

Membership Update: 34 members

DATE CLAIMER:

- **2025 Christmas Lunch** will be held at Tinaroo Sailing Club on Saturday 6th December.

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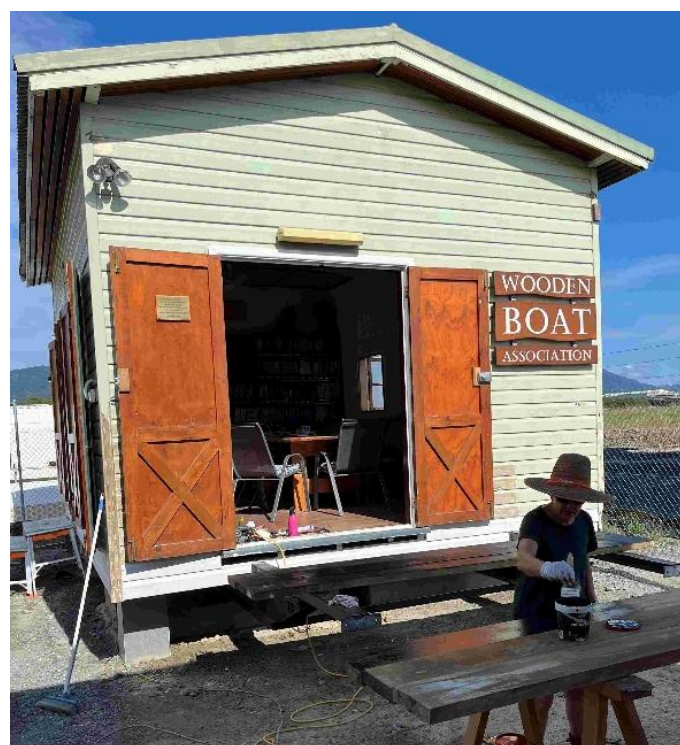
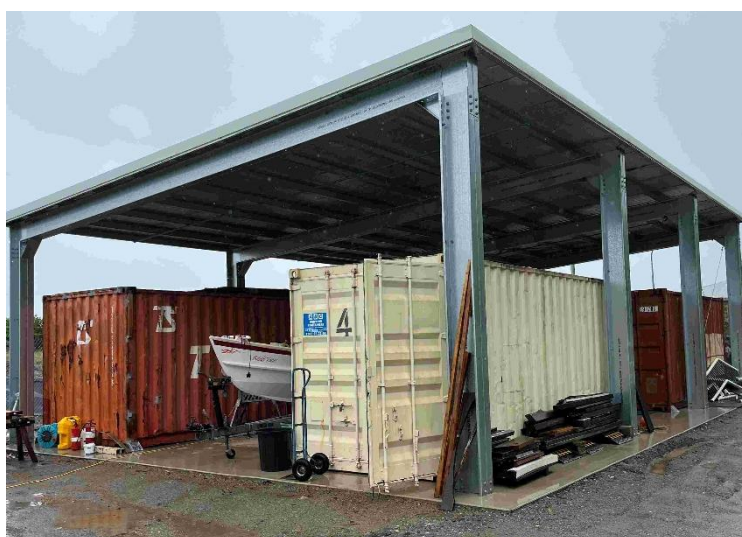
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Rebuilding After the Move

We have been occupying the new site for a few weeks and made a good start on building all the bits that we need to make it workable.

Chris has installed a lock on the end doors, as these will become the main entrance once the verandah and steps are built.

Access was initially by stepladder, but now blocks of wood and a couple of work platforms make it easier. Still a very temporary fix, but work on the verandah and steps is well underway, held up a little by the weather. All the timber is now cut, sealed and ready for assembly. The verandah and steps will be treated with a stain and decking oil.





Tom is happy, and busy sanding the outside of the clubhouse, and paint for this has been selected and purchased.

Once the verandah and steps are completed, we'll start on the cover to connect the clubhouse to the shed.

