



RATLINES – APRIL, 2020

*The official newsletter of the
Wooden Boat Association of Cairns, Inc.*

Hello to all our members and friends, near and far, and welcome once again to Ratlines.

We're still progressing with our projects despite the current virus-affected way of life, although it has meant that our activities have been curtailed quite a bit, as you will see.

Club News:

Ports North Master Plan: Progress on the PN master plan has not been updated as yet, and we fully expect any progress will be delayed considerably. We plan to seek a progress report in late May.

WBAC website: Whilst the website is still in operation there are significant plans under way for a redesign and transfer to a different host to eliminate annual costs. Please be patient in the meantime, we have some excellent people working on this.

Insurance: We have received a tentative quote from a broker but have requested more detail and are still waiting for their reply. This is taking quite some time to clarify, and it seems we'll have to wait for progress. We feel it's worthwhile as the annual savings are around 50% of our current costs.

Clubhouse: The security of the clubhouse & containers remains uppermost in our concerns, due mainly to recent attempted interference in the orange container – the latest being discovered on 10th April. All locking mechanisms have been overhauled recently, and everything is as secure as we can make it. Members are also doing irregular drive-bys to check.

Whilst driving past the clubhouse, locals have noticed that the old lugger **FLORIA** has departed the scene. Not only departed the scene, she has departed forever and is now in landfill. She was in such a poor and dangerous state that when the excavator hired to remove her simply touched her hull - three of the supporting cradle sidearms immediately fell over and Floria fell sideways, as seen below.



...and then she collapsed into herself, aided by the machine, decades of rot and termite damage. She ended up as shown:

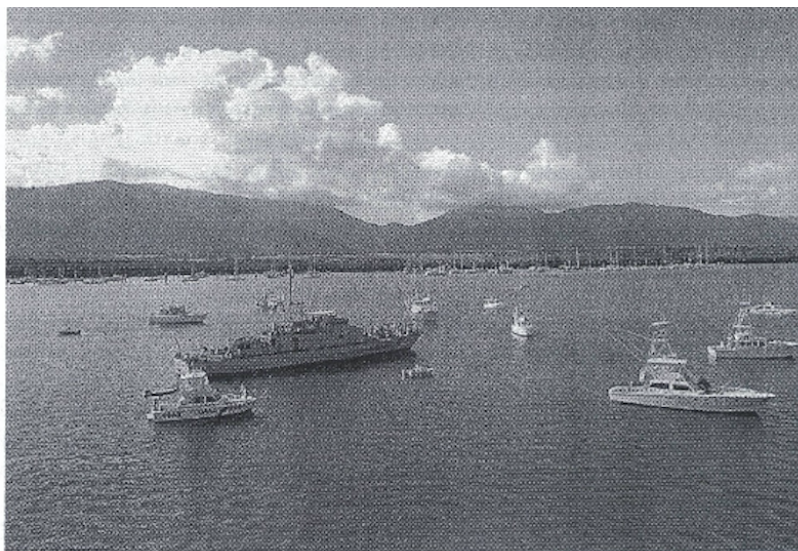


A sad but inevitable end.



Cairns Motor Boat Club Update:

While talking to Captain Phill Smith about this issue of Ratlines, he informed me that he had his picture in "Mucking About in Boats", the history of the CMBC. Apparently, he is the black dot on the foredeck of the Gwendoline May (just off the port bow of the gunboat) in this picture of the Blessing of the Fleet, July 1991.



We have known bigger claims to fame! At the time, Phill was Master of the Government Research Vessel, Gwendoline May, seen below, named after the mother of Queensland Premier, Mike Ahern. Enough history!



Lately, Phill has become interested (some say obsessed?) with Putt-putt engines and Seagull Outboards and it was his suggestion that led to the creation of the **Annual Great Tinaroo Seagull Race**. This continues the tradition of the CMBC in holding race meetings and has become a focus for a flurry of new boat building, all of which happens at night and under camouflage netting to maintain the veneer of high tech secrecy!!!.

Secrecy being the watchword, loose lips have been known to cast red herrings, but I can reveal that at least 2 boats have been designed and built, (with a suspicion of a third) to counter the threat of the two Toms (Tom Wright and Tom Sparks) dominating the Seagull race series.

With the Tinaroo Raid in July in doubt due to Covid restrictions, I feel sure that at some time this year, there will an unofficial flock of Seagulls meeting at Tinaroo to determine the pecking order and bragging rights. Too much time and effort has been expended to wait for another year.

Watch this space.....

Boatbuilding Projects, completed and current:

Roger's 15' strip planked canoe is now at his home where he can continue it's completion. He's also getting re-acquainted with the joys of fiberglass inside a hull!

Going home (we're not sure about the new red & white propulsion unit, though).



In the workshop (which looks very much like everyone else's workshop...



