



RATLINES – SEPTEMBER 2024

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

SEPTEMBER 2024 EDITION

Club and Association Status:

Insurance & Incorporation:

Up to date.

Club Move Update:

Ports North advises the clubhouse move is still on track.

Boatbuilding Projects:

Roger's Kiribati Tri:

Work has been suspended as both the major players are absent & frolicking around Europe.

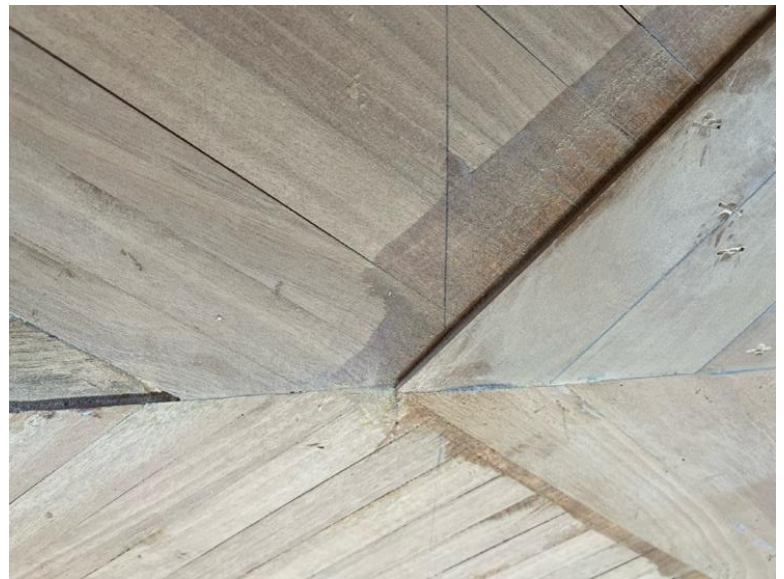
The 16'Skiff:

Still just waiting her turn....which seems to be way down the track.

China Bound's Masts & Spars:

Still awaiting commencement of the mast construction, with Luis also assisting in the library fit out.

Chris's pram dinghy: Has recommenced after the delivery of more Qld Maple strips. The pics show how the double diagonal strips are laid up, providing a very strong moulded hull.



On completion of the cold moulding she'll be sheathed in epoxy cloth.

Ongoing Maintenance and Improvements at the Clubhouse:

The New Clubhouse Table...

...is now structurally complete and has been coated with an epoxy sealer. The legs and horizontal braces are either screwed into perimeter frames or pocket-bolted together with the aim of being able to disassemble for moving (it's a BIG table!).

And then of course we'll inscribe the lines plan of a 17th-century Brigantine into the top, just to make it that much more unique. The black & white pic at the end of this issue explains the sail layouts from 'back in the day', and you'll see there's little difference between a brig and a brigantine.



Top removed



leaving the legs & braces



And this is her sitting upright for the very first time. Now to the decorative inscription.....

The Library Move.

The last of the shelving work is complete. The diagonal shelf braces have been made & painted matt black, so they'll blend into the background amongst the books, and have now been installed. The entire library has now been transferred by Dermot from the Siberian hot-box into the civilised surrounds of the clubhouse.



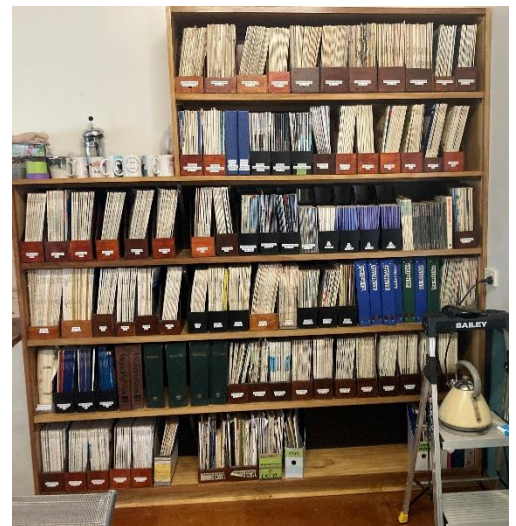
Painting & clear-coating complete, installing shelf braces.



Braces in & already blending into the background.



Books installed



Magazines installed

The last job to do is to make the galley backsplash. Originally, we intended to incorporate a form of laminate-finish, but that idea was superseded by a series of Kauri planks run horizontally in the form of a timber laid deck. The timber has already been cut, machined, rebated, sealed, and installation is underway.



TWO LAKE TINAROO OUTINGS IN SEPTEMBER

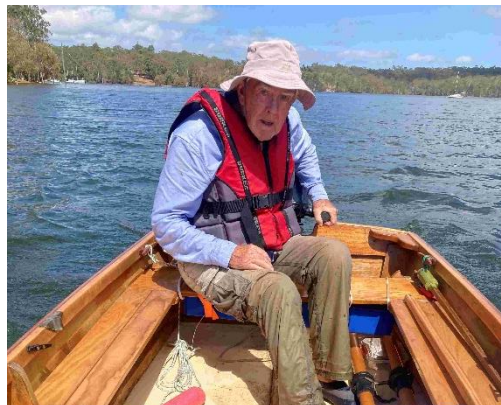
Outing 1: Undaunted by forecast winds up to 30 km/hr, a small group of hardy sailors turned up at Lake Tinaroo on **Thursday 12 Sept.** Before tackling the choppy conditions, there were the usual nautical challenges to overcome:

- Glen had to resort to clouds of “Start-Ya-Bastard” carby spray to get *Flatty’s* recalcitrant outboard started;
- Phill and Peter H had to massage the air-fuel mixture to breathe life into *Pamela J’s* reconditioned putt-putt;
- Tom had to free up *Iona’s* jammed centre-board, using one of Phill’s many boat-whispering tricks;
- Mark H turned up seeking advice on restoring/replacing his broken hollow wooden bird’s beak mast – the result of a recent dismasting event in heavy weather near Dunk Island;
- Dermot was the only one without boat troubles – only because he turned up without a boat!