Dermot has reinstalled the books and magazines for the library, the TV is back in place and generally the club house is getting back to normal!

Comments by members are that the clubhouse is lighter and airier, and the whole place feels better for this.

In the shed, space for working on the boats is a little constrained at the moment, but once *Bitaki* is completed and out of the way that will ease the situation considerably.

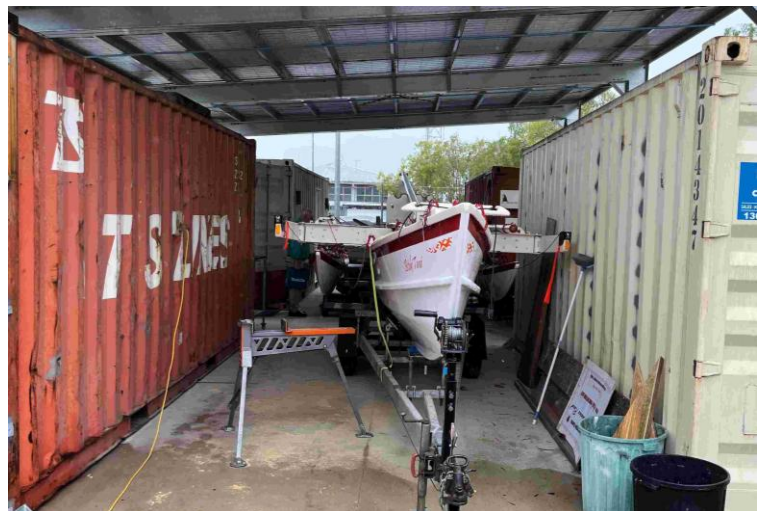


Fine Tuning *Bitaki Taari*



After her successful launch and various trips at the Raid, *Bitaki* was brought back to the clubhouse for some fine tuning to the rigging and some planning for the internal layout.

The rigging has now had some minor tweaks, and these will be tested shortly. Then the changes to the steering and internal layout can begin.



Anticipating potential crew/passenger overboard situations, Roger has acquired a nifty stowable ladder that can be fitted quickly on either side of the main hull.

Alternatively, if the skipper fails to notice disappearing ship's company, the amas will provide a safe haven for (fast) swimmers.

Bill's Ginny

Yes, I have finally given her a name. After my daughter's beloved dog that couldn't stay out of the water.

First of all, thanks to everyone for helping out with steaming of the ribs.

After making the decision to go for a clear finish on the inside of the hull some serious cleanup was required.



How did I get talked into that one.

Anyway, rib laminates have been glued and have held their shape well, whether inside the boat or out. Cutting to length and fitting to the hull is in progress. Gaps have been eliminated by gluing small slivers of ash to the ribs prior to final assembly.

And then there is the sanding.



Well at least it is not resin and glass.

Chris's *Mekong*

Mekong remains on the blocks, sad and unattended for the past month, but she has moved ahead a bit.

The interior is all but complete, so the work done has been filling, fairing and sanding including the first layer of bottom undercoat, and spot filling & sanding on the topsides. Add to that several coats of satin varnish on bow and transom and that's it. Hopefully more to be done soon.



PROJECT SCOOP

Scoop has spent the last couple of months in Richard's shed on the Tablelands, where he sealed and painted the multiple bulkheads that will support the twin hulls.



Within days of handover of the new clubhouse site, *Scoop* made the journey back down the rainy Gillies Highway, suitably protected from the weather.

Chris and Richard have begun preparing the upturned skeleton for the hull skins that will transform the intriguing sculpture into a catamaran.

