



Cairns – Where all the nice people live.

Club News:

The Ports North Master Plan: No further developments to date.

Insurance & Incorporation:

Incorporation and Insurance are up to date.

Boatbuilding Projects:

Brendon's Hartley:

Topside undercoating is finished, with a little more fine sanding to go. Looking forward to the White poly application.

Roger's Kiribati Tri:

BT's damaged chines have been reinstated and shaping of them and the keel is almost complete. Now comes the build & insertion of the new frames.

John Williams' 'Shimmy':

Little progress forward at this time.

Mystery Project/the 16'Skiff:

She still sits in the yard, forlorn, rudderless, and with a question over her future.

Refurbishment of Pier Precinct Artworks:

Cutting, fitting and fastening of the ironbark pads has reached the 80% completion point. Now we start to fit the radiused end pieces, which will slow us down quite a bit. Still on track for end of May completion.



The 2022 WBAC Great Tinaroo Raid:

There will be an official WBAC Committee announcement in the coming weeks, but keep in mind that the Raid will be held – as usual – during the Cairns Show weekend, commencing Friday 15th July. More detail about events and timing will also be promulgated in due course once finalized.

A theme for this year's Raid has been decided. This year will be a 1970's theme. Striped flares, long hair, Sergeant Peppers Throwbacks, hippy caftans and really good music will brighten up the area. However, everyone is reminded that tuning in, turning on and dropping out these days only involves FM radio, electric blankets and getting out of bed the wrong way.

There have been a number of queries put forward about continuing to camp at the Tinaroo Sailing Club after the Raid is complete. All WBAC members are advised that members and guests may only camp at TSC during the dates of the Raid! Camping at TSC after the Raid is only available to TSC Members!

Other GTR interesting snippets:

A Flying Boat?

Things had gone very quiet for several months with Silver Gull 2, the hydrofoil boat unsuccessfully developed for the 2021 Seagull Race. The builders, Phill, Glen and Roger (aka the Gang of 3) being a little disappointed in its performance. While a new wing had been fitted late in 2021 as a final "improvement", there was not a lot of confidence being shown.

"Too big", "too much drag", "too heavy" were some of the comments/insults bandied about. Finally, an opportunity to try it out arose. If this doesn't work, that's it!! Was the consensus. So, Glen, Roger and Phill gathered at the usual testing ground, Tinaroo Sailing Club, and put the winged boat in the water. While they were trying to remember which bit of the steering connected to which, Keven duly arrived.

Phill looked at Keven, looked at Roger and Glen, and greeted him with "Keven, how much do you weigh?"

Now, "Hi", or "Good Morning" is the usual greeting, but Phill had other things on his mind.

"About 54Kg" says Keven. That is about 30Kg less than Roger and 25 less than Glen. So, guess who got to drive Silver Gull 2!!!

To show Keven that the thing actually floated, Roger took the boat for a circle around the bay, and even on a straight run, it would not lift out of the water, but felt relatively stable. Keven seemed willing to give it a go, (no pressure, honest), so he was given the 20 second in depth induction, the seat was moved forward, the engine started, and he was off!!

Well, for a short while at least, remember this is a Seagull we are talking about.

After Glen towed him back, some first aid was given to the motor, and he was off again. This time, to the amazement of the Gang, Silver Gull 2 rose above the waves, and flew!! (pictorial proof supplied).

Just to prove it was not a fluke, Keven did several runs with the hull above the water, showing to the rather larger gentlemen on the shore, how to do it. Obviously in this project, weight is everything.

Unfortunately, despite bribery and threats to cancel his passport, Keven will be overseas for the Raid, so the Gang of 3 are looking for an ex-jockey to pilot the boat in July! A successful day for the hydrofoil has rekindled enthusiasm for Silver Gull 2 and some refinements have already been fitted. Boat speed is being kept secret, but Seagull Race participants should be prepared for a shock!!

And here it is, the Tinaroo Weirdster itself. Definitely no competition for Sir Donald Campbell's Bluebird.



