

Dragon boat racers celebrate Chinese New Year

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Dragon boat racing hit the Auckland viaduct today with crews from around the country competing for a shot at international glory.

But for one of the teams there was another reason for taking part - the determined faces of the Pink Dragons, a team of breast cancer survivors who have banded together to promote awareness and empower sufferers.

Today they are among 30 corporate and social teams celebrating the Chinese New Year with dragon boat racing in Auckland's viaduct.

"I think what they're really doing is celebrating life. They've found a great way to do it because it shows that you don't have to be young fit or healthy to do the sport you can be anything you want to probably the hardest competitors we have are the breast cancer ladies they take it very seriously." says Gavin Franicevic the event organiser.

And so do the organisers, recently purchasing 12 traditional boats from China to celebrate the sports 2000-year-old origins.

"We wanted to get back to the authentic roots of the sport and we thought there was no better place to do that than bringing the boats in from China." Franicevic says.