



**TASK FORCE 72**  
Scale Model Ship Association Inc.

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**MISSION REPORT**

**TS HAWKESBURY OPEN DAY**

**SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 2008**



The Royal Australian Navy's Naval cadet base Training Ship Hawkesbury, located at Point Claire near Gosford on the NSW Central Coast, was celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Task Force 72 was invited to participate in the anniversary celebrations, putting on a static display during the public open day.

A large number of the club's Central Coast members were joined by members from Sydney and the Blue Mountains to put on a memorable static display in support of TS Hawkesbury.

More than 30 models were on display, including the hospital ship St Olaf, winner of the 2008 Annual Regatta Wentworth Shield for best ship of the regatta.

Other ships on display ranged from conjectural coast guard and navy vessels to sailing ships, tugs, navigation tenders, survey ships and warships ranging from WW2 through to the present day.



The weather was hot and sultry, but a steady stream of visitors, both uniformed and civilian, passed through the display throughout the day, keeping members busy answering questions.

The Navy put on a display involving the Navy's newest helicopter, the Agusta A109 Power. The Navy has leased three of these sleek helicopters to undertake pilot training, liaison duties and undertake public relations duties, freeing up the navy's Sea Hawk and Sea King helicopters for operational tasks.

In keeping with their PR role, one is painted in summer uniform colours (white with gold and blue markings), a second in grey working rig (overall grey matching the navy's grey overalls) and the third in winter uniform (gloss black with gold markings).

The winter uniform aircraft performed throughout the day, drawing appreciative crowds.



All in all another successful static display, supporting a very worthy cause and helping to reinforce the ties between the Navy and Task Force 72.

Report: Mike James, images Alan Pew





A small selection of the models on display, with the US Army hospital ship St Olaf to the rear



Another row of models on display, with a corvette closest to the camera, followed by a sizeable collection of RAN ships, real and conjectural





Another view of the second display line, attracting some close attention from visitors





Kev and Ron discussing models while Peter looks on





Kev and Ron caught in the act





Royal Australian Navy A109 helicopter winching a diver

