
MISSION REPORT



BONYTHON PARK

25 SEPTEMBER 2011

WORDS: BRUCE STEVENS

IMAGES: BRUCE STEVENS AND SCOTT RICE

We had our monthly run at the boat pond on Sunday with a good turn out of members. Good thing we got there early cause there was a Family Fun day happening on the main oval a short distance away and the car park filled up mega fast!

Scott Rice arrived first (to his surprise!!!) having missed last months run due to an operation on his arm. He was keen to be back with his US Navy Kidd class USS SCOTT (DDG-995). Once more of us had rolled up we unloaded and grabbed some parking spaces! We quickly set up the gazebos and began getting our models ready (and setting up various floating docks that a few of us have constructed)as more people began turning up for the event next door.

The crew got started running our models fielding numerous questions from both small children and adults all day, I sent USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9) out for a run and promptly ran over some rubbish and fouled a prop requiring the beast to be pulled out of the pond to unwrap some plastic bound between the A-frame and prop! With that fixed (and reinstalling batteries and ballast) she went back into the water.

Scott had his USS SCOTT out for a run then handed her over to Richard for a drive who promptly started getting a gremlin in the electrics, when tested at home later she ran fine!! Vince had HMAS SYDNEY (FFG-03) along and transported my big model again (thanks mate!!) his FFG ran beautifully all day , Vince himself was running on coffee and 2 hours sleep having just finished a night/morning shift!!

Brenton Tancock had HMAS PARRAMATTA III (DE-48) with her twin 4.5" turret in place she is progressing steadily and ran smoothly, Warner Van Laatum had his monster HMS HOOD out for a run with more fine detail done (including completely new funnels), he is still tinkering with her drive and learning how the big bugger handles.

The trio of Flower class corvettes of Bob Philips, Richard Atkinson and Tom Cholich roamed about the pond hunting Chris Mckay's Japanese B class sub I-25, Chris had his Russian Alfa along as well. Bob Croxton had his scratchbuilt minehunter HMAS GASCOYNE (MHC-85) on display and Gunter had his 1:50 scale tug and sail training ship along for a run.

Vice Admiral 'Grumpy' aka Graham Donnell had all the club bitz in his ute (the stuff that Jim normally brings....Jim being off on holidays in the east) and had no room for a model this time, he also cooked up a fine BBQ for lunch. Cheers mate top job!!

It started to get a little nerve racking later in the day as the numbers of people swelled and uncontrolled feral children roamed about, I think a mental (danger Will Robinson!!) relay collectively triggered and the crew began packing up.

Apologies if I forgot anyone!!



USS LONG BEACH (Bruce Stevens) limps back toward the docks with a fouled prop while USS SCOTT (Scott Rice) waits at her mooring.



We remove bits of plastic wrapped tightly between the A-frame and port side prop.



USS LONG BEACH heads back out on patrol.



The fleet stirs up the pond.....



HMAS SYDNEY (Vince Capurso) leads HMS HOOD (Warner Van Laatum)



HMAS PARRAMATTA III (Brenton Tancock)



PARRAMATTA at speed



HMS HOOD heads out for the first time since summer!!



Warner has made entirely new funnels for HOOD as he wasn't happy with the first ones!!



Scratchbuilt pom-pom!!



A Flower class corvette on ASW patrol. I think its Richard Atkinsons USS SAUCY...but it could be Bob's.... but it's definitely not Tom's!!



Tom's Flower class trails one of the other Flowers as Gunter's Sail Training Ship saunters along.



Chris McKay's I-25 prepares to launch her scout aircraft.



I-25 cruises with Chris's keychain type video camera in Tic Tac box!! Held on by what appears to be a red posties rubber band.....



HMAS SYDNEY closes in on the submerged I-25



Another angle of I-25 with camera pod



Scratchbuilt HMAS GASCOYNE (Bob Croxton) nearing completion



ABEIL BOURBON 1:50 scale tug (Gunter Scheffe)