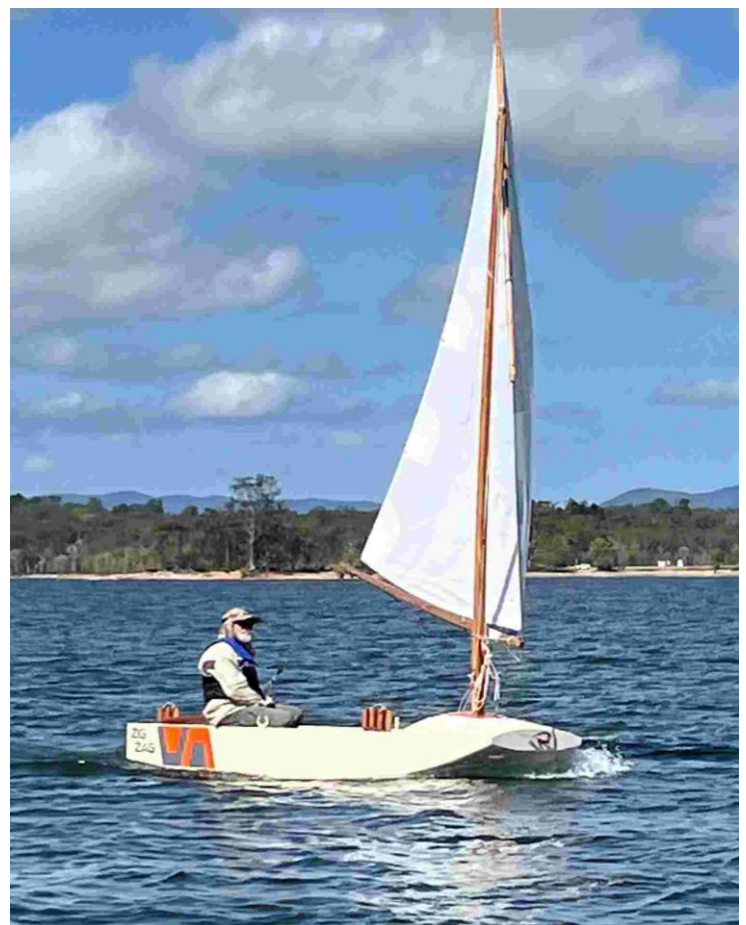
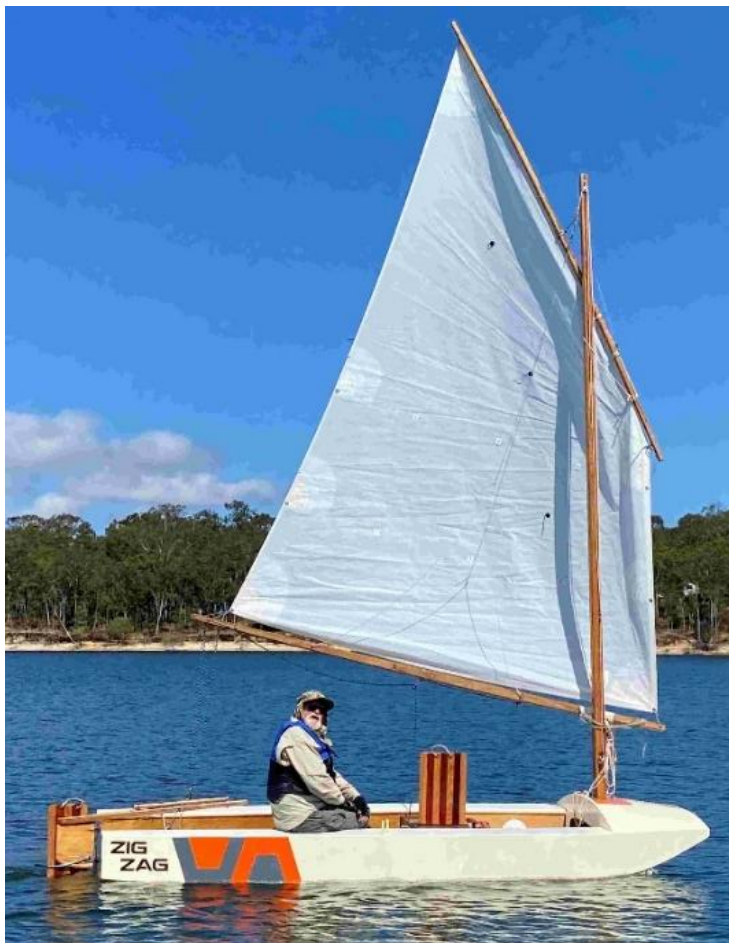


A Lazy Sunday for Some.

