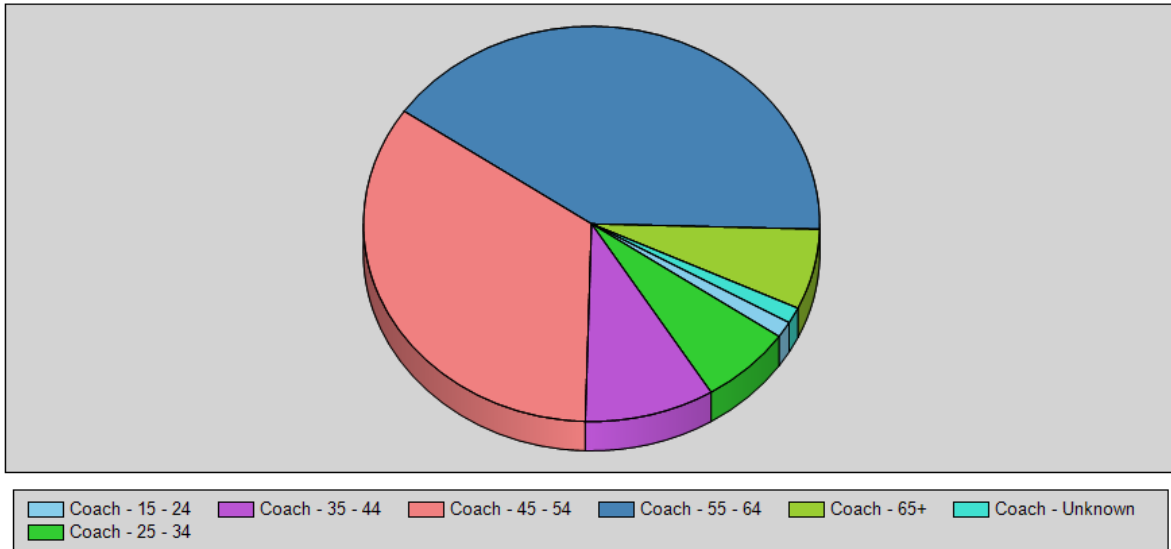
- NSW (North Coast) – 18/19th July 2009
- ACT – 29th November 2009

With the introduction of a 12 month calendar, it is hoped that even more people can attend an upcoming course.

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

Coaching Course, Gavin Godfrey and Ian Peters

		15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65+	Unknown	Total
Dragon Boat	Coach	1	5	7	26	31	5	1	76
	Total	1	5	7	26	31	5	1	76



Members Reports

Canberra Dragon Boats Association, Kel Watt, President

Dragon Boat racing continues to grow and hit new heights in the ACT. So much so that the Federal and State Governments are now working cooperatively with us to establish a permanent home and organise the 2011 Australian Championships.

When I joined the CDBA in January 2006, the Association boasted only around 260 members. Following a Strategic Plan generated by enthusiastic and passionate paddlers, the CDBA now boasts around 800 full time sporting members and nearly 2000 corporate members.

Word of mouth promotion has been supported this year by Open Days, advertising and a strong media presence. While the much-desired growth has met our ambitions, it probably exceeded expectations. The sport's growth has led to greater standards of racing and results locally and nationally, but it has also placed strains on the relationship with our neighbours and land lord, the Canberra Yacht Club.

While the yachties provide us with outstanding support, we have quickly gone from a tottering toddler that needed the odd hand, to being an overgrown house guest who has overstayed their welcome. It's time for us to get off the couch and start looking for our own place...

By the time Canberra hosts the Australian Championships in 2011 we hope to have completed the acquisition of land near the iconic Carillion on Lake Burley Griffin. The final stages of negotiations with the government bodies are now underway and we hope the new facility will see Canberra become the regular site for the Australian team training camps – offering the best infrastructure in the country to the Auroras.

