

Cooktown Re-enactment Boats – Revival

The re-enactment of Captain (Lt) James Cook's arrival in FNQ to repair his damaged ship 'HMAS Endeavour', after a rather serious reef encounter in 1770, has become a feature of the annual three-day event known as the "Cooktown Discovery Festival". Each June thousands of visitors flock to this remote frontier port to celebrate everything 'Cookie'.



The Cooktown Re-enactment Association (CRA) has acquired/replicated costumes, muskets and other regalia of the 18th century to provide an authentic and entertaining recreation of the actual landing and proclamation of Cooktown. The two re-enactment boats used in this portrayal were acquired about 25 years ago for their likeness to the original long boats of the

Endeavour and still play an integral and indispensable role in the spectacle. The boats also featured in the recent ABC television series of Captain Cook, re-enacting the historic landing in Botany Bay (although this was actually filmed on the Endeavour River FNQ)

Sadly, for the other 362 days of the year, these ex-Tangalooma Whalers (one believed to be 100 yrs old) sit idle, suffering the ravages of exposure and lack of maintenance, and now face uncertain participation in future re-enactments without substantial repairs.

The Wooden Boat Association of Cairns has been invited to undertake restoration of the vessels and as joint club project - with WBAC providing the expertise and labour and CRA arranging funding and materials. The boats are currently being prepared for transport to Cairns for this work, the initial task being to return one completed vessel to Cooktown for next years re-enactment. Queensland's 150th will be celebrated in 2009 and WBAC's endeavour (pun) is to have both vessels looking their very best for this special event.



One hundred year old 'Flying Fish', a double ended clinker build whaler, awaits shipment to Cairns for restoration

WBAC has prepared a report detailing the extent and programming of restoration works, and members of both clubs looking forward to preserving these historic vessels.

Ratlines

NEWSLETTER



November 2007
Issue 27

Wooden Boat Association of Cairns Inc.

All correspondence to:-
The Secretary
38 English Street Manunda 4870

Web site
New website—TBA

Contacts

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Secretary.....Dale Murray 07 4032 1895
Treasurer.....
Committee.....Greg Hall 07 4053 4808
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A.G.M. & Christmas Lunch

Saturday
8th Dec 2007

AGM 12 noon - Lunch 1 pm
Details inside

NEW ROLE FOR TIMELESS THESPIAN

Gertie used to be a *real* boat once, before she succumbed to the temptation of Hollywood and fame. A mid-life career change for this traditional work boat has resulted in more make-overs and face-lifts than Goldie Horn, and enough copious appendages up forward to make Pamela Anderson envious. Like many Sirens of the Screen, her real age, name and origins are obscure, but she is mostly known and loved as 'Beach Bums' from her latest movie role, filmed here in Nth Qld.

New Holland Pictures don't have any future roles for this veteran actor and have donated her to WBAC where she will semi-retire and hopefully pick up some cameo appearances here and there. WBAC plan to keep her in the spotlight and after a bit more titivation, our plan is to offer her attributes to other TV & film-makers as a working prop or backdrop. The addition of themed masts and rigging for the hoisting of sign written sails should attract promotional groups looking, (and willing to pay for) something different to display their message. Gertie's next major contract will be the portrayal of a pirate ship (cannons and all) at the **2008 Great Tinaroo Raid**. WBAC make up artists and costume designers are working hard to ensure her re-appearance into the world of glitz and glamour will upstage Dame Edna and ensure her rightful place - centre stage!



EDITORIAL

After a busy start to the year and a serious six months of Clubhouse Openings, Bilge Sales and Tinaroo Raiding, the promised relaxation from gruelling events for the remainder of 2007 seemed well accepted by members, consequently there hasn't been much to report. Ratlines has also enjoyed the break, but now I feel the irresistible urge to launch into words of wisdom and gaiety, and ready members for the next round of activities starting in the next week or so.

