

## ROCKHAMPTON DRAGON BOAT CLUB



In August 2007 a group of women in Rockhampton, who were cancer survivors, were brought together to form the “Up Close and Personal” art group. This project was organised by the Rockhampton Cancer Council Office and ran for ten weeks. During this time a great rapport was formed amongst the participants and at the end of the program, the women wanted to continue their friendship in an organised group.

Prior to the commencement of this art group, some of the women had attended Cancer Support groups. One item that came up during discussions was Dragon boating which had been proven to be extremely beneficial for breast cancer survivors in their recovery.

Word got around that there was a lady in town who was paddling with the Mackay Dragon Boat club. This lady was Maureen Meikle who also attended the Cancer Support groups. Maureen’s enthusiasm and experience with paddling only further encouraged the interested women. The information from Maureen was taken back to the Art Group.

At the end of the art group, Caroline Humphreys, Queensland Cancer Council – Rockhampton, investigated the possibility of obtaining a sponsor who could assist the group in realising their dreams of forming a dragon boat club. The first meeting of the Rockhampton Dragon Boat Club was held in November 2007. Members elected an Executive committee and formulated a plan to have a dragon boat on the river within 12 months. The group also agreed to open the club to all cancer survivors and their supporters. The dragon boat arrived in Rockhampton in October 2008.

A group of very novice paddlers, except Maureen of course, took to the river for the first time in November 2007 under the guidance of members from Mackay Dragon boat Club. The dragon boat was officially launched in May 2009.



For more information on joining this fun group, contact:

<b>Jenny</b> (President)	4936 2244 or 0409 362244
<b>Gloria</b> (Secretary)	4934 1125 or 0438 341125
<b>Kym</b> (Publicity Officer)	4936 1598
<b>Maureen</b>	4926 8897 or 0408 786242