



*Welcome to the Great Tinaroo Raid 2020 Edition of Ratlines.*

*But first:*

### **Club News:**

**Regular clubhouse sessions:** Every Tuesday and Saturday from around 7:30/8:00 AM you'll find us at the clubhouse at 68 Tingira Street.

**Charity Status:** Brendon is still into this not inconsiderable process, more soon.

**Mail:** The application is still in process. No, that's not an echo, but it is Australia Post so we'll keep you informed.

**Ports North Master Plan:** We expect no progress on this in the near future.

**Insurance:** Up to date. Refund of \$596.15 from cancelled policy received!

### **Clubhouse:**

- Our re-arrangement is complete.
- The new timber benches are finished with new woodworkers' vices ordered – courtesy of the monies remaining from the Gambling Fund Grant.
- All sorting of fastenings, fittings, bits & pieces is done. Remember, if you see the need for stainless yacht fittings, contact us first!
- Some minor sorting of stuff within the clubhouse is yet to be done, but this is along the lines of identifying what items can be better displayed and where.
- Now that we have a number of battery-powered tools a 'charging bench' has been installed just inside the clubhouse front door near the electrical panel.
- Sorting of the innumerable books & magazines in our library will continue for probably the next year. Or more.

### **Boatbuilding Projects:**

**Roger's 15' strip planked canoe** continues at home, interrupted by current events including Tinaroo.

**Tom's Pathfinder:** Cockpit seating progresses, as does upper deck painting. She has now been lifted onto an elevated building jig as shown, to facilitate installation of the centreboard, transom timberwork, and rudder pintles.



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

Once some details are finalized with the transport dept she will be on site..

### **Monthly Committee Meetings**

Recommenced as of Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June. A copy of the latest minutes is attached for members.

### **Gambling Fund Grant.**

The grant fund has now been acquitted by Secretary Roger, which left us with some extra \$\$\$\$. A revised list of tools & stuff was submitted, approved and actioned. They're on their way.

## **THE 2020 GREAT TINAROO RAID.**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July saw the influx of quite a few WBAC members to the Tinaroo Sailing Club grounds along with TSC members. All sorts of tents, vans, trailers, boats and temporary shelters set up as accommodation for the weekend's frivolities. Some brave souls even slept under just a tarp.... And survived! Many trial runs of secret projects continued throughout Thursday & Friday, and much cursing of faulty components, designs, and Seagulls was heard. Then Race Day Saturday dawned slightly foggy:



....but resolved into a stunningly clear blue sky with a crispy chill in the air – in short, a typically beautiful Tablelands winter day.

**First up** for the day was the Inaugural Peculiar Propulsion Race, contested by a range of boats powered by whale-tails, mechanical and manual activated flippers, and even a hand operated eggbeater inside a cut up coke bottle. No, not kidding, and the eggbeater even finished the race. (it's amazing what gynaecologists can invent).

The IPPR was won in convincing manner by Dermot, our Atherton member with his whale-tail invention attached to the stern of his very attractive dinghy (aptly named *Fluke*).



Second and third places were taken out by Glen and Roger respectively, showing the value of diving flippers as propulsion.

**Here's Glen's, whereas Rogers sorta fell apart.**





**Then it was on to the second race of the day**, the Paddle or Row Race, and a decent lineup covered a range of paddlers and rowers – facing both forward and backwards.

First place was Marc in the WBAC canvas on frame kayak – showing that age can be speedy., closely followed by Brendon in JW's canoe and Dermot in his backward rower. Brahminy was the finish line.



And this was the lineup at the start:



**Finally, the Main Event of the Day arrived.** It was time for the **Great Tinaroo Seagull Race!**

Much has been done over the past year, with boats being built or modified in secret, complaints of competitors flying surveillance drones over the secret build sites, all sorts of disinformation and intelligence-gathering ploys, and it was all so a serious challenge could be raised to beat the winners of the first two GTSR's – Doctor Tom, and the husband and wife team of Sheila & Tom Sparks.

Much drama occurred in the lead up to the race when it was discovered that the throttle cable of 'Silver Gull's' outboard had broken. (Those not in the know should not be surprised that Silver Gull was the secret project of 'The Gang of Three' – comprising Glen, Roger and Phill). There was some



conjecture that the broken cable was sabotage, but it came to light that Phill had tried to get extra speed during trials and broke it himself.

The Canoe Named Gnu was a scratching from the race due to the fact it was leaking more fuel than it was using, and that the steering had also malfunctioned badly. So much so that she would only do 50 metre diameter circles to starboard. It was considered that a potential bomb doing circles on the triangular course was a genuinely exciting but unacceptable hazard, so scratched she was.

Then, Glen and his boat were rescued from drifting into the petrified tree snags (and certain oblivion) by the safety boat and towed to the starting line, which was resembling a dodgem course by then.



The heart-stopping Rescue!

**And then they were off!!**

Silver Gull immediately showed her mettle by carving a swathe through the field, leaving all in her wake. (She's the long, slim hull on the right of the pic).





Dr. Tom and the Sparks team held out a duel for the next positions in the leader's wake, with Doc manouvering his epoxy-sheathed balsa dinghy into second place ahead of the Sparks outrigger. This was to be the procession for the rest of the race, with Phill in the Silver Gull streaking away to win by many lengths. It was a fitting reward for the many hours of time, effort, secrecy, and many trials invested by the Gang of Three.

