

CULTURAL PRECINCT REPORT

JULY 2024



MAJU PULU KITA | ADVANCE OUR ISLANDS

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Nek Callum stands with Lantar Pujeh, halfway through restoration

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Museum Logo + Branding Proposal

For some time, there has been a need for the Museum to have its own, unique identity. Having a “brand” for the museum will allow us to promote it more concisely, and bring greater recognition to the space amongst the community and visitors. The Museum has many names (Home Island Museum, Pulu Cocos Museum, Pulu Kokos Museum), so ensuring that we have just 1 that is used formally, will give the Museum a greater presence. We would like to propose that the spelling be formally returned to the traditional Cocos Malay spelling - “Pulu Kokos” Museum.

A unique logo and identity opens up opportunities for merchandising, creating fundraising revenue that can go directly into Museum related projects. In future, it would also be preferable to have some local crafts for sale as souvenirs at the Museum, supporting local craftspeople.

We could also utilise the same design style throughout the Cultural precinct and have a different emblem for the Chula Shed - Definitely Jukung Related.



Proposed Logo Design

By Niamh Swingler

The **design rationale** for this logo was that it should have an emblem that is Cocos related, but has a broad significance to the Islands, much like the museum covers a wide range of history and heritage.

Colour: The background colour is a reference to the stormy cocos skies. A variation on the sunny blue skies take.

Emblem: A red footed booby bird in flight. A familiar local icon which is of both cultural and natural significance to the Cocos Islands.



Banner Design Possibilities



A-Frame Sign Possibilities

Entry Statement + Signage Proposal

Currently, the way finding signage around the Cultural Precinct is minimal. The sign that was acting as wayfinding on the roadside next to Shamroks is unfortunately pointing in the wrong direction, creating confusion. This sign has been temporarily removed while we review the signage design. Museum attendants have mentioned that tourists often try to enter the Museum via the large double doors where the Wayang Kulit artwork is situated. These doors are not operational for visitors, only for transport of Museum equipment and artifacts.

It would be preferable to have further wayfinding + signage that allows the Museum and Cultural Precinct to be accessed more easily. A portable, roadside banner specific to the Museum would be preferable, and this could extend to the Jetty also on the days that it is operational.

Along with additional signage, it would be valuable to give the Museum entry a stronger identity. Majority of the proposed works can be done with careful painting. Some signage would be ordered from the mainland also.



West Facade



Cocos Co-Op Stencil
Item HIM 162

- Portable roadside signage to be displayed when the Museum is open
- Stencil Style Font to reference stencils in the Museum collection
- Door painted in branding colour and logo design applied
- Bulletin board installed for all museum information (remove postings from internal door glass)

Entry Statement + Signage Proposal



North Facade

- Adjust existing "Pulu Cocos" to reflect Malay spelling (Kokos)
- Stencil a way finding sign that points towards the Museum Entry



