

DRAGONS ABREAST AUSTRALIA

Annual Report 2019 – 2020



CONTENTS

Board and Advisory Panel	3
Board of Directors	3
Advisory Panel Members.....	3
National Ambassadors	3
Mission	3
Vision	3
Annual Report	4
The Business of DAA	6
Board Update	6
Vale Megan Tozer	6
Conclusion	7
Thanks and Appreciation.....	7



Board and Advisory Panel

Board of Directors

Mabel Sansom – Chair
Anne Stowe
Marion Blake – Retired November 2019
Pru Menzies
Megan Tozer – Retired November 2019
Patricia Hancock
Gemma Bawden – Appointed January 2020
Ross Halfacree – Appointed January 2020

Advisory Panel Members

Rosalie Thomas
Sue Bowen
Jo Parry
Marion Blake – Appointed December 2019

National Ambassadors

Robyn Moore
Dr. Kellie Toohey

Mission

Encourage, wellness, fitness, fun and camaraderie for breast cancer survivors through the sport of dragon boating and promote breast cancer awareness throughout our community

Vision

Dragons Abreast is a leader in the movement for people affected by breast cancer, spreading awareness, empowering individuals and educating on the benefits of an active lifestyle after diagnosis.



Annual Report 2019 - 2020

The past year has certainly been a challenging time which has impacted not only our members but every person in Australia. The DAA financial year started as normal with many plans in progress for Regattas, Come and Try Days and other events. Plans also included a National Convention in June 2020 and an Outward Bound adventure for early 2021. Those plans were pretty quickly put on hold when a pandemic was declared. This also meant that all our groups were 'stood down' from paddling. For some groups it has meant they have not paddled most of 2020, first due to the fires and then COVID 19. Our future plans were cancelled and planning really became a day to day activity.

With no paddling and/or meetings being held, keeping in touch became even more important. Dragons Abreast members demonstrated their resilience and creativity and it didn't take long before members found ways to keep in touch and stay fit. Most groups held Zoom meetings and, when possible, met (with social distancing) when safe to do so. As restrictions were eased in certain States paddling resumed with each group having a COVID 19 safe plan. Dragons Abreast Australia supported members, during this time, in a variety of ways such as an exercise video designed for paddlers by our National Ambassador Dr. Kellie Toohey. Robyn Moore, also a National Ambassador, delivered a powerful webinar on tips for dealing with COVID 19. DAA is extremely grateful to both Ambassadors for their assistance and ongoing support.

In 2019/20 Dragons Abreast Australia celebrated 21 years of helping breast cancer survivors improve their health. Like DA many of our groups celebrated special milestones. Canberra our 'oldest' group celebrated their 20th at a Gala night in August 2019. In November 2019 Canberra hosted their Annual Corporate Festival with over 120 DAA members joining in from around the country. Soon after Canberra was established, more groups joined the DAA family. Congratulations to our Brisbane group also celebrating their 20th and all others as they celebrated another year. To all the volunteers that support each group – well done and thank you! Your commitment to ensure DAA remains strong and vibrant is appreciated.

With numerous groups around Australia and over 1100 members, DAA represents life after breast cancer!

Year Formed	Group Location	Year Formed	Group Location
2000	Canberra	2005	Ballarat
2000	Brisbane		Bunbury
2001	Gold Coast		Mackay
	Melbourne		Byron Bay
2002	Bendigo		Sunshine Coast
	Illawarra		Newcastle
	Central Coast		Dubbo
2003	Sydney	2007	Mt. Warning
	Geelong		Coffs Coast
2003	Adelaide	2008	Bribie Island
	Hobart	2009	Orange
2004	Port Lincoln		Gippsland
2004	Townsville	2017	Patterson Lakes
	Devonport		
	Penrith		

Looking ahead DAA members will be travelling to New Zealand in 2022 for the IBCPC (International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission) Dragon Boast Festival. Every four years this event brings together breast cancer survivor paddlers from around the world. Participating in numerous races they demonstrate there is life after breast cancer. DAA on behalf of members has facilitated registration of several composite teams.

DAA's position as a voting member of AusDBF was consolidated during the year. This role as a member equal to the State affiliates of the national body is important for our member groups. As well as recognition of the role DAA has played in growing the sport in Australia over the past 21 years, it gives us a seat at the table when decisions which affect our members are being made.

In May AusDBF established a Working Group to plan for "back on the water" and also the future growth of the sport. Many sporting groups have experienced significant loss as members unable to get in boats have found alternative fitness avenues. DAA is represented on this group by Board member Pat Hancock.

As Dragons Abreast Australia concludes another year we are planning for a future that ensures the legacy of DAA will remain. Our goal is to ensure all breast cancer survivors are aware of the benefits of paddling after treatment.



The Business of DAA

Board Update

Board members play an important role ensuring Dragons Abreast Australia achieves its strategic objectives. This year we welcomed Gemma Bawden (Canberra) and Ross Halfacree (Sydney) to the Board. Their knowledge, expertise and business experience will greatly benefit DAA.

In November 2019 the Board said farewell and thank you to Director Marion Blake. Marion has been an active member of DAA for many years. She was Coordinator of our Canberra group before joining the Board. For many years Marion coordinated our successful Darling Harbour Festival. Her commitment and support has been very much appreciated. You will be missed

Vale Megan Tozer

Megan Tozer, Board Director, passed away 10th May 2020. This was very sad news and although Megan was only on the Board a short time she gave so much. Megan assisted DAA with many projects. Her smiling face, positive attitude, energy, and commitment to DAA will be missed.

We are thankful we had the opportunity to know Megan and work with her. Megan was an avid paddler and one of her greatest joys was being with her group on the water.





Conclusion

Thanks and Appreciation

As we conclude another year, there are so many to acknowledge for our success. First thanks to our Brisbane office staff for their commitment to DAA and the excellent work they do every day supporting our members and groups.

Karen Jones – Office Manager

Vanessa Scott – Communications Guru

Collette McCaffrey – Bookkeeper Expert

Sincere thanks to our groups and over 1100 members for your support and being amazing representatives of DAA. Every time you are on the water paddling you demonstrate what DAA is all about. You inspire other survivors and each other. You are the true backbone of DAA and the reason why DAA exists.

To our Sponsors and other Supporters thank you for your contributions. You believe in what we do and that encourages every one of us to continue and achieve DAA's mission.

The Dragons Abreast core values remain:

- Promotion of a healthy and positive outlook towards life after diagnosis
- Competition is secondary to camaraderie and the provision of a supportive post treatment environment; and
- Assist in raising breast cancer awareness within the community, helping to change associated stigma

Mabel Sansom

Mabel Sansom, Chair

On behalf of the Dragons Abreast Australia Board

Pat Hancock

Pru Menzies

Anne Stowe

Gemma Bawden

Ross Halfacree

30 June 2020