**Gull crosses the line! With Phill using a set of vicegrips to operate the throttle!!**



**Dr Tom and Heike take out second place with the help of the Seagull mascot.**





**And the irrepressible Sparks duo take out the bronze!**



\* It is of note that a protest was lodged against Silver Gull by the Sparks mob, but was dismissed out of hand. Literally, out of hand....when one judge laughed at the protest, crushed it up and threw it towards the lake. A copy is provided at the back end of the newsletter.

**Well done to all who participated, helped, and helped to celebrate afterwards.**

Once all was finished on the water, it was time for the festivities to begin, around a number of fires, of course!

**Fires were very popular. And necessary!**



Whilst the PP Race does not yet have a trophy (it's still being built), winner Dermot was presented with a couple of mementoes of the occasion, one being a toy chipmunk that repeats everything said near it, and the other a 120 year old bronze boat nail. We believe the Chipmunk was de-battered.

Also, the Paddle or Row scratch race does not have a trophy, so the winner Marc was also presented with a memento of a small wooden box with a sliding lid. As yet, we're unaware if he's been game enough to open it. He was last seen holding it like a caged rattlesnake.....

All eyes focused on the award of the **Great Tinaroo Seagull Race trophy** to the winner, Phill. He was joined at the podium by the other two G.O.3 members, Roger & Glen. Not only did Phill get presented with the trophy, he was also given a 120 year old bronze boat nail – of seemingly unknown origin.



**Of course, there were other presentations**, one being for the Best Boat at the Raid, and this went to Dermot by popular decision for the excellent work on his modified sailing dinghy - *Foresight*.





For the best costume on the night – supposedly a ‘Mounties & Lumberjacks’ theme, Sandra won by a clear vote between several potentials, (and not because of anything to do with the tomahawk she was wielding). She was presented with another small wooden box and was also unwilling to open it, so we did it for her. The huge rubber spider within had the expected effect with Sandra departing the scene quite rapidly. We’re not sure if the spider & box survived the tomahawk....



**Finally, the time came for the award of the Most Outstanding Member of the year.**

So many of our members give of their time and efforts quite freely and generously, but on this occasion one stood clear, and that was our Secretary, Roger.

Roger has, over the past year, not only sorted out a great deal of the club’s records, but put together our largest successful request yet for a Gambling Fund Grant; organized the ordering and collection of the items applied for; organized and ordered the next list of items from the monies left over; set up all the available club records on the new laptop; got heavily involved in all aspects of the club’s activities – especially the Tinaroo Raid races; and still found time to work on his Canadian Canoe at home. All this whilst recovering from a severe personal loss.

A well-deserved award, and I am sure all members will join in the congratulations.

**Roger with his well-deserved award.**



Finally, we leave you with a number of pics from the Raid weekend:



**The infamous Sparks Mob Protest.**



**Seagull surgery**



**The broken Gull's peculiar propulsion..**





### The awards ceremony in a great setting!



This concludes Ratlines for July, 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

P.S. – The Tinaroo Sailing Club grounds have already been booked for the same weekend next year (the July Cairns Show long weekend), and the suggested theme for 2021 is:

### ***Christmas in July!!***

So, you can expect Tinaroo to be overrun by a horde of Santa Clauses in lifejackets at that time.

Thanks for reading, stay safe and well, and we'll see you in a month's time.

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- Glen Chisholm, Phill Smith and Tom Sparks.

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

**Website:** Currently being revised.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Wooden-Boat-Association-of-Cairns-118900728480121/>

**Phone:** 0407 757 949 (Chris)

**Email:** [WBACairns@gmail.com](mailto:WBACairns@gmail.com)



....and finally – The Rejected Protest

Received by race office: The President Number : 00001 Date and time 19/7/2020 Signature .....

**PROTEST FORM** – also for requests for redress and reopening

Fill in and tick as appropriate

1. EVENT Seagull Race..... Organizing authority WBAC ..... Date 18/7/2020 . Race no. 1 .....

2. TYPE OF HEARING

- Protest by boat against boat ☒ Request for redress by boat or race committee ☐  
Protest by race committee against boat ☐ Consideration of redress by protest committee ☐  
Protest by protest committee against boat ☐ Request by boat or race committee to reopen hearing ☐  
Consideration of reopening by protest committee ☐

3. BOAT PROTESTING, OR REQUESTING REDRESS OR REOPENING

Class: Top of the class ..... Fleet 1 ..... Sail no. NA ..... Boat's name TIPPY .....  
Represented by TJ and SM Sparks ..... Tel., e-mail tom@limecut.com.au .....

4. BOAT(S) PROTESTED OR BEING CONSIDERED FOR REDRESS

Class Upper class close to Royalty Fleet 1 ..... Sail no. NA ..... Boat's name Unknown. Owner  
Dr Tom

5. INCIDENT

Time and place of incident 18/7/2020 .....

Rules alleged to have been broken Exceeded budget restrictions and too flashy Witnesses S  
Sparks BA Design Post Grad Cert. Design, expert witness and professional. Not biased.

6. INFORMING PROTESTEE How did you inform the protestee of your intention to protest?

- By hailing ☐ When? ..... Word(s) used .....  
By displaying a red flag ☐ When? .....  
By informing her in some other way ☒ Give details Written Complaint .....

7. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

Diagram: one square = hull length; show positions of boats, wind and current directions, marks.



Image of Dr Tom's vessel not available prior to race however we imagine it will look something like this. It's design and manufacture exceeds budget restrictions and looks too flashy – not in the spirit of the group.  
Budget restrictions have been brought into force for any new vessel entered. Does not apply to existing vessels.