Bad weather having caused the usual Thursday gathering to be deferred, a small and determined crew assembled on Sunday morning. Roger needed to check that *Brahminy* was running OK before a family invasion, Phill to give *Sea Snipe* a run after it had been left at Dermot's since the raid, Dermot 'cos he is always up for a day on the lake, as is John. Mark just enjoys having a sail in *Zig Zag*.



All was well to start with, Pirate Cove the designated destination for coffee and cake. Dermot and John in *Joule* headed out, Phill seemed to have been there and back a couple of times, and Mark had *Zig Zag* sailing nicely.



Left behind while waiting for water to boil before he could get going, Roger tried the “trusty” *Seagull*, just in case auxiliary power was needed. Started 2nd pull, no problems. Happiness is a *Seagull* starting easily!

With steam raised, the engine started relatively easily, but getting underway into the breeze was a problem. Being blown back onto the shore and aground, while getting the engine going was not easy and it took two attempts before *Brahminy* got underway. The weather was kind, boiler pressure good and Roger was looking forward to coffee and cake.



Deciding to check that the pumps were working properly, he looked into the hotwell (water reservoir) and was concerned that it was overflowing and slowly filling the boat with water!! Not a desirable outcome and something that had never happened before. Ashore seemed a good place to be when the boat filled with water, so Roger headed for the nearest beach. Fate then threw a curve ball, and the engine went into reverse on its own!! 2nd thing that it's never done!

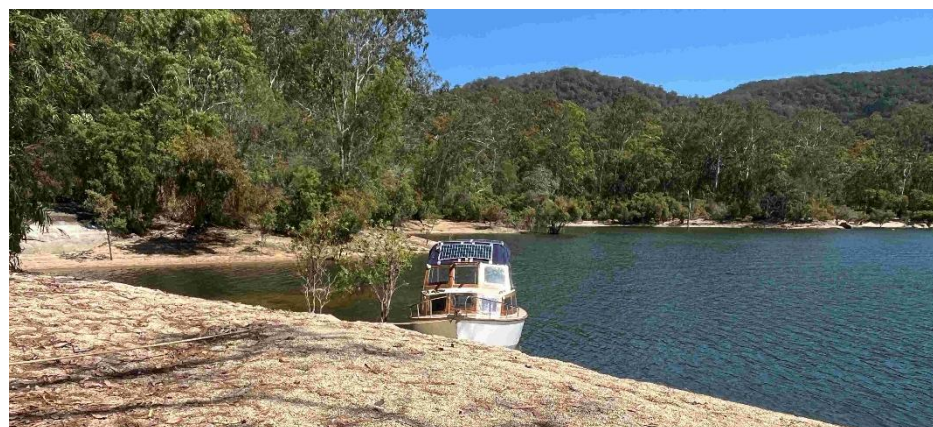
OK, stop engine, start *Seagull*. NOT going to happen, despite the earlier successful test! So it was a slow drift (paddle assisted), onto a little sand spit. Once there, the problem with the water intake could be rectified with a large spanner by lying in the water and tightening up a fitting under the boat. The engine only running in reverse was not so easily fixed.



Meanwhile Phill in *Sea Snipe* had been doing his usual check of the boats, realised that all was not well and arrived to assist. Another attempt to start the *Seagull* ended in failure, so *Sea Snipe* towed *Brahminy* rather ignominiously back to the sailing club. (Not the first time this has happened.) Once safely out of reach of Dermot's camera, Roger phoned him to explain the situation and that neither he nor Phill would join them at Pirate Cove.

