

## THE 2023 GTR EDITION

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

**The Ports North Master Plan:**

No further announcements at this time.

**Insurance & Incorporation:**

Under revision prior to Incorporation submission.

### **Boatbuilding Projects:**

**Brendon's Hartley:** Is complete from the club's point of view and this is her last update. There is a little more to be done and pics be published when it's all tickety-boo. Of course, she had her official launch and naming at the Raid, and Brendon then had much pleasure in squiring many admirers out onto the lake to show what she could do.

As she arrived at the club all that time ago, in comparison to mooring alongside at TSC:



A happy Brendon:

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

BT's port gun'l has now been trimmed & treated and a new section inserted, along with a couple of plywood patches. Capping piece being trimmed for insertion, then it's on to the interior.



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

Has had her internals cleaned of loose coatings, prepped, and a coat of primer undercoat. Seemed a shame to overcoat such beautiful build work, but needs must so it was.





### **JW's Scruffy:**

We're quite sure work has been continuing on her interior, but all we've seen & heard is a couple of pairs of feet sitting under the boat and some random noises. We think John & Tom have a TV under there and they're watching soaps re-runs....

### **Chris's pram dinghy:**

Is still in mothballs while many other projects of a higher spousal priority are completed. In other news, *SPROCKET*, fresh from winning the 2023 Peculiar Propulsion Race has now gone to live in Hervey Bay with Ralph. She is also retaining her paddlewheel outfit, so expect some 'interesting' news items from that area.....



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

Up to date, but attention is now being given to the container locking mechanisms.

### **Club Happenings:**

#### **The 2023 Great Tinaroo Raid:**

Three days of exhausting setups, preps, races, and clean-ups that led to a very well-run Raid. However, the after effects have caught up with us all and the way things will be run in future is under review.

Two glamour events took centre stage initially, those being the official launch of Brendon's Flareline – now officially named *SANDY SUE* in honour of Brendon's wife Sandra, and the gifting of *OM TOCH* to the wonderful people at Sailability Cairns.

Amanda at ABC Radio asked for and was given a radio interview on race day which seemed to go over quite well.

First race was the Peculiar Propulsion Race which showed all sorts of weird inventions from hand-driven home-made dual pump-jets, through a reciprocating hand-driven whale tail contraption, the obligatory pedal-driven paddle-wheeler, and other variations. Finally, Chris brought *SPROCKET* across the finish line with a huge lead. Dermot came in second with Peter Rountree third. It was

noted that Roger's much-vaunted entry was disqualified due to his no-show at the pre race briefing. His very inadequate excuse that he was in Perth with a hospital grade back twinge was dismissed out of hand.



A win finally: Chris triumphant!

The paddling and rowing race was next and as usual there was all sorts of splashing, mashing and hashing as a bunch of mixed craft thrashed their way around the course with very surprising results. John Breen paddled in first in a very powerful display followed into second surprisingly by Tom – also paddling, and to a disbelieving Sheila muttering things about no exercising, and finally third went to Peter Rountree rowing like a group of sharks were close behind. Richard had a longer race than others due to having to return to shore to collect his lifejacket, and Keven reverse rowing home



John Breen with the winner's smile, and.....



..Peter accepts the inaugural Rowing Trophy (that he made himself)



### **And finally it was time for the Seagull Race!**

Again, as usual, the variety of entries just amazed the audience and the air was alive with the annoying drone of ancient 2-stroke engines and the smell of fuel (burnt and unburnt).

Again, as usual, the contestants milled around the starting line like seagulls looking for hot chips,

Again, the contestants had almost no idea of the countdown because they couldn't hear the starter's horn, and...

Again, there was pandemonium when the start was called and Sheila was spotted going the wrong way....again!

However, after the first turn the field sorted itself out with Peter Higgins well in the lead in his stretched tomato crate and Sheila in hot pursuit.

After the second turn a nailbiter ensued with Sheila determinedly catching up and rounding the third and final mark inside Peter and then shot home to a well-deserved win.



Sheila hurtling to victory!



