



Hello to all our members and friends, near and far. Welcome to the re-re-rebirth of Ratlines, the newsletter that founding member Bob Goodall perceived and produced for many years.

This newsletter is intended to provide regular monthly updates on what's happening at the clubhouse, upcoming events, and planning for our future.

We'll attach the minutes of the latest committee meetings, do info pieces on members' boats, handy hints for Seagull outboard owners, and a great deal more – so read on..

## Club News:

**Master Plan:** Did you know that Ports North (PN) has commissioned a Master Plan for all their property? It's development commenced late last year and WBAC was requested to provide our input via questionnaire in December. This was duly done and accepted. We believe that PN intends to set up an area specifically for 'not for profit' associations. No details or results have been notified as yet, but we will promulgate as soon as we get them. Suffice it to say we expect no change in our location in the foreseeable future.

**WBAC website:** The website is currently under revision and updating to more accurately reflect exactly what we do, and may be offline for some time. When it returns it will be in a newer format, layout, and probably a different internet host, but with the intent that all the historical content of the old site will be retained. In the meantime, don't forget that our Facebook page will remain available and is updated up to twice weekly.

**Insurance:** Our Treasurer has been very active of late (as per usual), and has identified significant problems with the 2 insurance policies we have (assets and public liability), namely that our policies do not cover our main activities! He is currently in discussions with an insurer that handles 'mens' sheds' type policies, and his efforts should realise a significant saving on our annual cost. More to follow..

**Clubhouse:** Some months ago we discovered that the clubhouse was settling (the big bulge in the floor was a dead giveaway), but the problem wasn't the foundations. Turns out that the main floor bearers had rotted away in critical sections and were collapsing. Initially, we fitted temporary steel props underneath to arrest any further deformation, and then set about a permanent repair. We are very happy to report that all repairs are now complete, and the clubhouse is much stronger than before!



**Cairns Motor Boat Club:** Years ago, WBAC agreed to take over the CMBC as their membership had dwindled to virtually zero, and sadly no members now remain. CMBC has a history dating back to 1917 and we felt that such history needed to be preserved. The

CMBC records and written history are stored within our library and are available for members to peruse. They provide an interesting window into that period in time, and, as a continuing part of that history, we will bring you various stories and articles each month. These will range from sections from the CMBC records to British Seagull Outboards to putt-putt boats and powerboats.

The importance of the CMBC to the Cairns boating community in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century cannot be over-emphasised as it was instrumental in establishing the “Rescue Squad” from within its own members. This group of members volunteered their time, boats and expertise to go to the help of boats within Cairns waters. This was the forerunner of the Australian Volunteer Coastguard Association (AVCGA) here in Cairns and they continued this function until February 1971, by which time both organisations were operating and there was a degree of confusion.

At that time a “Safety Box” was used at the harbour, into which Skippers would put their trip details. This was used to check who had/had not returned. This box was handed over to the AVCGA in early 197 with thanks, and the volunteer tradition remains to this day!

### **Boatbuilding Projects, completed and current:**

We finished Reg’s 12’ Mushulu runabout late last year, and he subsequently towed it down to his new home near Newcastle. It goes quite well with the 15 HP Evinrude and planes within seconds of the throttle being opened. Built from epoxy-glass sheathed ply, she is trimmed out with New Guinea Rosewood gunwales and reclaimed Silky Oak seats. Reg is well pleased with the end result.



We also have two other boat builds under way at the moment, with both approaching completion. The 18' Pathfinder is now complete from the upper deck down, has just had her bowsprit completed, and construction of the cabin is about to commence. Completion will be this year.



Roger's 15' strip planked canoe is hull-complete with some bracing ribs installed, and other ribs & seat frames being laminated. She will be a thing of beauty once completed – also this year! We have been busy!



## **Events Calendar:**

The 2020 Great Tinaroo Raid will be held Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> July at the Tinaroo Sailing Club grounds (as in previous years. The program will be promulgated once finalized, and the theme for this year is Lumberjacks and Mounties. Yes, the possibilities are endless..

All the usual frivolity is expected, including the Great Tinaroo Seagull Outboard Race. And this year, for the very first time, we will conduct...

