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# MISSION REPORT



PORT MACQUARIE MODEL DISPLAY

06 - 07 AUGUST 2011

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Once again the Port Macquarie model boat show has been and gone. Once again it has been a very successful display for 'The Force', with 11 'JEDI' turning up with 41 boats, 2 fibreglass hulls and 1 hull plug, but 'Light Sabres' were banned from the auditorium and had to be handed in at the foyer.

The new organiser of the event this year (Wayne Salter, a local petrol head) decided to change the format from a total boat display of previous years and encourage a wider range of displays, something similar to Our Town. The display included steam locos and stationary engines, a scalextrix track with racing cars, a radio controlled aircraft club (I believe sponsored by Tiger Airlines grounded for the duration), plastic military model groups and a chap who builds superb freelance tractors and heavy construction vehicles in polished stainless steel and aluminium. This broadening of hobby base was an excellent move to entice more people into the display and we hope it is expanded in the future, but not to include needle work or dolls houses. One extremely humorous plastic model kit for me (and I believe it is a commercially available 1:72 kit) was a WW2 Nazi manned V2 rocket (the original suicide bomber) but I was told they were real and came equipped with a pilot's parachute. Doh! Maybe they also had a cyanide pill.

Our display was once again an outstanding focal point with big new ultra modern ships like Reg Clack's almost complete Type 45 destroyer HMS DARING. This is the semi-kit from Fleetscale UK and a surprise Christmas present from his wife, so I can't really grumble about him not being faithful to the cause of buying Australian made.

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I would also class my finally completed INS MUMBAI as ultra modern, although devoid of ugly stealth technology, she has a powerful presence nonetheless and sporting a 17 piece marine band on the helo flight deck as a finishing touch. Back in time we went through the cold war era with several models of 60–70s destroyers, frigates and corvettes all belonging to Clacky and Alien, and we then come to the prolific fleets of WW2 era ships of Tim Amos with giant US battleship USS NORTH CAROLINA and light cruiser HMAS HOBART (almost finished after 10 years?)

Ron Rosenberg's international destroyer fleet accompanied by 2 survey ships, Max Metz with frigate HMAS CONDAMINE and newly completed Tribal class destroyer HMAS BATAAN (a model that no other member has endeavoured to build) John Hughes with frigates HMAS HAWKESBURY and 28 gun RN sailing frigate HMS AUDACIOUS (with sails furled) and Richard Dawson with newly completed Canadian Castle class frigate HMCS ORANGEVILLE and 2 flower class corvettes. Chas (bitchin' ) Baxter brought Tribal class destroyer HMS COSSACK and 2 Flower class corvettes. Local boy John Martin displayed 6 submarines of various sizes from a huge Japanese carrying 5 midget subs on deck to a tiny Nazi suicide torpedo (unmanned). Finally the 'Peterfleet' of tugs, freighters and coasters of Peter Jones, showcasing his new build of a beautiful NZ cargo passenger liner MV MATUA which had her inaugural voyage the weekend before at the Frog Pond Newcastle.

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Also present for the weekend, but without his huge US Marine assault ship, (he can only fit the bow half in his car), was Tony Firth, down from 'Big River' country, who was happy to play a major support role in the logistics of our display. Mainly this was being Support Commander of INS MUMBAI and HMAS HOBART on their sortie into the waters of the Hastings River on the first day's activities.

Tim and Alien had decided to bite the bullet this year and have a play in the pond out the back of the club. No one in Task Force 72 had done this for quite a few years because access to the water was always a pain with rocks all over the beaching area in and out of the water, but at some time in the last few years, this area has been cleaned up and some sort of carpet has been put down making access a lot easier. Also the petrol heads with their 'flying sandshoes' had a small pontoon to work off, which Tim found convenient for HOBART, whilst I found the beach more convenient for MUMBAI in placing the batteries and ballast. The petrol heads gave us the very calm pond to ourselves for about an hour, until they realised the wind was coming up and starting to chop the surface up, so as they always seem to do, they made life very difficult for us by literally throwing their screamin' demons into the water while we were trying to remove ourselves. I must thank PJ, Tony and Chas for their assistance here.

The rest of the weekend went off without a hitch and we must once again thank Rosey's family at Ridgie Didge Pies for the humongous breakfast feasts, Saturday night BBQ and wine tasting. Ho ho!



Top row (left to right): Peter Jones, Ron Rosenberg, Chas Baxter, Allan Pew, Tim Amos  
Seated (left to right): Tony Firth, John Hughes, John Martin, Richard Dawson  
Absent: Reg Clack and Max Metz



The spectacular Task Force 72 display dominates the auditorium with 41 vessels on display



HMCS ARROWHEAD (Richard Dawson) with HMS DARING (Reg Clack) and  
HMS LINCOLN (Allan Pew) in the background



MV MATUA and tugs (Peter Jones) with WW2 era submarines



HMAS BATAAN (Max Metz) IJN FUYUTSUKA (Ron Rosenberg)



HMAS HOBART (Tim Amos) with WW2 USN Gato class and Imperial Japanese Navy midget carrying submarines (John Martin)



INS MUMBAI (Allan Pew)



Indian Naval Marine Band onboard INS MUMBAI (Allan Pew)



Tim Amos and Tony Firth



USS NORTH CAROLINA and HMAS HOBART (Tim Amos)



HMAS HOBART (Tim Amos)



INS MUMBAI (Allan Pew)



HMAS HOBART (Tim Amos) and INS MUMBAI (Allan Pew)



HMS DARING (Reg Clack)



1:72 scale manned V-2 rocket and WW2 aircraft