



RATLINES – MAY 2023

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

WBAC's MAY EDITION

Club and Association Status:

**The Ports North Master Plan:
Insurance & Incorporation:**

Status quo remains unchanged..
Up to date..

Boatbuilding Projects:

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

Roger's Kiribati Tri:

BT has her derriere sheathed in epoxy glass, and much sanding has given her a very slick bottom (yeah, I know it doesn't sound right, but....). The false keel is well advanced with all the timber machined, laminated, and being glued into position.





The 16' Skiff:

Has had no takers. She will now be mounted on the street side of the new container as part of the club's main advertisement, seeing as the sign on the clubhouse front is difficult to see & read.

JW's Scruffy:

Plenty of work has gone into masking up and coving of epoxy fill into all the frame to hull joins. And it's quite surprising how many people can fit into, on, and around a relatively small sailboat under construction!





Updates still coming soon on:

- Arend's John Welsford Pelegrin that's approaching completion. (Once we get the through-build photos..)
- And a few more photos of my pram dinghy's transformation. (Once I get rid of the forty thousand 'other projects' I'm juggling..)

Ongoing Maintenance and Improvements at the Clubhouse:

Some realignment still to be done on clubhouse doors & windows – as time permits, and the concrete driveway is completed and in use!

Footings for the new container are complete. Our great supporters at Century Cranes came down again at very short notice and lifted Container 4 into her final position – and again at no charge. Seeing as they have provided so much free cranework, we have invited them to place some advertising signage on our premises at no charge.



Keven has completed the cleanup & emergency eyewash station adjacent to the side entry doors at the back of Workbay 1!



Club Happenings:

The 2023 Great Tinaroo Raid:

Don't forget, the Raid will no longer be held in July but is moving to **18th, 19th and 20th August!!** Dates and theme will be announced presently, once availabilities are confirmed.

The Lake Tinaroo Gatherings Continue:

A Different Day...

With a reassuring weather forecast for a change, everyone was positive and hopeful for a good day at the lake. While various injuries plagued some members, it was thought that there would be only a few of us. How wrong Roger was. Again.

Having arranged to transport John (an older gentleman) if he was on Roger's doorstep by 7.30am, Roger was blithely having breakfast out the back while John was attempting to get his attention at the front. (Obviously fixing the doorbell takes lower priority to fixing the boat). With two hands, loading and hooking up *Brahminy* took no time, and they were away well before the appointed time. Not early enough to beat Tom and Sheila, who were already rigging *Iona* or Dermot who arrived with *Jule* at the same time as Roger and John.

While Dermot used his reverse-and-brake self-launching system to put *Jule* in the water at the boat ramp, Roger and John used more traditional methods to launch *Brahminy* and set the fire in the boiler. Keven turned up to help rig *Iona* and soon after coffee and cake was declared. This was interrupted by Dermot quietly arriving on *Jule*, and Mark Heaton driving up. Suffering from a leg injury he had wisely left *Om Toch* behind, but produced a jet propulsion unit for a Seagull outboard. Something of a curiosity which started heated discussions about the Seagull race! Richard Heazlewood dropped in to say hello. His red painted Labrador, (post leg operation) caused a stir but Richard came by to catch up with the gossip and the news. Hopefully, by the next visit to the lake he may have his new boat. We look forward to seeing it on the water.

While *Jule* settled quietly into the water, Dermot intent on discovering the source of a second leak, John and Roger got *Brahminy's* engine turning over and set off into a fairly stiff breeze, rapidly followed by Tom, Sheila and Keven in *Iona*. Mark and Dermot decided to focus on trailer maintenance and leak investigation so stayed ashore.



Iona behaved herself and relished the breeze. She is a pretty boat in full sail and remarkably stable.

Brahminy was also having a good day. The engine was ticking over nicely. Roger's service had improved the valve timing and solidly fixed the flywheel, which meant the engine ran smoother, quieter and better than ever.

After a good run, Roger and John headed back and gave a hand at the leak investigation on board *Jule*. Eventually it was determined the leak was somewhere under the last frame before the transom. Pulling the boat out of the water and with bow up on the slope, a drip was apparent from the end the keel where the last screw held the keel strap in place. Something for Dermot to investigate further.



Iona reappeared after a good run, so with *Brahminy* behaving herself and having found the leak in *Jule*, the day's objective had been met. Nothing had gone wrong and nobody needed towing in. The icing on the cake was when Roger got his Seagull to start on second pull. Amazing!

Peter and Gayle Rountree, with Jim McAllister in tow, arrived to share lunch. A late change of appointments that morning meant they could not bring the boat, but it was great to catch up with them and get more opinions on *Jule*'s leak. Dermot was not short of advice by this time. Mark headed for home while the rest had a leisurely lunch.

This was followed by Tom taking Keven, John and Jim out in Iona for an afternoon sail, while Peter and Gayle headed for home. Roger and Sheila gave Dermot more advice and some assistance on getting *Jule* properly on the trailer, and then *Brahminy* was retrieved and prepared for the drive home.

All hands helped get *Iona* trailered and de-rigged. Consequently confusion reigned, but domestics were avoided and all agreed that it had been a good day, though lacking the usual interest of breakdowns. Definitely a different day!

Roger Fryer
23 April 2023

Future Events

The Bribie Classic Boat Regatta is being held 20th-21st May this year at, guess where!, Bribie Island. Tom is keen to take *Iona* so Roger agreed to go along, share the drive and help show the WBAC flag. A full report and pics expected in due course.

Boat kits available from WBAC

We have a Puddleduck Racer boat kit that was donated by Doctor Tom's family, and it is highly unlikely that we will build it. It would be a great grandfather/grandson type of project, and it is available free to a club member.

The **Puddleduck Racer** is quite unique, an easy build, and looks like a lot of fun. If anyone is interested, please let Roger, Chris or Dermot know.

The website that covers it's details and build plans is <https://www.pdracer.com>



Our Facebook Page:

We get quite regular feedback and comments on each post, and the lists of people that like & comment is pleasing, especially the ones from various like-minded organisations.

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

Continually being updated by Sheila..

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Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for April, 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/>

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WBAC's Cash For Containers number is: C10026463