



RATLINES – OCTOBER, 2020

The official newsletter of the
Wooden Boat Association of Cairns, Inc.
ABN 56 194 994 249

Welcome to the October Edition of Ratlines!

But first:

Club News:

Regular clubhouse sessions: ...are still every Tuesday and Saturday from around 7:30/8:00 AM. We usually finish around midday, but that's flexible.

- **Charity Status:** The registration of WBAC as a charitable organization has taken another significant step forward with the development of the website into a usable, finished format demonstrated by Sheila this month. It was agreed to 'put it into production' as it was, the website host has now been selected and agreed, and it's planned to be published on-line before the end of this month! Our thanks must go to Sheila Sparks and Roger Fryer for the huge number of hours and effort put into all this!
- **Mail:** Our mailing address is still in the process of being changed to 68 Tingira Street, Portsmith. QLD 4870. This to remove the reliance on – and the cost of – an Australia Post Mail Box.

Ports North Master Plan: There are no changes to the Master Plan at this time.

Insurance: Up to date.

Incorporation: Our financials are currently with the auditors in preparation for our annual return to the Dept of Fair Trading.

Clubhouse:

- New timber workbenches: The new, new woodworking vices have arrived and have been fitted. The benches are up & running.
- Remember, we have all sorts of boat stainless steel fittings, bits & pieces, etc, so check us first.
- Sorting of our library collection has been taken in hand by Dermot, and boy has he taken to it with a vengeance. Books in the clubhouse are being sorted out at this time with only historical, club, manuals & warranties, and books of reference being retained in there. All others go into the library where extra shelving has been installed with more to come. A library computer programme (around \$80 in total) has been approved but more investigation on which one is suitable is being done – also by Dermot. Once complete our collection will be quite impressive, visible, and researchable.
- The Club's Christmas Dinner will be held at the Cairns Cruising Yacht Club on Saturday, November 28th. Details will be sent from WBACairns@gmail.com very shortly.

Boatbuilding Projects:

Roger's 15' strip planked canoe continues at home and the seats are finished. The rumours surrounding his steamboat being re-engined with a 350 Chev V8 are not true. Or are they....?



Tom's Pathfinder:

Tom continues with his possibly unhealthy attachment to his random orbital sander and his attempt to get the 'just right' finish on the upper deck. We're hoping to attract a psychologist as a member to help with the .. er .. decks.

Our suggestions that he should just go ahead and coat them with tar impregnated with beach sand have fallen on deaf ears to date, but we're just biding our time.... Lennie would have been pleased, though.



Brendon's Hartley:

Recent events (detailed later in this edition) have conspired again to keep us away from jumping into the Flareline en masse, but that doesn't mean nothing's been done. Brendon, Glen and others have progressively stripped the steering mechanism for repair, finding a number of dodgy repairs done by previous owners/suppliers in the process. The repairers will ensure things are done right this time.

October Committee Meeting:

The minutes for this meeting are attached. As an addition, it's pleasing to note that we have had three new members joining this month.

Gambling Fund Grant.

The last of our equipment arrived this month, and Roger successfully submitted the final acquittal shortly after. A huge round of thanks must go to Roger for his diligence, attention to detail, and long hours spent achieving a fantastic result.

I did notice, however, that he was quite speechless when we asked him when the next round of grants was going to be available. He also had a bit of a Procol Harum moment (went a whiter shade of pale) at that time, probably that tummy bug that's going around.

The 68 Tingira St compound update.

This update is getting to be a regular thing of late, and this month is no exception. No sooner were we sitting back and congratulating ourselves on achieving all we had done than a fly turned up in the ointment.

For those that didn't know it, the blue container belonged to a local fishing club and their container was given to us via a handshake deal years ago on a 'permanent loan' basis in exchange for lockable storage space in one of our containers (adjacent to where the library is now.)

Well, it seems the flies' idea of permanent is different to the rest of the world and they advised us at short notice they intended to remove the container. Their timing was absolutely terrible and their attitude in conducting themselves was even worse, so much so that involvement of the police was considered at one stage. Nevertheless, their container was removed (Friday 23rd Oct) after we had moved all our goods & equipment again and detached the new roof. There is much more to this story, but that will suffice for now.

That left us with a huge gap where a container used to be. To the rescue was my eldest son who works locally, and his employers were disposing of a 20' container that was surplus to needs and beyond economical repair. To cut a very long story very short, a replacement container was gifted to us the same day as the blue container left. In fact, no more than 3 hours passed from when blue left and red was lifted into exactly the same position! A great deal of thanks must go to my Number 1 Son and all his efforts on our behalf.

Fortune must have been smiling on us that day, because whilst the move was under way Doctor Tom arrived to view the proceedings and dropped off a plain brown paper bag of currency to cover the cost of craneage and transport for the new container. Thanks Tom, your support for the club has been considerable over the years and is very much appreciated.

Fortune was apparently in a very good mood that day, for when I arrived at Century Cranes to pay the bill, their manager had already dropped it from close to \$400 down to \$214.50. Then, when I paid in cash the bill was dropped again to \$200! Tom's donation was \$500, so you can do the math on the remainder going into our account. Thanks again Tom!

Saturday 24th October dawned with Marc at the clubhouse (and I really mean dawned – the bugger was there at about 6 AM) setting up for the attachment of the new roof to the newer container, and that was completed that day! Again, many thanks to Marc for his untiring effort, plus all our members who – as always – rolled up their sleeves and just got into the job wholeheartedly.

Red container in position



Roof attached, and complete, again.



Finally, the silver lining in all this is:

- We now have no more handshake deals to sort out and deal with;
- All the buildings, containers and equipment within our boundaries belongs to the WBAC;
- Our tenancy agreement is secure (we have the signed documentation);
- Our area in the compound has increased in size;
- Our assets have increased substantially;
- We owe nothing to nobody;
- We are relatively financially secure with our finances for coming years planned and covered;
and
- Once again we have proved that we really have a great team! Well done to you all!

This concludes Ratlines for October 2020, if there's more you want to see or know about please let us know by return email – WBACairns@gmail.com

Chris O'Keefe
President

Clubhouse: 68 Tingira Street, Portsmith, (Cairns) Qld 4870

Committee is: President- Chris O'Keefe; Vice President- Marc Richards; Secretary- Roger Fryer; Treasurer- Brendon O'Rourke; Committeemen- Glen Chisholm, Phill Smith and Tom Sparks.

Build days: Every Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Other days available on request.

Website: Currently being revised.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Wooden-Boat-Association-of-Cairns-118900728480121/>

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