Tom's Pathfinder: Little occurs at the clubhouse, but Tom's cracking on at home and is experimenting with different methods & mixes with the internal epoxy paint – under the expert supervision of the lady of the house.



The rudder stock & blade have been coated as well:



and the centerboard has also had it's lead insert installed. GRP sheathing to be wrapped in place very soon.



After having seen the above it's very obvious nothing keeps our members away from their projects.

Events Calendar:

The 2020 Great Tinaroo Raid

At this time, Sunwater has closed Lake Tinaroo and Tinaroo Sailing Club has closed it's camping area – both for the foreseeable future.

We hope that things will change for the better, but it does not appear that will happen in the short term. We must be prepared to accept that the Raid this year will in all likelihood be cancelled. We will revise later on as to whether it is feasible to hold it later in the year, but it does not look good at this time.

Committee Meetings

Last year, the committee fortuitously set in place the ability to essentially hold meetings and make decisions on line (via email). This obviously now covers current circumstances and means that the day to day running of the club can still be carried on without a face to face meeting, and all decisions made will officially be ratified at the next clubhouse meeting.

Gambling Fund Grant.

Last year we applied for a grant for more tools & equipment via the Gambling Fund, and around 2 weeks ago we were overjoyed to find out we were successful. This came as a great surprise as we had in all honesty forgotten about it! Included in the equipment was a laptop for the club's records – of which there are a staggering amount. This has been acquired, and our secretary has already spent much time & effort getting it set up.

The tools & equipment list has now been finalized, and purchase of those items will commence very shortly. Our expanding inventory will mean some re-organising of our storage areas, so expect to see a hive of activity when we're finally allowed back.

A Bloke and his boat – our regular feature about one of our members..

This month is our tablelands member Dermot and his 'work in progress' - a Bull's-Eye 3.6 metre sailing/rowing skiff, built some years ago using stitch and glue plywood construction. It's an interesting project being built to a specific requirement and not a precise class, and as Dermot explains:

"So far I have fitted meranti gunwales, plywood bilge keels (in place of a daggerboard) for use in the shallow, tree-stump infested waters of Lake Tinaroo, a vertically adjustable, shock-absorbing rudder (thanks to Glen for introducing me to this concept), articulated oars for forward-facing rowing (astoundingly I like to see where I'm going), a sliding seat and adjustable foot-rests."

"After many forgettable hours of filling, sanding, filling and sanding the multiple seams, nooks and crannies I'm now ready to start painting inside and out – whilst retaining the timber look for the seat surfaces, gunwales, tiller, rudder etc."

"The (being-developed) sailing rig will be a wing-topped sloop, sparing no expense using a top-of-the-line Bunnings tarp, supported by heritage wooden mast and boom that came with another recently acquired unfinished plywood skiff."

(Doesn't the last paragraph sound familiar?)



If this looks strange to you, you should see it in motion!!



No centerboard to snag on snags...





All in all, a compact boat with a lovely shape that should go really well!

FOR SALE

- This is a new addition to the newsletter to allow members another method of advertising their 'surplus to requirement' boats & gear.

For Sale – Happy Feet. A 13 foot 'Wrangler' design plywood hard chine with New Guinea Rosewood frames, silky oak thwarts, with deck highlights of Kauri Pine and Redwood, and she sits on her own trailer.

Engine. 3 hp Penguin petroleum engine with magneto spark, dog clutch with forward and neutral and electric start, $\frac{3}{4}$ " SS shaft and 11" bronze prop. It has an electric start and starts easily every time.

Cruises around 5 - 6 knots. Carby & magneto overhauled, engine in top nick.





Price \$5,500. For more detail, contact Stewart Smith on 0439011224.

Finally, for those whose membership fees are still outstanding your support is always appreciated and if you could correct that it would be much appreciated. If you need the bank details, please email us via the club's official email.

This concludes Ratlines for April, which has been brought to you by the efforts of quite a few members who have my thanks. We hope you enjoyed being kept up to date, and if there's more you want to see or know about please let us know by return email – WBACairns@gmail.com

Cheers, and stay safe everyone in these uncertain times.

Chris O'Keefe
President

<u>Clubhouse:</u>	68 Tingira Street, Portsmith, (Cairns) Qld 4870
<u>Committee is:</u>	President- Chris O'Keefe; Vice President- Marc Richards; Secretary- Roger Fryer; Treasurer- Brendon O'Rourke; Committeemen- Glen Chisholm, Phill Smith and Tom Sparks.
<u>Build days:</u>	<u>Currently suspended due to COVID 19 restrictions..</u>
<u>Website:</u>	Currently being revised.
<u>Facebook:</u>	https://www.facebook.com/Wooden-Boat-Association-of-Cairns-118900728480121/
<u>Phone:</u>	0407 757 949 (Chris)
<u>Email:</u>	WBACairns@gmail.com