

Tingira Boat Club Inc

Annual Report

August 28, 2021

The time has come, it seems, for me to move on and hand over to the next crew member willing to take over the helm.

It has been eight years that I have been Commodore, with many adventures along the way. Although there have been some stormy times, we have had fair weather and calm seas through most of the journey.

The Beginning – Canoe Race

I first came to the Tingira Boat Club 12 years ago. I had developed a concept to hold a canoe race around Macleay Island. I had tried it the year before with Lions and had decided that the Boat Club was a better fit. Barry Jamieson was Commodore at the time and was a bit hesitant at first, but finally he gave the go ahead so, 12 years on, it is still going strong and so successful that the Redland City Council regards it as one of the events it wishes to retain and have supported the race with a sponsorship grant each year. It is also sponsored by several businesses around the Islands. It is now called the Macleay Island Classic and attracts competitors from Coffs Harbour in NSW to Hervey Bay to the North.

I shall be stepping down as Director of that event as well and hope the new Committee will keep it going. We do have a Strategic Plan and Management Plan for the event that they can use, the result of a project sponsored by the Redland City Council.

Commodore

Eight years ago, I was elected Vice Commodore and six months later became Commodore without warning.

Becoming Commodore in itself is a great challenge. You are following in the footsteps of a number of great Commodores who, from the beginning when they met on a Friday night around a fire near the beach and cooked their fish and chips in an old kitchen sink, raised money to build their clubrooms, and more recently constructed our deck.

It was my responsibility to accept the challenge and take the club to the next level. Today, as I stand before you, only you can decide if I have achieved that goal. I have done my best as leader of the club and have always had a good crew to assist me. I sincerely thank them all.

- We have improved the communications of the club by sending out a newsletter to all members each week, rather than just informing those in attendance at a Friday night dinner. Thanks to Peter Fox, who started it and continued with it when he has been Secretary. To Joan Wheeler and Elan Jones when they were Secretary and, more recently, Geoff Hiley who compiles '*Tingira Ahoy*'. Thank you all.
- We constructed our own website.
- We have improved the roster system so the duties can be shared by all members, not just a few.

- Updated the kitchen with two new stoves, a new refrigerator, fans, microwave, dish washer, cutlery drawers, plus an assortment of other gadgets to keep the Providores happy.
- After the Commodore's Brawl (my first Ball) we installed the shutters on the deck, thanks to Max Keily.
- We obtained a grant to build a new shed to replace the old one which was our first clubroom. Thanks to Robert Smith who wrote the grant, and Max Keily and Jim Thenberg who organised the construction.
- We finally addressed the soil erosion problem on the beach, which incorporated an area where small boats could be launched safely, and laid matting which increased access into the water. Thanks to Moss Lane.
- We participated in the Running Wild Youth Holiday Program and provided an area where organisers were able to operate for 12 months when the youth training business started. Participants constructed our barbeque area.
- Dragon Boats were added to our fleet which, after a while, were replaced by Outriggers (OC6s) by obtaining a grant for two OC6s.
- We bought a new RIB (safety boat) out of Club funds.
- After complaints from sailors that they could not get a feed when they returned to the club on a Sunday, we introduced Sunday on the Deck. This became very popular and today it is one of our best fund raisers and attracts the most new members. Thanks Elan Jones, Margaret Jones and Margaret Britz.
- We rewarded our worthy members with an OBE (Over Bloody Eighty)
- Brought the Queensland Jubilees Championships to our club. Thanks to Bruce Legg, Ian Waller Wilkinson, Peter Fox and the Jubilee skippers.
- Grew the club's membership to record numbers while retaining a lot of the old favourites from previous years.

Community

It is important that we have a community presence with other organisations and local and state governments. We have interacted with Macleay Island Art Centre, Running Wild, Lions, Eagle Academy, Naval Cadets etc.

Dragon Den

We won a contest organised by the Council to find the tourism event that had the most potential on the islands. This was called the '*Dragon's Den*' and was held at the Bowls Club. We made a presentation on the Macleay Island Classic and won without a doubt. A video of the presentation is on YouTube which you may wish to watch. [Dragons Den Tingira Boat Club Presentation - YouTube](#) The advice given by tourism experts would be quite valuable to those organising the next event.

Bay Islander of the Year

Last year I was awarded the title of Bay Islander of the Year (senior) for the work that I have done at the Tingira Boat Club and the wider community.

State Representative

We have always had a good relationship with the local state member, regardless of their politics.

Kim Richards, our current state member, joined our club the first time she was on the island, which was for a Running Wild graduation. She was proposed to on our beach by Shayne at one of our functions, and when they get married don't be surprised if it is at the Tingira Boat Club. They would like to live on the island.

COVID 19

COVID 19 has not been kind to us, but we have coped. I remember on March 23 last year making the announcement that we were closing down and cancelling all events. We managed to hold most of our boating events whenever we could and postponed the Canoe Race until Spring, which was challenging due to the inclement weather. Our social events suffered badly: trying to plan them with changing conditions was difficult.

Over the last few months, we have tried to get our social calendar going again but things can change so quickly it is almost impossible.

In saying that, I would like to say that I have no complaints about the handling of COVID 19 by the Queensland Government. They have kept us safe and well ahead of the other eastern states. We are so close to having an outbreak spreading over the border from NSW, it is scary. Please keep compliant with the rules and get vaccinated.

Thank You

I would like to thank all the members that have served on my committee, the volunteers who have served their club and all the members of the Tingira Boat Club who together make this a great club.

There are members who are not on the Committee but who do just a little bit extra to help the club:

Heather and Stewart Sorby who for many years looked after our gardens and mowed the lawns.

Peter Hayward has taken over that duty.

Geoff Hiley not only edits the newsletter but organises the bar roster and stock.

Val and Ron Notley who, until recently, decorated the club rooms for special events.

Norm Black who puts out our rubbish bins each week.

Current Committee

A special thanks to the outgoing committee members who have served the club well, some for many years. Most have put up their hand for another year, but there are two who have not sought nomination.

Marion Mori, our Providore who has done a sterling job over the last few months. Thanks Marion.

Rob Thompson who has been our Facilities Coordinator for many years and can fix anything. I feel mean giving him this old bottle of scotch. I bought it last year to give it to him, but he turned up on the day and was nominated from the floor. I hope it doesn't happen this way again today.

Thanks to Margaret

I would like to especially thank my wife Margaret who has supported me all the way. When Peter fled overseas to avoid the paddlers uprising, Margaret took over the position as Secretary, she has collated the results for the Canoe Race, been the 'bookie' at Melbourne Cup functions, and has organised Sunday on the Deck for the last two years.

Thank you, Margaret!

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to say that being Commodore is an honour and a privilege.

I have enjoyed being Commodore and, although there has been the occasional hick-up, there has always been a solution and once found, and implemented, the problem has been solved to the benefit of the Club.

Retirement

Margaret and I will go into retirement, and I hope that as I leave the top leadership position, I am leaving the Club a little bit better than I found it.

People have asked “What am I going to do”. I know Margaret wants to travel, which is bit difficult at the moment. I’d like to have a rest for a while, then I might get the boat going again after eight years and also go back to playing golf. I have been a professional photographer most of working life and, strangely enough, I am getting interested in photography again. It’s a bit different when you are taking photographs for yourself. If COVID allows, I intend to have an exhibition of my more creative works just prior to Christmas.

Congratulating the new Commodore

I wish the new Commodore, whoever that might be, the very best and hope he enjoys his new position as much as I have. I thank you all for allowing me to be your Commodore.

Over and Out!

Neville Prosser

Commodore

Tingira Boat Club Inc.