On the water, the ACT has enjoyed another remarkable year. While the Ice Dragons women went within a whisker of retaining their Australian Champion title, the club did grab medals in opens, mixed and womens categories and will be excitedly heading to their first World Club Champions in Macau. Joining them on the podium at Caloundra last year were the Dragon Flyers in the Grand masters category and Grammar in the Juniors. The Diamond Phoenix and ADFA made A Finals in their first Australian Championships, with ADFA also qualifying for the Worlds in the U23 category. Each of the ACT Fire crews won a medal on the state v state day, meaning 2009 was the most successful year ever for the CDBA. We are keen to build on those results this year and consolidate the efforts of the last three seasons as we have progressively improved on the national stage.

The ACT Fire coaching team of Brendan Byrne, Robyn Kellett, Robyn Whytcross, Fred Lehmann, Phantipa Puangsumalee and Margaret Wolf has been impressive to watch and they have moulded the best from all CDBA clubs into a unified squad. The work of ACT managers Cheryl David, Tara David and Beck Green has been complemented by the captaincy of Jasmine Robinson, Lachlan Sillar and Lorraine Bayliss, ensuring the Fire have been run professionally and are well organised.

The season enjoyed a much kinder contribution from Mother Nature, with the blue-green algae outbursts of season 2008-09 not seen this summer. Regatta days also seemed to have the wind curse lifted from them this year, meaning a full regatta season was held and giving CDBA crews the best possible preparation for Adelaide.

The season kicked off with much fanfare when the Ice Dragons broke the World Record for the greatest distance paddled in a dragon boat in 24 hours on 13-14 November. No doubt the high media interest led to more people being tempted to pick up a paddle, but it went very close to convincing 20 long-term members to never step into a boat again. The IDs crew ripped the record away from Canada's Pickering club, and the brain child of David 'Bear' Miller has given Australia, and not just the ACT, a paddling achievement to be proud of.

The 'community' spirit of the CDBA has been a highlight of the past few seasons and it stepped up again this year. The high point was probably the barbarian crew – the CDBA Burley Beasts – that competed at the Victorian-hosted Albury Wodonga regatta and featured paddlers from every club. While results indicated the training regime needed some enhancement – like maybe doing some – the camaraderie it helped produce within the CDBA more than offset the times.

The Chinese New Year event has developed further, with much of its cultural emphasis being supportive of AusDBF's cultural plan, and we aim to make the event a significant part of the National Multicultural Festival calendar. The event is currently host to both corporate and sports crews, but the large corporate interest will make planning for the 2011 event very interesting as we try to accommodate a bulging race draw. The event will also be inspiration for the CDBA's focus on cultural activities at the 2011 Australian Championships. While spectators and paddlers were entertained throughout the day with rolling performances, we hope to have those acts – such as Kung Fu acts, Lion Dancing and drummers – fill the frustrating void between the last final and the first trophy presentation next year.

The Organising Committee has already been meeting and working for some time, with the campaign now laid out and bookings of facilities and infrastructure already happening. A site plan has been drawn, and the CDBA aims to give paddlers a real 'Canberra experience' when we race the Oz Champs in the Central Basin at the foot of the national institutions like the War Memorial,

Parliament House and the National Gallery. The hard work of the Committee, chaired by former CDBA Treasurer Kylie Bromwich will deliver a memorable and high quality experience for all.

The Board's stability has been a key to success and growth for the CDBA, but renewal has also been important. In addition to Kylie's departure, we farewelled Event Officer Ben Dal Broi. Kylie and Ben have made outstanding contributions over many years and have left big shoes to fill. However, their replacements Ming Tang and Fiona Coughtrie have built on their contributions. The work of other Board members – Andrew Churches, Michele Moroney, Natalie MacLean, Robyn Whytcross, Gillian Styles, Robyn Kellett and Fiona Tinning – has been professional, passionate and tireless. While a couple have indicated the need to step off and recharge their batteries, most are looking forward to working with the Organising Committee to deliver a massive 2010-11 season.