Our Annual General Meeting has been set down for Saturday 8th of December. As has been the custom for many years, we will combine this duty with our popular Christmas Lunch. The venue for this years event will be our own clubhouse, with Dale's 'spit roast' as the main act and Steve's famous damper as an encore. As required by constitution all current management committee members will stand down on the day and an election of new office bearers for 2008 will be held. We would like to see as many members as possible raise their hands to fill the positions available, so if you can spare a few hours a month to assist with club management please nominate with either Dale or myself prior to the meeting.

The clubhouse is starting to look good, but like building a boat there is always a seemingly endless list of little chores to complete, and we have organised a working bee on the Saturday prior to AGM (1st Dec) to attend to many of these. Our new shade covers will be ready for erection, the last of the pavers to lay, our new hand carved sign to hang, some painting and lots of brass to polish. If you can volunteer a bit of time on the day we'll find you a nice satisfying job.

As you will have read on the front page, we are planning to undertake the restoration of the famous Cooktown re-enactment boats. This project will provide WBAC with valuable promotion in the community as well helping to preserve these historical vessels from an uncertain fate. Retired MP, Warren Entsch was instrumental in bringing the Cooktown Re-enactment Association and ourselves together for mutual benefit, and has offered to assist with raising the necessary funds through available grants. The project also offers an opportunity for some of our younger members to understand traditional boat building skills through hands-on participation. The immediate

objective will be to prepare one of the vessels for next year's re-enactment duties, once the boats are delivered to our clubhouse, working bees will be organised to achieve this.

We have also received a donation of an ex-movie prop. The boat has featured in quite a few films produced in North Qld, and WBAC sees her as a fund raising opportunity by continuing to offer this '20 ft Starlet' for future movie roles or as a promotional display for local businesses and organisations. *Gertie* (just one of her aliases) is a fun-loving boat, and has no desire to return to her traditional heritage preferring to remain an entertainer. Next year's Tinaroo Raid will see her in full pirate rig, including the installation of water cannons and other secret weapons where she will revel as the 'centre of attraction' for the many new games and activities planned for this annual premier event.



Other activities for 2008 include Australia Day Regatta, our first club event for the year. We haven't quite decided on a venue or activity yet, although there have been quite a few interesting suggestions. We will offer a short list of options at our Christmas lunch for member's preference. Then some time around Easter we will hold our annual 'Bilge Sale', which we will promote more widely than ever before. We hope to involve all local yacht clubs and allied associations in a bigger and better event. Then in June our major event The Great Tinaroo Raid, and a brand new itinerary. We are also looking at a couple of different clubhouse tuition classes and film nights to entertain members during the year.

Our membership continues to grow, promising a bright future for WBAC. We extend a warm welcome all new members who have joined our club over the last couple of months, and look forward to some exciting and well attended wooden boat events during the next year.

Our clubhouse library is gradually being recorded on database and should be ready for member use by Christmas.

Finally, a reminder, we are always looking for contributions to our newsletter, if you have a story to tell, some photos to share or you would like to report on a good book or article that others might enjoy, we will be pleased to hear from you.

Looking forward to seeing you soon

Bob Goodall - President WBAC

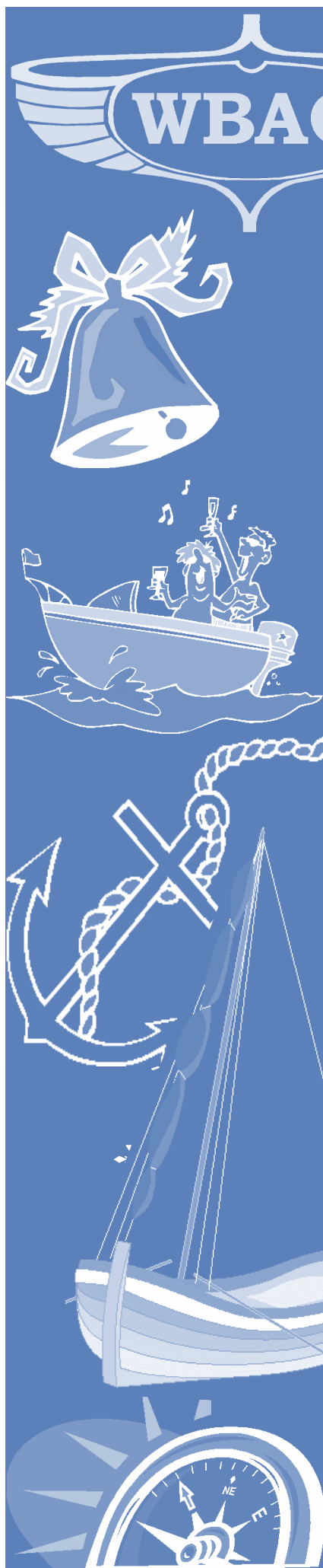
w b a c m e e t s e v e r y 2 n d
W e d n e s d a y o f t h e m o n t h
6 pm Start
WBAC Clubhouse 119 Lyons St Bungalow
Everybody welcome

