



## *Welcome to the May Edition of Ratlines!*

### **First up - Club News:**

#### **What happened to the April Edition?**

One of us forgot to do it...

So, we were thinking of two issues during May. Still thinking..... but it's not looking good....

**Regular clubhouse sessions:** ...are still every Tuesday and Saturday from around 7:30/8:00 AM. We usually finish around midday, but that's flexible. Use of the clubhouse and facilities out of these times is also available to members by contacting the committee.

- **Ports North Master Plan:** No changes foreseen at this time.
- **Insurance:** Up to date
- **Incorporation:** Up to date.

#### **Clubhouse:**

- There is no truth in the rumour that Brendon has a bunk in the mower shed.
- There is lots of truth in the rumour that two morning teas have become commonplace.
- We are planning to install concrete pavers in workbay 2 once Pathfinder departs.

### **Boatbuilding Projects:**

#### **Tom & Sheila's Pathfinder:**

The end is in sight. Sails have been made as have booms – hopefully they will match. Cockpit coamings have been installed and should be completed in the next 2-3 weeks dependant on people availability, cockpit deck coverings are made & being fitted. Outboard bracket is being constructed from Marc's design, pivoting tabernacle is being 'fine-tuned', and the rigger has had his first inspection on site.





These are the corner inserts to join the side coamings to the front, layered in a brick pattern.

**Brendon's Hartley:**

Repairing the starboard deck and underlying framework continues, but 90% complete. The cockpit has been stripped out ready for a complete redesign, and the windows are removed for cabin repairs. A new foredeck hatch is also under construction.



Starboard cockpit before..



...and after.



Hatch cover fabrication



Windows removed and frames prepped.



### **Roger's Bitaki Taari.**

She waits forlornly in the compound for her turn in work bay two, and redesign work has yet to start.

### **John Williams' Scruffy.**

This is a 'assist' project where our members have taken on various tasks to assist JW to complete his build of his 'Scruffy' sailing dinghy. So Far Roger, Glen, Marc and others have assisted in finishing off and shaping the rudder, coving all the internal seams and prepping her for external sheeting.



### **Other activities:**

Various members still regularly head on up to Tinaroo for the chance to mess around in boats, test drive weird & wacky contraptions – some with hydrofoils, some with steam engines - and so on. If you'd like to meet up with them, best to co-ordinate with our Secretary Roger.

And speaking of the secret squirrel squad:

### **Tinaroo Tactics. Why Thursdays are better than Mondays!!**

The usual Thursday group of WBAC members who test their boats on Lake Tinaroo had to change the day to Monday this month for medical reasons, but events showed this was a mistake.

To protect the guilty, names will remain anonymous, but most will know who did what!! The day started well with Early Bird 1 finding his trailer lights did not work. Well, to be honest, one light did but only the one. Usual remedies failed so, after much muttering, a light bar from another trailer was uncoupled, the rego plate removed and the bar fitted to the boat trailer. All well, but a little later than usual he set off, sending texts that he would be late. Little did he know.

Meanwhile, Early Birds 2 set off just after sunrise, up the Kuranda range, enjoying the beautiful autumn weather. Nearly at the top, the trailer lurched and the nearside wheel was observed rolling down the road. Rush hour traffic notwithstanding, car and trailer came to a halt and the wife dispatched to retrieve the wheel, dodging the traffic as it banked up trying to get past.

Luckily a passing road crew did a U turn, and came back to put up witches hats and a stop/go man. The early birds were feeling important by this time (and who wouldn't!), holding up one lane of the road

and expecting to be mentioned on the radio. The road crew had other ideas and wanted them on the way, ASAP.

Wheel retrieved, it was refitted using nuts “borrowed” from the spare and the other wheel and Early Birds 2 carried on. At the top of the range, it became clear that the mudguard had to be bent clear of the tyre. Pulling over behind a truck, the Early Birds borrowed a bar from the truckie to bend the mudguard clear and in return, lent him their air compressor to pump up the spare tyre he was fitting to his truck. One good turn deserves another!!

