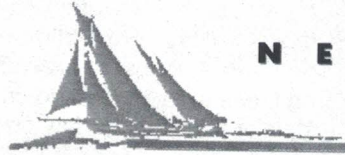


# Ratlines



NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 30 JAN 2010



Wooden Boat Association  
of Cairns Inc

Qld Reg: IA 31780

## New waterfront outlook for WBAC in 2010

Our clubhouse has finally been relocated to Cairns' waterfront precinct thanks to the support and generosity of Cairns new port authority—FNQPCL.

The big move started at 5:30am Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, with a colourful procession of 2 pilots vehicles, a police escort, and an oversized (20m) Kenworth appropriately lit up like a Christmas tree. With a handful of WBAC devotees bringing up the rear, we departed our home of nearly four years for the 2.5 km trip.

It was all over in a matter of minutes, the climax for weeks of preparation.

Most exciting part of this parade was the police escort, a bright red reflective highway pursuit car, stopping traffic with a blaze of flashing lights as the "royal celebrity" was ushered through intersections and roundabouts to the dubious salutes of bleary-eyed motorists.

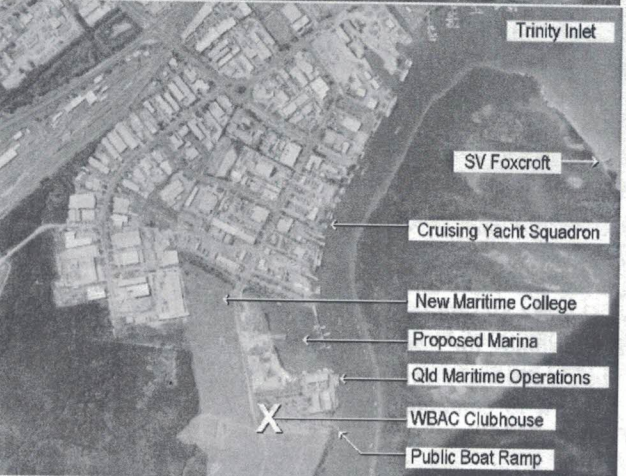
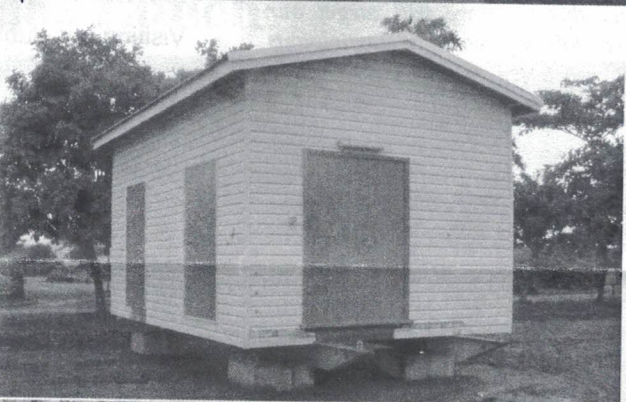
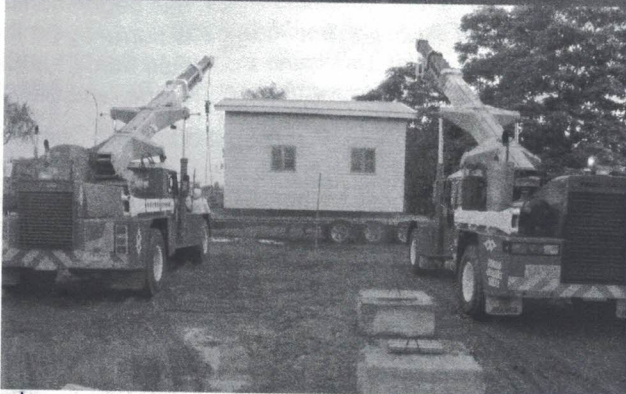
Not even royalty can escape bureaucracy. We required the involvement of no less than six authorities to choreograph this entourage.

