

Jenny Yule
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Jenny Yule has been particularly involved in Vancouver, Canada raising awareness about breast cancer in young women. She became a member of Abreast In A Boat (AIAB) in 1997, the second year for this team, and has worked hard for AIAB, captaining and managing teams and mentoring many novices. Currently she is coaching AIAB novices which she loves doing. Appreciating her own experience, from the outset Jenny has emphasized the importance of inclusiveness and participation and the significant benefits these bring to breast cancer survivors. Jenny has also supported and encouraged teams in Poland, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, England and Italy, and has watched with awe as breast cancer survivor paddling has spread around the world bringing its benefits to all who paddle. She was fortunate to be at the launch of the first team in England in 2004.

In 2005 Jenny co-chaired with Jane Frost the Ten Years Abreast Celebration in Vancouver, Canada to celebrate AIAB's tenth season. The planning and orchestrating of this event was a major project that Jenny took on with great enthusiasm and energy. She managed the committee of over twenty people and did an outstanding job keeping everyone working together.

In 2007 Dragons Abreast Australia hosted a second International Participatory Festival at Caloundra. Approximately 45 teams charged a Steering Committee with the responsibility of formulating a process for choosing festival hosts and of preparing a structure for an international organisation. Jenny was one of five members of the steering committee.

This year, 2010, at Peterborough the International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission (IBCPC) held its inaugural Congress where over 70 teams became members. Most importantly, the Constitution and By-laws for the Commission, primarily drafted by Jenny and Jane Frost, were approved. Jenny has worked diligently as the keeper of the notes, decisions and activities of the steering committee over the past three years. She has co-ordinated the work of the committee, keeping it focused and organized.

In 2009 Jenny was captain of a Canadian breast cancer dragon boat team, Forza Rosa. This team traveled to Venice, Italy to paddle with Italian breast cancer teams in the Vogalonga, a 32 kilometer event for all kinds of paddled vessels. (Visit www.forzarosa.com) She knew instinctively that this was an important opportunity to support the Italian women and, in Europe, to spread the message of life, love and laughter that women with breast cancer demonstrate while paddling.

Jenny Yule was born and educated in Wales and came to Canada in the 1960s. She recently retired from teaching and volunteers her free time to community work. She was diagnosed with breast cancer when her children were four and seven. Her family and friends continues to give inspirational support to her paddling commitment.