

DANT GOSS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006



What a great start to 2006.

COME & TRY

Our first Come & Try for 2006 was held on 19 January and was a great success. Six of us collected the boats from their berth. I was absolutely astounded when we rounded the bend to see so many people standing on the beach. At first I thought there must be another event being held, but no, everyone was there to 'Have a Go'. The numbers there sent Pat & Trish into a fluster as they had to race out and buy more sausages. After 50 minutes the two boats arrived back on the beach full of weary, wet paddlers and despite being hot and puffed, got out of the boats with smiles on their faces saying that they had thoroughly enjoyed the paddling and would return and looked forward to being involved in the 2006 Australia Day/Chinese New Year Regatta.



Alan giving instruction to "Newbies"

DANT MEMBERSHIP

Dragons Abreast NT-Paddlers on Mission is offering Associate Membership until the end of June 2006 for \$20. 00. This entitles you to membership to DANT and Dragons Abreast Australia. This will be reviewed again in June.



NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to Pauline Tauschke and our first junior paddler Courtney Hart.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Welcome to our first Associate Member Helen Smith.

REBIRTH OF SUNSHINE

The rebirth of Sunshine took place on January 24 at the Darwin Sailing Club. We had about 140 people attend, including the Minister for Sport & Recreation, Delia Lawrie, several other politicians, our outgoing and incoming Patron and most importantly our very generous new sponsor Arthur Hamilton and staff from Shorelands. As most of you will know Arthur and Shorelands were responsible for the maintenance and new paint job for Sunshine, our first Dragon Boat. The Buddhist Monks performed a traditional ceremony of opening the Dragons eyes which was followed by the Lion Dancers.

Rosemary McQuaid donated a sum of money to Dragons Abreast NT and to keep her spirit with us it was decided that the money, in conjunction with Shorelands, would go towards a new drum. The drum has been made and is awaiting its new skin before it can be used.

We can now very proudly paddle Sunshine on the water with her fresh coat of paint through the generous sponsorship from Arthur Hamilton of Shorelands.

A big **THANKYOU** to Shorelands and the Darwin Sailing Club for supporting the evening.



SUNSHINE

SHORELANDS SPONSORSHIP

Due to the generous sponsorship from Arthur Hamilton of Shorelands Dragons Abreast NT-Paddlers on a Mission along with the maintenance of Sunshine also have new pink rashie tops and a lovely Pink Trailer to cart all our gear around. Won't we look good with the Pink Barbeque trailer and our new trailer at events - certainly won't be missed.

Shorelands commitment to Dragons Abreast NT is to fund or assist in the funding for the promotion and running of events and or activities.





Arthur Hamilton, Sunshine, Carolyn Richards and Paddlers on a Mission member at the Rebirth of Sunshine

DBNT 2006 AUSTRALIA DAY/ CHINESE NEW YEAR REGATTA

Despite overcast skies and rough weather the DBNT Australia Day/Chinese New Year Regatta was well attended and enjoyed.

Dragons Abreast NT-Paddlers on a Mission entered three teams. Dragons Abreast NT - Mixed, Breast Friends-Novice Mixed and Have A Go - Novice Mixed. We also trained four other novice groups Bits & Pieces - a group from School Sport NT, Student Services, Curriculum Services and SHORELANDS. A great time was had by all with plenty of healthy competition between the Novice teams. All the DANT-Paddlers on a Mission wore our new **PINK** rashies. It was a wonderful sight to see so much **PINK** on the day, including some brief glimpses on the evening ABC News. The SHORELANDS team proudly wore the Rashies. Their first race on the day was in Sunshine.

The next Regatta is on the 26 March - DBNT Harmony Day Regatta and we hope to see these teams enter again.



Paddlers on a Mission sporting our new Pink Rashie tops

HOSPICE

The stained glasses windows in the doors of the Reflection Room of the Hospice were fitted earlier this month and look lovely featuring a tropical Wetlands PINK theme. These were donated by Dragons Abreast NT-Paddlers on a Mission and NT Breast Cancer Voice. A small article and photo were published in the Darwin Sun.

PATRON

Welcome to our new Patron Carolyn Richards the NT Ombudswoman. Carolyn has attended the rebirth of Sunshine and our regatta. I'll leave giving you more details about her as I want to feature her in our next Goss.

Thankyou to Sue Carter for the outstanding job she did as Dragons Abreast NT-Paddlers on a Mission's Patron over the years.



Carolyn Richards & Sue Carter

FOR YOUR DIARIES

NT BREAST CANCER VOICE FORUM

Friday 3 February 5.00-7.00pm. To be held in the NTBCV & DANT Community Room, Cavenagh City Centre Building (up the escalator by Tandy's), 24 Cavenagh Street, Darwin.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT MEETING

Monday 13 February 5.00 – 6.00pm. To be held in the Cancer Council Rooms

INTRA CLUB CHALLENGE

We are holding our Intra Club Challenge at Cullen Bay – Kahlin Oval end - on Thursday 16 February. PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT OUR CLUB IN ATTENDING THIS SESSION. Teams will be organised on the evening. We will end the Challenge with a sausage sizzle and drinks.

DBNT INTER CLUB CHALLENGE

Sunday 19 February. More information as it comes to hand.

COME & TRY

Thursday 23 February. All members welcome.

NTBCV QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 3 March. More information as it comes to hand

DRAGONS ABREAST NT-PADDLERS ON A MISSION

Our AGM will be held on Saturday 25 March at 10.00am in the DANT/NTBCV Community Room in Cavenagh City Centre Building, Cavenagh Street Darwin. All position will be declared vacant. Anyone wishing to be part of our Management Committee and would like more information please contact me on 0419808762.

SHORELANDS-DRAGONS ABREAST NT MANDORAH CHALLENGE

We are hoping to enter a team in this event. To do so we need a commitment from members for training. The proposed date for this is Saturday May 6 - this is subject to favourable weather conditions.

The Mandorah Challenge is being sponsored by Shorelands, with a very generous and fantastic prize for the winning boat being offered. Boats will leave from the Darwin Sailing Club, paddle to Mandorah and return to the Darwin Sailing Club as a round trip. The round trip is approximately 32km. Entry forms will be available very soon. DBNT, the NT's peak paddling body is sanctioning this event.

Some points to note before teams put entries forward.

Teams may be no less than 12 and no more than 16 paddlers.

Teams may not be comprised of more than 50% males.

Teams must make a commitment to prior training and have proof of a minimum level of training for this event, which will include endurance paddling in the Darwin Harbour on Sunday mornings. TBA.

Handicaps will apply depending on the paddling ability of the teams entered.
An entry fee per paddler will apply TBA.
Safety boats will accompany the dragon boats for the round trip.
For further information contact Pauline Deslandes or Judy Smith

ORD RIVER MARATHON

Some preliminary information regarding this annual event.
The Kununurra Dragonboat Club organise this event each year. The 2006 Marathon will be held on the Queen's Birthday weekend in June. The marathon is approximately 55 km in length. Teams will need to be of 14 to 16 paddlers. Teams entering must commit to prior training which will include Darwin Harbour endurance training of Sunday mornings of up to 2 hours paddling. Entry fees do apply - more information will be forthcoming from the Kununurra club.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

January cheers to Daryl Florance and Bonita Fong.
February cheers to Alan Culbertson, Jill Finch, Judy Florance, Dave Haydon and Michelle Villafior. All the best and none of you look a day older than ??????

"NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED"

