



RATLINES – JULY 2023

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

WBAC's JULY EDITION

Club and Association Status:

The Ports North Master Plan:

Cairns Marine Precinct gained \$\$ in the latest Qld Gov't budget. Yet to see any movement.

Insurance & Incorporation:

Up to date..

Boatbuilding Projects:

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

Roger's Kiribati Tri:

BT's achieved a significant milestone. Her lower hull is intact, glassed, faired, false keel complete, and painting is well under way!



Most of our members have had a hand in, around and on BT's lower extremities during the past year or more, and all that huge amount of work is now culminating with the application of epoxy paint.

She will have at least two coats of hibuild primer/undercoat, followed by two to three coats of a 2-pack polyurethane. Hull colour to be white, internal not yet decided. She's also looking at a name change, also not yet decided.



1st undercoat



3rd undercoat

The 16' Skiff:

Will now be mounted on the street side of the new container as an advertisement for the club. Photos when finished.

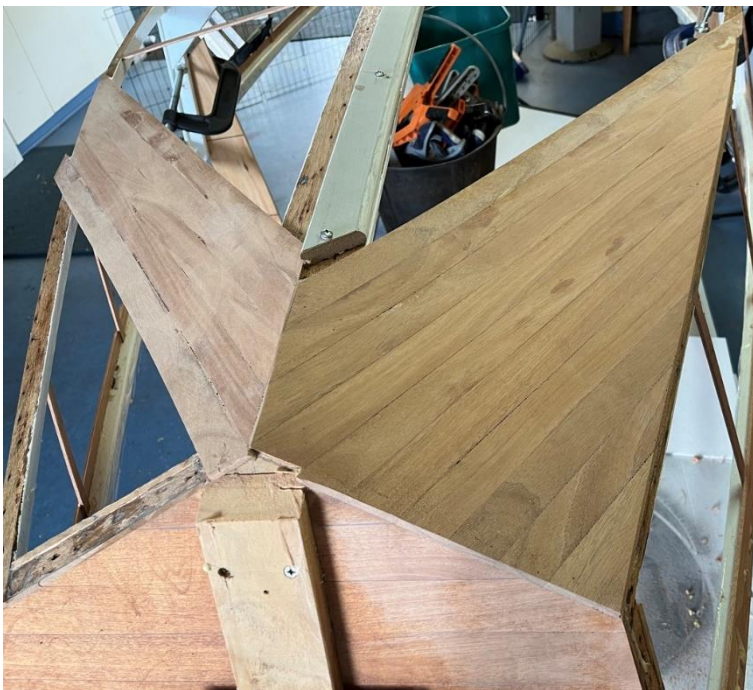
JW's Scruffy:

Much filling and fairing has been done and finally finished, with the F&F crew hard at it!

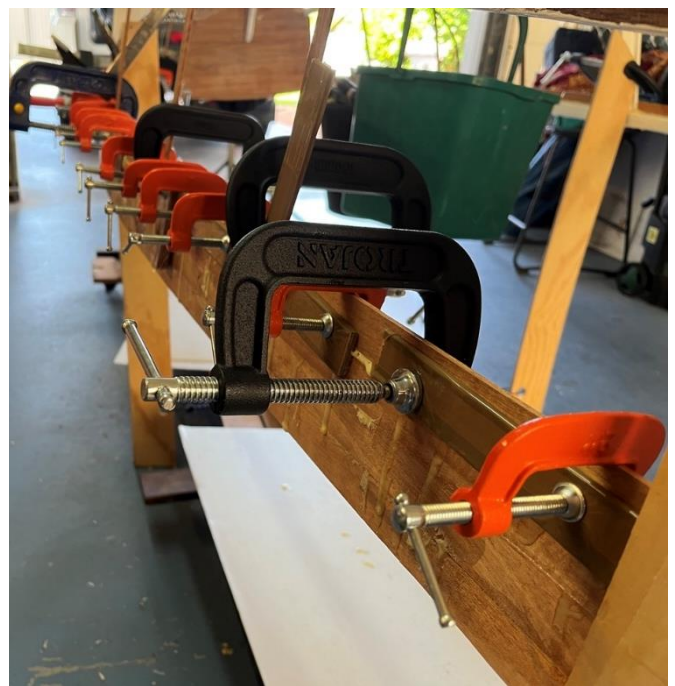


Chris's pram dinghy:

The strip planking continues, and the number of new clamps has risen to 32.



Looking at the bow, with the strip planking run at 40 degrees off the keel.