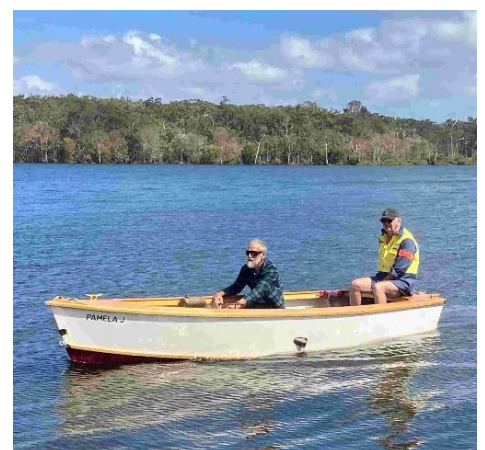


Once the problems had been sorted, the various craft set off to make the most of the conditions.

Glen initially headed into the calmer waters near the sailing club, with Dermot on board as forward ballast, and later Glen ventured far and wide on his own as is his wont.



Once they’d got the putt-putt putt-putting sweetly, Phil and Peter roared off triumphantly in *Pamela J*, coping with the prevailing conditions with ease.





Tom and Mark sailed *Iona* far across the lake, initially with a reefed main and no headsail in deference to the blustery conditions. The wind moderated later, allowing for gentler cruising under full sail.

Despite the daunting weather forecast, the sailing and motoring was trouble free – a fine day out, marred only by damage to the fork on *Iona*'s gaff during pack-up.

Outing 2: The weather was perfect for gentle sailing and peaceful motoring on **Thurs 26 September** when 6 boats and their owners turned up intent on transiting the lake in company to reconvene at a secluded sandy beach (also known by certain grandchildren as Pirate Cove) near Barrabadeen.

Richard got the day off to an entertaining start by nonchalantly disappearing under water while assisting Dermot to launch *Joule*.

Undeterred, Richard consulted Peter and Phill on the installation of an outboard bracket on *Ninjani*, before setting sail, closely followed by Peter and Gael in *Peridot*.





Phill anxiously cranked up his recently rebuilt 1940s vintage Olds motor in *Yabby*, which included the novel insertion of an aluminium piston to reduce the engine load. To Phill's delight and (and surprise?) the heritage machine throbbed into life after a couple of cranks and hardly any expletives. *Yabby* was soon underway and never missed a beat all the way across the lake.

Mark launched his micro-tender, but quickly realised he was in for a splash-soaked crossing and opted instead for a seat on *Joule*, which did a few laps of the Sailing Club Bay while keeping an eye on Glen as he

wrestled with his outboard. When Dermot and Mark could see Glen reaching for his toolbox, they pulled in close to shore and offered him a lift or a tow across the lake – and were not surprised to be told not to worry and that he would follow along shortly (which of course he did).

With the sailors tacking their way across the lake, and Phill taking a circuitous route for the pure joy of aluminium-pistoned putt-putting, *Joule* was first to nudge on to the sandy beach of Pirate Cove. Next came *Peridot*, which Peter expertly reversed into shore, held clear of the beach by a forward anchor and a stern line secured to a tree. This turned out to be a wise move because the splendid serenity of Pirate Cove was frequently disturbed by the roar and wash of school holiday water skiers who felt the need to swing by as close as possible to our little gathering.



Glen turned up with Richard in tow having lost the breeze in the sheltered waters of the cove. Glen had enjoyed a trouble-free crossing after breathing life into his outboard, and Richard had likewise enjoyed a relaxing multi-tack sail until the wind deserted him.

With everyone safely ashore, billies were boiled, thermos flasks were opened, and various treats were passed around. The little beach, with its backdrop of towering eucalypts, and splendid views across the water to Danbulla Forest Reserve, was a delightfully relaxing location for a leisurely morning tea – which lasted for over an hour before talk turned to returning to civilisation.





The midday breeze provided the sailors with an excellent run home, and everyone made it back to the Sailing Club without incident. During pack-up and homeward departures there was loose talk of making another visit to Pirate Cove (but not during school holidays!), with the intention of exploring other bays and short walking tracks in the area.

HINT OF THE MONTH

After you've trailered the boat it's always a good idea to lift & prop the outboard!



SAILING VESSELS

→ A GUIDE TO RIGS ←



Proa



Dhow



Catboat



Lugger



Tife



Gunter



Sloop



Gaff Cutter



Bermuda Cutter



Naval Cutter



Yawl



Yawl alternate



Ketch



Ketch alternate



3-masted junk rig



Schooner



3-masted schooner



Topsail schooner



Tuluca



Bilander



Potacoe



Brig



Schooner brig



Jackass brig



Brigantine



Snow



Barque



Barquentine



Carrack



Fully rigged ship



Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for September 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: 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