After coffee, *Brahminy* and *Sea Snipe* were loaded onto the trailers and Roger and Phill waited for Dermot, John and Mark to tear themselves away from the tranquility of Pirate Cove and reappear at the Sailing Club or lunch.

Apart from *Brahminy* playing up again, the rest of the group had a good time, and the boats went well.



Joule was still suffering from an intermittent electrical problem with the throttle linkage affecting starting, so after lunch, Dermot and Roger spent a fruitful hour or so, adjusting cables and drifting around the lake. Managed to fix the starting problem, but it was still extremely slow in reverse – a constraint Dermot subsequently resolved by installing what he calls a “manual electric reverse after-burner”!

Mark Heaton shares some **RAID REFLECTIONS**

Dermot put out a request for contributions to get some varied insights on the recent Raid from a broader sweep of members. So, here's some dust from the broom.



This year's Tinaroo Raid was the first time I chose to camp on site and take the opportunity to spend a few relaxed days at the lake.

I set up on Thursday along with a few others in a low-key meet and greet kind of way. My camping arrangement is very simple. Just park the little truck and string up a bunnings tarp off the side. A comfortable mattress, esky, gas stove and a change of clothes under the canopy is all you need for a short stay.

Now I'm not your naturally gregarious type. When we go camping; it's usually to find a nice quiet spot, well away from every other well-meaning bush type socialite. So the boats act as a key to open a conversation and learn stuff.

Coffee in hand, it was back to the water's edge to step the mast and rig my boat and check out other members' new creations. Of course, this year's show stopper was Roger's trimaran, *Bitaki Taari*, with its funky rope lashings, inventive folding amas and fetching pink sails. Another amazing outcome from the work crew in Cairns.

The way the group operates, reminds me a lot, of those European migrant families, who all pitched in to build each other's houses. Might be the way to solve our housing crisis!

Couldn't wait to put the word on Roger for a rip round the lake. Speaking of Roger, our head honcho, his tent was close to a table and fireplace, so people tended to gravitate to that spot to have lunch or a cuppa, or a cold drink. Better than that, dinky little fires were scattered around the place - and the fires went pretty well non-stop.

Nighttime - after a little lubrication - the boating and life stories started to flow with light-hearted banter and a good amount of laughter thrown in. Most enjoyable!!

Saturday was events time. I'm not silly enough to own a Seagull outboard; nor can I row my boat yet, so I found myself holding a radio as part of the safety crew. Way less adventurous, but I got to see the action.

Then out on the water for a sail on my latest boat *Zig Zag*. A one- off, fourteen-foot, sort of scow bow with a balance lug sail. Simple, stable and fun to sail. I'm having a great time!!

And then there was Roger's trimaran. What a hoot!! This thing gets along with a nice solid feel about it. A tweak here and there and he'll have an ideal island hopper. Again - well done !!

I also took up the invite from John to tag along with FAGS, with Marc and Marcia, up all the way from Tasmania. A lovely afternoon sail and raft up with other locals for drinks and nibbles. Very nice.

I had a most enjoyable few days in great company. Thanks everyone !!!



Thanks Mark! Other WBAC members are invited to send their Raid Reflections (or any other *Ratlines* contribution) to Dermot at wbacairns@gmail.com

FREAKS OF ENGINEERING.....

Chris shares his latest internet encounters.....

Some competition for next year's Seagull Race



Anodes are a good idea!

.....and NATURE



Ladies and Gents, this concludes *Ratlines* for September 2025 and, as always, if there's more you want to see or know about, please contact us by return email. Likewise, if you have a story or article you'd like included please send it to us at wbacairns@gmail.com

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Secretary- Dermot Smyth (Librarian & *Ratlines*);

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WBAC's Cash For Containers number is:

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