

KIA ORA. GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT KNOW ME, MY NAME IS TREA KENNY AND I AM THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF BUSTING WITH LIFE.

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AND HONOUR TO WARMLY WELCOME YOU HERE TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE - THE 10TH BIRTHDAY OF BUSTING WITH LIFE DRAGON BOAT TEAM.

WE ESPECIALLY WELCOME THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELLED SOME DISTANCE TO BE WITH US TONIGHT, AND I ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SPECIAL GUEST, MARIE GOUDGE FROM BREAST CANCER SUPPORT. THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR CELEBRATION TONIGHT.

THIS EVENING IS NOT ABOUT A LOT OF FORMALITY. THERE WILL BE ONLY 2 OTHER SPEECHES.

- AFTER THE MAIN COURSE WE WILL HEAR FROM TRICI NELSON - WITHOUT HER DREAM TO PADDLE, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.
- THEN AFTER DESSERT WE WILL HEAR FROM MARCIA FRASER WHO PICKED UP THE BATTON AND ENSURED THAT THE TEAM WOULD EVOLVE.

IT IS TESTIMENT TO THEM BOTH THAT THE TEAM ENDURES TODAY.

WHEN I WAS THINKING ABOUT THIS WELCOME ADDRESS AND WHAT TO SAY, I WONDERED - WHAT HAS BEEN THE TEAM'S GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

- WAS IT THE FIRST TIME WE WON A RACE?
- WAS IT BUYING OUR OWN BOAT?
- WAS IT WHEN WE BECAME AN INCORPORATED SOCIETY?
- WAS IT WINNING SILVER IN THE FIRST BREAST CANCER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP?
- OR IS IT THAT WE CAN FOOT IT AGAINST THE MIXED TEAMS?

WELL, THESE THINGS ARE ALL SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS, AND THERE ARE MANY, MANY MORE. YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT THE BOARDS TO THE SIDE AND AT THE TROPHYS TO SEE SOME OF OUR TANGIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE YEARS.

BUT TO ME THE REAL MEASURE OF THIS TEAM IS ALL OF YOU:

- YOUR HEART
- YOUR PERSONAL TRIUMPHS
- YOUR COURAGE
- YOUR LAUGHTER AND YOUR TEARS
- YOUR PASSION
- YOUR GUTS AND DETERMINATION
- YOUR SPIRIT

IT IS OUR DIVERSITY THAT GIVES US STRENGTH AND ALLOWS US TO PADDLE AS ONE.

ALL OF YOU ARE TESTIMENT TO RISING ABOVE ADVERSITY AND YOU ARE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BUSTING WITH LIFE.

THIS NIGHT IS ABOUT YOU AND FOR YOU- ENJOY

NOW I WILL ASK MISHA CROSBIE TO COME FORWARD AND BLESS OUR TIME TOGETHER.

Acknowledging 6 team members who have been with the team since day 1:

Clare Brown
Irene Muller
Jennifer Terry
Linley Rivers
Pauline Gill
Robyn Brown

These ladies have been committed to the team for 10 years. How amazing is that and they still give all they have, not only on race day but throughout the whole season. In the time I have been with the team I can hardly remember a practice when one of them hasn't been there. That is true dedication, commitment and love of the team and the sport. The current team wanted to acknowledge and honour you and this is a token of the esteem in which you are held. Trici, will you do the honours please.