Disclaimer: Opinions and views contained in this publication are not necessarily those of the Wooden Boat Association of Cairns Inc. Ownership, authorship, accuracy and liability of any published material remains with the individual contributor. Articles received may be edited for length, clarity, decency and sensitivity prior to publication.

New Members

Phillip Jan van der Eyk
Cliff Rogers
Peddle Thorpe Architects
Marion Hergatt
Len Foxcroft





Wooden Boat Association of Cairns

AGM & Christmas Lunch

Date: Saturday 8th December 2007

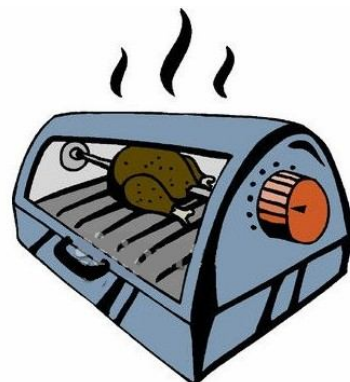
Time: AGM 12:00 Lunch 1:00 pm

**Venue: WBAC Clubhouse
119 Lyons St, Westcourt**

*No Charge for WBAC
Members & Family*

*Roast dinner (spit roast)
Baked Veggies & Damper
Tea, coffee and Soft Drinks*

**BYO Drinks and
Christmas cheer**



Catering Reservations Essential

*Please confirm attendance by 1st Dec. with
Bob Goodall 4051 2496 (bus) - 0417 753 340 (mob)
Or Dale Murray 4032 1895 (message / fax)
Or bobgoodall@iig.com.au*



THE AUSTRALIAN BATTLE GROUP

A "BIG-GUN" RADIO CONTROLLED MODEL WARSHIP COMBAT CLUB IN AUSTRALIA

Here's a club for enthusiasts who love building model ships again, again and again.

Australian Battle Group members build radio-controlled models of famous battleships and the occasional merchant ship. The fleet, an evocative reminder of British, American and Australian maritime muscle and their fight for supremacy of the high seas. *HMS Invincible*, *HMS Nelson*, *USS Houston*, *USS South Dakota*, *USS Iowa* and Australia's own *Jervis Bay* and *Mick Dundee*. All models are exact replicas of the real vessel and include operable (live) cannons and guns, firing real projectiles under compressed air.

The group meet regularly, apparently for the sole purpose of blowing each other, and the enemy, to smithereens. Happy with the days outcome members return home to rebuild. The pastime requires a great deal of skill and research. Hull thicknesses (balsawood), projectiles (ball bearings) and the ship's overall specification and resilience are all calculated and measured to replicate the real thing. All models are built to precisely 144th scale. Stephen Melvin, lone ABG member in Cairns, plans to build a model of the mighty *USS Missouri*, at this scale his project will be over 7 foot long, and will surely be the 'Bully of the Duck Pond'.