South Facade

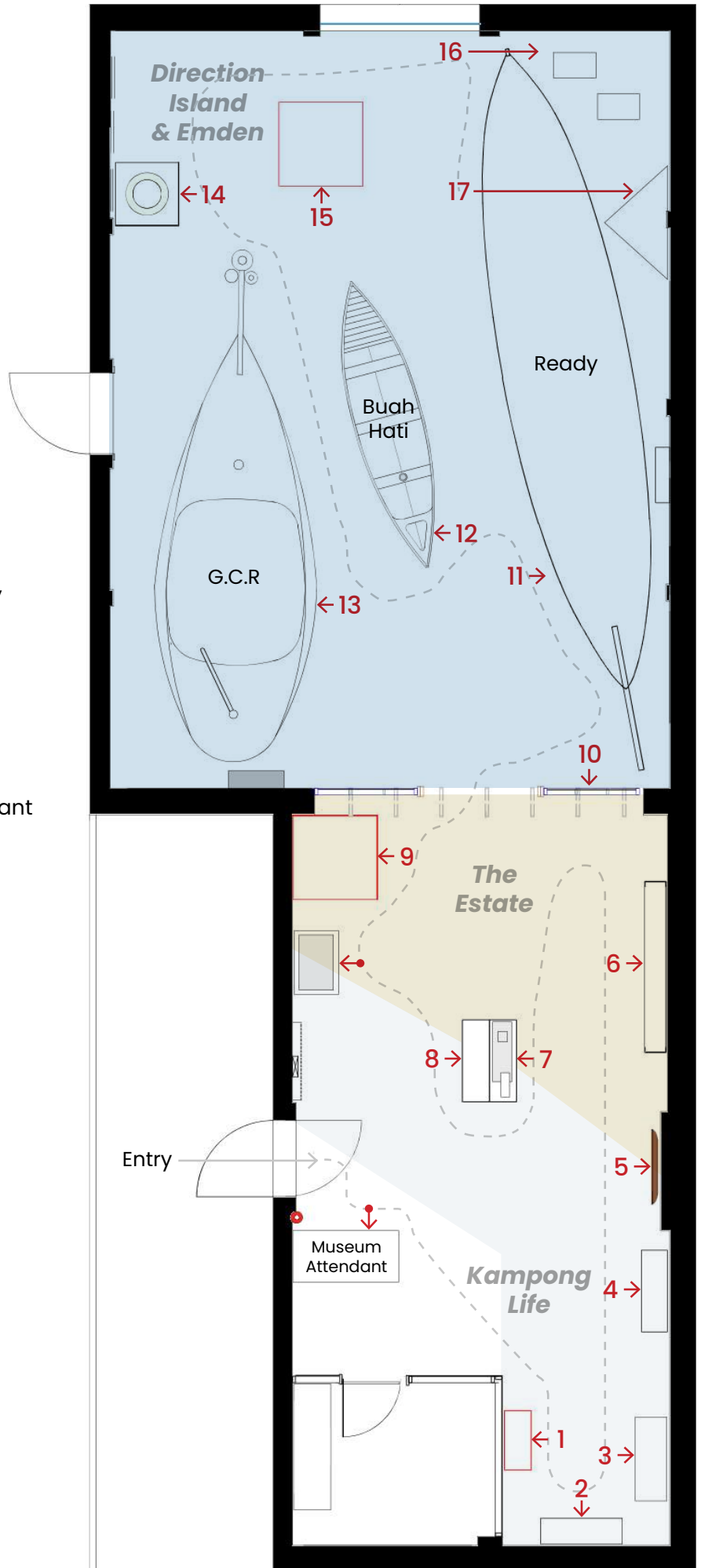
- Hanging signage in the entryway
- Stencil a way finding sign that points towards the Museum Entry

Museum Collection

Gallery Plan

- Boat Building + Maritime History
- The Estate
- Kampong Life

- Check in with our Museum Attendant
- 1 Wayang Kulit + Ichang's story
- 2 Home Life
- 3 Home Life - Continued
- 4 Fishing
- 5 Proclamation Plaque
- 6 Busts + Estate
- 7 Coin Machine
- 8 Trade Items
- Smart Screen - Photographs
- 9 Craft Models
- 10 Oniro
- 11 Ready
- 12 Buah Hati
- 13 G.C.R
- 14 Ayesha Life Ring + Emden
- 15 Half Models + Boat Tools
- 16 Transmitter + Receiver
- 17 Albatross Bust



Museum Collection

- The museum team have been working to separate the Museum into 3 clear sections
 1. Kampong Life,
 2. The Estate,
 3. Boat building + Maritime History
- By distinguishing between these three areas, we can begin to build up and connect stories within.
- The layout has changed to create some intrigue and a clearer path through the Museum Space. We have a number of attractions that require interpretive signage so that visitors can understand their significance. This is still in the works since the spatial rearranging has taken place.