Sheila receiving the coveted Dr Tom Wright Memorial Seagull Trophy

### **The Handing Over of *Om Toch* to Sailability Cairns.**

As has been advertised recently, we decided that *Om Toch* (built by Rien Hofman and donated to WBAC a couple of years back) was well under used and should be moved on to – preferably – an organisation that would benefit by her use.

Sailability was the first and last organisation we thought of and they were duly approached with the offer. To say they were happy about the gift is an understatement, and plans were made for the handover to take place at this year's Raid.

The Saturday dawned a perfect day for all festivities, and Jeff Crofts (President of Sailability Cairns) and a number of the Sailability crew were able to take her for a familiarisation trip around the lake for an hour or so, shadowed by Dermot in *Jule* – just to make sure all was okay.

All was, and we handed her over in fine style to a very pleased group of wonderful people that have the happiness and wellbeing of disabled sailors at heart!



Chris and Jeff celebrate the donation of *Om Toch* to Sailability Cairns





Inspecting *Om Toch* before embarking on a test sail.



Jeff and his Sailability crew enjoying their first sail in *Om Toch*, shadowed by *Jule*.



# SPORT

## Wooden boat raid success

SEVERAL colourful, wild and wacky watercrafts sailed out across Tinaroo on Saturday for the annual Cairns Wooden Boat Association's Great Tinaroo Raid.

This year, Sheila Sparks received the Dr Tom Wright Memorial Trophy after winning the Seagull Outboard Race.

Brendon O'Rourke won Best Boat with his beautifully refurbished Hartley Flareline motor cruiser whilst Chris O'Keefe won the Peculiar Propulsion Race after his victory in his very peculiar pedal-powered paddle-wheeler.

The day was deemed a success by all those who attended.



Sheila Sparks receiving the Dr Tom Wright Memorial Trophy from Wooden Boat Association of Cairns Vice President Chris O'Keefe for winning the Seagull Outboard Race. (PHOTO: Glen Chisholm)



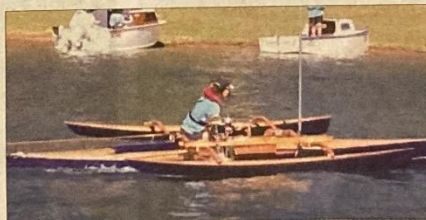
Dermot Smyth, Wooden Boat Association of Cairns Secretary, presenting the Peculiar Propulsion Race trophy to Chris O'Keefe after victory in his very peculiar pedal-powered paddle-wheeler. (PHOTO: Glen Chisholm)



Members of Sailability Cairns inspect their new sailing vessel, Om Toch, donated by the Wooden Boat Association of Cairns.



Brendon O'Rourke with his beautifully refurbished Hartley Flareline motor cruiser, which one the Best Boat award at the 2023 Great Tinaroo Raid. (PHOTO: Dermot Smyth)



Sheila Sparks winning the Seagull Outboard race at the Great Tinaroo Raid. (PHOTO: Dermot Smyth)



Part of the fleet of wooden boats at the Great Tinaroo Raid. (PHOTO: Dermot Smyth)



Brendon O'Rourke receiving the award for Best Boat presented by Wooden Boat Association of Cairns Vice President Chris O'Keefe. (PHOTO: Glen Chisholm)



Chris O'Keefe with his winning entry in the Peculiar Propulsion Race.

Full page coverage of Raid highlights in *The Express*, the Atherton Tablelands newspaper.



## **OUT AND ABOUT!**

Our correspondents in far-flung places are obviously still in hibernation – apart from Marc in Van Diemen's Land who has had a significant health episode, underwater, while competing, and fortunately medics of several types were nearby.

Marc's recovering well, and we wish him the best in his recuperation.

### **Our Facebook Page:**

Numerous posts over recent weeks, most covering the Raid, and all have been well viewed.

**Our WBAC website:**      <https://www.woodenboatscairns.com.au>

Continually being updated by Sheila. If you haven't visited it recently, you're in for quite a surprise with the amount of info that's been collated and installed.

-----oOo-----

Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for September, 2023 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  
Secretary- Dermot Smyth (and Librarian);  
Treasurer- Brendon O'Rourke;  
Committee- Tom Sparks, Sheila Sparks (website supervisor), and Keven Muller.

**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