



## JULY 2024 EDITION

### **Club and Association Status:**

**Insurance & Incorporation:** Up to date.

### **\*Club Move Update:\***

Still awaiting further notification from Ports North.

### **Boatbuilding Projects:**

#### **Roger's Kiribati Tri:**

Work continues on the crossbeams hingeing arrangements, with parts ordered to be cut, some parts cut, and some parts for the parts machined. Once all the bits 'n' pieces are together, assembly will be as simple as using an old Meccano set to build the Eiffel Tower.

#### **The 16' Skiff:**

Still just waiting her turn....which seems to be way down the track.

**Chris's pram dinghy:** Will recommence once some decent Queensland Maple arrives..

### **Ongoing Maintenance and Improvements at the Clubhouse:**

#### **The New Clubhouse Table!**

We have now glued the tabletop, and it's being trimmed & sanded with Wayne applying his skills and belt sander to flatten the top & bottom down, and Richard & Keven doing the finer sanding.. Once that's done, the legs & braces will be dowelled, glued & attached. Then it will be sealed & clear coated prior to turning over and the top done.



Wayne cleaning up the table top prior to final sanding.

Note: The table, even though it's still being constructed, is already in use because we now sit outside in Workbay 1 to have coffee breaks, around the table.... And this is because the interior is being renovated. Bit of a Catch 22 scenario.

### **The Library Move!**

All the internal painting has been completed, the 290mm wide clear pine shelving delivered, and even the varnished timber trim has been cleaned up & recoated.

Marking out of the shelving positions is under way, and the clubhouse interior has been transformed into a cabinetmaker's workshop to facilitate their build.

A funny thing happened the other day.....

Things are currently a bit routine at our clubhouse. After all, it's a bit difficult trying to find interesting things to report about sanding tabletops and building library shelving, other than the production of copious amounts of sawdust.

Roger's Kiribati tri is slowly progressing with 'bits' being made for the crossbar hinges, but he's also AWOL chasing some rarified bug or weed (no, not THAT type of weed) somewhere over in the Northern Territory. We also suspect it's just a chance to do a poll of types of red wine available along the Sturt Highway....

But! We do get some exciting times - coincidentally, from time to time! 😊  
 When two of us likely lads got into the clubhouse early last Saturday, & we decided to relocate a dozen lengths of shelving to allow more room inside the 'temporary woodwork shop'.  
 Imagine our surprise when we moved the last length and revealed an unwelcome interloper! Yes, we had found the hiding place of a 2 metre deadly Taipan! Yep, snake. Vicious thing it was too, just sitting (lying..?) there watching us with those beady little slitted eyes, just waiting for one of us to come close enough to attack.

All 2.5 metres of deadly intent was enough to get both of us out of it's way long enough to call the local snake catcher - the best option, as we didn't have access to a flamethrower and that would have caused problems with our insurance anyway.

So, we waited as 2.6 metres of potential horrible death also waited for our next move, being that our first move had been to exit the building - stage left!

Mr. Snake-catcher arrived very quickly indeed, probably alerted by the urgency of our hurried, nervous, phone call about the 2.7 metre asp of death, and wanting to relieve us of our brave burden of keeping this terrifying adder away from the general public, thereby avoiding the spectacle of mass panic.

This terribly brave chap strode forcefully into the clubhouse, confronted the 3 metre deadly reptile.....

....and then walked over and picked the bloody thing up! We were shocked! Amazed!

...but very disbelieving when he identified it as a 4 foot brown tree snake, put it in a small sack and said he'd release it into the wild away from the city.



We prefer our version of the event, and are considering applying for bravery awards for Tom & Chris from our local State elected representative. Also, we may enter the 27th July as an annual celebration of *The Six Metre Serpent Day*! There may even be a movie deal in this.....

### **China Bound's Masts & Spars.**

Still awaiting commencement of the mast construction.

### **Our Facebook Page:**

We now have well over 1,000 people following our WBAC page, and constant attention is required to get rid of the various spam posts that appear all too regularly.

