



RATLINES – AUGUST, 2020
The official newsletter of the
Wooden Boat Association of Cairns, Inc.
ABN 56 194 994 249

Welcome to the August Edition of Ratlines!

But first:

Club News:

Regular clubhouse sessions: Every Tuesday and Saturday from around 7:30/8:00 AM you'll find us at the clubhouse at 68 Tingira Street.

Charity Status: Brendon's still on it, update when successful.

Mail: Our mailing address is now being changed to 68 Tingira Street, Portsmith. QLD 4870. Yes, the mail system actually works, with a trial mail article being sent to our clubhouse and duly delivered into our letterbox. We are amazed.

Ports North Master Plan: See Update later in this edition.

Insurance: Up to date.

Clubhouse:

- The new timber workbenches are finished. We attempted to fit the new woodworking vices but both were found to be faulty and returned to the supplier. Awaiting acceptable replacements.
- All sorting of fastenings, fittings, bits & pieces is done. Remember, if you see the need for stainless yacht fittings, contact us first!
- Sorting of the innumerable books & magazines in our library will continue for probably the next year. Or more.....
- Some of the fluoros in the clubhouse have failed, and replacement is being undertaken, expected completion this week.
- The computer in the clubhouse is quite old, and in computer terms it's positively pre-dinosaur. Roger is slowly going through it's myriad files and copying all the essentials to our club laptop. A difficult and tedious job, but one step at a time..

Boatbuilding Projects:

Note: Our projects have been considerably interrupted over the past months what with preparations for Tinaroo, secret squirrel projects all over the place, the re-organisation and cleanup of the site and buildings and so forth. Some very recent developments on-site have added to the delays, but that's covered later in the newsletter.

Roger's 15' strip planked canoe continues. Seats are well advanced and ready for installation of the rattan cane inserts..



Tom's Pathfinder: Cockpit seating almost complete, centreboard about to be fitted, boomkin retainer made & fitted, upper deck painting complete, cockpit coaming to commence shortly, tabernacle support pillar made, to be fitted shortly.

Brendon's Hartley:

Now that the 'difficulties' with Qld transport and their processes have been sorted out in Brendon's favour, the Flareline has been duly loaded up and now resides in workbay 1 at the clubhouse. It was a tad squeeze in length, breadth and height, but she now looks quite snug in her temporary home, as you can see.



Monthly Committee Meeting:

Next meeting Saturday 12th September at 10:30 AM.

Gambling Fund Grant.

The grant fund has now been initially acquitted by Secretary Roger. An application to purchase further tools & spares with the remaining funds was approved and extras duly purchased. Final acquittal is due mid September.

Ports North Master Plan and 68 Tingira St compound update!

Much has happened in recent weeks, and all to WBAC's advantage. To start with, we have no further official news regarding the master plan, but with recent events we feel that WBAC will remain at the 68 Tingira Street compound for the foreseeable future.

A few weeks back we put a request to PN to move the blue container from its original position to a spot opposite the orange container, and for the compound's internal boundaries to be altered accordingly. We expected the request to be looked at eventually and perhaps agreed sometime in the future. How wrong we were, for it seems that our request caused a watershed of changes!

Within a week, PN agreed to the move & re-arrangement of boundaries and the end result is that WBAC has gained approximately 50 extra square metres in area, and our southern boundary is now just south of the orange container extending from the eastern fence to the western fence (boat ramp side to the Tingira Street side).

Of course, that meant we had to move the blue container, which meant new concrete footings had to be dug, formworked & poured. Marc leapt into full project design mode, laid out all the site levelling & marker requirements, organized the excavator, helped box up for the concrete, and then led our willing team in laying pavers, pouring concrete and finishing it all off. The photos tell most of the story, and I'm sure the sales of painkillers & ibuprofen went up considerably in the past fortnight.

The initial cleanup and levelling of the on-site fill, and excavation of container footings.



Of course, with our land area expanding that meant a reduction in area for the other organisations on the site. That's another whole story in itself, but the end result is that the remaining area has been divided in two between the Cairns Maritime Museum and the Cairns Dragon Boat Club with both having their own gate access from Tingira Street. Eventually, funding will be sought for fences to keep all the clubs separate for both security and peace of mind reasons.

Here you can see the pavers going down and two of the container footings boxed up and ready for the concrete pour.



Backbreaking work, but satisfying. Frequent coffee breaks helped enormously.



No job is finished, until it's *finished!*



You can see in the above right hand shot that the container footings have heavy chain inserts for securing the containers. We have duplicated the original footings in this case.

Footings poured, paver insert slab being finished off. If you were wondering why there is a concrete insert, the answer is quite simple: we ran out of pavers (this also means we no longer have a pile of pavers laying around waiting for a cyclone). Final shot is Roger barrowing leftovers to the front of the grey container to haunch up the paved area and stop any further subsidence.



Soon, in a couple of weeks, we'll have the blue container moved into position, the club trailer next to it for a bit of advertising, and then we can get back to wooden boats, hopefully.

- We must apologise again for the lack of our regular article of [A Bloke and His Boat](#). We've been a tad busy of late, and there's a certain amount of shyness involved, however next month's the charm and we'll be looking at another of our members.
- It's never too early for the Christmas Dinner booking, and this year there's another factor involved. Our last year's function facility has closed due to the coronavirus and will not re-open. If anyone has a suitable venue in mind, please advise any member of the committee or email their idea to WBACairns@gmail.com
- Of course we're assuming gatherings will be allowed at that time, but rest assured we're keeping an eye on all developments.

This concludes Ratlines for August 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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