The contribution of these and other CDBA members was undertaken in a more fitting environment this last year, with the introduction of a Presentation Night. Among the Presidents' Awards for outstanding Contribution to the CDBA and the Club Championship trophies was the introduction of the Anna Wellings-Booth Award, recognising an individual who had contributed to the growth and development of the sport and achieved excellence in dragon boat racing. Anna is one of our Life Members, the founder of DAACT, and established the Corporate Challenge regattas. Her dedication and work for the CDBA is to be reflected in the award recipient, and it was deservedly won by Robyn Whytcross. Robyn has represented Australia, the ACT, coached a junior crew, the ACT GM Women team, and countless corporate crews. She is a CDBA Board member and always the first to volunteer for any activity.

The black tie event is on again this year, and on May 28 the 'Splashademy Awards' will again acknowledge the remarkable work of key members, while recalling an outstanding season on-water for all crews.

The CDBA looks forward to hosting the Australian Championships in 2011, and we will be generating interest with information distribution in Adelaide. Thank you to AusDBF and our fellow Member Organisations for your support through the year. We wish you luck at the West Lakes course this week.

On the water!



Kel Watt
CDBA President

Dragons Abreast Australia Report, Michelle Hanton

The last year has been an exciting one for Dragons Abreast. Our most exciting news is that we now have our very own Head Office located in Darwin, NT – the place where Dragons Abreast first began.



We were very honoured when the Patron of DBNT and Past AusDBF Cultural Director, Mr Austin Chin, present us with a beautiful wall hanging of 'Leung' as a gift.

The office was a massive undertaking in so many ways and finally officially opened on 11th July 2009 – there was pomp and ceremony with the lion dancers from the Chung Wah Society. We were delighted to also be joined by the NT Minister for Health, Kon Vatskalis.



Membership Numbers

Dragons Abreast continues to grow and our ID data base system is working well enabling us to produce accurate membership figures of 2186 individuals as at December 2009. All paddler members are, under the conditions of our members of AusDBF, also required to be members of their State or Territory member of AusDBF.

Individual Member Handbooks sent out with the ID cards 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.

Sustainability

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

We have been working hard to put in place systems that provide continuity of Dragons Abreast into the next generation whilst ensuring we remain true to our roots of participation and inclusiveness within a national framework. It is an ongoing process.

In December 2009 our new constitution was formally adopted. This now allows us offer individual memberships which has enabled those who wish to be a part of Dragons Abreast, but are perhaps already members of a sports club, to join individually and thus be able to be a part of special events and festivals which cater specifically to our members – whether they are survivors, supporters, paddlers or non-paddlers.

Due to the growth of Dragons Abreast it is impossible to have the same localized connections that used to exist when we were smaller so our Board has agreed it is time to introduce a DAA national convention which will provide educational and self development opportunities as well the chance to paddle in both race and social settings. The inaugural convention will be held in Tasmania in September 2010.

Angels Abreast

The sad reality of Dragons Abreast is that we are an organisation made up of those that are living with breast cancer. Inevitably we do lose members to this insidious disease and this happens all too frequently.

Jenny Petterson was perhaps one of the most well known members of Dragons Abreast, having been a star of Australian Story, and we were all devastated with the news of her death on 30 June 2009. Jenny embodied the true spirit of Dragons Abreast, always there with a smile on her face enjoying every moment and really living life to the full despite breast cancer. Even though Jenny was able to achieve at the elite level of the sport she always remained a member of Dragons Abreast, happy to paddle in composite teams, and simply enjoy the moment.

Many have been inspired by Jenny's incredible fortitude and courage over the past years and rejoiced in her amazing achievements. Her smile, her gentleness and quiet strength will not be forgotten. It is because of her remarkable achievements that we include mention of Jenny's graduation to our Angels Abreast team in this report to the AusDBF members.

We are confident that Jenny's spirit will be with us all at this Australian National Championships in Adelaide, and no doubt she, and our other Angels Abreast will be standing beside Jon Taylor and cheering us on from the heavenly grandstand.

It is these Angels that represent the backbone of Dragons Abreast – we exist because of breast cancer – not because of dragon boating. The dragon boat is our vehicle and it is what carries our message of awareness and education whilst empowering individuals living with breast cancer to transition back to full and active lives despite this insidious disease.

We close our report with a quote from one of our newer members – who accurately sums up why we exist.

