

# The Flowers on the Water™ Ceremony Guidelines



**The Flowers on the Water™** ceremony first performed in Australia in 2001, remembers those we have lost to breast cancer.

It is unique to Dragons Abreast Australia.

Dragons Abreast Australia (DAA) takes the position that this is a very special ceremony and its meaning must not be diluted.

For this reason, we have trademarked the **Flowers on the Water™** ceremony to ensure that it is used only with respect and understanding.

This is not to prevent it being performed, but to protect something that is important to each of us as members of DAA.

What this means is that no public ceremony may be performed without the express permission of DAA.

All member groups should actively protect this ceremony. DAA will not hesitate to take legal action for any infringement of our trademark through unauthorised or incorrect use.

## About the ceremony

This ceremony touches everyone present. It is a very emotional but reaffirming time for showing what DAA is about.

## When to hold a ceremony

In order to preserve the “specialness” and effectiveness of the ceremony, DAA recommends that it is performed only at appropriate times and occasions.

An application to hold either a public or private ceremony can be submitted to DAA via an online application form available on the DAA website.





## When to hold a ceremony (cont'd)

It is appropriate to use it to remember individual members who we have lost and at events to showcase that DAA is an organisation of and for women and men who have had a breast cancer diagnosis, or any other occasion which is approved by the Executive.

### Public Ceremony

A public **Flowers on the Water™** ceremony is held at the DAA Corporate Festival and bi-annually at the DAA Regatta and other relevant events run by DAA or for DAA members.

### Private Ceremony

Some groups may wish to hold a private **Flowers on the Water™** ceremony to remember a member recently lost to breast cancer.

It is not appropriate to perform the **Flowers on the Water™** ceremony for team members who request one for their relatives or anyone that is not associated with DAA.

## How to conduct a ceremony

### Planning stage

1. Submit an online application and obtain written approval from DAA to hold the ceremony.
2. Ensure that the ceremony is to be performed in an appropriate venue.
3. Ensure that you have a speaker, scripting and music for the ceremony. (Scripting and music is available from DAA and will be provided with the written approval)

### On the day

1. The boats may contain all survivors together from the one team or a composite group of survivor paddlers. If there is sufficient space, it is permissible to include supporter members and, if safety permits, family members who have lost loved ones. This cannot be at the expense of leaving a survivor out of the boat.
2. The sweeps must be thoroughly briefed on the procedures and know to follow the nominated lead boat.
3. As the boats paddle out, the speaker should introduce the ceremony (using the scripting).







### **On the day (cont'd)**

4. All boats are rafted together.
5. A minutes silence is observed to remember those who have lost their battle with breast cancer and send prayers, rainbows and supportive vibes to those who are still fighting.
6. Flowers/petals are tossed into the water by the paddlers in the boats and the spectators on shore (where applicable).
7. The sweep will then signal the boats to break apart, the sweeps will call for paddles up, the boats will do a lap of honour and paddle back to shore. A paddle tap is sometimes performed on the way back to shore.

### **Important note:**

The ceremony can be highly emotional, especially when performed in front of very large crowds, and when it is experienced for the first time.

The utter silence is extremely powerful. Some members find it very distressing and hard to come to terms with – another excellent reason why it must only be held on special occasions.

It is not compulsory for members to participate, and those who are too overcome, or find the ceremony disturbing, should be supported in their decision not to participate.

