

## 2010 Queensland State Championships

Two days of competition were conducted under wet and cloudy conditions thanks to Cyclone Ului who initially threatened to cause real problems. Unfortunately, the pontoons were not installed by Quad Park Management, fingers crossed that a speedy refund will happen. Thankfully, Sunday was such a calm day that starts were relatively easy.

On Saturday the Open and Women's events 500m were conducted and Sunday the mixed crews over 500m and 2000m. Many of the finals were tightly contested with some club crews demonstrating their strength and fitness by passing race leaders within the last 50 metres. Definitely made it interesting for club members, spectators families and friends watching from the water's edge.

Results for the State Championships had Brisbane River Dragons topping the medal tally with 6 finals wins, Burleigh 3, Te Waka 2, Currumbin 1 and Coomera 1.

Community leaders from the 3 levels of government were available to make presentations to the finals winners - on Saturday Jarrod Bleijie State Member for Kawana and on Sunday Peter Slipper Federal Member for Fisher and Tim Dwyer, Deputy Mayor of the Sunshine City Council.

Action in Focus were there taking photos and images can be viewed in club folders at [http://www.actioninfocus.com.au/main.php?g2\\_itemId=14793](http://www.actioninfocus.com.au/main.php?g2_itemId=14793)

A good regatta all up with room to take it up another level next year.



### Results for all Finals

#### Masters Open Final

Burleigh	2:00.57
BRD	2:00.22
Redlands	2:17.49

#### Junior Open Final - 200m

Coomera	54.88
Broadwater	55.11
Redcliffe	58.01

#### Masters Women Final

BRD	2:09.91
Currumbin	2:12.41
Burleigh	2:14.28

#### Grandmasters Open Final

Burleigh	2:02.15
BRD	2:02.54
Manly	2:12.76

#### Premier Women Final

BRD	2:11.46
Te Waka	2:15.39
Broadwater	2:16.99

#### Grandmasters Women Final

Currumbin	2:12.42
BRD	2:14.22
Burleigh	2:18.19

#### Premier Open Final

BRD	1:59.61
Te Waka	2:00.09
Broadwater	2:00.86

#### Masters Mixed Final

BRD	2:03:21
Broadwater	2:06:09
Burleigh	2:06:65

#### Grandmasters Mixed Final

BRD Typhoon Blue	2:08:94
Burleigh	2:09:03
Manly	2:12:66

#### Premier Mixed Finals

Te Waka Black	2:02:37
BRD	2:03:60
Broadwater	2:05:49

#### Masters Mixed - 2000m

BRD	9:24:15
Burleigh	9:32:81
Broadwater	9:41:12

#### Grandmasters Mixed - 2000m

Burleigh Gold	9:53:60
BRD Typhoon Blue	9:53:85
Burleigh Red.	10:07:15

#### Premier Mixed - 2000m

Te Waka Black	9:25:25
Broadwater	9:33:53
BRD	9:41:00

# THE DRAGON'S HEAD

## Broadwater Dragons' Regatta- at Emerald Lakes, Gold Coast

On Sunday 21 February, Broadwater Dragons hosted a fantastic Dragon Boat regatta at Emerald Lakes on the Gold Coast. Aside from an early morning shower or two, the day was warm and humid with minimal wind. The venue provided ideal paddling conditions; clean water and more importantly no tidal flow, which we all know can have an impact on race results. A special thanks to Nifsan and all the residents of Emerald Lakes for allowing us the use of their lake and the surrounding grassed area. Great to have space and comfort under foot for the pre-race warm ups!

With over 585 competitors (543 adults, 42 juniors) from 14 clubs from Mt Warning in the south to Tin Can Bay in the north, the day proved to be a great experience for paddlers, spectators and the volunteer helpers. The Broadwater guys and girls turned on their charm and expertise to ensure the event ran efficiently and on time.

The course was set for a full 500m racing and all categories from Juniors to Grand Masters competed. The results achieved in all categories were testament to the commitment by all paddlers and proved their capability to perform at the highest possible level. The final placing within some race categories yielded results that separated first, second and third by less than a second. A preview for some very exciting racing at the upcoming State titles.....