Paddling is awesome! Joining Dragons Abreast has given me an opportunity to turn a negative event in my life into a positive and very rewarding experience. It has certainly helped me to overcome some health and emotional problems, motivated me to become much fitter and introduced me to many inspirational people. Last, but certainly not least, I am enjoying the regular opportunities to share a lot of fun and laughter with newly found friends. Colleen White, Dragons Abreast ACT

Dragon Boats NSW, Daniel Kong, President

2009/2010 Season has certainly been a mixture of growth and development mixed with some difficult times. During this period DBNSW had Steven Davidson (President) and Karen Taylor (Administration Director) resign. The election of a new - President Daniel Kong.

- Over 2500 registered members within New South Wales and 46 clubs.
- We have been concentrating on our Junior development at the moment, we've had 4 schools from the North Coast participating for school during Term 3 and 4. In addition to schools from Port Macquarie, Camden Haven and Nowra. From Sydney we've had Nepean Christian College – term 4, Marist Sisters College term 4 and 1, Killara High School, Domremy College and Danebank all take it for school sport during term 1. Thus far we have interest from Rosebank College, International Grammar, Trinity Grammar and St Andrews as keen for various terms this year, so our focus for the coming season is still going to be very much Juniors.
- In line with this DBNSW received a grant from NSW Sport & Rec for \$10k for Junior Development.
- DBNSW is 90% complete with our new constitution which we have been working on with Lander & Rogers and hope to have the new constitution voted in at the upcoming AGM.
- The 2010 NSW State Squad comprises over 460 paddlers covering Juniors, Premiers, Masters, Grand Masters, Regional (North and South) which has been a huge amount from all the Team Managers and coaches to coordinate and train such a large group of people particularly the regional members who have shown huge commitment to travelling and away weekend over the last 4 mths so they could all train together.
- NSW was very fortunate to have numerous paddlers represent Australia at the World Championships in Prague last year. Many of whom have decided to take a break this year, with their sights set on Tampa Bay for 2011.
- Finally, DBNSW main training base at Pyrmont will be getting a proper ramp which has come from funding from NSW Maritime. This is due for completion at the end of 2010. Whilst DBNSW will have to share the ramp with other passive users, it is a welcome relief to what we have had to use since 2004.
- DBNSW has run 19 regatta's during the season which has been a combination of Sydney sporting regatta's and Corporate and regional community regatta's. The Sydney regatta's currently are now sitting on maximum capacity making the days very long., so DBNSW will be considering some alternative options for the coming season.
- DBNSW has another possible 5 clubs looking at starting up over the next 12- 18 months.
- DBNSW entered into a partnership with a group called "Heartkids NSW" which is a charity for children with heart disease, we attended their gala dinner last year and donated a Corporate Team Building afternoon as one of the major prizes.
- DBNSW is currently in the process of finalizing training DVD's for sweep training and technique coach training which should be due for release in the next few months.
- DBNSW has also been working with NSW Sport and Rec to run "Its Your Club Workshops" for all our clubs which goes into good corporate governance practices, as well as a new course they are trialling on Risk Management within Clubs.

- At the NSW Sports Awards this year DBNSW was a finalist for the “Team of the Year, Coach of the Year and Volunteer of the Year” unfortunately we didn’t win, but it is great to be recognised by our peers in the sport industry.

All in all, it’s been a busy year with lots of the agenda for the coming 12 months.

Dragonboat SA, John Holland, President

In compiling my report for the past year I will comment on some of the more significant aspects of our Strategic Plan in the five core business areas.

To some, a Strategic Plan is just more administrative jargon but it is in effect, the agreed plans for our Association with the methods to be used to achieve these plans and measures established to review our progress.

CORE AREA 1 - ADMINISTRATION

- All of our Policies have been reviewed and updated and are accessible on our website. It is planned to group the Policies for ease of access and this will be completed in 2010.
- An upgraded website is planned for 2010 with a greater emphasis on displaying the “Fierce, Fast and Furious” image of our sport.
- Our new registration system is now fully operational and we seem to have resolved the teething problems. We will now investigate the functionality of the system to maximise the benefits to Clubs.
- We continue to look for suitable premises to house our administration and when funds permit, will be searching for a General Manager/Executive Officer.