### **The Peculiar Propulsion Race.**

*(Cue the sounds of trumpets)*

More detail will be sent out in the April Newsletter, but with all the planning on secret projects, drone spying missions between competitors, and cloak and dagger missions currently being developed, this race has all the hallmarks of a truly epic event. That is of course if the 'secret projects' actually make it around the course. If you think you'd like to field a boat driven only by manual non-commercially available propulsion then contact us ASAP for guidance on the rules. Naturally, a safety boat will be on standby.

- *Of course, the current medical climate is being monitored and if needs must, then we will make a decision as necessary closer to the date.*

### **A Bloke and his boat.**

This will be a regular feature of Ratlines. A bit of a story about one of our members and his or her boat and a few photos thrown in for everyone to see. This month we feature our Treasurer, the always hard-working Brendon and his very swish 19' Hartley Flareline.





Brendon acquired the boat several years ago and has been restoring and repairing her ever since – as time and health allow. She was built in the early 80's and fell into disrepair due to the previous owner's inability to use her any more.

Fitted with a 100HP Evinrude and given her very smooth lines and hull form, she should be able to achieve around 30 knots once complete – which is not that far away.

This concludes Ratlines for this month, and we've also added the latest Committee Meeting minutes for your perusal. We hope you enjoyed all the updates, and if there's more you want to see or know about please let us know by return email – which has also changed this year, so don't forget to update your address book, okay?

Cheers, Chris.

<b><u>Clubhouse:</u></b>	<b>68 Tingira Street, Portsmith, (Cairns) Qld 4870</b>
<b><u>Committee is:</u></b>	<b>President- Chris O'Keefe; Vice President- Marc Richards; Secretary- Roger Fryer; Treasurer- Brendon O'Rourke; Committeemen- Glen Chisholm, Phill Smith and Tom Sparks.</b>
<b><u>Build days:</u></b>	<b><u>Every</u> Tuesday and Saturday from around 7:30 AM to midday. Coffee always available.</b>
<b><u>Website:</u></b>	<b>Currently being revised.</b>
<b><u>Facebook:</u></b>	<b><a href="https://www.facebook.com/Wooden-Boat-Association-of-Cairns-118900728480121/">https://www.facebook.com/Wooden-Boat-Association-of-Cairns-118900728480121/</a></b>
<b><u>Phone:</u></b>	<b>0407 757 949 (Chris)</b>
<b><u>Email:</u></b>	<b>WBA Cairns@gmail.com</b>



**Minutes of WBAC Committee Meeting No. 178**  
**Held at the Tingira St. Clubhouse, 10:30 am March 14th 2020**

**Present:** Chris O'Keefe (CO'K) (President), Brendon O'Rourke (BO'R); Glen Chisholm (GC); Tom Sparks (TS); Roger Fryer (RF); Phill Smith (PS)

**Apologies:** None.

**Minutes** of previous meeting No. 177 were read by CO'K.

- Moved to accept: CO'K, 2<sup>nd</sup> PS

\* **Corresp in:** Nil:

\* **Corresp out:** RF to Telstra to obtain administration rights to WBAC website  
RF to WBAC members re. Tinaroo Raid and Peculiar Propulsion race.

\* **Financial statement:** **BO'R advised:**

Debits	= \$ 0
Credits	= \$52.82
New BOQ Balance	= \$6950.48
Petty Cash	= \$ 11.44
New Combined Total	= \$6951.48

Moved to accept: CO'K; 2<sup>nd</sup> PS

**Presidents Report:**

Ports North Progress (PN)

Email to K Malone advising that WBAC would be happy to rehabilitate the old Floria site and the

low-lying area outside the entry gate, both to get rid of the mosquito problem and to improve the site. Specifically, we are happy to spread out the fill if PN provides the fill.

\* No answer to date.

No update yet regarding the PN Master Plan – suggest we leave off reminding PN until April/May, this being the 6-month mark from submissions.

**Build Projects Status**

Pathfinder moving along well. Internal painting of hull complete. Upper deck complete, along with anchor compartment hatch. Transom stripped and insert timber sourced/about to be machined. Bowsprit fitting commenced.

Canoe interior fairing and sanding at 60% complete, but paused for remedial works. Inserted ribs steamed into position and about to be glued in.