- As displayed on the Gallery Plan, all of the Museum Displays are outlined below, with updates elaborated on below each heading:
 - o Museum Attendant
 - Within the next financial year, we would like to see the attendants being informed enough on the history of the items that they are able to communicate and converse well with visitors, providing a level of customer service that allows people to leave with a positive experience, and as many of their questions answered as possible.
 - Niamh and Tim are working through the creation of a Gallery Manual which we will provide to the attendants to learn information on the items in the Gallery which they can then present to anyone who has further queries.
 - As part of the training, we would like to emphasise the importance of reporting on the numbers and try to chat to visitors, asking them why they are visiting, if there is anything specific they came to see and if there is anything they would like to see more of in the Museum. Any feedback of this nature will provide us with much more clarity as to what is popular, Reporting on numbers and understanding what visitors are interested in.
 - Provide a visitors book so that people can give feedback.
 - o Wayang Kulit
 - The Wayang Kulit need considered restoration. Without being stored in a showcase, they have been exposed to relatively uncontrolled conditions and are at risk of serious degradation. They have been painted at some stage with colours that are not reflective of the original puppets. If we are able to find a professional who would be qualified to undertake such restoration work, this would be of great benefit to the life of the Wayang Kulit. In 2008, the Wayang Kulit puppet theatre practice was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity – suggesting that our puppets may fall under this.
 - o Ichang's Crate
 - Moving forward, we will be reaching out the community for more information on Ichang's story. From what we understand so far, Ichang came to the Cocos Islands in the 1920s to as a worker, and he did puppet shows in his down time. He performed at people's houses at night and entertained the families and Children of Cocos.

Museum Collection

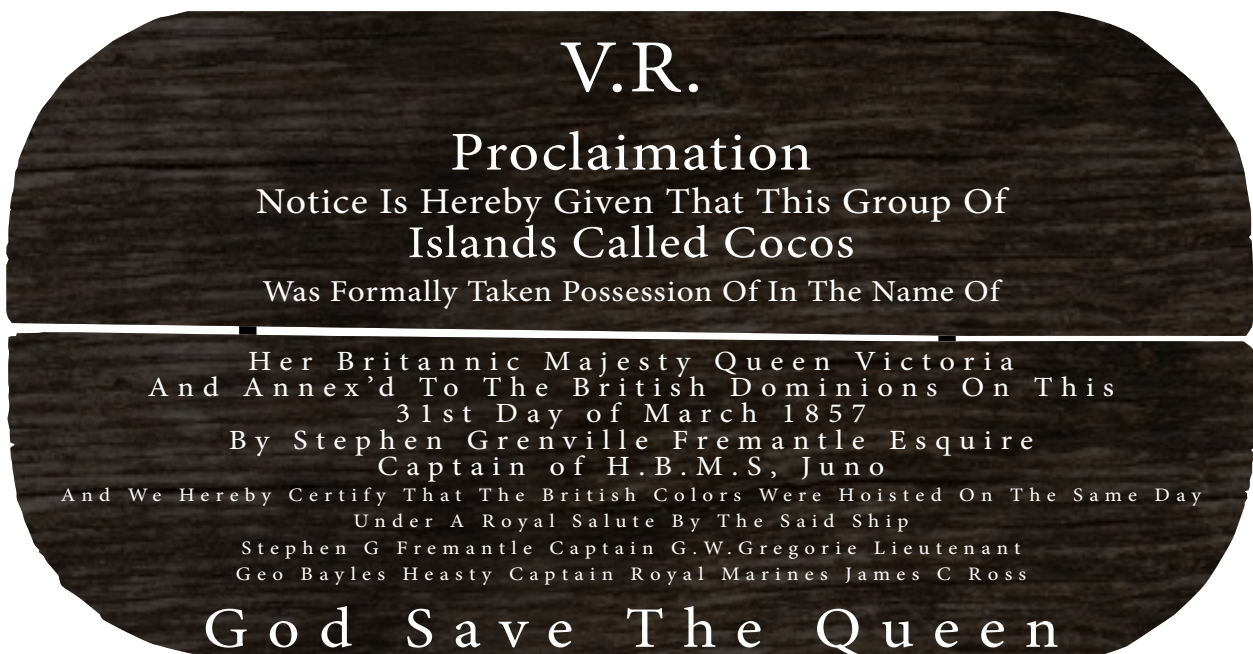
- Home Life
- Fishing
- Proclamation Plaque
 - Nek Suhanie has made a bracket to allow us to hang the proclamation plaque on the wall and create more display space for other items.



