



Go Queensland!

The time is NOW to register your interest to represent Queensland at the Australian National Championships in South Australia being held from Thursday 22nd – Sunday 25th April 2010.

We have a great state

We have a great team of coaches

All we need now is a great set of crews!!!!

So, come on Queenslanders, express your interest now so we can take it to the other States in April, especially to the 'Blues'.

Queensland is entering teams in all categories from Juniors to Great Grand Masters and 2 separate teams from Regional Queensland, Premiers, Masters and Grand Masters, if there is enough interest.

State Squad Launch – This Saturday 23 January

Colmslie Hockey Club, Lytton Road, Colmslie – 11.00am start.

Training information will be given at the launch of the squad.

State Squad Management Team

State Coordinators: Dallas Piwari and Jo Grammatico

Qld Squad Coach	Ian Peters
Junior & Premier Team	Coach – Paul Jarvis
Masters Team	Coach – Anthony Skipper
Grand Masters Team	Coach – Blair Gamble
Great Grand Masters	Coach – Ross Boyce

The Queensland State Coaches are intending to work closely with each other, and bring Queensland back to the glory days of 2007. This will only be achieved with unity from all.

Deadline for expressions of interest is this **Friday 22 January**. To do so online, complete the required information at the following webpage.

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dE9vdEk2QkN3MGhTYnp0V01YUGh6TXc6MA>

For all those who do not have email access, please contact your club committee for assistance, Dallas Piwari or info@qdbf.com.au

Asian World Championships 2010

AusDBF has been advised that the Asian Championship will now be held from 29 April to 2 May 2010 at Wujing (near Shanghai, China) instead of September 2010.

AusDBF has changed the selection progress from a winning state crew to being open to all paddlers from around Australia.

Applications were to be received by 17 January 2010.

Paddler selection will be a two-tier process. From all applications 40 men and 40 women will be invited to attend the first training camp. Then the squad will be reduced to 30 men and women who will attend the second training camp and then go on to compete in Wujing.

Competition – Team name

AusDBF is running a competition as the Australian Dragon Boat Team needs a better identity. There are the Opals and Hockeyroos so AusDBF is looking for a creative name. Entries should be sent to president@ausdbf.com.au by Friday 19 February.

Selection of the Australian crews for the 2011 World Championships in Florida USA will be based on the same selection model that is being used for the Asian Championship.

The start of the Australian 2011 Worlds selection is not that far away!

From the Sidelines - A Parent's View

I'm standing on the sidelines, watching my 12 year old daughter get into a dragon boat with 10 other juniors. She seems so small compared to all the others. I watch her grab her paddle (which is almost as big as her) and start to stroke in time with the others. The boat glides through the water almost effortlessly, shooting off to the starting line. There are three other teams, people of ages between 12 and 17, also approaching the starting line. They're lined up, and we watch, waiting nervously for the sound of the hooter that begins the race.



They're off! The boats shoot off, I can't see my daughter's boat, they're too close together, I'm too far away. People on the bank standing near me start to yell, everyone seems to be supporting a different child. I'm yelling support for my

daughter, trying to be heard over the crowd, when someone calls out "Go Broadwater!"

Suddenly the mood alters slightly and the families and friends of the paddlers start taking up the cheer for the whole team, rather than the individuals. We're yelling together as the boats are fast approaching the finish line. They're almost there, my daughter's boat, with two other boats just beside her, one slightly behind. There's a sense of urgency – as if I yell harder, then they'll paddle harder. We're all craning our necks to see who, which team, is leading. It's so close. Some people are jumping up and down with the excitement, some holding their breath in anticipation. The hooter sounds. They won. My daughter's team won! I'm so proud of her. My little girl is part of a team, a team that has tried their hardest, worked together, and won. Their faces as they paddle in... grins from ear to ear. Three cheers for the opposing teams!... Three cheers for Broadwater!

By Niki Taipari - a Broadwater Mum



Dragons Abreast Bribie Island

Dragons Abreast Bribie Island was a very proud participant in the inaugural DAA Regatta at Kawana No. 28 this year.

Our dragon boat was only launched in May 2009 but we were already able to have almost a full team of survivors to participate as well as some supporters.

The only other experience of a regatta had been at Tin Can Bay earlier in the year.

The team was delighted to make the major final and although we are not "sports standard" paddlers, we all enjoy our activities and look forward to participating in the "Pink" section of future regattas.

Dawn Worley
President Dragons Abreast Bribie Island



Coming up ...

NEXT REGATTA: Samoa Charity Fund Raising Regatta – Sunday 31 January, Gold Coast Dragons, Varsity Lakes

BROADWATER DRAGONS -
Sport Regatta, Emerald Lakes, Gold Coast,
Sunday 21 February 2010

QUEENSLAND STATE TITLES
Kawana Waters
20 & 21 March 2010

BRISBANE RIVER DRAGONS -
Sport Regatta, Kawana Waters
Sunday 11th April 2010

AusDBF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
West Lakes, Adelaide SA
22 – 25 April 2010

COOLANGATTA MT WARNING DRAGON BOAT CLUB -
Corporate Regatta,
2nd Boat Ramp, McLeod Street, Condong
Sunday 30 May 2010

Akuna Dragons in Focus



Akuna recent Rock & Roll night



AKUNA DRAGON BOAT CLUB INC.