CORE AREA 2 - PROMOTION AND MARKETING .

- Our Webmaster has kept our website up to date and promptly uploads race results – thanks to Julie Kouba for her efforts.
- We have had local Press coverage through the Masters Games and had a little television coverage on Channel 31 Community Television, during the year
- We have a Promotion Officer on contract to promote the Pub Challenge and major Come & Try for the new year. Helen Lewis worked on these events this year and with greater cooperation is certain to increase participation in the future.
- Sponsorship remains a major issue particularly in the current economic environment. Paint Supplies remain our longest standing private sector sponsor and we are very grateful for their ongoing support. Of course we also recognise the SA Government through the Department for Recreation and Sport as our largest sponsor and really appreciate their help in both funds and advice.

CORE AREA 3 - ACCREDITED OFFICIALS

- After some adjustments to cater for our country Members, the Sweeps Accreditation process is working very well and all clubs are ensuring that their sweeps maintain accreditation.
- Our last Coaches Course was run in June 2008 and it was planned to run another in late 2009, dependant on demand from members, and this had to be postponed until May 2010.

CORE AREA 4 - PARTICIPATION

- The “New Member Induction Manual” has been revised and loaded onto the website.

- We have had two new clubs join the Association. Both Blade Runners and Adelaide Phoenix were admitted as members during the past year.
- DBSA has taken delivery of four new Champion boats and Ceduna Sea Dragons have also taken delivery of a new Champion. There are now twelve Champion boats in this state with another thirteen other design boats in use. In 2001 we had a total of six boats in use which is a good indication of the strength of the growth over the past ten years. We currently have four old style boats available for allocation to developing areas.
- We held three very successful events during the year apart from our normal racing program. The inaugural Chinese New Year annual event which will rotate between Adelaide and Melbourne was held on the Torrens and portrayed DBSA in a very professional and impressive light. The Ceduna Masters Games tested our organizational capacity and resulted in an excellent event which was enjoyed by all participants. The SA Police and Emergency Services Games was again a success after they initially struggled for numbers.
- The State Championships provided some spirited competition over the two days and were held at Aquatic Reserve due to the Rowing Course not being completed – medals were presented to all placegetters on the day (suitably engraved).
- The West Coast is now a strong dragon boating area with two clubs in Port Lincoln, one in each of Ceduna and Streaky Bay and interest for another from Smokey Bay. It is hoped that at least one regatta can be organised in the area for local clubs each year.

CORE AREA 4 - VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

- We set in place a requirement for all clubs to nominate a race-day volunteer when they submit their race entries for each regatta and this has proven largely successful.
- The Association relies heavily on volunteers in all areas and everyone's efforts are truly appreciated.
- Our volunteer requirements for the 2010 Nationals will increase markedly and we need all the help we can get.
- We successfully nominated Jennifer Bould for the inaugural John Taylor Award which was presented to Jennifer at the National Championships in the form of a magnificent trophy.

There are a number of other items of significance which are worthy of a mention.

- South Australia was represented by six clubs at the 2009 National Championships in Caloundra; Queensland. Adelaide Black Dragons, Adelaide Sea Dragons, Power Blades, SADA, Subsonix and Water Warriors all headed north and further enhanced the competitive reputation of dragon boating in South Australia.
- The department of Transport granted us an exemption from wearing PFDs in daylight hours at West Lakes. Although we still need to wear PFDs after sunset it is not a huge inconvenience and it certainly aids in the safety aspects of night paddling.
- The new rowing course at Oarsman Reserve is completed and all is ready for the National Championships in April 2010. The starting pontoons look great and the finish tower is not only functional but architecturally pleasing. It is a pleasure training on the buoyed course but we will

have to be aware of other users and we need to adhere to the protocols established to enhance safety.