Other WBAC items of interest

A final tribute to Dr. Tom Wright's passing this month is a reprint of his 2020: 'A bloke and his boat' segment in Ratlines. Farewell Tom.

I consider that Cairns is a beach at the end of the line. In the sense of the railway line, this is literally true and also of the road line, the Bruce Highway. If life is a beach, Cairns attracts the flotsam and jetsam of humanity that wash up onto "The Beach at the End of the Line", and I am no exception. Born in England and brought up in Central Africa, we migrated to Cairns in 1965. My parents had enjoyed "messaging about in boats" on the rivers in England and I wanted to instill that same love into their children.

My brother Tony and I sailed a Gwen 12 sailing dinghy at the Cairns Yacht Club on Trinity Inlet. My parents sailed a Heron, which had been beautifully built for them by Sydney Bolton, who also built and sailed the 16-foot skiffs that epitomised dinghy sailing all over Queensland in the 60's and 70's. I remember sailing as fast as possible up Trinity Inlet in the Gwen, me on the trapeze, Tony at the helm, and still going backwards because of the outgoing tide!

In my late teens, I built my first boat, an Australian Scow Moth. It was from a kit, put together with resorcinol glue, which did not waterproof the seams adequately, or perhaps I was too "stingy" with the amount of glue. Initially, it leaked like a sieve until I did some reparative work!

My second boat was built during the university holidays. Also from a kit, it was a Contender sailing dinghy designed by the Australian Ben Lexcen, he of America's Cup fame. This boat was more successful, but after that, my mother put her foot down. She had had enough glue and paint droppings on the concrete under our

high set Queenslander-style house and told me that the next boat I built would be at my own house!

However, I decided to stick with what I knew I could do and leave boat building to those who were good at it!

I moved back to Cairns in 1990 when cyclone Joy was lashing the coast, after a time of working in England, Sydney and then in the late 80's, in Mackay. Whilst in Mackay, I had been involved in the Mackay Sailing Club where my two sons learnt to sail in Sabot dinghies.

A chance meeting in the early 90's with Bob Goodall at his plywood shop on the corner of Lyons and Hartley Streets (where "Tutt Bryant Hire" now lives) lead to a long friendship. He started the Wooden Boat Association together with Rob Sperling "Kiwi", Steve Jarret and Dale Murray. I had read about the "raids" in Europe and Scotland, which are organised, competitive trips along rivers held over several days. They are a rather similar concept to a car rally. I realise that a similar event could be a focus for the newly formed Wooden Boat Association, and suggested a Tinaroo raid. It wasn't a trip from point A to point B, rather a camperthon at Tinaroo Sailing Club. It was a great success for 10 years until it was rained out at Barrabadeen in 2014.

I would like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Wooden Boat affectionados and builders in our area. Grainger Morris is or was a canoe builder extraordinaire based in Kuranda. Peter Jones restored one of the Gwen 12's, which I possess and I am lucky enough to have one of his "smile" canoes built from dacron over huon pine ribs. Mark Boutle, RIP. He was a wonderful local chiropractor from Innisfail who died some years ago. I have a beautiful sailing dinghy of his. Mark's mentor Brian was a local fisherman in Innisfail who taught Mark how to build wooden boats.

I always think of the phrase *"A thing of beauty is a joy forever"* when I see a beautifully made wooden boat. I am a firm believer that wooden boats are great for the mental health, if not so great for the wallet or the endless upkeep they demand! ..Tom..

...and who could ever forget Tom and his paddle-wheeler winning the Peculiar Propulsion Race at Tinaroo in 2021? Such a gentle, competitive spirit who will be forever missed.....Vale, Dr. Tom.



Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for March, 2022. Apologies for the lack of photos this month, we'll do better in April.

And, as always, if there's more you want to see or know about please let us know by return email – WBACairns@gmail.com

Chris O'Keefe
Resident curmudgeon.

Clubhouse: 68 Tingira Street, Portsmith, (Cairns) Qld 4870

Committee is: President- Roger Fryer;
Vice President- Marc Richards;
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)

Cash For Containers number is: C10026463