



TASK FORCE 72

Scale Model Ship Association Inc.

**P.O. Box 508,
Forestville, NSW, 2087
Ph: (02) 9945 1371**

MISSION REPORT

OUR TOWN MODEL SHOW - NEWCASTLE

SATURDAY 29 / SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2009



Once again Our Town proved to be a popular venue with its trains and boats and planes, plus other sundry exhibitions both inside and out. Task Force 72 was again well represented with 48 boats on display.

With so many members participating, we only just had enough room table-wise and as it was, there was a little bunching and crowding of the display. Ron Rosenberg was well to the fore with his international force of destroyers, and Chas Baxter presented his escort carrier and corvettes of North Atlantic fame and was standing by to field curly questions from the passing crowd at all times of the day.

Peter Jones presented a couple of 'work in progress' projects with his Lighthouse tender Cape York, and the genesis of HMAS Wilcannia, A/S Auxiliary patrol vessel 1940. The working drawings for these were displayed which provided interest to some of the public wanting to know how to get started in the hobby.

There is an infant movement starting in T/F to present the other side of the maritime scene (i.e. the non grey funnel line), with an increasing number of commercial vessels visiting the port.

Geoff Eastwood introduced us to the Port Melbourne pilot vessel “Wyuna” and of course the lighthouse tender “Cape Don”. Peter Jones presented his fleet of tugs and coasters,



and the Sydney Harbour ferries were well represented together with a number of small naval auxiliary tenders. Richard Dawson showed off his U Boat flotilla and Flowers, even explaining in detail the question of “how do you keep the water out?” to at least one interested spectator.

Vice Admiral Pew was his usual cheerful self, dispensing words of wisdom, collecting fees and sundry monies and greeting worthies from all parts.

Martin Borg paid a visit from Victoria via Port Macquarie where he picked up an incomplete WW2-era Royal Navy King George V class battleship that he had bought from John Martin. Coming back to Newcastle he spent the weekend at the display socialising with members. I think he departed for south of the boarder with a few ideas on the proposed organisation of Fleet Base Victoria.

Our venerable (??) president arrived on Sunday to show the flag and take delivery of a couple of “modern commercial” hulls for himself and Phil Somerville. (Come on members, lets have a bit of colour [and targets as some would say] in our line up. - a live convoy display at next years annual regatta perhaps).

Owing to new Health and Safety (or food vending) regulations regarding catering, the past provision of sandwiches and cakes has been discontinued and replaced with a voucher



system redeemed at the local snack bar. This is not really satisfactory as only a small number of vouchers were allocated to each exhibitor. Most of our members had to purchase their own lunch from the snack bar.

Monies received from the organisers were used to reimburse members for meals and petrol, some having travelled from Sydney and beyond.

The weather was very kind and produced a large crowd of visitors, making Our Town one of the most popular shows around and one of the largest roll up of T/F 72 models for a long time. Well done everyone.

Text Peter Jones, Images Mike James & Vince Fazio





Ferries were out in force on the weekend





Ron's collection of Second World War destroyers was a hit with the crowd





An aerial view showing one end of the impressive TF72 display





Looking down one end of the long line of models, with cruiser HMS Ajax (still building) in the foreground.

Ajax is flanked by two River class frigates, the navigation tender Cape Don, the pilot vessel Wyuna and the large Sydney Ferry Curl Curl

Beyond Wyuna lie a Leander class frigate, an Argentinean coast guard vessel, several 1960s era frigates and a collection of WW2 destroyers and frigates.

This is a small example of the diverse collection of models that make up the Task Force 72 fleet.





Ron's impressive Le Terrible, with IJN Fuyutsuki behind





Stern view of destroyers Nicholas, Warramunga and Anzac





Chas fielding another question from the public about Dasher's sad fate (the real ship exploded at anchor while refuelling her aircraft, due to poor safety measures in the fuel system)





A small part of the line up for the Our Town show (the others were too shy to pose)





Chas with HM Ships Cossack and Dasher





The impressive display of smaller models, including ferries, tugs, freighters and corvettes





John Hughes' partially completed Ajax anchors the corner of the display





Geoff's Lighthouse Tender Cape Don and Pilot Vessel Wyuna





Allan's collection of Argentinean OPV, conjectural missile corvette and Royal Navy Frigate





Vince's WW1 destroyers HMA Ships Parramatta and Anzac





The Club Secretary spinning more 'war-ries'





WW2-era frigates with a still-building modern Bathurst class patrol boat





Everything from small carriers to large submarines and everything in between





Some members taking a break during what was proving to be a long weekend

