



RATLINES – SEPTEMBER, 2020

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

Welcome to the September 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:** Brendon's still on the registration of WBAC as a charitable organization. This process has been ongoing for some time, with Brendon slowly ironing out the kinks in the process. One of the kinks has been the requirement for a dynamic, up to date website and a great deal of planning has been going into the development and fleshing out of the new one. A great deal of thanks must go to John Knight, Roger Fryer, and Sheila and Tom Sparks for work done to date. More on this development when available, but it won't be long from all reports.

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: See latest Update later in this edition.

Insurance: Up to date.

Clubhouse:

- New timber workbenches: We're awaiting acceptable woodworking vice replacements.
- All sorts of boat stainless steel fittings, bits & pieces are stored away in our collection and we can actually find them now...! Remember, if you have a need for stainless yacht fittings, contact us first – we're easy and cheap!
- Sorting of the innumerable books & magazines in our library will continue as time becomes available (and we may have another volunteer to do the sorting & cataloguing). Once done, we consider this will be a valuable club asset.
- Clubhouse fluoros are repaired, with two faulty items replaced.
- We're still planning to have the Club's Christmas Dinner in early December, and it looks as though the virus restrictions will be reduced significantly by then, although we'll still monitor the situation. We still need a venue, so if you have an idea please notify any of the committee or email your idea to WBACairns@gmail.com . If there are no suggestions we will have to cancel the dinner.

Boatbuilding Projects:

Roger's 15' strip planked canoe continues at home. Seats are well advanced and ready for installation of the rattan cane inserts, but he's had to carry out some repairs to his steamboat so no photos this month. ...and no, he doesn't like being called Steamboat Willy – just in case you were wondering.

Tom's Pathfinder: The last 4 weeks have seen a significant amount of progress despite everything also going on. The tabernacle support has been built and installed. And the centreboard is now installed and operational! Marc has designed & drawn the rudder pintles, and machining & colour-matching of timber for the transom and the cockpit coamings has commenced.



Brendon's Hartley:

As previously stated, this lovely girl has been on the backburner since arrival, but so far Brendon has managed to remove the motor and concentrate on the hull inspection to identify the remaining trouble spots.

September Committee Meeting:

The September meeting was cancelled due to a number of absences. The remaining members had an interim meeting to discuss and agree on a number of items, and the item list is attached to this newsletter. They will be ratified at the next meeting - Saturday 10th October at 10:30 AM.

Gambling Fund Grant.

The grant fund has had it's initial acquittal. As we're still waiting for resolution of the faulty woodworking vices, we've had to postpone final acquittal until November.

Ports North Master Plan and 68 Tingira St compound update.

We covered the preparations and the ton of work done to set up for the move quite comprehensively in the last issue of Ratlines. The move of the container was done very quickly indeed. In fact, from the time of **Century Cranes** being contacted to do the move to the time they were finished was no more than 90 minutes (25 minutes for the actual crane move). A great team of very helpful people and they did the whole move at no cost to us!



With the move completed, this means that we are now compliant with all of the requirements of Ports North's tenancy agreement. It has taken a heap of blood, sweat and tears by our members to achieve all of the above, and all concerned deserve a sincere pat on the back and the time to sit back, relax, and swap stories over coffee and Tim Tams.

But not just yet.....

One of the things that we all noted was very desirable is a weatherproof cover over the hardstand between the two southern containers, so we all hatched a plan to do just that! Timber bearers have been lifted into position over the hardstand, bolted onto already fixed brackets, and a corrugated iron roof laid on and joined to the existing skillion roof. Expected completion this week.



Bearers, purlins, battens.



Roof sheeting including a lucite sheet for illumination.



A small amount of trimming, sealing, flashing and insulation and she'll be done.

This concludes Ratlines for September 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/>

Phone: 0407 757 949 (Chris)

Email: WBACairns@gmail.com

Impromptu Club Meeting @ 1030, Saturday 5th September (To be ratified at the October Committee Meeting)

Present were: Chris O'Keefe; Marc Richards; Brendon O'Rourke; Glen Chisholm; Tom Sparks; John Knight; Dermot Smyth. Roger & Phill unable to attend.

First up, Brendon advised that we had \$6,800.15 in the bank.

Second, our costs (all paid) for the container relocation have come to: \$762.05

This covers purchase of cracker dust, site levelling, container footings excavation, boxing up footings, readymix concrete delivery, concrete premix for paving, chain, etc. The container's craneage was donated by Century Cranes. All agreed it was a very cheap move, facilitated by a lot of blood, sweat & groans of pain by our dedicated team.

Third, We discussed and all agreed that building a solid roof between the orange & blue containers was absolutely essential, and would effectively finish off that area. We already have suitable lengths of the necessary sized hardwood for use as bearers, and Marc has already supplied a design for the roof installation. Estimated remaining cost is in the region of \$300 - \$400 for roofing iron, purlins, brackets & fastenings, etc..

Fourth, Cleaning of the blue container was desirable as it's 'a bit grubby & weatherworn', and it's roof has corrosion that requires attention - sooner rather than later. Cleaning was agreed as needed, roof should be recoated - probably with tar (thanks Lennie) - and we should very soon look at repainting all the containers in one standard colour (colour yet to be agreed).

Fifth, One final, large dump run is required to get rid of all the remaining detritus & rubbish gathered over the years.

Sixth. With the ongoing discussion about paving or sealing the floor of work bay 2, CO'K put forward a suggestion that instead of concrete or pavers, perhaps we should look at a different floor, such as H4 treated pine sleepers. Such sleepers are currently available in size: 3M X 200mm X 50mm at around \$23.00 each. To cover an area of 6M X 4M we would need around 50 in total plus concrete to bed them into - around \$1400 in total, and then we would have, in effect, a mould loft floor. Not something we have to decide in the short term, but something to think about.

Finally, Kevin Malone at Ports North has been advised that we have complied with the boundary requirements and our rearrangement of assets is complete. We now await PN's signed copy of the tenancy agreement.

Meeting finished at 10:50.

Update as of Tuesday 8th September:

Roofing for the container lobby is on site. Dump run has been done.

Thanks again for all your combined efforts gentlemen, well done!

Chris.