

# Cargo Proa Prototype

## Building Blog



**APRIL 2022**

From Rassy:

**A**fter seemingly endless shipping postponements and torrential rain delays, the proa ferry project has finally been packed into shipping containers and is on its way to Fiji. With the weather cooling down and the help of some shade trees, the work inside the steel shipping containers was not too hot or difficult. Although spread over five days which included a weekend the actual loading job went smoothly and was completed in two days. As well as cleaning up the shed Rob had obviously put a lot of thought and preparation into the packing. A tractor mounted forklift was used to help lift and move the heavier components which were guided into place by hand. My contributions over three short days consisted of helping with the container loading and taking away two ute loads of materials that Rob no longer required. The final days at UQ were quite laid back and a little bit sad as the last page of an important chapter in the proa ferry story was turned. As I write this post Rob will already have started on the next stage of the adventure while I head off to begin my own Harry project. Some videos of the loading are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Unfortunately I wasn't able to film the hulls and tender being loaded as my help was required.

Rob Rassy

Thanks Rassy, not just for the pics and report but for your unfailing good humour, work, advice and ideas for the last 20 months. It would have been a hell of a lot harder without you. I look forward to following your progress on the C50 now that the materials have been delivered.

The trucks made dropping off/picking up the containers and turning around on the wet grass look easy, but one of the drop off guys apparently refused to do the pick up, so maybe it wasn't as easy as it looked. The containers weigh 3,830 kgs each. The heaviest one contained the lee hull, toybox, rudders, beams, masts, tools, 'glass, carbon, and 'might come in handies'. It weighed 5.7 tonnes. The other weighed 5.2. Total load 3.04 tonnes/tons so maybe the boat ready to sail will weigh less than 4 tonnes. A bit scary, but plenty of scope for beefing up if necessary.

The ship leaves tomorrow, afaik the containers are on board. I have sold/given away/sent to the dump my car, house, 4 boats, a double garage and shed full of stuff which may come in handy sometime, 20 years of experiments and some fun memories. The ship and I arrive in Suva on the 1st May. Not 100% sure yet where the assembly will happen or where I will be living, which is also a bit scary, but if

the preferred option works out, it will be as good a set up as we had with UQ, which was pretty close to perfect.

“How long it will take?” is an oft asked question, which I can’t answer as there are too many variables. 1-6 months to sailing successfully, plus 1 -3 months to get it ready to move cargo is about as close as I can get at the moment. Offers to help with the assembly and testing are coming in which should make it quicker and easier.



Mechanical help



Toy box packed



Room to spare



Organizing chaos



Thats about it



All in



Job done



The ghosts return