Plaque Mount prior to installation



Plaque Mount Installed



Interpretation: Plaque text typed and stylized for reader clarity

Museum Collection

- Busts + Estate
- Coin Machine
 - The coin machine has been moved into a showcase to minimise the elemental damage from environmental exposure in the gallery. Coins have been placed on a mount to allow for clear viewing.
- Trade Items
 - A series of “trade items” are in transit to the Museum currently, sent by Sally Clarke whose father was a Dentist on the Cocos Islands in the 1970s. Photos below.
 - A message from Sally Clarke - “In the 1970s the Cocos Malays from Home Island sold these items to my father at our house on West Island either after a day of husking coconuts or at night. They went door to door and I remember some families had purchased some very elaborate carvings of ships and fish. Dad would have purchased some items and shells on Home Island when he went over twice a week to attend the medical centre and other patients, but I imagine everyone had to be careful of the Clunies-Ross manager Jim Dixon and his wife Anne Dixon. As you would know this was the only way the Malay people could acquire real money as opposed to Clunies-Ross’ plastic currency that could only be spent in his shop. Sometimes I would go to Home Island with my father and I remember seeing Dixon and Clunies-Ross striding around in their white shirts and pants, knives in belts and bare feet, like the feudal lords that they were.”



Timber Carving



Turtle Shell Broaches



Metal Bracelet



Timber Carving



Timber Carving



Turtle Shell Broach

Museum Collection

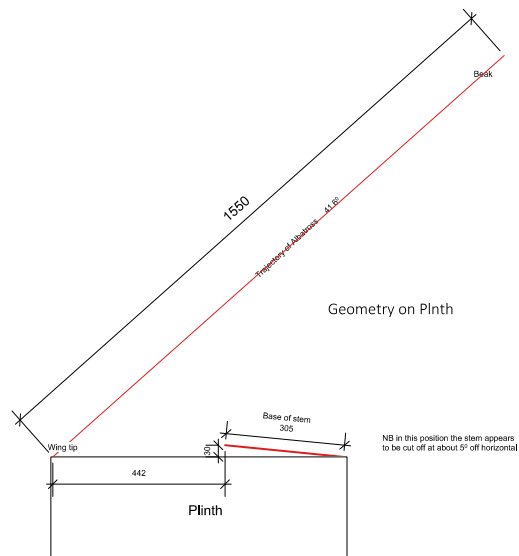
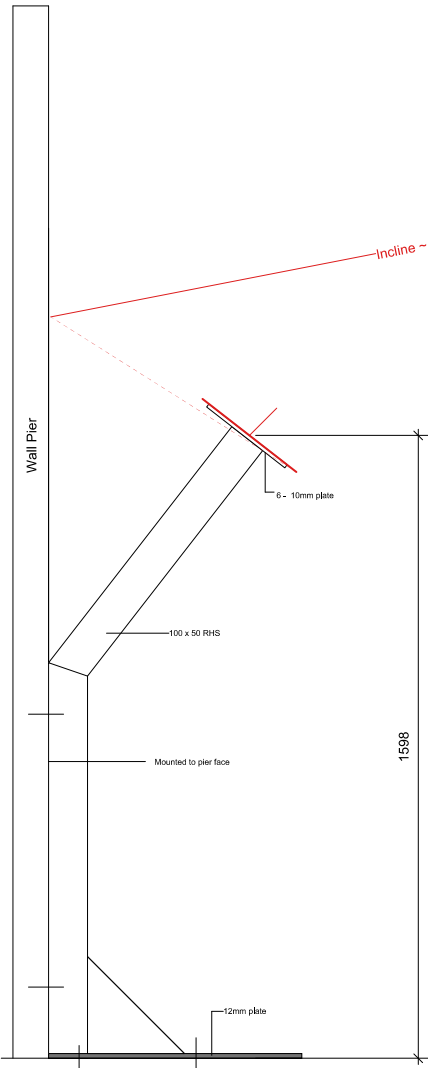
- Smart Screen
 - The smartscreen that is in the Museum should have audio and visual capabilities. Unfortunately, the audio is very temperamental and is not clear enough for us to promote this capacity. It would be good to use this as an interactive photo gallery as we have a number of historical images and this would be an efficient way to put them on display.
- Craft Models
- Oniro
- Ready
- Buah Hati
- G.C.R
- Ayesha Life Ring
 - The Ayesha life ring has finally been put on display with a showcase kindly sent up to Cocos by the WA Museum.
 - A photo of the Ayesha under full sail has been located, and hung above the life ring to provide further context.



Ayesha Life Ring on Display in new showcase

Museum Collection

- Emden
- Half Models + Boat Tools
- Transmitter + Receiver
- Albatross Bust
 - There are plans to wall mount the Albatross Bust to give it a more impactful presence in the gallery.



