

Around the Shed February 2009

Finally we have a respite from the wet weather. A number of members ventured out onto the water over the weekend, for some the first time in many weeks. The river level is still quite high but seems to be gradually dropping.

There appears to be little debris and the lily pads seem to have been swamped finally!

A strong current is evident near both weirs, please stop at least 200meters before Aplin's Weir and be aware that there is a strong current as you approach the pontoon from Gleeson's Weir.

It is still not possible to launch tinnies from the inlet. There is already evidence of significant erosion on the downward slope and the dumping of lawn clippings on the slope is an additional hazard. As a consequence when we start to use the inlet again it will be slippery and uneven. At this point I will contact TCC Parks Department and request more sand to be spread over the slope. Until this happens please take additional care when using this area.

The **self - closing back door is not closing properly** at present because of the continual wet weather. Please check that it is closed if you are the last out of the shed.

Successful Townsville City Council Grant



A grant of \$3008 has been received from the Sport and Recreation Facility Program in the October 2008 round. It is for the installation of three floodlights outside the boatshed and an upgraded switchboard to support these lights. These floodlights will provide better conditions for rigging boats and maintenance, as well as increased safety when accessing the pontoon and inlet areas. The upgraded switchboard will then make it possible for the club to install wall

mounted fans at the back of the boatshed thereby providing better air circulation both in the ergo area and the boatshed in general.

I would like to thank Frank Gedling for his technical advice and support of both these projects over the past 2 years.

Lights

Sunrise 6.06am, sunset 18.48pm

The boat lighting policy is in the Club Handbook on the website.

Lights can be obtained from www.rowingboatlights.com. Alternatively, lights available from Anaconda or bike shops can be used, but need to be attached to the boat in some way. The use of velcro to attach lights to the stern and bow decks is being undertaken at present. Indications are that this will probably be successful. I will keep you informed.

Boat Repair and Maintenance

The situation can be expressed this way

April to September

400 members + 36 boats = 4 repairers/maintenance members

AND

September to March

180 members + 36 boats = 4 repairers/maintenance members

This is not a sustainable situation.

To approach this problem I suggest the following:

Tuesday ~ 7-9pm

Sunday ~ 7-9am

These sessions to be primarily directed to **repairs on a needs basis**, 4 members are currently involved but ideally a group of 10 or so would be desirable. Not everyone would need to come every week and some sessions may not need to be held. If you want to be part of this

team please let me know and then I can schedule jobs and personnel prior to the session so that when you come down there is something for you to do. Skills to do the job are only your willingness to help and learn.

Saturday (monthly) ~7.30-9.30am

These sessions to be primarily directed at **boat maintenance**; checking and replacing parts, cleaning, wet rubbing, polishing etc and can accommodate as many members who turn up. Notice of these sessions will be placed on the whiteboard above the hose.

Rowergo Braces and Ergos

Two ergos have these installed. They are on loan from TCS for use by the club until their boatshed is built. The use of these on the ergo improves both rowing performance and reduces back injury. A laminated information leaflet can be found on the back wall. Please read this for more information. You will need to make adjustments if you decide to use the brace.

I am interested in feedback from members when using the brace. I will purchase additional braces for the club if indicated. In the meantime I would like to thank TCS for the opportunity to both use and try the brace.

Boats Repaired

Chris Cotterell – shoes replaced

Steve Clarke – leaking bulkhead sealed

Catch Me – bow and stern area near fin repaired and painted

Inspiration – stern repair painted

Scullduggery – bow repaired

Delfin – hull repairs completed, surface sanding almost ready for painting

Shed Maintenance

Two-way tap installed – should be more user friendly

Wheel on mobile oar/rigger rack replaced

Multi purpose room – water removed on a number of occasions

Electrician – checked circuits and switchboard after possible water damage

Tent top – now has correct club name

Boat washing

Routine washing of exterior occurs almost without fail. It has taken 5 years to achieve this – thank you for your support of this practice.

Saturdays and Sundays

Please remember to wash the interiors of the boats and use the shoe spray on the shoes and foot leathers. Extra bottles and spray are on the top shelf in the multipurpose room.

Spare Tinnie Motor

For the first time the club has a spare motor for immediate use when one of those in use breaks down. This motor is best stored upright on a frame. Is there anyone who is able to build something suitable? Please let me know if you can help.

There is no immediate hurry as the motor is at present away being repaired.

Working Bee Saturday 28th February ~7 - 9am

There are a number of jobs to do. The club LTR will be in progress at ~7.30am so we will need to keep out of their way.

We will hold this weather permitting, if it is raining a lot of jobs can not be done so lets hope it is fine ... because the list of jobs is not getting any smaller.

Christine Hargreaves
Club Captain