Each road of our route falls in and out of differing jurisdictions, triggering approvals from Cairns Council, Main Roads and Port Authority all of which wanted the other permits in place before they issue theirs.

Qld Rail were paid their fee to allow us to cross their main northern line, the same tracks that on any given day are traversed by 10,000 cars, trucks and buses without charge.

Ergon are very protective of their over head wires and had to approve our load height to make sure we didn't rip Cairns out of the national grid.

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## Ratlines back in print

WBAC's new website is a great success, reaching a world-wide audience with our heroic deeds.

However many members have indicated they miss the anticipation and the thrill of opening their own personalised copy of *Ratlines*. We have also learned that not all members are 'internet-able', consequently missing out on vital club information.

The editors of this magnificent literary masterpiece have decided to resume regular mail-outs of our newsletter to members, allied associations and friends of WBAC in 2010.

Each printed issue of *Ratlines* will reflect and herald recent website updates plus include reminders of upcoming events. *Ratlines* is also a convenient club brochure to circulate amongst friends and visitors, a lot easier to carry around than a pocket full of blue-teeth and blackberries.

The website will remain our main promotional medium for its capacity to display and retain a lot of information with colour photos plus provide quick links to other interesting web sites.



# **F**rom the helm

*Welcome to 2010 which promises to be an extra-active year for WBAC. Our recent clubhouse relocation will ensure the next few Saturday mornings will be productive and lots of fun working bees (between mandatory coffee breaks) to re-establish our home and create some new facilities, now that we have room to grow. We also propose another 'Grand Opening' after the wet season (Mar/Apr) combined with a long over due "Bilge Sale" & "Wooden Boat Show" to present our new waterfront home to the Cairns community.*

*Our open Saturday mornings will recommence on the 9th January, with the first committee meeting for 2010 scheduled for Wed 10th Feb—6:00 pm*

*2010 WBAC Calendars have been posted out to all members, if you haven't received your copy, please let us know and we will promptly issue one. We have a few spare calendars available at the clubhouse if members would like to obtain an extra copy of this collectors item for themselves or great gifts for worthy family and friends.*

*WBAC apologise to those people born on 11th Jan and will endeavour to include your special event next year.*

**Boat Building Course** *The deferred 2009 course will be held early in the new year as soon as our new facilities are readied for classes. As with our previous course we will be building a project boat as part of the curriculum and this year we will target our marketing at schools and younger participants in an effort to attract them to this rewarding pastime.*

**Membership Renewals** *WBAC's subscription runs from Jan-Dec each year, and renewal notifications will be issued shortly. Membership fees make up the majority of WBAC income and the management committee would appreciate your early response so we can adequately programme our 2010 activities for your enjoyment.*

**Tinaroo Raid 2010** *Preparations for WBAC's premier event are underway. This year a dedicated sub-committee will be formed to handle the growing list duties and promotions needed to ensure a successful and safe event. Members who can assist, whether you input is small or great, please contact Dale Murray.*

**Special Thanks** *to the 2009 management committee I applaud you for your efforts and commitment during the year, and to the many members who not only volunteered their time but donated goods and funds for our association's benefit. With such a team sharing the helm we can all look forward to continued growth and "shiploads of Fun in 2010"*

**Bob Goodall**  
President WBAC

## Clubhouse Relocation cont from page 1

Lastly, Qld Police needed to inspect vehicles, measure the load, check warning lights and signs, breath-test drivers and receive up-front payment for their services before allowing the road-show to proceed. And just to add a bit more excitement, we had less than 30 mins to complete the trip before the start of a 3 week curfew on moving oversized loads around Cairns over the Christmas period.

All this because our 'little' tardis' is 0.5m over-width and 0.5m over-height, but it was worth the effort and expense now that it proudly sits on new foundations awaiting the return of chatter, laughter and working bees in 2010.

