

# WAVELENGTH 780

**Newsletter - No. 9**

**August 2011**

**An occasional newsletter for interested followers of the Wavelength 780**

A year has now passed since writing the last Wavelength Newsletter. What a momentous year it has been for many Queenslanders. As many of you will know, the state went through a very unsettled and wet summer culminating in widespread floods throughout the state and the destructive cyclone 'Yasi' in the north, crossing the coast around Cardwell. Many of you may recall the news images of the Cardwell boat harbour foreshore stacked high with boats of all descriptions. The year prior, Wavelength had cruised this tropical area in delightfully benign conditions, including spending a couple of days anchored out on Bramble Reef, around twenty n.m. offshore from Hinchinbrook Island, which normally offers partial protection to Cardwell on the mainland. Such an event brings home the importance of careful selection of your cruising time in these areas. Many local summer sailing events were abandoned due to difficult conditions.



*Cardwell marina after Cyclone Yasi*

Recent sailing on Wavelength has been restricted to weekend cruising and the occasional club race on Moreton Bay, now returned to clear conditions after the devastating effect of the Brisbane River flooding earlier in the year. Nor was the wet summer favourable to

local builders using epoxy because of the high humidity. A couple of the local projects went on hold until drier weather returned.



*BBQ Breakfast ashore on a recent MYCQ club bay cruise. Someone forgot the coffee kettle, so 'Wavelength' was backed up to the beach to make coffees all round in the galley!*



*An unusual stern quarter view of the Wavelength 780*

In last year's newsletter at this time I noted that my wife Sue and I had taken time off to see the Northern Territory and the Kimberleys. This year we have just returned from a similar 4WD coach trip from Cairns to Cape York, taking in the Daintree, Bloomfield Track, Cooktown, Lakefield National Park, Weipa, endless corruggaations and creek crossings, Bamaga and the Tip of the Cape, prior to crossing to Thursday Island by power cat ferry and then Horn Island before a return flight to Cairns. Earlier in the trip, from Seisha, a small settlement on the west coast of the cape near Bamaga, I also managed a chopper flight over the tip and nearby coastal islands. I could not help but think it would be a beautiful area to sail a small tri like the Wavelength. A weather eye would need to be kept out for crocs, one of which I spotted from the chopper swimming lazily in clear water where a creek ran out to an ocean beach.

**Website:**

This year I have finally been able to put together a website:-  
[www.wavelengthmultihulls.com](http://www.wavelengthmultihulls.com) .

This was a slower than expected process after some technical glitches occurred in setting up the photo galleries so that they did not overload file sizes on the site.

A composite U-tube video clip of two Wavelengths sailing under spinnaker earlier this year has also been added to the site.

For those who have not accessed a Wavelength study package previously, there should be much of interest on the website on the development of the Wavelength design, as well as published articles on the boat.

Any further enquiries, from yourself or friends interested in the design as a possible building project, are welcome via the 'Contact' link on the website or through the contacts listed below.

**Building:**

Neil, at Mt Cotton on the outskirts of Brisbane, has put the finishing touches on his home built trailer. He shopped around for the best prices on galvanising and running gear components. His cost estimate on the trailer, road ready and not including labour, was around A\$4500.00.

His boat is now fully assembled. Neil used the same option, as did Ted with Wavelength No. 2, of leaving the float decks open where the beams are inserted in the floats. All the necessary taping of the beams onto the support bulkheads inside the floats can then be easily accessed. The remaining float deck sections can then be added last.





*Neil – “It folds!”*

Neil is now at the ‘fitting out’ stage and has commissioned yacht riggers to prepare a mast kit for him, where he will do the assembly, prior to returning the components for anodising.



*Float decks completed*

As Neil is setting his boat up for single handed coastal cruising, he does not want a powerful rig, so is opting for a smaller fixed mast, rather than rotating rig. This will be accompanied by a reduced sail plan to suit his particular needs as a solo sailor.

Alan, another active Wavelength builder in south east Queensland, has just completed his last float half and is preparing for join up.



*One of Alan's float halves*

In Western Australia, Paul, a more recent Wavelength builder, with the assistance of his father, has also made steady progress and is also completing his fourth float half ready for join up. Paul has test fitted his float halves and is pleased with the way they have fitted together with minimal adjustment required.

### **Racing:**

While I have been off touring Cape York, Ted, the owner of 'New Horizons', has competed in the local Sandgate Winter Series club event on Moreton Bay, hosted by the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club.

In the thirteen strong multihull fleet, 'New Horizons' came in third overall for the series on the progressive PHRF handicap. I joined Ted for the third and fourth races of the series before I left on my northern trip. While the third race was a drifter and we missed the wind pattern that the faster boats managed to ride, the second race in a fairly steady eight to twelve knot breeze suited the Wavelength 780 admirably where we were able to show better boat speed to windward and sail deeper downwind to beat all of our F-24 and

F-82 opposition across the line and get a 2<sup>nd</sup> on the OMR rating for the race. The boat was designed to perform at its best in easy cruising conditions, and the day's performance certainly illustrated this.

**Wavelength 780 Plans**

Details are now on the website

**Further enquiries:**

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With Kind Regards,

*Bob Forster*