



Welcome to the JUNE Edition of Ratlines!

Club News:

Regular clubhouse sessions: Every Tuesday and Saturday from around 7:30/8:00 AM.

- **Ports North Master Plan:** Recent correspondence with Ports North has revealed that they're well advanced in developing the master plan, and that it should be complete in the latter half of this year. Once we have been advised of the outcome it will be published in Ratlines.
- **Insurance:** Up to date
- **Incorporation:** Up to date.

Clubhouse:

- We are planning to install concrete pavers in workbay 2 (to match those in workbay 1) once Pathfinder departs. We're currently searching for second hand pavers, but they no sooner get advertised before they're sold. So, looks like new pavers will be sourced – estimated cost around \$1,200.

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 week, cockpit deck coverings are made & fitted. Outboard bracket is being constructed from Marc's design, pivoting tabernacle is being 'fine-tuned', and the rigger has had a couple of sessions on site.



Remember the old adage: 'You can never have too many clamps!'



The last coaming grab rail has now been permanently fitted. Trimming & sanding, then varnish & done!

Brendon's Hartley:

Deck repairs remain at 90% complete. The cockpit dash has now been removed and a total re-wire is planned. Marc's new foredeck hatch is almost complete, with the glass insert to be sealed in place. A beauty to behold..



That lovely teak glow – which will match the all-teak cabin & trim.

Roger's Bitaki Taari:

She's still waiting, and some redesign work has been flagged. Much to be done, and workbay 2 to be finished prior to commencement.

John Williams' 'Shimmy': (the company is Scruffie and the boat is the Shimmy.)

Now that all the coaming is complete, JW, Glen and Roger have attached the port topside sheeting. Roger & Glen were amazed at the number of clamps in JW's collection....



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**:

Some 10 days ago the SSS were surprised at the Tinaroo Sailing Club by another pair of interlopers who brought their new hydroplane along for water testing. And also to spy on the SSS hydrofoil trials. And trials they were!! – but more of that later...

The interlopers' craft was somewhat of another surprise in that it was widely believed to be constructed from aluminium – a scurrilous rumour started by an anonymous member that caught the opposition hook, line and sinker - whereas it was actually all timber and ply, but painted a bright silver and had false rivets painted on all the joins & chines. Much jocularity ensued when the truth was revealed, and perhaps a few cuss words as well.

Much jocularity also ensued when the hydroplane got off to a great start and started to lift as designed. And then the throttle cable snapped! As Ned said, such is life.



The hydrofoil crowd also had their moment of glory.....but sadly failed to take it. The triple-hydrofoil setup seems to require more power than the Seagull is producing, and a little more research and development. Around three years should do it.....

And further reporting on the goings-on at the lake from Roger:

Friday Frolics

Having declared Mondays as a No-Go Zone for trips to Tinaroo, the usual mob plus some extras, headed up to the Lake on a Friday, hoping for better luck. The good news is that everyone arrived with all wheels on trailers and lights working. The gods were looking out for us. On the way in the writer followed Chris and Brendons' Seagull Race entry from Kairi, muttering to himself about alloy boats and worried that the racy looking number on the trailer could be fast. How to

change the rules to exclude it was his first thought? (Fair-minded person that he is!)

Considering how to do this, he approached the racy boat, but getting close, he rapped on the hull and was rewarded with the distinctive sound of "Plywood"!! Painted silver, and with painted dots for pop rivets, Chris and Brendon had done a brilliant job of fooling everyone. Very much in the spirit of the club.

Back at the waters' edge, the hydrofoil boat was launched and, with Glen in the drivers' seat, the first of 2 Seagulls started (only one on the boat). As before, the boat failed to rise to the occasion. Almost, but not quite. With the 2nd engine fitted, it was even worse, and it has been decided that the boat will be given one more trial and then "rested" for a while.

Meanwhile, Chris and Brendon launched their racer and, it floated. A good start! Even better, with Brendon in the cockpit, the engine fired up and he headed out to start his fast run, after doing a fancy dough-nut, he opened the throttle and the engine died, leaving him 50 metres out and, to paraphrase a saying, " on the lake without a paddle" . As usual, help was absent, so he had to paddle back using his hands, while a curious crowd watched on and cheered.

The problem was diagnosed as a broken throttle cable, so we never did find out if the racer was as fast as it looked. Its' day was over, but I am sure it will be back.

Meanwhile, Dermot and Kristine were giving "Fluke" a trial run and for the first time managed to get steerage speed. This is a serious contender in the Peculiar Propulsion Race, which Dermot won last year. Not looking so serious, was his trial with both forward and backward facing rowing. This involves 2 oarspeople, facing each other and trying to coordinate their strokes. From the shore it looks bizarre, but the general feeling is that it has potential with more practice.

Mark, a new member, had arrived with 2 lovely Dacron covered kayaks, that he built. One, more slender than the other, managed to tip it's paddler into the lake, but was very quick and smooth through the water. These could be potential winners in the paddling race.

Once he had finished starting Seagulls, the writer took his Canadian Canoe for its' first real run. Being much broader than the Dacron beauties, the canoe proved to be very stable but with only one paddler at the back subject to windage. With 2 it will be a very nice cruising canoe as it has the ability to carry a goodly load.

As usual, events were interrupted by coffee and cake, talk, discussion, and much laughter. Fridays are definitely better than Mondays!

Roger 19 June 2021

The WBAC Website: <https://www.woodenboats Cairns.com.au>

Our website is continually changing, thanks to lots of time spent by Sheila and Roger, incorporating the unbelievable amount of time & effort put in by Dermot and John in the library. Our library collection is now live, accessible, and searchable on the web. Just click on the link above and see just how much hard work has been put in by our members.

Lake Tinaroo Raid, 2021.

The program is finalized and has already been sent out to all members. If you intend to attend please heed the advice given and register if you haven't already done so.

Whilst the Great Seagull Race will grab the attention of all within earshot, and the Paddle & Rowing Race will get all hearts beating fast (especially the contestants), The Peculiar Propulsion Race is guaranteed to be more jaw-dropping than the sights in Cairns CBD at 1 o'clock on a Saturday morning.

Picture this: dinghies with whale tails; skiffs with paddle wheels; canoes with propeller shafts & rudders; other weird & wonderful whacky designs – not to mention whatever Dr. Tom has up his sleeve – all jostling for position to win a weird race that – appropriately - has an equally weird trophy.

And then there will be the official naming and launching of ***The Pathfinder!***

..and no, we don't know what the name is yet, it will be revealed on the day. And celebrated with a cocktail party. Or two.

Almost sounds like an episode of Biggles, doesn't it? Just messing about in boats.....

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Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes Ratlines for June 2021, and the next issue will hopefully be in July – dependent on the volume of material from the Raid.

Aand, 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
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/>

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