Looking at the starboard side, strips run longitudinally working from the sheer strake.

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!

You're all no doubt aware that we were given some 30 sticks of Kauri Pine from Cairns Council? Yep, 30 X 4 metre lengths of 150mm X 50mm good grade KP!

Well, it would seem that not all clubs around town wanted their share, so we asked for another 15 lengths and were very surprised when our request was approved!! Plus a few more bits & bobs, and some large offcuts for lathe work as well. Our new timber rack installed by Keven & Chris is now absolutely chockers!

Likewise, container 4 is now set up as the milling shop with the table saw, thicknesser, sliding mitre saw and dust extractor in position.

Subsequent usage of the machines in this setup has been very successful, proving the design. We have gone from strength to strength in the past few years, all thanks to our members and a lot of forward thinking.



A Big Day Out

A quiet excursion to the lake by Roger and Phill to test the latest foil arrangements on **Foiled** turned into an event. A glorious day, enough wind for the sailors, calm enough for the rest of us, brought out the largest contingent of boats and people so far. I made it 9 boats and 15 people attending. Brilliant.

As usual, **Iona** was there first, followed rapidly by **Foiled** (Roger had got up early and needed coffee), Richard towed in **Ninjani** for the first time, Glen brought **Flatty**, Dermot crept around quietly in **Jule** (now waterproof!), Mark delivered **Om Toch**, Peter and Cheryl brought the 3 part “**White boat**” from Innisfail, Peter and Gayle Rountree sailed up in **Peridot** with Ron in ?? . Phill and Pam Smith came to set up and test **Foiled**, while Keven (the pilot), arrived to drive it. John Williams and Peter Whalley-Thompson came to view the chaos and confusion and join in the fun.

Coffee time was protracted with people appearing and disappearing from and onto the water. Happy confusion!





There was too much happening for me to notice what was going on elsewhere, but ***Iona*** set sail before Glen (a first!), with a full complement of 5 people – Tom, Sheila, Peter W-T, JW and Ron.



Richard launched ***Ninjani*** (an ex-Dr Tom's boat) and discovered that she was not as stable as we all thought. With much courage he set sail alone and disappeared towards the dam. As he is a novice sailor, we did mark his progress fairly closely. (***Ninjani*** is named in memory of Dr Tom as it is Zulu word meaning "How are you" i.e. RUOK)



Peter and Cheryl put the "***White boat***" together and Peter spent some time trying to start the Seagull without the spark plug connected. Eventually we decided it would be kinder to tell him. As Mark remarked, "Starting Seagulls does wonders for the upper body strength"!

Foiled was joined together and Keven bravely declined the outriggers. With great hope, the engine was started, and it slowly gathered speed. But not enough. A change of engine improved things slightly, but the boat achieved nothing like the speed on its previous outing. The considered opinion is that this is the result of lowering the engine too far (necessary to allow for the lift onto the foils). Modifications are needed to the engine mount.

Unseen by the author, Glen launched **Flatty** and was away, Peter Rountree put a multicoloured sail on his tender to **Peridot** and sailed off in pursuit of Glen. Two boats = a race. No idea who won and I suspect they don't either.



Dermot had a couple of outings in **Jule** to check on and photograph the widely scattered fleet, and to tow in **Foiled** after the throttle cable snapped. Proving electricity is more reliable than a dodgy Seagull. **Jule** stayed dry all day, so Dermot was very happy with that, though less happy that he had to go home and dig out a blocked septic system. Strange that no-one volunteered to help him!!!



With **Foiled** having failed, Keven was released from flying duties and he and Mark sailed **Om Toch** into the distance, helping to keep an eye on Richard who was gybing instead of going about apparently. With Ron having sailed off to join the mob, it was great to see 5 WBAC sailing boats on the water at one time.

LUNCH. Much needed but merely an interlude. Phill and Pam had to go to supervise gutter fixing at home. Tom deserted **Iona** for a trip with Ron, leaving **Iona** and Sheila to be taken captive by Mark and Roger who sailed off into the sunset (poetic licence there!). Peter and Gayle had taken **Peridot** out, and for a while the 3 bigger boats sailed in convoy – a delightful sight.

Dermot had foolishly left **Jule** for Roger to use as a tow boat if required. Luckily for Dermot and **Jule**, this was not required. After clearing the drains, Dermot returned after dark to retrieve it. The last to leave.

A long and fun day with lots happening. Great to see all the boats on the water and as someone said “It’s much more fun to sail with other boats than on your own”.



Roger
17 June 2023

OUT AND ABOUT!