John Holland
President DBSA
9 April 2010

Dragon Boating WA Inc., Vic Fazakerley

Introduction

Once again another great year of dragon boat racing in Western Australia. A different race format saw more entries in each race and closer racing. I extend a huge thanks to all the volunteers that helped organise regattas and to the DBWA Board for their hard work and dedication in making 2009/10 a successful year.

Key Points from 2009/10 Season

- Champion Lakes continues to offer a great venue for our Grand Prix Regattas and State Championships. For next year a new starting pontoon will be available and construction of the finishing tower will be complete providing world class dragon boat racing facilities. DBWA looks forward to hosting the AusDBF Nationals in years to come at this fantastic facility.
- At the Nationals in Queensland Cockburn DBC Open Masters crew won selection for the World Club Crew Championships in Macau July 2010.
- The State Open Masters crew won a bronze medal in the 500m race.
- For the 2010 AusDBF Nationals in Adelaide DBWA has a team of over 70 paddlers including our first junior crew who will also compete in the Club v Club events as the Fremantle Swan Cygnets, good luck to you all.
- Cockburn DBC took out the Champion Club for the season and the overall winner on points for the State Championships, closely followed by Perth Pirates in both cases.
- Regional clubs hosted very successful corporate regattas at Boddington, Bunbury and Mandurah. These were great fun and hopefully there will be more next year.

Membership

In 2009/10 there were 10 clubs registered with DBWA namely: -

- Cockburn DBC
- Forza DBC
- Fremantle Swan DBC
- Mandurah DBC
- Perth Pirates DBC
- Sprit of Bunbury DBC
- Amazons Perth DBC
- Hurricane Paddling Crew Incorporated
- Champion Lakes Boating Club
- Albany Dreaming DBC

The number of registered paddlers has grown considerably this year to over 450. We hope this will continue with more clubs and paddlers in 2010/11.

DBWA is excited to welcome Albany Dreaming DBC as members, a new regional team. The paddlers in Albany are dedicated and enthusiastic and we look forward to seeing them at regattas and to visiting Albany for their events.

Department of Sport and Recreation

DBWA continues to have a very good relationship with the Department of Sport and Recreation. DBWA would like to thank the Department for their ongoing encouragement and support, keep up the good work.

Administration

With all but one Board position filled for the year the Board of DBWA has risen to the challenges of administering dragon boating in Western Australia with dedication and professionalism. There will be new people on the Board for the coming season, their goal will be to build on the good work of their predecessors to grow dragon boating both as a sport and a social activity.

Challenges for 2010/11

Some of the challenges for the coming year are: -

- Increase club and individual membership at all levels particularly juniors.
- Increased community participation and corporate events.
- Increase the profile of the Dragon Boating WA in the wider community.

To finish

Lastly thanks to all the paddlers and volunteers who made 2009/10 a very successful year. Let's all make sure that as a whole we continue to grow and improve in an atmosphere of good fellowship and make the 2010/11 season even better.

Thank you for your support

Victor Fazakerley
President Dragon Boating WA Inc
8 April 2010

Queensland Dragon Boat Federation, Gary Ellis President

Tasmanian Dragon Boat Federation

At an Extraordinary General Meeting in October 2009, TasDBF changed its name to Dragon Boating Tasmania Inc (DBT). Current DBT Board members are as follows:

President	Lisa Reid
Vice President	Julie Davidson
Administration Director	Helen Cordell
Finance Director	Kalinda Beamish
General Director & Public Officer	Liz Gillian
Technical Director	Michael Goodwin (leave of absence; Tony Harris Acting)
General Director	Helen Mennitz
General Director	Maira Cannell

Member Clubs

Dragons Abreast Tasmania (Hobart)

Dragons Abreast Tasmania (Northern Tasmania)

Dragons Abreast Tasmania (North West)

Derwent Storms Dragon Boat Club

Forward Plans

DBT is currently investigating the possibility of setting up further clubs within the state as one of our main objectives.

DBT will conduct the inaugural Tasmanian Dragon Boat State Titles in March 2011.

Grants

DBT was successful in obtaining a Sport and Recreation Grant for the delivery of an AusDBF Coaching Course in Hobart , with attendees from all four member clubs.