**Clubhouse**

Under-floor bearer repairs were completed in the past week with a mammoth effort by all concerned, including some hilarious and some painful moments. Well done to us!! Cost of

materials approximately \$200.00.

The galley benchtop replacement complete, but still requires another coat of 2-pack clear. Once a certain old bloke's body recovers from spelunking under the clubhouse, it will happen.

#### Insurance

Dealings with Gallagher Insurance. Brendon has undertaken significant progress in this area, so I will leave it up to him to advise progress.

#### Website

Significant work has been done by several members on renewing the wbac.com.au website, with the most significant being the gaining of access. We do have a way ahead, but I'll ask Roger to update us all at the meeting.

#### Other WBA's

Email sent to the WBASA to re-establish contact. No reply.

#### Cooktown Annual Celebrations.

We have been asked by the above committee via facebook if we have – or know of - a couple of longboats available for their 'Cook's landing' recreation during their festival. The festival is held mid July to some time in August. Also, they have invited us to join them and run a WBAC stall in Cooktown. Obviously they've not maintained the longboats they usually use.

I have advised them that we don't have any longboats, (although Dr. Tom's considerable fleet immediately came to mind), but we'd keep our eyes open. As for a stall, this falls amongst our preps for, during and after the Raid. I.

#### Business arising from last meeting:

- 1) Peculiar Propulsion Race (PPR). PPR committee have not yet met to decide on criteria for "winning" due to one member being away. Members have been informed by email of the rules. **Action RF**
- 2) JAG grant application is still "under review". Committee suspect that we have not been awarded the grant. **Action RF to monitor.**
- 3) Next of Kin Contact list has been provided. CO'K to provide a folder so that the contact list and health and safety documents can be easily located. **Action CO'K**
- 4) Posteles. General discussion resolved to the following points:
  - a) Posteles not to be given a key to the clubhouse unless one of them become a WBAC member. This due to insurance issues.
  - b) President and secretary to meet with Posteles representative(s) to discuss access to the compound and insurance issues. **Action CO'K**
  - c) Assuming Posteles need compound access, then to add chain to the gates with 3 interlinked padlocks. 1 for PortsNorth, 1 for WBAC and 1 provided by Posteles with a key for WBAC. **Action** to depend on outcome of meeting.
- 5) **Website.** RF has managed to gain administrative rights to the Telstra account and has changed the password. WBAC now control this account. However, he was unable to access the website itself. TS volunteered his website technician to investigate and informs the committee that to change the website involved paying Telstra. TS and his wife have done extensive investigation and the best way forward in the long term looks to be closing down

the existing website, moving the domain name away from Telstra and hosting a new website on another platform.

To resolve the insurance issues with the website, it needs taking down ASAP and at the same time obtain the "Domain Name Transfer : **Action RF**

5) **Insurance.** BO'R reported that he had contacted Gallaghers and that the policy offered is a set one for all Mens shed or similar organisations. Cost is based on the number of members (\$33 per head) plus admin fee. Committee agreed that the current number of members should be set at 25. Gallaghers to be asked to provide another quote (should be about \$1125). BO'R to accept this and to cancel the existing 2 policies assuming refunds are provided. **Action BO'R**

#### **New business:**

- 1) NSW and Vic Wooden Boat Association to be contacted. **Action CO'K**
- 2) CO'K had offered \$100 for the old thickneser. Committee agreed that this was too much because CO'K had done all the work fixing it up and the WBAC had only paid \$50 for parts. Agreed thickneser offered to CO'K for \$50 which was accepted. **Action CO'K to pay and remove.**
- 3) BO'R informed the committee that the WBAC address is being added to the national postal register. Mail can then be delivered to the clubhouse. CO'K has made the mailbox and number and it will be fitted to the fence ASAP. **Action CO'K**
- 4) BO'R investigated waste removal and will request council for free waste removal. **Action BO'R**
- 5) CO'K proposed a monthly newsletter to be sent to all members. Content to include:
  - a) Project updates – inc photos.
  - b) Club activities
  - c) Committee members and committee minutes.
  - d) Updates on Ports North master plan.
  - e) Member and his/her boat.
  - f) Cairns Motor Boat Club section – Seagull and put -put engine articles. CMBC history.

The previous newsletter was called "Ratlines". Agreed to continue the name.

**Meeting Closed at 11.30**