This is an entirely new feature in Ratlines where we highlight news and interesting items from our members in far-flung places.

We have advertised in the past where Tom and Roger took *IONA* to the Bribie Island Classic and won two well-deserved awards. The Cairns Post recently did a feature on all three and here's a copy of the article:



From Marc – our recently transported Van Diemen's Land Correspondent:

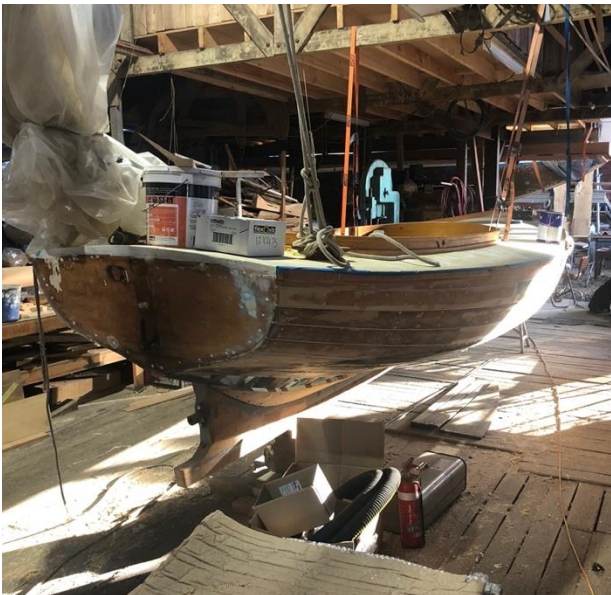
A short story from my visit to Cygnet Wooden Boats today. (Photos attached).

Tom & Sheila saw their ram shackled ex-sawmill shed on their recent visit. The CWB operator is in the process of rebuilding in stages the sheds from the inside out, which means they are in it for the long period.

Wilson's Brothers, which is just on the other side of Cygnet inlet is the oldest wooden boat yard in Australia (est 1863) but is unfortunately now closed and for sale. There are a dozen boats being built, rebuilt, or restored at Cygnet Wooden Boats by their owners with help and guidance from some resident shipwrights. They also have school kids spend several sessions actually working on a boat (the unpainted transom photo one).

A magnificent sailing boat that hit the water and displayed at the Wooden Boat Festival was Te Uira built in 1896. The 17m wooden mast in the photo belongs to her and was made in the sheds. The yacht with deck exposed is one of Wilson's build in 1940's to a Sparkman design before he teamed up with Stephens. One of the guys I met called Brett is surprisingly traveling to Cooktown

next week to pick up his 'new' yacht also built at Wilsons in the 1950's and is sailing it back to Tasmania after a thorough inspection and gear replacement. I gave him details of the WBAC so he might call in! He is after a small second hand RIB tender if anyone knows one for sale??



Cheers from Marc at WBAC (Cygnet Division).

Out and About in Innisfail

Having met recently for the first time at the last Tinaroo “event”, Phill Smith and Peter Higgins found an interest in common in Putt-putt and stationary engines. Phill having recently bought a “new” engine (called an Olds!!) and discovering that Peter had some parts, phone numbers were exchanged and Phill & Pam set off on Friday to Innisfail to visit Peter & Cheryl.

Phill found a treasure trove and Peter a like-minded enthusiast in old engines and ancient mechanicals. Apparently, apart from his boating achievements, Peter has a large collection of stationary engines, a couple of vintage cars, and several putt-putt engines. The stationary engines are taken around the countryside to be run at exhibitions and shows. Some arcane records being set at these. Like the largest number of stationary engines running at one time and the most men in overalls at a show!!

Thanks to Peter, Phill came home with some parts for his “new” Olds engine, and in awe of Peter’s collection of engines. Phill’s 13 Seagulls just doesn’t cut it!!

Club Happenings:

The 2023 Great Tinaroo Raid:

Don’t forget, the Raid will no longer be held in July but is confirmed at the Tinaroo Sailing Club on the **18th, 19th and 20th August!!** Program and camping information have been sent out to all members, and are available on our website. REMINDER: Deadline for Peculiar Propulsion Race entries is 31st July.

Our Facebook Page:

Roughly one post per week of late, and each one gets a significant number of views and comments. We now have people following our page from around the globe.

Our WBAC website:

<https://www.woodenboatscairns.com.au>

Continually being updated by Sheila. If you haven’t visited it recently, you’re in for quite a surprise with the amount of info Sheila has collated and installed.

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Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for July, 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