Feeling much better they continued gently on their way to the lake, stopping only in Tolga where they were passed by the Latecomers, who wondered why the Early Birds were so late. The rest of the group arrived without incident, but by a quirk of fate they all arrived at the same time. Something that never happens!!

Coffee was served, muffins eaten, boats launched and many attempts were made to start the Seagull powering hydrofoil prototype. Finally realizing that engines (petrol) will not start without a spark, the engine was partially dismantled and the points adjusted, thus resolving the issue. Back on the boat, with test pilot installed, the engine started. This so surprised a Kuranda member standing nearby, that he slipped and sat down, in about a foot of water. This resulted in severe problems for the rest of the crew as they attempted to be helpful, while bent double laughing. Clutching a wet wallet the damp member wandered off in search of some dry clothes.

While this was happening, Early Bird 2 couple had launched their boat and attempted to start the Seagull. Surprisingly, it did start, but created so much power, that, when the clutch was engaged it tore up the engine mounts and tried to climb into the boat. Something Seagulls are prone to do unless properly trained!! This ended their day except for a short paddle, more coffee and lunch.

One of the Latecomers had wandered over to see what the fuss was about with the Early bird couple, offered insincere commiserations, (always one to enjoy someone else’s misfortune) and went back to start the other boat again. Stepping into the lake, he found the same problem as the Kuranda member, and ending up in the water. Another round of hilarity and false sympathy from those around.

With typical foresight, he had, for the first time, not brought up dry clothes, (because they are never needed!) and spent the next hour or so dripping on everything and everyone. For these reasons, it was unanimously decided that we will never go boat testing on a Monday again as they are not as good as Thursdays!!

Thankfully, the morning was not all disaster, the Kuranda members boat proved to be a reliable and nice boat to handle, and while the prototype hydrofoil showed “potential”, and zoomed around the lake, there is still work to do.

As a footnote, a chorus of “One wheel on my trailer” was given to the Early Bird couple when they next appeared at the clubhouse. We like to be supportive!!

The Wet Latecomer  
18 May 2021

### **Lake Tinaroo Raid, 2021.**

The Raid is confirmed for the Cairns Show weekend in July (15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>).

The rules for the Seagull Race, the Peculiar Propulsion Race, and the Paddle & Row Race have been finalized and promulgated. A pleasure cruise of boats around the lake on Friday afternoon is a reality, and the program has been set. Tinaroo Sailing Club has been contacted and confirmed, and all is a go. Bookings will open at the end of this month.



And last, but not least. This month we welcome back into the fold Rien Hoffman, one of our original members from way back when. Rien has been all over the place since then, from Weipa to the Hunter Valley and has finally landed back next to the Coral Sea. Added to his renewed membership, Rien has very generously donated one of his (numerous) boats to the club to be used by members. She will be at the Raid – for just mucking about in....



That's Rien on the far right of the beautiful 18 footer. In the meantime, Rien is building a 30' catamaran, just to while away the time....

Last plus one is a pic of two antiques (John Todd and his outboard) on a very trim little clinker dinghy:



Last plus 2 is a rare pic of Sir Dermot heavily involved in his librarian tasks. He surfaces reasonably regularly for coffee and his magnificent home-baked biscuits! His assistant John left early, exhausted!



- Of significant note is the work behind the scenes by Roger, Sheila and several others to further develop the WBAC website, add photos, history, events, and possibly even links to the WBAC library data. So much has been done already, and many thanks are due to them for their tireless dedication to a very difficult task! Thanks guys!!

-----oOo-----

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes Ratlines for May 2021, and the next issue will be in June. As always, if there's more you want to see or know about please let us know by return email – [WBACairns@gmail.com](mailto:WBACairns@gmail.com)

Chris O'Keefe  
President

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

**Committee is:** President- Chris O'Keefe; Vice President- Marc Richards; Secretary- Roger Fryer; Treasurer- Brendon O'Rourke; Committeemen- Tom Sparks, John Knight and Dermot Smyth.

**Build days:** Every Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Other days available on request.

**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:** 0407 757 949 (Chris)