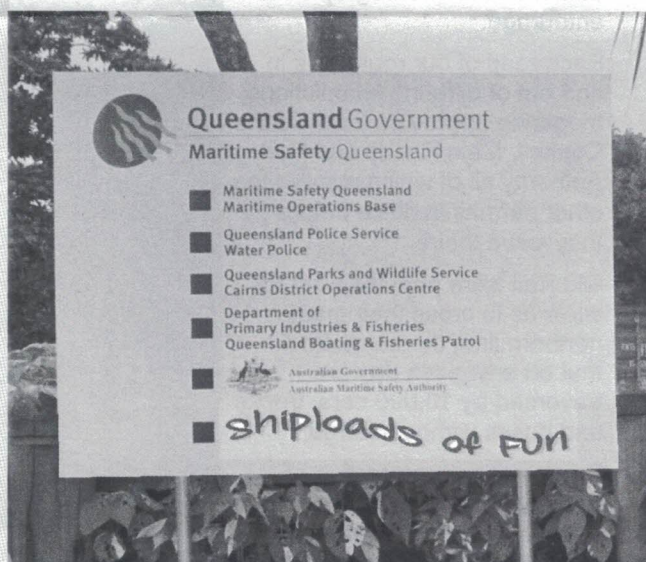
Our new location paves the way for future growth of WBAC. Conveniently situated right next to Cairns' busiest boat ramp we expect quite an influx of curious visitors (and potential members) to our prominent landmark. We also look forward to joining good company down this end of town, with the headquarters of Qld Maritime Operations our neighbours, the new Maritime College of Excellence has begun construction, and a proposed new marina is currently on the drawing board. This precinct is also home for historic pearling luggers *HB* and *Floria*, and the Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron.

Our rent-free tenure is shared with the Cairns Maritime Museum in return for maintenance of the property. Our stay is indefinite, however Cairns Port Authority has advised us that WBAC will be included in any future development of the area assuring that Tingira St will be our home for many years to come.

For those who have access to Google Earth, enter the following co-ordinates for a birds-eye view our new home. 16° 57' 08.17" S 145° 46' 16.38" E

Visiting our clubhouse in person is easy, just drive to the end of Aumuller St, turn right into Tingira St, and when you run out of road—you're there.

There is ample kerb side parking or within the boat ramp car park.

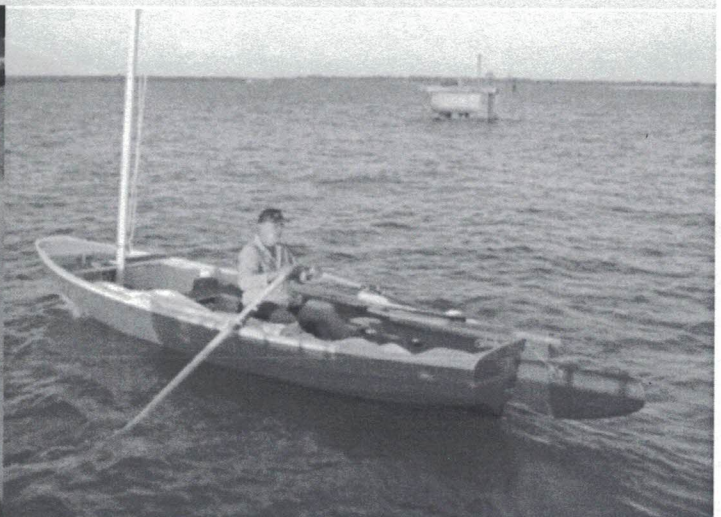


Sign board at the entrance to Cairns' maritime precinct lists all the vital services

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## 'Om Toch' is quietly launched in Weipa



Rien Hofman is a prolific boat builder and says he is over launching ceremonies, after 8 (or is it 9 - I've lost count) projects, just getting on with sea-trials is more important than fanfares. Rien's full boat-build and lots of pics are available at his own web site <http://web.me.com/rien.hofman/OmToch/Welcome.html> and well worth a look.

