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Mr James Brideson  
Ballina Shire Council  
Ballina NSW 2478

30 May 2014

Dear Mr Brideson

**Outrigger Canoe Storage Compound Cawarra Park Ballina**

I refer to our recent discussions with the Ballina Shire Council and am seeking Council's support to extend our club's existing canoe storage compound at Cawarra Park Ballina.

**Background**

Outrigger canoeing was established informally in 2000 at Byron Bay by a group of local outrigger enthusiasts with a desire to see the sport represented in our own beautiful region. The group originally operated from the beach at Byron and in 2004 relocated to Ballina where there was access to both inland and ocean waterways. The Kawaihae Outrigger Canoe Club Ballina (Kawaihae) was also established at this stage and initially the club operated from the beach adjacent Kingsford Smith Drive. The canoes were stored without security and in 2008 Ballina Shire Council assisted Kawaihae establish a canoe compound at Cawarra Park on North Creek.

The club has flourished since moving to Ballina and has outgrown the existing storage compound which is now inadequate to properly store canoes/crafts and club equipment. There are insufficient racks and stands for canoe storage and no space to store our two trailers which are used to transport our canoes to regattas and community events. Some crafts are stored on the ground while others are propped up against the chain wire fence. These crafts are at risk of theft and damage by vandals.

In December 2013 Kawaihae received a grant of \$15,000 under the NSW Community Building Partnership Programme to assist expansion of the storage compound.

**Canoe Storage Compound**

The Plan of Management for Cawarra Park provides for the establishment of a boat storage facility. The proposed compound would sit wholly within Cawarra Park, measure 16 metres by 31 metres and be enclosed by a secure chain wire fence. The North West and southern sides of the fencing would be screened by shrubs. A site plan and sketch of the compound are enclosed.

There would be a trailer bay at the northern end of the compound to accommodate the club's two canoe trailers. Access would be via the existing gravel road from Cawarra Street. A craft and equipment storage shed would be situated within the compound. It would be painted to blend in with the background vegetation and would also be screened by the shrubs to be planted along the North West and southern boundaries of the compound fencing.

Other community groups have expressed interest at storing skis at the compound and to accommodate this request a separately secured ski rack has been provided for on the northern side of the shed. The remainder of the compound would comprise an open space for the storage of Kawaihae craft.

### **Club Operations**

From humble beginnings Kawaihae has developed into a successful community sporting club which caters for all age groups from juniors to senior citizens both male and female. See club's website [www.ballinaoutriggers.com.au](http://www.ballinaoutriggers.com.au) See website photo gallery and face book link for club activities.

The club is 'all inclusive', encourages family participation and has a membership of diverse backgrounds and cultures including indigenous Australians. Currently there are 38 members.

The club promotes team building and co operation, water craft and safety skills and personal development in order canoe crews may participate in a competitive and non-competitive basis.

As our community and society is confronted with the implications of obesity and other chronic diseases, outrigger canoeing offers people of all ages and abilities a safe and low impact physical activity. Our sport is known to promote healthy hearts, strong bodies and minds, improved bone density, weight loss and fitness. It is an excellent activity for older citizens who wish to stay fit and healthy. The sport of outrigger canoe paddling is also a recommended therapy for breast cancer survivors and we have club members in this category.

### **Environment and Community Relationships**

The club's activities are environmentally friendly as canoe paddling does not create any noise or chemical pollution on the waterways. The club members maintain the existing canoe compound and the surrounding precinct on the banks of North Creek in a tidy and environmentally sustainable manner.

Kawaihae enjoys cordial relationships with the local residents, the Ballina Sharks Baseball Club and the users of the Martin Street boat ramp. The club is active all year round and conducts six training sessions per week. Local residents have commented that establishment of the Kawaihae club in the area has reduced the incident of antisocial behaviour in the Cawarra Park and foreshore precinct. The Baseball Club also operating from Cawarra Park has agreed to Kawaihae sharing the toilet facilities in Baseball Club's amenities block.

Kawaihae launches its canoes from the sandy beach on the North Creek foreshore and therefore leaves the boat ramp free for other uses to launch the crafts from trailers. Also Kawaihae members park their vehicles along Cawarra Street leaving the carpark free for trailer parking.

Club members are very active on the local waterways and complement and support the local tourist industry by providing tourists with the exciting spectacle of precision outrigger canoe paddling and wave surfing.

### **Community Participation**

Kawaihae is an active community organisation. The club has a schools programme which enables students to participate in outrigger canoe paddling as a sport elective. It also has a corporate programme whereby local businesses can use canoe paddling as a team building and bonding medium for employees. In 2014 Kawaihae in conjunction with Ballina Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club commenced a nippers programme with a view to introducing nippers to the sport of outrigger paddling and providing a cross training medium for their surf life saving skill development.