Scale 1:10 @ A3
13/03/25

Albatross Mount Study – By Tim Eastwood, Manager Special Projects (WA Museum)

West Island Collection

There is an outstanding need to have a more cohesive process between the Home Island Museum hub, and the small offshoot display on West Island.

It would be preferable that the West Island collection focus on covering the West Island story; items such as the cable station and the World War involvement.

There may also be an opportunity to display a recent addition to the collection - A 1970s Pewter Cocos Olympics Mug! This would provide an opportunity to create a small display around the Cocos Olympics, relating back to the Paris Olympics in 2024.



1974 Pewter Mug donated by Sally Clarke



*"Lining up at the Jetty for the Marathon" -
Photo donated by Sally Clarke*



*Home Island vs West Island Soccer Match -
Photo donated by Sally Clarke*

Building Review

As we look to the future, the collection is only getting larger. There are more artifacts being donated and we also have a number in storage that may be good to display if we had the space. This is something that needs to be considered moving forward.

The Rice Store (current Museum space) is a less than ideal location for the Museum as the condition of the building is degrading and will require constant monitoring to ensure that its condition does not worsen. The salt attack in the building's walls is of significant concern considering that it is eating away at the bricks and mortar, potentially causing structural damage within the walls themselves.

Tim Eastwood, Manager of Special Projects at the WA Museum, has proposed a strategy to slow the impacts of the salt attack. This process involves:

1. Scraping back the salt deposits that have built up below the surface layer of paint.
2. Carefully scrub the areas removed with a stiff wire brush
3. Wipe the affected area with a damp cloth and allow to dry
4. Paint over the cleaned, affected area with a lime based, breathable paint to reduce the opportunity for Salt build up in future (currently sampling Porters limewash paint).



Salt Deposit underneath paint



Salt Deposit underneath paint



Salt Deposits removed from a section of wall

Jukong Restoration Project

The Jukong Restoration Project has been moving from strength to strength.

We have almost exhausted the allocated \$8,700.00 of funds from the Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme (MMAPSS). Once this is entirely depleted, we will move onto \$15,000.00 contribution from the Indian Ocean Territories.

Nek Callum is a committed and meticulous shipwright who has worked hard to complete *Lantar Pujeh* - The first of the 5 heritage Jukongs. The next Jukong that has been selected for restoration is *Selerang*, beginning July 24th.

The below table outlines all of the historical information we know about the Jukongs thus far. We will continue to collect information as each boat is worked through.



Nek Callum paints the Less Kuning on Lantar Pujeh

Vessel Name	Name Origin	Owner	Shipwright Name	Year Built	Use	Comments
<i>Lantar Pujeh</i>	To worship the ground	Primary owner was Nek Tabu (Mitchell Salip) The boat was likely passed onto Wak Udin (Edry Austin) when Nek Tabu went to the Australian Mainland in 1976. Lantar Pujeh remained in Wak Udin's possession until he relinquished it to the Shire for restoration work.	Lantar Pujeh was likely built by Nek Aki (Mokta Salip) and Nek Tabu (Mitchell Salip) OR Nek Norbie (Angie Bin Korie) and Nek Tabu (Michell Salip)	1975 (11th January)	Recreation - Fishing and play This boat would accomodate two small children sailing	Affectionately known as Jiha! by Wak Udin (Likely phonetised from Yehaw; to gallop)
<i>Selerang</i>		Nek Keti (Yapat Bin Carey) This was Nek Keti's personal boat	Nek Keti (Yapat Bin Carey)		Recreation - Racing and Fishing	
<i>Fashion Selamat or Busama Fashion</i>	This boat could be one of either Fashion Selamat or Busama Fashion Busama Fashion means Same as Fashion	Nek Nibi (Night Bin Satar)		No plate left to confirm official date		This boat was made as a copy of Fashion Baru. There were 4 made in the same design. 2/3 are in the Shire of Cocos Keeling Islands' possession.
<i>Fashion Baru</i>		Cocos Co-Op	Nek Keti (Yapat Bin Carey)		Used as a Copra industry work boat	
<i>Ini Lagi</i>		John Clunies Ross	Nek Aki (Mokta Salip)	Late 60s, Early 70s	This boat was John Clunies-Ross' racing vessle	

Jukung Restoration Project

News of the project is spreading throughout the community, leading to a visit from the Year 1+2 Class from Cocos Islands District High School. The class had build model Jukongs as part of their art class with Mr Ryan Borbas. This visit has been reported on in the Administators Newsletter back on the mainland. This is a promising promotional oppportunity as it will display the projects success to those who are able to continue to fund it moving forward.