Further grants have been submitted for the provision of a boat and accessories to assist with the formation of a new club, plus the canvassing of 'Come and Try' sessions.

Activities

A number of small regattas have been conducted by the member clubs in the South and North West of the state, including a very successful corporate Regatta run by Dragons Abreast Tasmania (Hobart) (DATH)

In March, Derwent Storms and DATH attended the Focus on Franklin Festival which included an afternoon and evening lighted paddle on the Huon River, south of Hobart.

DBT in association with the member clubs has for the first time been able to send a State Team to represent Tasmania in the AusDBF National Championships in Adelaide, April 2010.

In June, 24 members from Dragons Abreast Tasmania (Hobart) (DATH) are heading to Peterborough, Canada along with one member each from Dragons Abreast Tasmania (Northern Tasmania) (DANTI) and Dragons Abreast Tasmania (North West) for the Dragon Boating Festival for Cancer survivors.

In September, Dragons Abreast Australia (DAA) will be holding the inaugural Dragons Abreast Convention in Hobart with paddling on the Huon at Franklin.

Sweeps

A group of trainee sweeps were accredited during the year, plus another 4 trainee sweeps currently underway.

Dragon Boat Victoria, Jonathan Mayne

The current board of DBV have put together the most extensive round of events this season which included:

- Victorian Corporate Dragon Boat Challenge
- Regional Dragon Boat Festival, Nagambie
- Docklands Dragon Boat Cup
- Mile High Dragon Boat Championship, Falls Creek
- Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Festival
- Brave Hearts Dragon Boats on the Murray, Albury
- Melbourne International Dragon Boat Festival

Plus “Come and Try “events at Docklands, Sale, Cobram and Martha Cove

A measure of the success of these events is that not one protest has been received for the whole season even though there has been the occasional disqualification. These events have been conducted almost entirely with volunteer officials and a high degree of cooperation from competitors showing a spirit of goodwill. A visiting interstate competitor was heard to comment, “I can’t believe how friendly and relaxed this event is, and everything runs like clockwork”.

At the Falls Creek Mile High Festival conducted by the Falls Creek Management Committee and supported by DBV we staged a blessing and dragon dance. DBV added blessing ceremonies and lion dances at Nagambie, Chinese New Year and the MIDBF where, in addition, a group of Chinese musicians played throughout the Festival. We have introduced a new buoying system for the regatta courses, portable video capture results system linked to the start line giving clear, incontestable results, accurate times and our race officials are now drawn from within our own ranks and doing a great job.

Our Chinese New Year Festival was supported by teams from NSW and SA and we have in place an understanding with DBSA to alternate with SA and hold the event in Adelaide next year so Melbourne teams can reciprocate that support.

The girls from Brave Hearts on the Murray held a very successful event on Causeway Lake, Albury and are currently showcasing dragon boating at Cobram, further down stream. There is now a good chance DBV will host yet another regional team in rural Victoria.

Paul Boucher, Jonathan and Jenny Mayne met with IT Consultant and Dragon Boat paddler, Ken Fretwell. The brief given to Ken was that the a new website must be user friendly, contain all the essential information; ie results, contacts, insurance, dates, rights and responsibilities and links to member clubs, AusDBF and other dragon boat entities etc. The site is now fully operational, being constantly reviewed and may be found at www.dragonboatsvictoria.com.au

DBV Administration Officer, Jenny Mayne and the Board have staged a major round of corporate team building dragon boat events which have led to an increase in available funds to upgrade our events and equipment. Paul Boucher continues to conduct “Sweeps Courses” and a total of 153 sweeps have now completed the course with certification and ticket. Paul has also been a valuable contributor to the National Sweeps Course. DBV is proud to congratulate Serghei Cucsă on his appointment as AusDBF National Coach. Serghei spent 10 years studying at a Russian University, has a PhD in paddling and coaching and has coached Russian paddlers to gold medals at

Olympics. We also congratulate Phil Chan, AusDBF Cultural Director who will be a great asset to the sport in his cultural pursuits. DBV has also been represented at the "Boot Camp", the Presidents hook-ups and the more recent conference in Adelaide.

