



RATLINES – MARCH 2023

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

WBAC's MARCH EDITION

Club and Association Status:

The Ports North Master Plan:
Insurance & Incorporation:

Status quo remains unchanged..
Up to date..

Boatbuilding Projects:

Brendon's Hartley: Continues her restoration at home, and much progress has been made, as the pics show:



This pic shows the beautiful lines that the Hartley designers so frequently put into their boats. 50 years old with such classic looks that she still outshines current mass-made stuff. (No bias here...)



A classic example of ‘What’s behind that nice, neat panel...?’

Roger’s Kiribati Tri:

Lots of effort has been absorbed by the tri, with not a lot of readily visible results – a common occurrence in any boat restoration – until now. The buoyancy chambers are in, the first 4 hull sheets have been installed from the stem, over the forefoot and several metres along the bottom. This is a major, long-awaited step in her restoration.



The 16’Skiff:

Dormant. Awaiting an epiphany..... but something’s in the wind..

JW's Scruffy:

Awaiting delivery to the clubhouse, with some gunwale work being done prior. The mast's 'rounding off' has started, and JW is now practicing sanding.



We really have to raise that damn workbench by at least 100mm!

The Dragon Boat:

The old gunwales are completely gone, as are the self-adhesive fish-scales on her sides (thanks to Brett). Also, the Qld Maple gunwale replacement segments have been profiled on the table saw, and a dedicated scarphing jig constructed so the replacements can be fitted in one piece per side (they're reeeaaally long gunwales)!



Scarphing jig, 8:1

First scarphs set.



And Now, Episode 2 of ... *Dermot's Grand Experiment:*

(where Murphy's Law has come to visit the proceedings...).

Dermot says: "Alas, because the whole experiment involves a boat, just turning on the electric motor's not as simple as that! First I need to find and fix a leak in the hull, then I need to strengthen a section of the hull where I want to fit the 38kg battery. Meanwhile I found I was missing a steering guide to connect the steering cable to the motor. After searching wreckers Australia-wide in vain, I thought I would have to import one from Japan. Then the suppliers advised me they'd forgotten to put one in the box and would send it...! "

"Once all the above is done, hopefully I will have something interesting to report for the April or May Ratlines."

Dermot.

- *Stay tuned readers, for the next exciting episode where Dermot manages to avoid attaching the wrong leads and causing a mushroom cloud over Atherton!*

J.T.'s newbuild, by J.T. :

My boat is a 4.5m plywood displacement hull designed by Sydney designer David Payne. It's an older style 'Putt Putt' boat designed to have a small petrol inboard motor but as these motors are no longer being manufactured I am using my trusty Seagull for propulsion. (trusty.....??)

Most of the building took place during the covid lockdown, taking approximately 12 months in all. Then, when I sourced the glass cloth for the hull sheathing, a local company sold me stuff that would be quite suitable for a 30' powerboat! Took me ages to lay up, fair & smooth...! It has been used a few times on Tinaroo Dam and we are looking forward for many more enjoyable days boating when the weather improves.

Framed, sheeting started.



Sheeted, glassed, faired & primed



Almost done (very roomy)

...and on the water!



Updates coming soon on:

- Arend's John Welsford Pelegrin that's approaching completion.
- And a few more photos of my pram dinghy's transformation.

Ongoing Maintenance and Improvements at the Clubhouse:

Some realignment will be done soon on clubhouse doors & windows.

Work is progressing by Roger on applying to Council for a proper driveway.

Footings for the new container will be set when the rain lets up.

Once the container is in, the committee will look at the best option for a cover over the area between it and container 3. Currently, a waterproof sail is the favoured idea.

Construction has commenced on a 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 new time for this year is either **Late August or Early September!!**

The Lake Tinaroo Gatherings: Due to rain and absences, it looked like there would be no lake action this month. And then.....*READ ON...*

GLEN'S SOLO LAKE TRIALS

Several Lake Tinaroo outings during February were proposed and then cancelled due to weeks of relentless rain on the Tablelands, and it looked like there would be no on-water action until March. Then word got out that Glen was heading to the lake for some solo trials of his latest modifications to his sailing kayak setup, no matter what the weather. As it turned out, the rain held off all morning, and there was sufficient breeze to put the little craft through her paces.

Powered by a premium quality battened Bunnings tarp, Glen's sleek kayak is fitted with detachable floats, lee board and rudder, with provision for the attachment of a small electric outboard, and of course equipped with a paddle – providing three propulsion options. The aim of the trials was to determine whether the floats provide adequate stability under sail, or whether it made more sense to restrict the craft to electric and paddle power only.



Glen made several runs far out into the lake, looking for and finding gusts up to 15 knots, returning with joyful reports of good speeds upwind, with one float completely buried under water. He experimented with positioning the floats forward and aft of his sitting position, and concluded that the aft position works best, with options for further modifications - including larger floats and/or extended cross beams. More sailing trials to come!

Dermot turned up with his orange two-person kayak as safety vessel – which thankfully wasn't needed. After several brief paddling explorations, to the alarm of a flotilla of ducks, he retreated to his shore-based duties - which mostly involved coffee and scones while enjoying the vista of a lone blue sail on an otherwise deserted lake.



Our Facebook Page:

Regular feedback and comments on each post continue and we now have upwards of 800 followers. Our most recent post covered some of the Hobart Wooden Boat Festival, and we received thanks from Tall Ship James Craig and the Wooden Boat Festival themselves.

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

Sheila and Tom were on holidays in Tassie for a couple of weeks, so the almost constant updating was interrupted accordingly. More now being added weekly.

-----oOo-----

Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for February, 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 on:

WBACairns@gmail.com

Chris O'Keefe
Resident expert on bandaids (new pup).

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), Marc Richards, 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

Finally, we had numerous members visit Tassie for the Wooden Boat Festival, and here's a few happy snaps from Sheila and Tall Ship James Craig:



The 3 amigos, Tom, Sheila and Marc.

Material Girl and owners Phil & Janet attended.



James Craig berthing in the Derwent River.



The Parade of Sail, from James Craigs royals.



Tall ships alongside



And finally, one of the recent high tides in Tingira Street from our driveway.



It was at this point we realised we were on an island!