These programmes are conducted under the guidelines of the Australian Outrigger Canoe Racing Association (AOCRA) which is the administrative body of outrigger canoeing in Australia with Kawaihae being an affiliated member. The programmes are supervised by club members and use the club's crafts and equipment.

In May 2013 Kawaihae conducted a clinic 'Talking Water' for the general public and AOCRA members. This clinic had 70 participants and attracted visitors to our town from as far away as Bundaberg. Also in 2013 Kawaihae hosted the Ballina Island Paddle Challenge as part of the inaugural Prawn Festival. This was a very successful event (see enclosed media articles) and Kawaihae is planning to conduct the event again in 2014.

Kawaihae participated in the 2014 Clean-Up Australia Day by manning its canoes to retrieve debris from the waterways around Ballina (see enclosed media article).

**Social and Competitive Paddling**

Kawaihae provides for both social and competitive paddling and approximately half of the club members regularly race at regattas. Kawaihae falls under the AOCRA South Queensland Zone consisting of 21 clubs from Bundaberg to Coffs Harbour. Kawaihae members participate in the full range of events including sprints, long and short course races and marathons.

In the past two regatta seasons Kawaihae has made a concerted training effort to improve the club's competitive position. Some of its achievements are:

At 2013 Outrigger National Sprint Titles,

- Bronze in OC6 Master Women's 16 km marathon
- Gold in the OC6 500m Master Women Sprints
- Silver in the OC6 U/12 (juniors) 500m Sprints
- Silver in the OC2 Open Women's 500m Sprints
- Bronze in the OC6 Open Women's 500m.

At 2013 International 'Cash of the Paddles Regatta' at Hamilton Island,

- Gold and National Title in the Masters mixed category for the 42km change over marathon
- Gold in the Senior Master Women's OC1 250m sprints
- Gold in the Senior Master Women's OC1 8km Short Course
- Silver in the Senior Master Women OC1 16 km marathon
- Two Bronze medals in the Masters mixed and Masters Women OC6 16km marathons.

In the 2013 AOCRA South Queensland Zone OC1/2 series,

- Second in the OC2 Senior Master mixed short course
- Bronze in the Senior Master Women short course.
- Bronze in the Golden Masters Men's short courses.

In the 2013 AOCRA OC1/2 National Titles.

- Bronze in the Senior Master Women and Golden Master Men Short Course.

At the 2014 42km Gold Coast Cup changeover marathon,

- Gold in the Master mixed.

At the 2014 OC6 National Titles,

- Bronze in the Master mixed short course.

In February 2014 Kawaihae competed as a club in its first overseas event - The Takapuna Beach Cup in Auckland New Zealand. In the 35 km Master Women's Iron race they won Bronze.

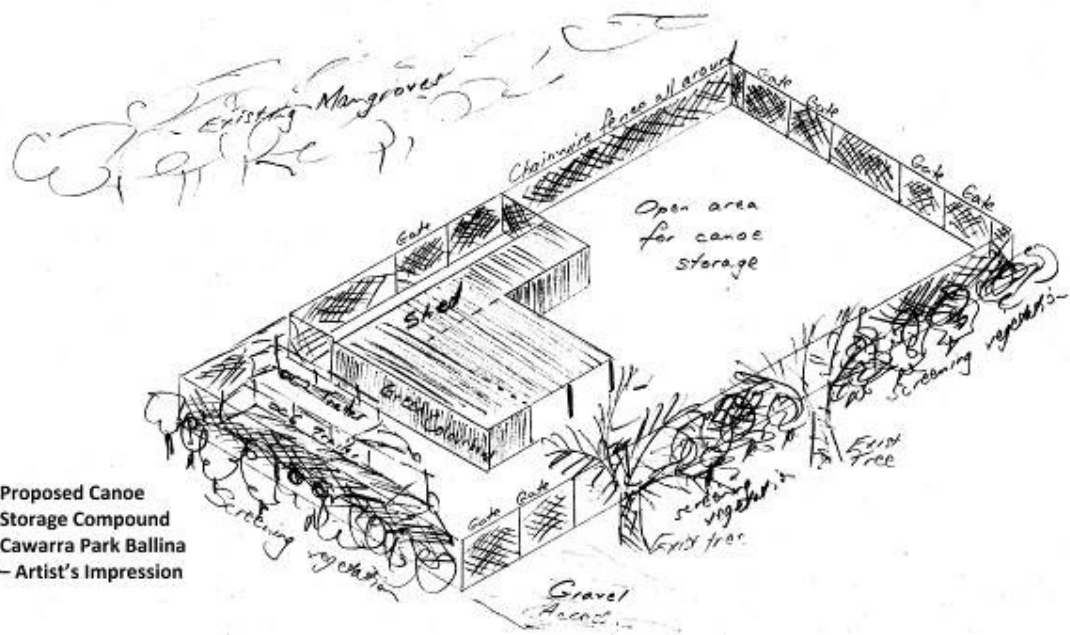
The above results are outstanding achievements for a small regional outrigger canoe club like Ballina. They have set a commendable example, raised the profile of the sport and brought credit and distinction to the local community. Kawaihae has lifted the profile of Ballina and other clubs within the sport are keen to travel to the area to experience the waterways we enjoy.

