
MISSION REPORT



**MANLY DAM
NOVEMBER 2011**

**WORDS: MICHAEL BROWN
IMAGES: MICHAEL BROWN**

On a nice sunny spring Saturday morning in November, the Sydney Fleet Base crew turned up at Manly Dam for their first run here since winter.

A surprise or two was waiting for us.

Firstly the water was at the highest level we had ever seen it meaning all the many rocks which those of us with smaller models happily navigated were nowhere to be seen. But they could be found if you knew how (yes Mr Pew was there). This also meant that the nice little beaches we had to use were gone as well.

Secondly, the council had been busy erecting various signs including one saying you could swim there (remember those submerged rocks!) and secondly a no model boating sign. After much due consideration we decided that the sign obviously didn't mean us as it said power boats which as we all know are internal combustion engined, not clean electric powered. Besides, the venue was booked in our name & Manly Dam had our insurance certificates on file.



After working out where to anchor from, the merriment started. Alan Pew took Mumbai for a pre regatta run and true to form, hit a rock. Not to be outdone by the grey funnelled mob led by Uncle Al, John Slater slowly beached his Bremen on a bigger rock. The rest of us decided this was a good time for a coffee.

After the initial fun and games, we were a little more cautious and succeeded in not only missing rocks but also each other. Geoff Eastwood ran his Birchgrove Park which looked very much at home and surprisingly small i.e. it has little freeboard. Peter Jones ran Matua again along with Bremen which with Birchgrove Park gave Joe Public and idea of old & modern designed merchant vessels. Waste of time doing that with warships, to the general public they are all battleships. I ran Cleo, Puma, Collie, and Lamlash quickly (no surprises there) to make sure they were working for Canberra.

Peter Jones showed us his no longer secret project, a merchantman he served on. I have photos of him on it if needed! Anyone out there wanting to build a classic freighter, contact Peter and you may be in luck.

Peter Jones as usual did us proud with his BBQ which was enjoyed by Messrs Pew, Eastwood, Slater, Brown, and Rowland.

Just after lunch, we decided it was a good idea to pack up as Joe and Joan Public were happily wading out between the moored vessels and going for a swim nearby - Too nearby for most of us to be happy.



Motley crew at rest



Peter Jones' new freighter



Birchgrove Park thundering past Mumbai



Mumbai at speed rock hunting



Matua cruising



Bremen at speed



Bremen and Matua





Voyager in the anchorage



Birchgrove Park in a hurry

Collie and Cleo





Cleo in anchorage.