The group is Australia wide (predominately southern states) and has international affiliations. Their web site carries many photos, battle reports and links to suppliers and other groups and well worth a look.

www.ausbg.org

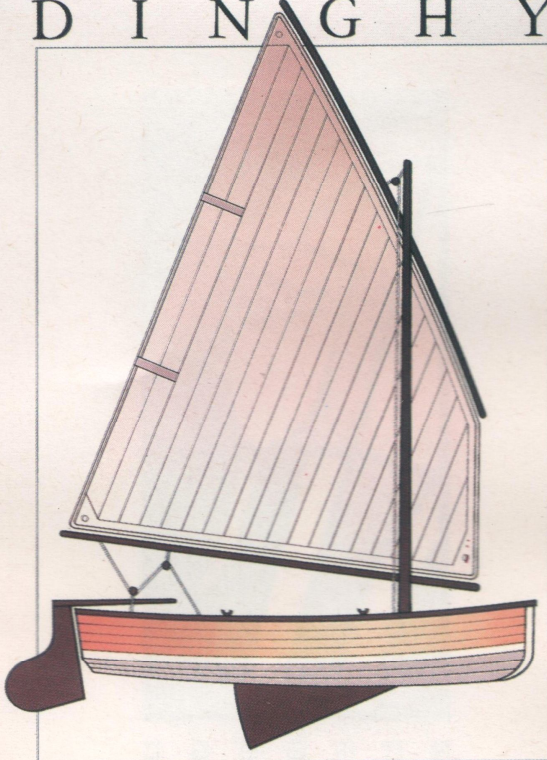


NEW PRODUCTS AS TESTED BY WBAC PANEL OF EXPERTS ?



At last the best of both worlds, for the traditional boat builder and the impatient.
Contact Steve Jarrett for retro-fitting advice. Makes an ideal Christmas gift

D I N G H Y



D O R Y



TIMBER FOR SALE

- ♦ SASSAFRAS 6"x1" - 1m³
- ♦ ACACIA CEDAR Boards - 1m³
- ♦ MAPLE SLABS
- ♦ BLACK WATTLE - 1m³
- ♦ HOOP PINE 6"x1" - 1m³

PH 4054 7666 (John)

WOODEN BOATS FOR SALE



Avon Dreamer - hand crafted rowing dinghy - \$3,000

- Overall length 2.25 m (weight 60 kg) • Beam 1.2 m
 - Clinker planked hull • Quality timber and brass fittings/fixing
 - Durable & hard wearing West System clear epoxy finish
 - 5 m mooring rope • 1.8 m long oars
 - Easily car top transportable. Fun family boat or tender
- Ph John Breen (Perth WA) home: 93869172 mob: 0420419146
Email: fiddlewood@aapt.net.au

One of the last chores before our clubhouse opening was the installation of new toilet seat. A simple project, but one that added unnecessary years to my life. The installation went without a hitch, until I spotted the following notice on the discarded packaging:



INTERESTING WEB SITE



<http://www.openboat.co.nz/>

“Heron” Sailing Dinghy

Length 11’3”, Sail Area (main & jib) 70 sq ft, Weight approx 140 lb. Hull in quite good condition, needs replacement rubbing strips and refurbishment of decks. Masts, boom, rudder, main and jib in good condition. On sturdy unregistered trailer Bargain at \$750

“Gwen 12” Sailing Dinghy

Length 12’, sail area (main & jib) 110 sq ft, also carries spinnaker, weight approx 140 lb. Hull in good condition with some minor refurbishment needed. Main and jib require minor repairs, spinnaker OK. Mast OK, needs fitting of stays, boom and rudder. No trailer, but can be transported on box trailer. \$375 or near offer.

Contact Sno Glass 1 Lakeside Drive Tinaburra, Ph 4095 3650

Eat my hat: *What will be done if something thought sure to happen, doesn’t happen*

Sailors kept their chewing tobacco in their hats, the linings of which became soaked in sweat and tobacco juice. If they ran out of tobacco they would take out the linings of their hats and chew them.

Hunky dory: *OK; satisfactory*

Derived from Honki-Dori, a street in the port of Yokohama, Japan, where many a pleasure awaited visiting sailors

Nipper: *Young lad*

Where the anchor cables on the largest sailing ships were too thick to bend around a capstan, they had thinner, messenger lines attached. Those thinner lines were joined, or ‘nipped’ to the thicker cables by young boys, who became known as ‘nippers’

Let the cat out of the bag: *Reveal a secret*

The cat (cat o’ nine tails), the whip used to flog sailors, was usually kept in a cloth bag.

NEWSLETTER



38 English Street
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