



RATLINES – AUGUST 2023

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

Club and Association Status:

The Ports North Master Plan:

Significant funds announced by State Gov't.

Insurance & Incorporation:

Up to date..

Boatbuilding Projects:

Brendon's Hartley: All but complete. Pics when available.

Roger's Kiribati Tri:

BT's had her outer hull completely repainted, and is now upright with work commenced on the internals. Moving right along!



The 16' Skiff:

Has been cleaned inside and out and has been flipped over. She will rest right-side up on BT's trailer for the foreseeable future, and will have her internals sealed with paint to prevent any further deterioration, then pest-proofed with fine birdwire.



JW's Scruffy:

Much sanding and painting, then a major result – the hull exterior paint is finished!!



Chris's pram dinghy:

Is now in mothballs while *Whisper* - another project - is tidily'd up for the Raid. A decent outboard has been added to *Whisper* to allow her cathedral-style hull to reach for her full potential. She will also be competing in the Peculiar Propulsion Race.

The Planned Peculiar Propulsion Unit remains shrouded in secrecy for the time being. (just kidding, she'll be using the pedal-powered paddle wheels from Gnu the Canoe).



Ongoing Maintenance and Improvements at the Clubhouse:

Windows have been freed up and finished, and the double side door barrel bolts have been made more effective. Also, we've now changed over to a master-keyed lock system throughout. Therefore, ALL locks have been changed including the main entrance gate, and keys are now held by committee members only as per the last committee meeting.

Club Happenings:

The 2023 Great Tinaroo Raid:

Don't forget, the Raid will no longer be held in July but is confirmed at the Tinaroo Sailing Club on the **18th, 19th and 20th August!!**

See WBAC website for the 2023 Raid Programme

Hell and High Water

Sheila set the stage when she determined to go to Tinaroo, “come hell or high water”. The weather forecast was not promising, (to say the least!), but after that proclamation the mob could not back down.

On the way up, Tom reckoned it only rained after Tolga, obviously he took a different route to Roger. The only dry spell he had was just east of Mareeba. However, with raincoats on, Tom and Sheila were there early, with Dermot and Phill soon after, muttering about fools and the rain. Generously the blame was shared around. Mark and Glen arrived with Keven soon after to add to the “festivities?”. Coffee and cake helped to raise spirits and boats were prepared for launch.



Iona was well on the way to complete rigging when, Disaster!! Tom had left the pin that secures the mast at home. Phill thought for a moment and, as a replacement, removed the bolt holding his trailer spare wheel. Handing it up to Tom, he glanced down to see the errant pin lying on Iona's gunwale. (Apparently been there since the last trip to the lake). Tom won't be allowed to forget that! With mast now fitted, *Iona* was launched, but Glen had already launched *Flatty* and was sailing, so they lost that race, again! Tom and Sheila took *Iona* out, but could not attract passengers as too much else was happening.

With the weather improving a little, Peter and Gayle arrived to try out his “new” Seagull. Fitted to the tiny tender from *Peridot*, Peter looked in peril of doing a nosedive into the water when trying to start it, but the little craft went well when it fired up and he cruised up and down very happily.



Dermot had brought *Jule* around as a rescue boat and took her out for jaunt. Still seems odd to see her move so silently and gently. Very impressive. Much easier to start than a Seagull!

Meanwhile Mark had carried his tender into the water and after disappearing around the corner returned with his very smart and recently finished catamaran. This looked fast standing still, and attracted much attention.



Phill, Roger and Keven fitted *Foiled* together and, with Keven in the driving seat, gave it a trial with a new foil configuration and a different propeller (specially imported from the UK for the occasion). Neither gave any improvement over the previous attempt, so the disillusioned trio decided to dismantle the boat and retire it from the Raid this year. More thinking needed.



With gusty wind, scattered showers and drizzle, the weather was tolerable, so lunch was called before a second session on the water. While Phill, Peter and Gayle sensibly headed for home after lunch, the rest decided on another sail or a steam.

Keven accepted an invitation from Mark to take the catamaran out. Roger set a fire in Brahminy and, while waiting for steam, watched the catamaran sail gently out, until she got a decent breeze, when it took off like a scalded cat, or a greyhound with a cattle prod behind it. Rapidly she disappeared from sight into the rain showers and mist.



Needless to say, Brahminy was more sedate. Sheila had opted to come along for the ride, so once steam was raised and the engine started, they set off slowly heading across to look at Platypus Campground as a potential site for the Raid evening cruise. The rain started, the wind got up and high water was experienced. Not quite hell, but they had the flames in the fire-grate as a reminder. However, Brahminy is a stable boat and with a good fire, the engine kept ticking over and slow progress was made. By this time, Sheila and Roger were wet and cool (Scots and Poms don't consider rain here cold), so they were happy to head back and were going well, until, almost back, the throttle cable broke. A quick fix and they were soon under way again and safe to shore. No towing needed.

By this time, everyone else had returned, much more quickly! Tom had taken *Iona* out on his own and managed to get the gunwales into the water. Mark and Keven admitted that the catamaran had been rather fast and they had broken a halyard fitting. Glen did not admit anything, except that he had enjoyed himself.



Once on shore, the weather cleared up, wind died down and packing up was pleasant in the sunshine. While damp for most of the day, there was lots of boating and testing of various bits of equipment. If nothing else, there was no need for suncream!

Roger

16 July 2023

Our Facebook Page:

Roughly one post per week of late, and each one gets a significant number of views and comments. We now have well over 800 people following our page from around the globe.

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 Sheila has collated and installed.

OUT AND ABOUT!

Our correspondents in far-flung places have obviously gone into hibernation – which is understandable as they're all down south and it's winter.

WOODEN BOAT FOR SALE

Reluctant sale of much loved Hartley TS 18 . Sails well, stable, well mannered, recent repaint and some minor repairs. Trailer new springs, new bearings and new tyres. New deck hatch, still some minor repairs and reattachment of some fittings required. Mainsail, foresail, all rigging, lots of extras.

Price: \$2,300 ONO

Contact Dale Hurst (WBAC Member) on Ph 0418314229

-----oOo-----

Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for August, 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

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