



RATLINES – JUNE 2024

The official newsletter of the
Wooden Boat Association of Cairns, Inc.
ABN 56 194 994 249

JUNE 2024 EDITION

Club and Association Status:

Insurance & Incorporation:

Up to date.

Boatbuilding Projects:

Roger's Kiribati Tri:

Work on Bitaki Taari is progressing well. With the mast well sanded and now round, it has been double spiral wound with fibreglass tape and epoxy and is now reckoned strong enough.

While this was happening, BT was moved into the open and the outrigger arms and amas were clamped into position to make sure that the swept back system was workable. With Wayne and Keven providing the extra hands and advice, Glen keeping an eye on things, measurements were taken, checked and double checked, and beams moved back and forth.

To Roger's great relief it was decided that the swing back arrangement was achievable and the overall width of the boat could be kept to under 2.5m (so it can be easily towed). A mock up, in plywood, of the hinge mechanism is being made and the crossbeams have been trimmed back a little.



The 16' Skiff:

She's just waiting her turn....

Chris's pram dinghy: Is back in line waiting with all the other home jobs.

Ongoing Maintenance and Improvements at the Clubhouse:

The New Clubhouse Table!

We started off a few months back by machining and cutting the Kauri for the table, and now it's being progressed rapidly. All three table legs/frames have been dowelled & glued together, and the table top is about to be biscuited & glued. The plan is to progress everything so it is completed at the same time as the library move & clubhouse refurbishment.



The Library Move!

As we said in the last *Ratlines*: "There's no reason why we can't commence the prep work for the library move." Well, we certainly commenced! Utter chaos has reigned now for a couple of weeks and we expect it to remain that way for another three weeks at least.



The rear wall was stripped bare of everything but the kitchenette, and so was the side wall betwixt the two double doors. It was all trimmed as flat as possible – not an easy task with such an old, transportable building – and then both areas re-sheeted with plasterboard.



Now that it's all plastered and sanded, the internal repaint has now started.

China Bound's Masts & Spars.

For those who don't know, Luis & Sandra bought *China Bound* – one of Dr. Tom's yachts from his vast collection. They are well into getting her back into sailing trim, but the mast & spar arrangements are incomplete with the originals unavailable.

This situation obviously doesn't stop Luis & Sandra as they've sourced a bunch of Oregon replacements, and once the current clubhouse renovations subside a tad we'll alter the new bits into the correct size and format. This promises to be an interesting project...



Club Move Update:

Still awaiting further notification from Ports North. It will be of interest to our members that our physical footprint on the new site will be considerably different to our current setup where the clubhouse is central to the workbays. In the new site the four containers will sit either side of one long workbay (two per side), and the clubhouse itself will sit slightly removed from one end of the workbay.

We stress that the final setup is yet to be fully approved by all parties, but updates will be supplied as available.

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.

Our WBAC website:

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

Very recently updated again by Sheila, and our dynamic damsel has left our shores for a well-earned holiday in Scotland with family and friends. In the meantime, Tom has been let loose to fend for himself

Interesting titbits:

Ever wonder about the chase boats for the sail hydrofoilers, the ones that look like they're from Mars? Well, this is one of the latest – powered by a Toyota hydrogen engine, and carbon-fibre build of course:



Plus, just when you thought no wooden boats were being built, this was recently completed in Europe. No details unfortunately.

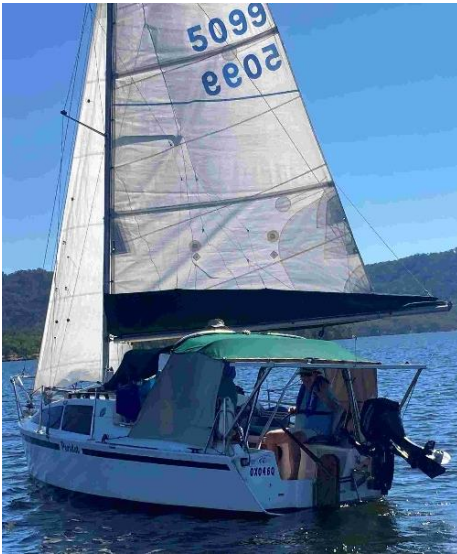


Tinaroo Capers: – Two for the price of one this month!

