

CALOUNDRA WEEKLY

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Pink paddlers may be coming to Coast Bid to set up local breast cancer survivors' dragon boat club

They're paddlers with a difference. These pink ladies — and men as well — have a cause and they want to spread the word.

The Dragons Abreast paddlers are a group of breast cancer survivors who aim to raise awareness of the disease while having fun and being involved in a challenging activity.

One of the members is Lexie Warren, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2003 at the age of 38. She underwent immediate surgery, followed by chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Her latest results came back clear, but she still takes each day as it comes.

"I didn't know anyone my age with breast cancer — it was something (I thought) older women got," Miss Warren said.

"When I was told, it was total devastation."

When Miss Warren heard about Dragons Abreast Australia, a paddling group for survivors of breast

cancer, she joined the Brisbane-based club, which is called Missa-bittahiti.

As you can see, these survivors not only have courage and strength, but a sense of humour.

The team of paddlers is one of many in Australia. They all aim to give a face to the breast cancer statistics.

Under the umbrella of the Australian Breast Cancer Network, the teams compete at state, national and international levels.

And the Sunshine Coast could be home to the next Dragons Abreast club.

Miss Warren recently spoke with the Caloundra Rotary Club about supporting Dragons Abreast's quest to develop a new club on the Coast.

Backing the cause, the Rotary club has worked with local cancer-support groups to gauge interest and promote this Saturday's "come and try day" at Lake Kawana. Nicklin Way.

Rotary club member and Shelly Beach resident Alf Muller said the cancer cause was close to his heart — his daughter, Rosanne, is a survivor of breast cancer and member of Dragons Abreast.

"There is a great comradeship between the members and it is a support mechanism for each other," Mr Muller said. "Rosanne loves the friendship that's generated by all the members overcoming all these difficulties. It would be wonderful if the Sunshine Coast had this opportunity."

Survivors, their families and anyone else interested is encouraged to attend the day at Lake Kawana, which is on between 12.30pm and 4pm. The Caloundra Rotary Club is also holding a free sausage sizzle.

For more information about the event, contact Alf Muller on 5491 9758 or, for more information about Dragons Abreast, phone 1300 889 566 or log on to www.dragons-abreast.com.au

Australia's biggest killer



my view™
by
Weekly
reporter
Candice
Holzrangel

Breast cancer survivor and Brisbane Dragons Abreast member Lexie Warren is no different. She recalled her battle with the disease for this week's story on the paddling group.

Miss Warren is one of a handful of people trying to raise interest for a Sunshine Coast Dragons Abreast group, with a "come and try day" at Lake Kawana this weekend.

Dragons Abreast is comprised of breast cancer survivors who spread awareness on the issue. After speaking with Miss Warren,

I went home and turned on the television to hear the news that pop idol Kylie Minogue has breast cancer. It hit home that cancer can affect anybody — young, old or famous. So it's time we took action to spread the word about cancer prevention and join fundraising efforts to beat Australia's biggest killer. I know I'll be having a cuppa for tomorrow's Biggest Morning Tea — will you?

Contact: holzrangel@scnews.com.au to tell your story. We love hearing from our readers.

Quote of the week . . .

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we had when we created them."
— Einstein

PROFILE

Good stuff

Ally's life in the charity sector