# THE DRAGON'S HEAD

## COACHING WORKSHOP WEEKEND IN TOWNSVILLE

### Enter the Dragon & Paddle Away.....

Enter the dragon and paddle away.... that was the caption in our local rag promoting our come and try day to the public. Enter the dragon we did. We entered into a full-on weekend (6-7th March) of dragon boating, team spirit, friendship, incredible weather, sunscreen, stockings, rashies, and the obligatory sausages. We challenged our minds as well as our bodies – the recipe for keeping us healthy both physically and mentally. Enter the dragon seems to sum up the spirit and enthusiasm of the entire weekend – we were swallowed up by dragon boating and spat out into the land of bonding and friendship.

The most striking thing about the weekend and about dragon boating per se is that there is no such thing as a stereotype of a dragon boat person in either body or mind – we are the ultimate equal opportunity and anti-discrimination organisation. Every level of fitness, age, gender, shape and size is catered for. The only pre-requisite is attitude – not the type of some of our teenagers but the 'here I am to give it all I've got and have fun' attitude.

#### Who made the weekend what it was?

The paddlers from out of town for travelling from Cairns and Mackay – get used to it because there will be regattas and you will be coming. The Townsville pink paddlers – for doing their bit in the preparation and for being there. Every individual paddler for having

the enthusiasm, motivation, listening skills, great humour, and for cleaning up afterwards.

Ewen who rocks as a coach – genuine, caring and eager to share such vast experience and knowledge – and able to bring a boat of newbies into time in less than half an hour – not too shabby indeed!

Every coach brings their own flair to the boat and do they ever lay it on – Ewen was no exception. And the looks on the faces of those who had not experienced a 'real' coach before was worth every late night organising – just like the ad says - priceless!

The effervescent (sometimes overflowing) Karen kept us all on track with her impeccable organisation, filming and photography.

Jo Woggy Grammatico..... what a bombshell. Despite a full day she somehow managed to be thorough entertainment at dinner. And the gorgeous Emiliia...what can we say. Such smoothness and strength all in one place. Us pinkies were totally inspired by the strength of character and paddling prowess of this special lady. She was the glue that bound the pinkies and the non-pinkies. And we learnt about rubbing the skin off that part of our body. Ouch!!!

Come and Try Sunday was fairly spectacular, not harmed in any way by coinciding with the sailing come and try



day. Both land and sea were dotted with small sailing boats while dragon boats weaved around them on perfect water. The weather could not have been better with the clearest blue everything. OK the largest box jellies of the season came for a visit but the lifeguards changed the colour of their day and hey we had our beautiful stockings on. And anyway .....we don't capsize!!!! That's what we told the 30+ members of the public who came for a try.

A real bonus of the weekend was the boost in the relationship between the sailing club and dragon boat community in Townsville. This was the first time the dragon boat club – dragons abreast – had hired the sailing club and so this was a great step in building a relationship with this group.

All in all QDBF performed an enormous service to the paddling future of North Queensland. This has been the most significant catalyst for a sport/community dragon boat club in Townsville to compliment the clubs in Cairns and Mackay and to feed into future regattas. Well done to QDBF and all who contributed to this very memorable weekend.



# THE DRAGON'S HEAD

## Brisbane River Dragons – CNY2010 – Great racing, great day!!

Brisbane River Dragons held their annual Chinese New Year Regatta at Southbank on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

Sixteen (16) corporate teams turned up in style at Southbank to battle it out for the right to be CNY 2010 Year of the Tiger Champions.

Along with racing, the day was mixed with plenty of lion dancing, war cries, (won by Missing Links) and many teams turned up dressed ready for battle - with Rip, Twist & Glide, looking mighty nasty in their pirate get up. The Kids Helpline Kats were less intimidating with their cat's ears, and painted noses and faces, but they won the heart of the judges for the best dressed team.

Racing was hot throughout the day, with many teams vying for the right to appear in the Platinum final. There were two initial heats for each team before teams were ranked for the semi finals.