To further educate the youth of Cocos and encourage leaning about the Jukongs, Niamh Swingler has created a Cocos Malay, Jukung Dictionary poster with the assistance of Nek Suhanie, Nek Callum and Pak Qush. The reference image is of Makmoom, a Jukung which is in the WA Museum’s collection down on the mainland. This will be distributed to the school and any interested community members.



CIDHS Year 1+2 Class visit the Jukung Restoration Project

"August 1939 - Makmoom - Cocos Island"

MAKMOOM

Jukung Dictionary • Cocos Malay

Makmoom is a Jukung in the WA Museum's collection. It can be viewed by appointment at the Museum's Collection and Research Centre in Welshpool, Perth.

Kayu Timber

Jukongs are traditionally made from Teak and Ironwood. Plywood has been introduced as a modern alternative to the traditional timbers which are becoming increasingly difficult to source, and expensive.

Paku /Screw Nail / Screw

Papan on the hull of the Jukung are fixed back into the ribbing with either Paku or Screws. Traditionally they would be made from Brass, however Stainless steel is a popular modern alternative. 3/4 inch is a popular length, the timber is milled to accommodate this size of screw. Screws are countersunk into the timber.

Kemudi Rudder

The Kemudi is used to steer the Jukung. The Kemudi can be operated by ropes as shown in this example, or hand held with a tiller arm.

Konek Jukung Stern Post

The Konek Jukung is the vertical part of the stern where the rudder is attached.

Clip (or Bit) Cleat

The clips are rope tie off points at the ends of the seats. In Makmoom the clips are made from timber and were used to tie down loads of coconuts. In modern, racing Jukongs, clips are made from metal and are used as tie off points for the mast/ sail rigging.

Pulangan Bumsit Back Thwart

The pulangan bumsit is the back bench for seating in the Jukung.

Pulangan Tenga Middle Thwart

The pulangan are the bench seats in the Jukung. As Jukung boats do not have a deck, the pulangan help to support the structure of the hull.

Pulangan Tiang Mast Thwart

Located in the front pulangan of the Jukung. The pulangan tiang holds the bush to accommodate the mast for sailing.

Bush Bush

The bush holds the mast in place. The bush is typically made from a brass plate which notes the build date, name and origin of the Jukung.

Stek Mast Mast Step

This timber block that sits below the bush carries the weight of the mast.

Kelam Tebal Stem

The kelam tebal is the front piece of the Jukung that forms the bow.

Belakang Jukung Stern

The belakang Jukung is the back of the Jukung.

Badan Jukung Hull

The Badan Jukung is the main structure or the body of the Jukung.

Papan Plank/Plywood

Often the hull of the Jukung is created from Papan. Traditionally the hull would be made of strips of Teak or Ironwood. Plywood serves as an efficient, modern alternative.

Lunas Keel

The Lunas keeps the Jukung balanced in the water.

Papan Adas Top Plank

The Papan Adas sits just above the Less Kuning, and below the Tutuk Pan Gunol. This section is typically constructed from exposed timber rather than being painted.

Less Kuning Yellow Stripe

Kuning (Yellow) and Blau (Blue) are traditional Cocos colours. Jukongs are always finished with a stripe in each colour. These colours can also be seen in traditional wedding garments on Cocos.

Less Blau Blue Stripe

Tutuk Pan Gunol Gunwale (Gunnel)

Sempi Keel Strip

The Sempi is a thin piece of brass or copper that is attached to the underside of the Lunas. It protects the Lunas from rough terrain as the Jukongs were often launched from the beach.