In April 2009 a dream of developing a dragon boat club to cater to the community as a whole was founded by Allan Lena & Cathy Chapple. Akuna Dragon Boat Club Inc. was incorporated on the 8th May 2009 with the vision to pass the love of the sport on to as many people as possible & the result being a happier and healthier community.

Allan & Cathy have a strong belief that dragon boating should be available to everyone, regardless of ability and given the opportunity individuals are able to form teams, get fit and meet socially in a fun, friendly environment.

The name *Akuna* is an Aboriginal word meaning flowing water and moving forward. Our club colours (black, yellow, red & blue) represent Indigenous Australia and water.

Our emblem is a Leafy or Weedy Sea Dragon and was designed by Indigenous artist Christine Slabb. The Leafy or Weedy Sea Dragon is uniquely Australian and live in kelp beds and rocky reefs in southern waters. Closely related to the seahorse they are spectacular and mysterious creatures of the ocean and protected under Australian law. Cathy & Allan designed the race singlet to represent our cultural heritage and love of water and dragon boating.

Akuna Dragon Boat Club Inc. is affiliated with The Palm Beach Currumbin Sports Club and we train on the beautiful Currumbin Creek. We are proud to be a sister club to Dragons Abreast Gold Coast.

Akuna members come from all walks of life, cultures and age groups. Members meet to train and socialise by way of dinner nights, coffee mornings & social events, such as our recent Rock & Roll night.

Recently Akuna received a grant from the Jupiters Community Benefit Fund and are now proud owners of our own boat.

More information regarding our club can be found on our website www.akunadragons.com

7th Biennial Pan Pacific Masters Games 2010 – Gold Coast, Aust **“Play it, Live it, Love it”**

This year's Pan Pacific Master Games is being held from 6 to 14 November 2010. It's a major Gold Coast event with dragon boating being coordinated by the Gold Coast Dragons.

Beside participants, approximately 100 volunteers are required so if your interested in the administration of a major international event contact their Volunteer Coordinator. Enquiries, email: info@mastersgames.com.au

Young Athlete Assistance Program - NOW OPEN

Helping our kids to excel in sport

This Program aims to assist young athletes within Queensland who have competed at a State or State School Championship, National or National School Championship or International Championship.

Further details regarding YAAP can be located at: www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/Funding/Ourfundingprograms/YoungAthleteAssistanceProgram.aspx

Classifieds are Coming!

The Dragon's Head is offering free to clubs and their paddlers the opportunity to list items for sale or purchase in a Classified Section. Items will be listed for two consecutive issues unless advised that they have been sold or purchased.

An item description, cost, condition and contact details are to be supplied before listing.

Send your classifieds to marketing@qdbf.com.au by the first weekend of each month. These items are to be paddling related from paddles, paddle bags to dragon boats and trailers and also can include lease items.

A free service to the Queensland dragon boat community.

Dragon Boat Trailers

Broadwater Dragons members built the trailer below with donated materials. They have a complete list of lengths and sizes of all metal pieces. Contact Broadwater Dragons for details – info@broadwaterdragons.com



The trailer below is a similar design to the Broadwater double trailer and was built by Coastal Exhaust & Suspension at Currumbin for a cost of approx \$5100, includes being galvanised.



Inaugural Dragon Boat Ball to be hosted in the Redlands

Dust off those dancing shoes and mark **Saturday 5th June** on the calendar, in readiness for the Inaugural Redlands Sea Dragons' Ball. This is a great opportunity to get out of those paddle pants, dress up, socialise and kick up your heels with the wider dragon boating fraternity! This classy function will be held in Redland City, with final venue details to be released shortly. This is an inaugural event not to be missed! Make up a party and keep your eye out for details of ticket sales and venue. **Bring it on!**

Grant success at Redlands

The Redlands Sea Dragons Dragon Boat Club Inc. received a Redland City Council, Organisational Support Grant for a Strategic Planning Day.

Redland City Council is proud to provide \$3000 for the Strategic Planning Day as part of the Community Grants Program to assist the Redlands Community.

A facilitator will be engaged to assist the club put in place strategies to:

- Build an organised Club for the whole community
- Remain viable and valuable
- Achieve fitness, fun and competitive outcomes
- Include people of different levels of physical ability in a supportive team environment
- Attract people who have had minimal interest in or access to physical activity by assisting them to achieve a sense of identity and a more healthy and robust lifestyle
- Utilise and leave a minimal impact on the natural seascape environment.

Leisa Fien (President) and Teresa Meyer (Grants Coordinator) were thrilled to attend a special ceremony at the Redlands Performing Arts Complex, Cleveland on 14 December to accept the grant.

IDBF Official in Queensland

Janine Lette, Admin Director, AusDBF and Vice President & Events Coordinator, Gold Coast Dragons is to be congratulated in passing her IDBF Level 4 training course in Prague, she is now an IDBF Level 3.5 Official. Once she attends Macau in July 2010 and completes a day as Chief Official she will be a Level 4 Official - one of only 2 in Australia (the other is Melanie Cantwell who also did her Level 4 training course in Prague).

Share your news

Got some news, information or pics that could be included in *The Dragon's Head* newsletter? Send your contributions to info@qdbf.com.au. Even if you just send your club newsletters – be great to hear what you are all up to.