Recently however, we have been contacted by Rob Vale via our Facebook page to see if any of our members would like to buy a parcel of Austral marine ply sheets he bought for a project, but health reasons sadly mean he cannot continue with it (the ply is located in Cairns). The following is his message with details of the ply. I have to agree with Rob about the Austral ply, it's certainly the best I have used.

Hi fellas, after a lot of heart ache and onset of osteo arthritis in the usual places, I have had to accept that I can no longer build a boat as planned. With leaves me with a pile of brand new Austral marine ply AAA rated, f17 tensile strength, best plywood available in Oz, or the world for that matter  
13 x 9mm sheets  
2 x 6mm sheets & 1 x 4mm  
Cost \$3500 plus 300 freight to get it here.  
Thinking about selling it, as I can't find a trailer builder within budget to build me a trailer to build a tear-drop camper on - plan B  
Wondering if anyone would like to make me an offer.

*If anyone is interested, please let me know and I'll arrange contact. .. Chris*

**Our WBAC website:**

<https://www.woodenboats Cairns.com.au>

### **Interesting titbits:**

When a yacht, power boat, or any old wooden boat with a displacement-style hull gets a bit old, rough around the edges, leaks a bit, sags here and there, and generally looks as though it's due for the scrap heap (hmmmm..... this reminds me of a local club I know....), sometimes the boat's value is seen by interested parties who decide to do something about it.

Such is the case of this beautiful old girl who was taken in hand and treated to a bit of a Shipwright-style plastic surgery. Or to be technically correct, her hull was given a double-diagonal laminated skin. (Don't we all wish for something similar?) I believe this was done in Europe, but have no details to whom to give the appropriate credit.

As you'll see in the photos, her hull was stripped of all external coatings and sanded smooth. You can see a repair on her starboard side which looks very much like an impact from another vessel's bow.

Once that was complete, the diagonal strakes were commenced amidships and the team doing the job would have split into two – one fixing the strakes moving forward and the other doing the same moving aft. Assuming it was done correctly, there would have been similar teams doing the same on the other side to eliminate any distortion caused by the glueing process.

Then, once the first skin was finished, sanding & fairing would be carried out prior to the second skin being applied, with the only difference being the strakes would be applied in a different direction – opposing the first set. All becomes clear once you view the photos.





Sanding commenced.



Sanding complete, revealing a midships repair..!



First laminate started.



Continuing..



Thirsty work.



First laminate almost done.





Second laminate of the double-diagonal layup commenced



Double diagonal complete, fairing started.



FINISHED!! – and sexy as hell!

**Is this a nightmare, .... Or a dream?**



.....or a shed in Edmonton...?

**And recent events near Fiji where the Fijian Navy still has a bit to learn about navigation..**



Flooded from engine room aft.





Lightening ship.



High and dry! A brand new boat...

...and here's a possible replacement:



(The brown one, not the cruiser HMS Belfast)



Finally, most of us have seen the CUTTY SARK in her drydock, but very few know this is how she is docked. Quite remarkable!



...and yes, she is copper sheathed.



Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for July 2024 and, as always, if there's more you want to see or know about please let us know by return email. Likewise, if you have a story or article you'd like included please send it to us at: [WBACairns@gmail.com](mailto:WBACairns@gmail.com)

**Clubhouse:** 68 Tingira Street, Portsmith, (Cairns) Qld 4870

**Committee is:** President- Roger Fryer;  
Vice President- Chris O'Keefe (Ratlines & WBAC Facebook page);  
Secretary- Dermot Smyth (and Librarian);  
Treasurer- Brendon O'Rourke;  
Committee- Tom Sparks, Sheila Sparks (website supervisor), Keven Muller, and Richard Heazlewood.

**Website:** <https://www.woodenboatscairns.com.au>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Wooden-Boat-Association-of-Cairns-118900728480121/>

Postal Address: 68 Tingira Street, Portsmith, (Cairns) Qld 4870

Phone: 0417 266 555 (Roger)

WBAC's Cash For Containers number is: C10026463