Muka Jukung Bow

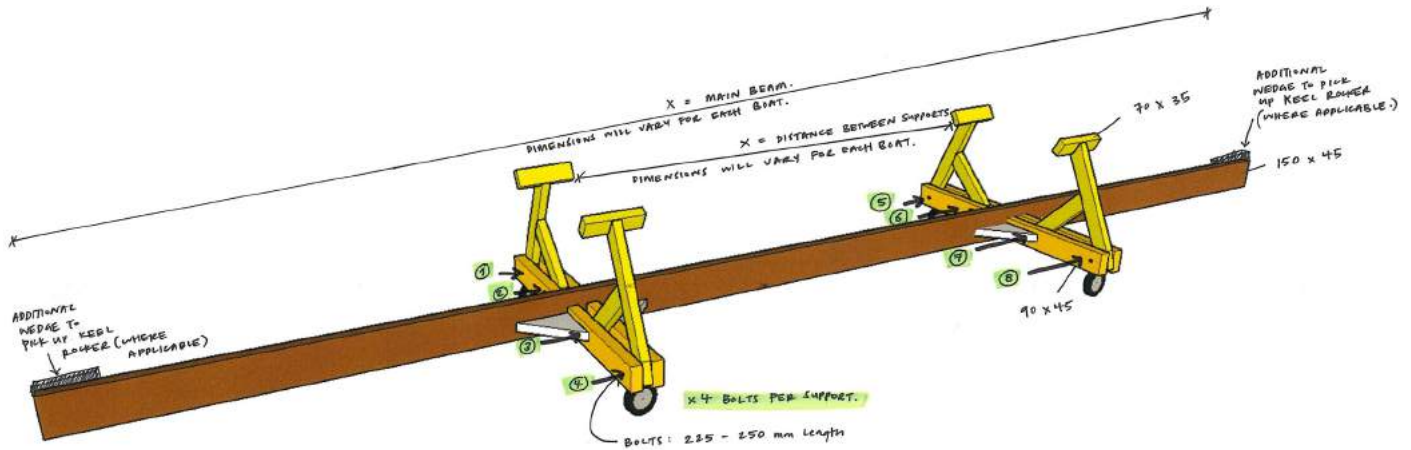
The Muka Jukung is the front of the Jukung.

Sempi under construction by Nek Callum.

Education Poster - Cocos Malay Jukung Dictionary

Jukung Restoration Project

Nek Ainul has come involved in the project, starting with building the boat support frames so that the Jukongs will become mobile within the Chula Shed. We hope that he will continue to be involved and perhaps assist Nek Callum with the boat restoration moving forward.



Jukung Support Frame Design by Tim Eastwood



Lantar Pujeh on support frame - Chocks in place while Nek Ainul installs the hull supports.

Chula Shed

The Chula Shed is being upgraded to make it a more functional, community space. There has already been an electrical upgrade completed to ensure there is adequate power access and lighting moving forward.

There are plans for this space to become a Mens Shed workshop. At the beginning of the Jukong Restoration Project in January 2024, we recieved a range of power tools from Tim Eastwood. These items included:

Machinery:

- Table Saw
- Band Saw
- 6" Jointer
- Thicknesser
- Drill Press
- Dust Extractor

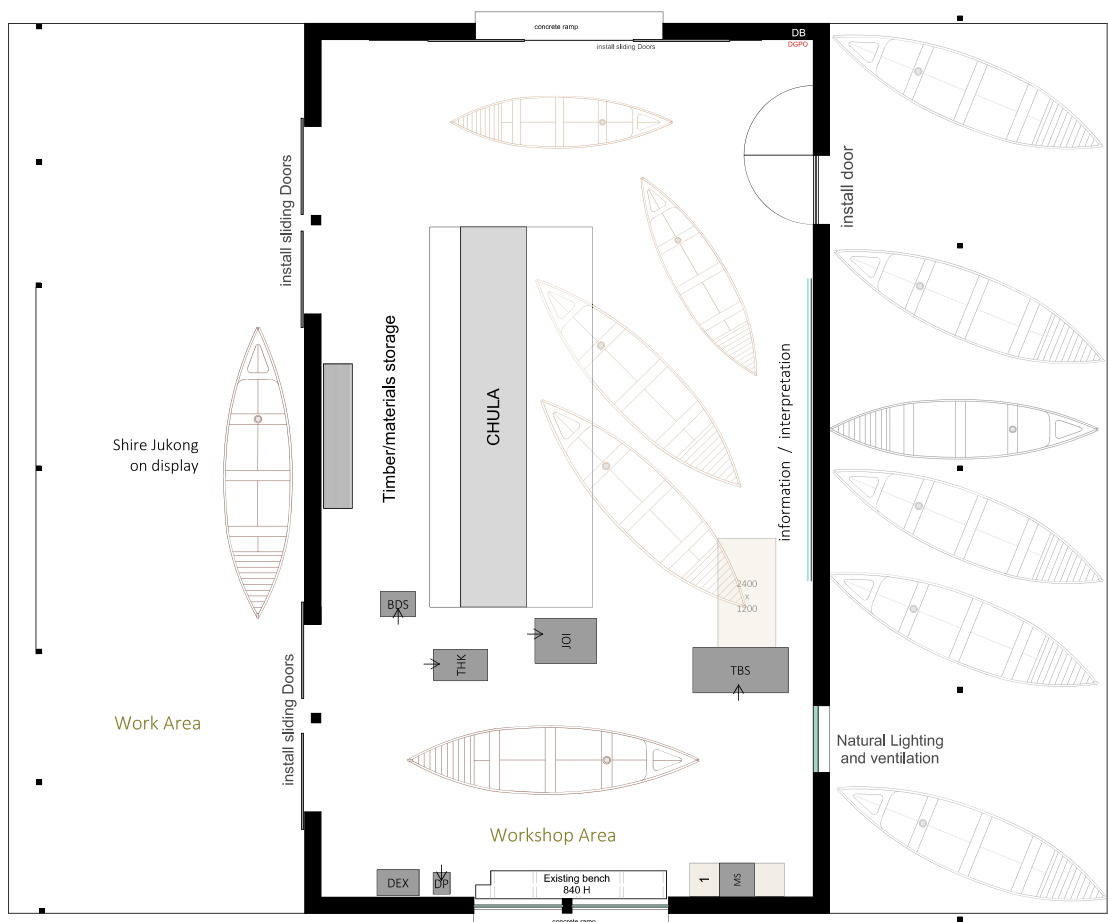
Tools:

- 18V Driver
- 18V Hammer/Driver
- Orbital Sander
- Electric Planer
- 18V Lithium Batteries



With this collection of equipment, we have a great base for setting up the workshop. However, the first requirement will be to ensure that the space is secure so that it can only be accessed by responsible community members, who will use the space safely and take care of the equipment.

In order to achieve this level of security, Tim Eastwood is in the process of designing a series of discreet doors that will be able to be applied to the Chula Shed. The design intent for the doors will ensure that they are lockable and secure, while promoting ventilation and access to natural light.

Alongside its use as a workshop, the Chula Shed is an opportunity to extend the Museum, by including interpretive signage and information further information about Cocos' Jukongs.



Legend:

- THK Thicknesser
- JOI Jointer
- DP Drill Press
- DEX Dust extractor - mobile
-  Historic Jukong
-  Other Jukongs in storage

Early Layout Option for the Chula Shed (09/05/24)- Tim Eastwood

Next Steps – Summary

Museum

- **Branding + Logo design** – Council review and comments – Gain approval.
- **Alternative showcases** – Eliminate need to use 1200x1200 square display cases by acquiring new options (could be built locally or imported). Currently, these showcases are too bulky and impractical in the small space.
- **Rehouse the boat building story** – Display half models and tools in more appropriate showcase, along with appropriate written interpretation.
- **Showcase for the Wayang Kulit** – The Wayang Kulit need a stable atmospheric condition. This can be achieved by displaying the best puppets in a showcase, and moving the rest to secure, controlled storage.
- **Albatross Mount** – Engage Nek Suhanie to build the Albatross mount for impactful display.
- **Artifact Interpretation** – Create and install clear written interpretation for all items.
- Gallery Manual – Complete and provide gallery training manual to Museum attendants.
- Secure air conditioning in the retail centre storeroom. – excess storage for the Museum.

Jukung Restoration Project

- **Selerang** – Continue to facilitate Nek Callum’s progress with Selerang.
- **Community Engagement** – Continue to encourage community engagement through school excursions and seniors involvement.

Chula Shed

- **Secure the building** – Build and install lockable doors.
- **Additional Tables** – Build necessary additional mobile tables/plinths for machinery + tools as per Tim Eastwood’s planning.
- **Install Machinery + Tools** – Once there are adequate locations for the tools, all machinery to be installed.