Our Club would be extremely grateful if Council could give favourable consideration to our request to expand our footprint at our current location. Should you wish to discuss the project we would be happy to meet with you.

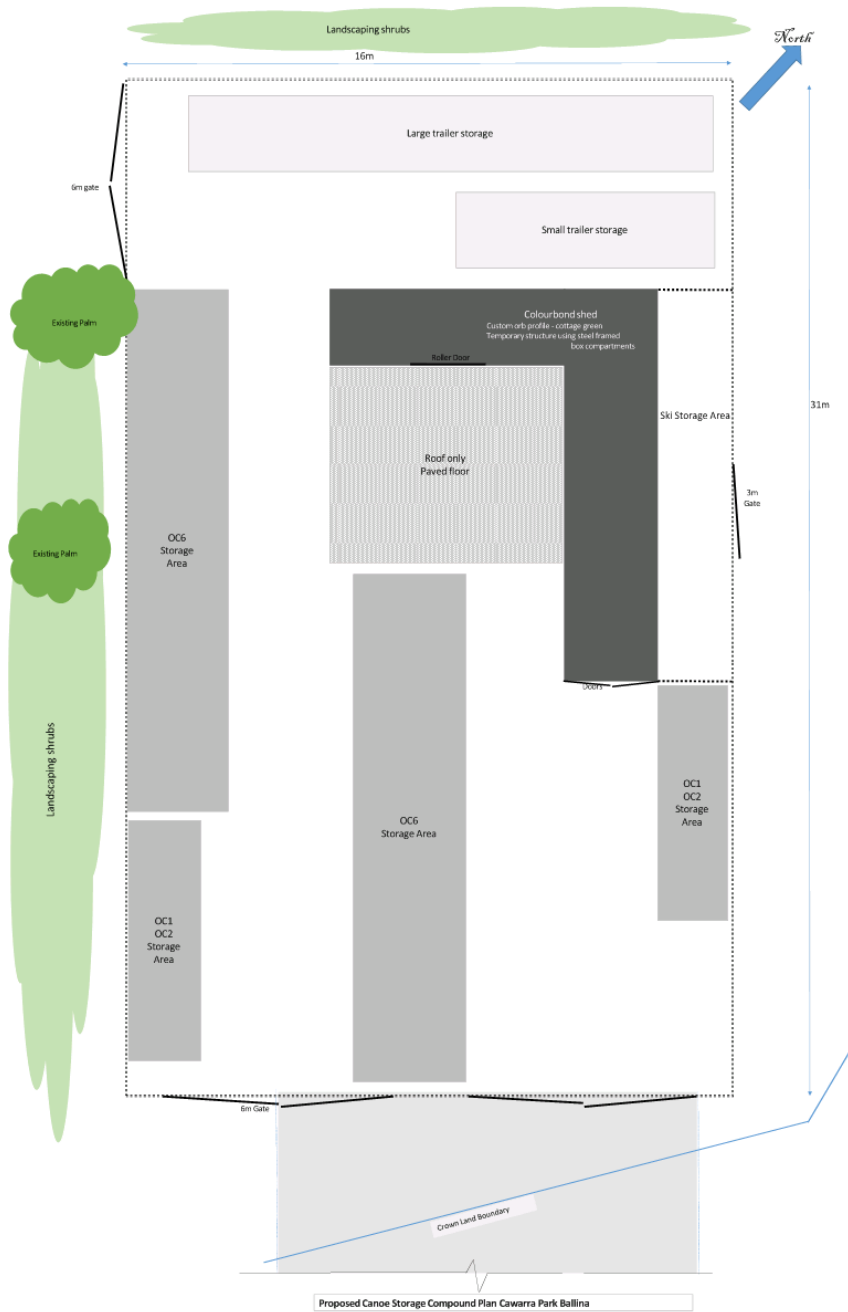
Yours faithfully



Ray Wood  
Vice President



Proposed Canoe Storage Compound  
Cawarra Park Ballina  
- Artist's Impression









The existing site used by the club



The proposed area – view to the river





The proposed area – view from the street



Proposed area – view from existing site





View towards Cawarra Street from the existing site