After eight competitive heats, the semi finals were just the way we hoped - close!! Most of the top ranked teams from the heats went through to the Platinum final, with a surprise winner in one of the semis being Dibbs Barker, after only qualifying in the bottom half of the draw.

The Platinum final was a close fought battle, there was only micro seconds between all four boats – see the finish above! 4th place going to Dibbs Barker, 3rd to the Flying Caterers (Qantas), 2nd to Rip, Twist and



*The close finish of the Platinum final!*

Glide, with the IFAA Super Slayers taking out first place. They had great team spirit and bonding and it showed in the final.

Thanks to ALL sixteen teams who participated – without you it wouldn't happen.

BRD are looking at holding two (2) corporate regattas going forward – they get bigger and better each year and assist BRD greatly in fundraising for future development. Holding the event at a high profile venue like SouthBank also helps increase the sports profile – and we must once again thank our major sponsor of the day – Southbank.

Many thanks to everyone who helped throughout the day, it was a great team effort (as usual). Thanks for all the donations to the raffle, but particular thanks to the main organiser, Norbert Gaulton - an excellent job - well done mate!!

Graham Howlett, BRD Communications Officer



*The winning team - IFAA Super Slayers*

## Coming up ...

### NEXT REGATTA:

#### **AusDBF Australian Championships**

West Lakes, Adelaide SA

22 – 25 April 2010

#### **Please Note**

**Brisbane River Dragons Regatta has been cancelled**

## Bundy Dragons in Focus



Bundy Dragons began paddling in June 2008 and after a very turbulent year are now on track and growing from strength to strength. They are holding a come and try on 11<sup>th</sup> April to recruit new members and have promo's lined up for the next few months to get the word out about what a great sport Dragon Boating is and our local club.

The club was started by a local Rotarian Don Robinson who organizes the local Multi Cultural festival every year. After inviting dragon boats to the festival one year Don set out to get a club going, meetings were held and Bundaberg Dragon Boat Club was formed, and a Dragons Abreast group. Don doesn't paddle but his wife Christine is keen. A couple from the same Rotary club Joan and Tom Head donated from their company Challenge 21 a boat to the Dragons Abreast team named Linda in memory of Joan's Mother. All members enjoy paddling in Linda and she will be our race boat in the up and coming



Greater Wide Bay Challenge Regatta being held between 1770, Hervey Bay, Cooloola and Bundaberg.

Lots of fun has been had by members raising funds for the club at our Trivia nights and barbeques, with another Trivia night coming up later in the year, everyone is brushing up on trivia as well as paddling skills. The club joined with Dragons Abreast in a 12km paddle up the river last October to raise awareness of the club it was a great success and a lot of fun was had The day finished with lunch at a Restaurant on the river bank, and monies raised from sponsorship gave a great boost to the bank balance Plans are already underway for this years paddle.

Bundy Dragons use the local Sailing Club facilities for storing the boats and gear, with yachts moored in the back ground it makes for a beautiful spot to train, any fellow dragon boaters visiting Bundaberg are most welcome to come and train with us on Sunday mornings.



## Profile

**Laura Hughes, Administration  
Director, QDBF**



Who am I? What do I do? I think people are starting to recognise me – I know I get a lot more HELLOs now than I use to, I am

sorry if I don't remember all of your names though. Having been in the Administration roll now for 1<sup>1/2</sup> years I am starting to get into the swing of things – checking and responding to emails on a daily basis, helping out anyone I can with any queries, forwarding news to our paddlers, and committee members.

Perhaps you can say I am the glue that holds everything together. Everyone has their roles, things to do, and I sit in the middle making sure people are informed of everything those people are doing, or what club members are wanting from our committee, etc. I collect info, spread the news, type the minutes from our meetings... And then just help out wherever I can with whatever. Look to the future, never look back – that is my motto.

