



TASK FORCE 72
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MISSION REPORT

SHEARWATER LAKE

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2011



As forecasted, we had great weather for our day's sail, around 30 degrees with no cloud & a slight breeze.

As our regular venue of Rymill Park was being used for the "Fringe Festival" for this month and will be again in March for the "Clipsal 500" motor race we will again be using Shearwater Lake at Mawson Lakes, northern suburbs, to hold our sail days.

The water level in the lake has subsided over the time since we last used the lake, having dropped about 6 - 8 inches, so this added to the difficulty in getting vessels into the water.

There is a ramp for access into the water, but this was VERY slippery from algae residue on the concrete which tended to make it like a skating rink, which Warner found out when endeavouring to launch HMS Hood, bow first from his trolley.



As he descended down the ramp, the bow of the vessel started to disappear under water, as the ballast was already in place. As a result, Hood took on a few litres of water in the front half of the ship.

But what happened next was a classic. As the vessel got further into the water, it then left the trolley and started to float away, so Warner decided to go after it, slipping on the ramp and ending up waist deep in the lake, fully clothed, with his wallet still in his pocket (not like last time when he had his mobile phone in his pocket) but as he commented, it's only plastic so it won't matter.

Unfortunately nobody had a camera in hand to capture it for future reference, but we all had a good laugh.

Our "EL CAPITAN" Grumpy was unable to attend, having had a Horse needle in his neck on the Friday before for a pinched nerve in his neck that has been troubling him for some considerable time, but by the looks of things, this



seems to have done the trick and Graham should be back on deck for the next outing.

Apart from Warner's little accident, the day went very well, with a lot of interest from the public and lots of enquiries about the association and our vessels in general, mentioning that we will be back again on the 27 March, so I think we can expect a few more visitors at our next sail day, providing the weather is kind to us.

Scott Rice has another acquisition to add to his ever-increasing fleet. This time he has purchased a US " Permit " class submarine. It has a power plant but is not yet waterproof enough to go sailing, no doubt it will be in the near future.

Will be back in the water again on the 27th March at Shearwater Lake

Report and images: Jim Warren





HMS Hood leaving her moorings





HMAS Sydney (IV) at her mooring in shallow water





Scott's latest addition, a US Permit class submarine



US
as



Navy Kidd class destroyer USS Scott
attracting an onlookers attention as
she is moored close in





HMS Hood post hull paint





US Ships Long Beach and Scott and HMAS Sydney during manoeuvres





Warner reattaching Hood's superstructure after her less than dignified launch





US Ships Long Beach and Scott & HMAS Sydney moored. Racks underwater are filters

