



*Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year*

### **Club News:**

**The Ports North Master Plan:** Is still awaited – we live in hope....

### **Insurance & Incorporation:**

Incorporation requirements are up to date. For insurance, we have been advised by our insurers (Gallagher) that they will no longer renew insurance cover for organisations such as WBAC and Men's Sheds. We are exploring alternative insurance options for when our current policy expires at the end of February.

### **Clubhouse:**

The new steps from the front verandah have now been painted by Tom and Sheila (mostly Sheila). They come in very handy during rainstorms, and save a lot of old bloke's arthritis dramas. We're also investigating installing permanent weather covers (shade sails) for the eastern end of workbays 1 & 2.

### **Boatbuilding Projects:**

#### **Brendon's Hartley:**

Sanding, filling, fairing and primer/undercoating of the hull is now complete (praise the gods). Work continues on the interior, seating, windscreen bracing, and the gunwale & upper deck timberwork, so the production of sawdust is still well under way.

Wet weather, covers, this must be the wet season.



### **Roger's Kiribati Tri:**

With Christmas out of the way, BT's damaged & rotten chine sections have been removed and the replacement materials are now on site. The paint on the topsides is a bit questionable (it's peeling) so it's all being sanded off. Tom is in his element again.



### **John Williams' 'Shimmy':**

Still awaiting a suitable day for progression, which by all accounts should be soon.

### **Mystery Project/the 16'Skiff:**

In abeyance (Marc is on a Tasmanian sabbatical. We await a suitable brainstorm any month now)..

### **Refurbishment of Pier Precinct Artworks:**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February the artworks – all 1 ½ tonnes of them – arrived in our compound. After an 'interesting' unloading they were placed onto the pre-built stands. We later moved the club's large marquee into position over both of them to allow all-weather access.



Original in situ.





Brendon supervising the lift, first frame in position.



Then it was moving the marquee into position. Someone had problems with direction..

Measure, re-measure, record..







..and then it was cut, chisel, cut, chisel, jackhammer, unbolt and remove withoutdamaging the steelwork.Until, finally, all the timbers had been removed! One helluva noisy, dirty and difficult job!



And then, once all the old timber pads had been removed and disposed of ecologically, Ports North arrived on January 18<sup>th</sup> and transported the frames off site to be grit blasted and repainted with a fresh epoxy paint scheme.

They will return on or around February 15<sup>th</sup> for the next stage: Cutting, shaping and fitting the replacement timber pads. Previously, almost all the pads were spotted gum (over 20 years old, which explains their hardness), but they will be replaced by Red Ironbark –already at the clubhouse.



And once the frames were gone, the marquee adds to our area under cover facing Tingira street, good advertising!

*And finally for this issue, from the irregular Tinaroo outings:*

### The Race that Never Was!!

Thursdays being good days, as against Mondays, it was considered auspicious to take *Om Toch* to the lake for its first sail since the Raid. Word had spread and 11 brave souls met on a balmy morning at the Tinaroo Sailing club. A nice breeze, a little chop on the water and overcast conditions gave encouragement to the sailors.

*Iona* was early and was the first into the water, unusual that, but soon after *Pamela J* with Phill Smith and Noel were in and the distinctive sound of Phill swearing at the engine was heard. No, it was not the Seagull, but some dirt in the carburetor of the putt-putt. "Operator error" says Phill. He being the operator, he should know. Another minute and a chuff-chuff announced the engine was firing.

*Om Toch* and Glen's *Flatty* were soon afloat and a coffee break was called, John Williams having put the kettle on when he arrived. Mark arrived soon after to collect the glasses he had left behind at the Xmas lunch and to wish us well. Revived by coffee and Dermot's carrot cake, there was a discussion to decide who was going in each boat.



Roger, Dermot, Keven and Bjarni (Kevens' son), opted for *Om Toch* (Roger needing sailing practice), Tom, Sheila and John Williams in *Iona*, Phill and Noel in *Pamela J* and Glen doing his own thing in *Flatty*.

With 4 aboard, *Om Toch* was first away and with Keven handling the main (and only) sheet and Roger at the tiller, settled down to a nice "reach" across the lake. Looking back the crew noticed that the other boats were under-way, but that *Iona* had taken a different course, and needed chasing down.



*Pamela J* started following *Om Toch* across the lake, but, with the surface a little rough, Phill decided that having water sprayed across the magneto on the 60-year-old engine was not going to enhance its performance and headed back to calmer waters. Probably a wise decision. His new and improved starting mechanism was working well and he gave the boat a good run. Glen was having fun in the *Flatty* and later claimed it was "planing". His new sail is a big improvement over the Bunnings tarp, but even so, this claim was taken with a large dose of salt!!



With 2 sailing boats on the water, (as per Marc's rules), a race was declared on *Om Toch*, and we headed down to catch *Iona*, whose crew were blissfully unaware of the situation. This was

where Roger realised that racing a sailing boat was a little more complicated than just opening the throttle. Slowly closing the distance between the boats, both headed into unknown territory towards Kauri Creek.

The Tinaroo terror of dead trees in the water were getting worryingly close on both sides, so it was eventually decided that discretion was the better part of winning and it was time to turn about and head for home. An early lunch was calling. *Om Toch* was never headed on the run home and the crew decided we had won. Tom in *Iona* was surprised at this as he claimed he was only “cruising”!!



Keven and Bjarni took *Om Toch* out for a quick sail before lunch and Glen provided some photo opportunities, “planing” in the *Flatty*, while the rest of us relaxed and told tall stories. Tom, Sheila, Dermot and John took *Iona* for a short sail after lunch while Keven and Roger fired up the outboard on *Om Toch* and gave chase. This ensured a good run for the engine and used up some of the fuel that had been in it since the Raid. Not being sure how much was in the tank, *Om Toch* turned back before being embarrassed as *Iona* was sailing faster.



Packing up, we agreed it had been an unusual day. No breakdowns, disasters, towing or upsets. Next time might be different!

Roger Fryer  
22 Jan 2022

Ladies and Gents, this concludes Ratlines for January, 2022.

And, 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  
Resident layabout.

**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)