
MISSION REPORT



WENTWORTH FALLS

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On a cool spring morning, the usual group of suspects fought their way up the mountain to Wentworth Falls not being thwarted by the Ruin Traffic Authority's best endeavours to live up to their name by making the trip twice an hour longer than it should be with road works and speed restrictions every which way.

Arriving at the venue, we were pleasantly surprised to find that it was a balmy 12.5 degrees, actually higher than the day's forecast best. Little did we know that it was downhill from there....

Geoff Eastwood brought up his new model of the old collier Birchgrove Park for its first run ever. The model is smaller than average being just under 26" long. The real vessel sank off the northern beaches of Sydney in 1956 with the loss of 10 crew.

Peter Jones arrived with Matua for its first run at Wentworth Falls. This model is just under 5 foot long. MV Matua was a Union Steamship vessel built in 1936 to serve the pacific islands which is where she spent most of her life.

I brought up Puma to see if it would at last turn in a respectable distance. Why do warship designers have ships with two props but only one rudder? Also there was my P76 following its accidental refit. I say accidental refit as I had knocked it off the shelf and had to fit a few things back onto it, lost some weight out of it and resprayed over the umpteen scratches on it. It now wears a darker shade of grey selected by the well known method of which spray can came to hand first.

Also there were Alan Pew, Jim Champion, and John Konda with selections from their fleets together with Ron and Pat Rosenberg. Ron being not allowed to carry models after his recent incident was there to prove he was at least mobile again.

Shortly after we started, the weather started to deteriorate with the odd shower, frequent black clouds, and the several gusts of wind. The temperature started its slow decline. Despite this, we had some good sailing and attempts to

photograph the various models there. Birchgrove Park proved particularly hard to get a decent shot of, due to its size and the black hull merging into the dark grey sky behind it.

Lunch was ably cooked by Peter Jones after he evicted Messrs Pew and Rosenberg from the BBQ. The pair had decided to see how good a heater it made and were hovering over it muttering things about steam trains like a couple of old witches around a fire.

After lunch, the showers became more frequent, so we abandoned ship; sorry Wentworth falls for the trek home.



Geoff Eastwood's Birchgrove Park





The Ladies keeping out of the weather



Al & Ron trying to use the Weber as a heater.



Peter Jones' MV Matua







Michael Brown's P76 Huon Class corvette



Alan Pew's H.M.S. Decoy



Jim Campion running Bill Elbourne's John W Brown