A Glorious Day

June 13th 2024

A gorgeous winter day worthy of the Tablelands lured 15 boaties to the lake for a relatively uneventful day on the water. It started early but frustratingly with Phill having problems starting his putt putt *Yabby*. By the time Roger had arrived, Peter and Gayle had sailed in on *Peridot*, John Breen had appeared (apparently from nowhere!), Tom was helping Richard rig sails on *Ninjani* and Dermot had *Joule* in the water.



The rest, too many to mention, arrived soon after and the waterfront was abuzz with coffee making, cake eating and discussion on the lack of wind. Some ripples further out promised some propulsion for the sailors, so those with motors set out. Those without, drifted slowly away from shore. Peter and Cheryl arrived with Peter's white boat and the Seagull outboard. Phill was still having problems with his engine but went along anyway to help start Peter's Seagull.

Dermot wanted to look at some playground sites on the other side (a grandfatherly thing!), so Roger and Keven went along for the ride. A familiar catamaran was spotted on the horizon. This turned out to be Mark Heaton, who had coincidentally brought a friend out for a day's sailing, not knowing about the WBAC meet. Nice to catch up with him.



Spotting Richard becalmed and starting to row home, the crew in *Joule* took pity and offered a towline. Gratefully accepted, Richard got back in time for lunch.



The distinctive sound of a putt-putt echoing across the water, indicated that Phill had finally managed to get his motor started, but the *Seagull* was silent!



Back on shore, there was some changing of people and boats. Keven took *Ninjani* out for a sail, Roger took advantage of the perfect weather to explore around the cove in his canoe, Phill and Peter adjusted the points on the *Seagull*, got it started and Peter was able to take his boat for a couple of test runs.



Lunch and the rest of the day was uneventful. With a gentle breeze setting in, the sailors set out again and had enough to make sailing worthwhile.



Glen was very happy with his *Flatty* and is considering installing a centreboard to replace the leeboard. He obviously aims to go even better.

While Dermot was away on home duties, Roger and Keven became concerned that Richard had got becalmed again, so borrowed *Joule* to go and see, but need not have worried. Richard was well underway, looking very relaxed and having a great time.



The weather was also perfect for *Joule*. The new solar cells were producing lots of electrons and showed that the batteries and electrical system are now capable of taking the boat out to Dermot's favourite inshore Coral Sea Islands.



After everyone else had packed up and headed home, Dermot and Christina went on a late afternoon cruise in search of more grandchildren-friendly destinations, including this secluded beach.

All in all, a good day was had by everyone, though the engine starters suffered with some sore muscles!



A Delight at the End of the Day

13th June 2024

Only the hardy few dared the weather to give their boats a run on Thursday. Unusually, Dermot (with ancient mariner friend David), and Roger arrived simultaneously to find Phill already at the gate. It was raining, not heavy but the scotch mist kind. (No, that is not a brand of whisky, but a wetness between mist and drizzle).

However, enthusiasm was not dampened, and the boats were put in the water before coffee was served. Tom arrived with *Iona* but minus Sheila who is enjoying scotch mist in her homeland. With *Joule*, *Iona*, *Yabby*, *Brahminy* and *Flatty* we had enough boats for everyone, but no-one was particularly anxious to brave the weather and set sail/ steam or start engines.



Dermot and David disappeared silently into the mist in *Joule*. Heading for destinations unknown and only reappeared briefly for coffee before heading off to Fong On Bay later in the day. Dermot is testing the effective range of Joule and the recharge rate from the solar panels. Don't think he got many electrons in the morning, but claimed significant recharge when the clouds parted for a while.