AusDBF lists Victoria as having no officials, a situation which needs to be addressed. We do have highly competent officials, some with many years of experience in dragon boating but just not holding AusDBF accreditation. Trevor Huggard has IDBF Level 1 and Jenny and Jonathan Mayne are Level 2 IDBF officials and last year worked with International events at Miami, Penang, Macau, Hong Kong and the 2009 World Championships in Prague where Jenny managed the medal ceremonies while Jonathan handled the "English language commentary in company with his Czech counterpart, Petr.

Developments are well underway at Docklands for the building of a permanent home for DBV including club rooms, boat storage and administration offices. These will be community facilities shared with the Docklands Sailing Club and Melbourne Outrigger Club. We may lose our facility on the Yarra at Princes Bridge as the Rowing Club next to our compound is planning a major extension which envisions building over the top of our compound. The City of Melbourne leases this compound to us and they would prefer to see a prestigious development in this key visual location rather than the simple compound with exposed dragon boats.

DBV will send a group of almost 50 people to the "Four Cities Tour" in Southern China in June led by Shirley Boucher, Trevor Huggard, David Wang, Jenny and Jonathan Mayne. There are also Victorian 'survivors' going to the DA participation event in Peterborough Canada. We have members in the team for the Asian Games and hopefully, a representation in the CCWC at Macau. Jenny and Jonathan will be serving as officials at the 1st Commonwealth Countries Club Crew Championships in Penang in July

The board of DBV have passed a motion to consider hosting the 2012 National Dragon Boat Championships pending further negotiations, an appropriate level of support from AusDBF and acceptance of our choice of venue which is not yet finalised.

DBV is confident the future remains bright and promising for Dragon Boating in Victoria.

Dragon Boat Northern Territory, Daryl Manzie

Dragon Boat Northern Territory is a non-profit association responsible for the Development and administration of the sport of Dragon Boat Racing in the Northern Territory of Australia.

DBNT was established in April 1998 with a few dedicated paddlers sitting in the chairs practicing their technique before the delivery of the first boat.

There are now over 100 regular paddlers in four clubs:

- Dragon Abreast
- Bayview Sundragons
- Arafura Dragon Paddlers
- Ord River dragons

Dragons Abreast have their own two boats and there are eight boats distributed amongst the other three clubs.

This year has seen both highs and lows. On the club front we have seen the Gove club close, Ord River Club continues, with their major event, "The Ord River Marathon," bigger than ever this year. Bayview Sundragons is struggling to survive but there is a renewed effort being put in by several of their members to turn things around. We have seen the Arafura club grow in numbers, and the interest in the "Arafura" can be directly related to the club entering the Australia club Crew Championships in Adelaide with 3 teams. This has also allowed DBNT to enter 2 times in the State V State competition. Even though a small parochial group like ourselves can generate growth through participation in the National Championships, we find that AusDBF appear to make it harder for us to participate. The grind of trying to ensure rule changes don't exclude smaller organisations like ours, has been very time consuming over the last 12 mths. The perception we get is we are constantly swimming against the tide. I would urge the board to try and keep smaller states in mind when dealing with issues affecting our sport and assist the smaller states in growing. The coaching requirements are an example of further restrictions on our short term progress. We continue to have problems attracting premier level paddlers to our sport and the lack of a suitable venue in which to compete coupled with difficulty in attracting sponsors will continue to restrict our growth.

However it is not all doom and gloom, and we continue to enjoy our paddling even though we do not have the opportunity to regularly compete, we find that we are always competitive on the national stage. To that end we owe a vote of thanks to our AusDBF qualified coach, Ken Dwyer. I would also like to thank Janine Lette and Mel Cantwell for all the support and advice they provide DBNT and myself on a regular basis. No doubt, with the support and hard work of many of our members, we will continue to grow, and we all look forward to a successful future for Dragon Boating in Northern Australia.

Daryl Manzie
President DBNT

Sponsors

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

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