Here's a little of Rien's story:

"Om Toch" is the name of my latest creation, pictured above. She is built after the Seil 18 design, by Francois Vivier. It's a sail and oar design, 18' long, propelled either by oars or a 11m2 lugsail. Details from the designer's website can be found at [http://vivierboats.com/html/stock\\_sail\\_and\\_oar.html#seil](http://vivierboats.com/html/stock_sail_and_oar.html#seil)

I started building "Om Toch" in February 2009 and launched in August 2009. Total build time was about 500 hours. She cost about AU\$7000 in materials, including freight and sail, but excluding trailer.

"Om Toch" is a Dutch expression. It literally means 'because of yet'. It's the answer my wise Oma would give, when as a little boy I inquired about the 'why-ness' of my world. It has connotations of 'I do this, because I do and I can'. It is also an expression of deep faith, in that sometimes beautiful things are totally unreasonable.

## AGM & Christmas Lunch

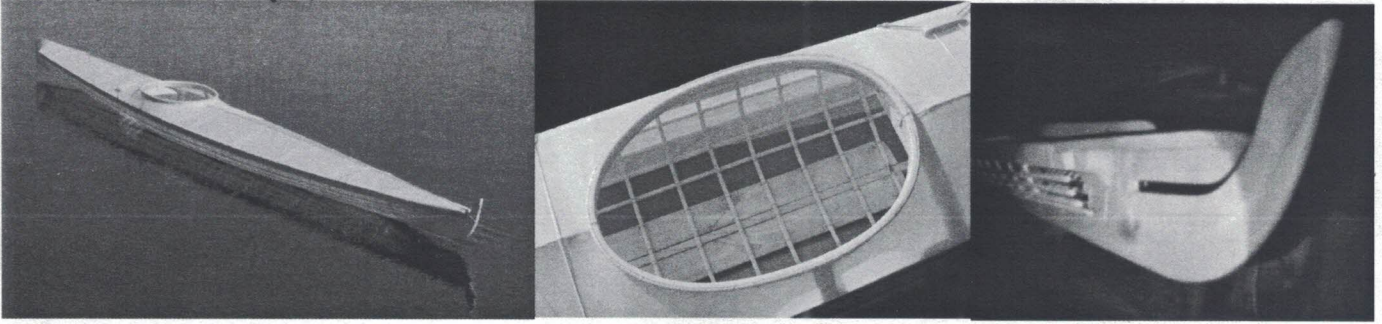


Thirty seven WBAC members attended this special event at the RSL Club overlooking the Cairns Esplanade and Trinity Inlet. Once the formalities of listening to management reports, moving financial reports and electing a new management committee for 2010 was over (no surprises here— same line up as last year), it was down to the more serious business of lunch and our inaugural auction. A few nautical bits and pieces (donated by Norm Souter Smith) were offered to the highest bidder and were snapped up quickly, as the frenzy continued, the floral table decorations (donated by Greg Hall) went under the hammer. And still the audience demanded more so Marcia Breen offered her morning market shopping... with her limes fetching a \$1 each. All agreed the auction was a fun way to raise funds and will definitely be on the agenda next year.

*Many words have been spoken about great boats . . . . . Exceptional boats speak for themselves*



# Baidarka



Peter Ingram-Jones wanted something different to exhibit at 2009 Australia Wooden Boat Festival, and Baidarka is certainly that.

This traditional Aleutian kayak is the latest creation to emerge from Peter's "magic workshop" employing his favourite medium Huon Pine and Dacron to a Geodesic Airlite design, which has become a trademark for Peter.

Baidarka is also known as Smile #7, representing the number of successfully completed similar projects in the last 12 months. (so much for a quiet retirement)

Peter's inspiring website [www.canoesandlampshades.com.au](http://www.canoesandlampshades.com.au) reviews all his projects and handiwork with lots of pictures and descriptive information, well worth a visit.

*Only 151  
Sleeps to go . . . . .*



Wooden Boat Association of Cairns Inc

*shiploads of FUN*



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