Eventually, Roger decided to light a fire in *Brahminy* to raise some steam, (at least it would help to dry him out). With Glen showing the way by rowing around the bay, Roger steamed out only to return quickly when he realized that he had forgotten to fit the ever-reliable Seagull outboard and a life jacket. Back on shore, with Seagull fitted and lifejacket on, Roger set off again, this time with John Breen as crew. After a quick check to make sure Glen was still rowing, *Brahminy* had a good run around the lake. At last, the operator has learnt how to maintain steam pressure and keep things moving!



Peter Rountree and Gayle had arrived by now, but minus *Peridot* as Peter has got the bad back syndrome.

Morning tea was held in the TSC shelter (it was still raining) and it was interrupted by a friend of Phill's (Mick) turning up with family in tow. Phill has solved the starting problem with *Yabby* by squirting oil down the cylinder and soon the coffee and cake crew were treated to the sight and sound of Phill and Mick scooting past in *Yabby*. Surprisingly fast for a little boat and small motor!



Micks' family wisely kept under the shelter, but Mick was given a trip in *Brahminy* when the rain had eased a little. Glen was back on the water, sailing this time, Phill had a solo run in *Yabby*, but Tom was still setting up *Iona* after her layup with help from Peter Whalley-Thompson and advice from all and sundry.

Lunch beckoned, but firstly, Roger was keen to try the double Seagull trick on *Brahminy*, using his bespoke mounting system for the second Seagull. The idea is to start the one with a clutch before the one without, and drop the clutch once the boat is moving.



However, after starting the one with the clutch, Roger discovered that *Brahminy* was already underway. (The clutch was engaged). Rather than disengage it, he started the second motor and took off like a scalded rabbit. Very happy, Roger shot off across the lake, but fate, as always, set in, and when the bespoke mounting began to slip, the second motor had to be shut down and *Brahminy* dawdled back to land. Another session at the drawing board is needed before *Brahminy* can shame allcomers in the Seagull race at the Raid.

With a lift in the weather and some wind starting to appear, Tom launched *Iona*, but the only crew he could get were Roger and Sandy. By this time, everyone else had left for warmth and dry clothes, except the indefatigable Glen, still sailing *Flatty*, and Phill who was packing up. Very happy with the performance of *Yabby*.



In gentle sunshine and a gentle breeze, Tom, Roger and Sandy had a delightful sail, with Tom giving Roger a sailing lesson (desperately needed!), and Sandy happy to be on the water. A lovely end to a diverse day on the lake



MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

From Peter Whalley Thompson: Nautical terms explained (source unknown)

- **Anchor**

Any of a number of heavy, hook-shaped devices that are dropped over the side of the boat on the end of a length of rope and/or chain, and which is designed to hold a vessel securely in place until (a) the wind exceeds 2 knots, (b) the owner and crew depart, or (c) 3 a.m.

- **Anchorage:**

1) Destination at day's end. Always found at the junction of two charts, in the gutter of a chart book, or on a chart not aboard.

2. Any location on the water where at least twenty boats may be accommodated in sufficient proximity to one another so that a sound of 10 decibels (roughly equal to the noise produced by folding a paper towel in half) made by a member of the crew of any one boat may be heard clearly by a person of average hearing on any one of the other boats.

- **Binoculars:**

Entertaining shipboard kaleidoscope which when held up to the light reveals interesting patterns and designs caused by salt spray, thumb prints and scratches. Uncapped, its lenses may also be employed to collect small amounts of salt from seawater through evaporation.

Peter W-T also recommends checking out the following YouTube video about a bloke who sailed an open 13 ft Welsford design dinghy around Tasmania, interrupted only by a solo, non-stop crossing of Bass Strait:

[Ep. 16 - SOLO AROUND TASMANIA & ACROSS BASS STRAIT IN A 13' OPEN DINGHY - YouTube](#)

From Richard Heazlewood: Denman Marine Newsletter

Richard recommends checking out the Denman Marine newsletter for a fine selection of small wooden craft: <https://sendy.denmanmarine.com.au/w/qUVw1s2ZR6F4Rq892873J6dg>

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Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for June 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

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