As for the paddling - it has come time to knuckle down, get active, get fit, hit the gym as often as possible, splash that water around a bit, sink that paddle deep and rip it back.. yeah, I am training..... Hoping to show that Waka pride and join my fellow paddlers in the upcoming races, perhaps collecting a few medals as I go. Then to the Australian Championships and do the same again. So until we meet again – I say bring on the passion, pride and commitment we all have for the sport, our club and our team mates.

## New Dragon Boats

Congratulations to both Brisbane River Dragons and Coomera Dragons on their purchases of two new Champion Dragon boats for each club. This container of boats was ordered through the Australian Chinese Dragon Boat Festival (Ray Leung-Sydney) in June 2009, and arrived in Brisbane in March 2010. Coomera Dragons received a grant through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to fund their two new boats, paddles and lifejackets- well done.

Tweed River Dragons and Redlands Sea Dragons have also benefitted, as both Clubs have each brought a second hand boat off BRD.

Queensland's fleet of dragons boats is rapidly expanding. All this means more boats on the water, with more people dragon boating. Due to the expensive freight costs involved in ordering new Champion dragon boats, it is beneficial for all clubs wanting to buy new boats, to endeavour to fill a container from China with 4, 6 or even 8 boats, and then the freight costs are shared amongst these clubs ordering boats. Can all clubs please inform QDBF if they are planning to order a new Champion boat in the next 12 months, which can then be advertised to other clubs who may be considering buying a boat.

## Classifieds

### GREY OWL PADDLES – February & March 2010 Special

C. High Performer - \$64 plus GST, normally \$80.30

D. Carbon Shaft - \$125 plus GST, normally \$143

E. JET Carbon - \$182 plus GST, normally \$220

Tried, tested and true with over 20 years of experience in manufacturing canoe paddles and still a winner at elite level, Grey Owl paddles stand the test of time.

Contact: e: [gopaddle@bigpond.com](mailto:gopaddle@bigpond.com) or p: 0412 692 458



### FOR SALE – Old Style Dragon Boats

Redlands Sea Dragons

1x in excellent condition, 1 x in VERY good condition.

Enquiries to either:

**Leisa Fein:** 0427 768 966, [elfiendish@bigpond.com](mailto:elfiendish@bigpond.com)

**Eduardo SiFontes:** 0431 993 031, [sifontese@usa.net](mailto:sifontese@usa.net)

## Dust off those dancing shoes and head for the Redlands!

Things are buzzing out in the Redlands and eyes are firmly fixed on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of June! Plan now to make up a party for the Redlands Sea Dragons Inaugural Ball to be held at the Redlands Sporting Club. Take advantage of a great opportunity to mix, mingle and kick up your heels with paddlers from your club and others in the region. Abandon your wet gear and dress up for a great night out! Make up a table of 10 or join with another party to make up a table for an evening not to be missed! Invitations for Redland Sea Dragons Inaugural Ball have been sent out to clubs, or for more information contact

**Leisa** - 0427 768 966 or [elfiendish@bigpond.com](mailto:elfiendish@bigpond.com)

**Jude** - 0407 650 316 or [jude.neil@hotmail.com](mailto:jude.neil@hotmail.com)

**Diane** - 0412 387 028, **Teresa** - 0419 024 140, **Sandy** - 3829 2380

**REDLANDS SEA DRAGONS INAUGURAL BALL**

Saturday  
5th June 2010  
6:45pm

3 Course Dinner  
Drinks and Entertainment

Hosted by the Redlands Sea Dragons  
Dragon Boat Club

Dress code is Cocktail / Formal Wear  
Ticket purchase deadline 8 May 2010  
For further information, contact:  
Leisa - [elfiendish@bigpond.com](mailto:elfiendish@bigpond.com)  
04 2776 8966  
Jude - [jude.neil@hotmail.com](mailto:jude.neil@hotmail.com)  
04 0763 0316  
Local accommodation is available,  
ask for our suggested accommodation listing

Finlay - Redlands Sporting Club  
Archie Road, Wallingford Point

[www.redlandssportingclub.com.au](http://www.redlandssportingclub.com.au)

## 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](mailto:info@qdbf.com.au). Even if you just send your club newsletters – be great to hear what you are all up to.