



TASK FORCE 72

Scale Model Ship Association Inc.
P.O. Box 508,
Forestville, NSW, 2087

MISSION REPORT

**CARRIER AND ESCORTS REGATTA
OASIS AQUATIC CENTRE WAGGA WAGGA
SATURDAY 11 AND SUNDAY 12 JUNE 2011**



Again this year TF 72 - Fleet Base Wagga Wagga were fortunate enough to be able to secure the use of the outdoor 50 meter Olympic swimming pool at the Oasis Aquatic centre for the Carrier and Escort regatta. This is a great venue for a major regatta as it is in the center of town very close to shops (have to keep the wives happy) and several motels. It offers good facilities within the complex, ample parking and easy access for models. Models can also be securely stored on site overnight for two day events.

This years regatta was very well attended with 24 TF72 members and 2 visitors joining in the sailing. Members came from several fleet bases including Gulf Waters, Victoria, Canberra, Sydney and Wagga Wagga. There were 38 models registered on the Saturday (plus a few small models that were not registered) with an additional four models registered on the Sunday.

The standard of models within TF72 has certainly improved over the years and this was clearly evident in the models that showed up to this event. Some absolutely brilliant models were on the water over the weekend, some for the first time. The level of detail and the standard of finish on many of the models was inspiring. The models also came in all sizes from some of the smallest models in TF72 to some of the largest, all sharing the same water. This kept everyone on their toes at times but surprisingly there were no major collisions, well for except the out of control sub and the side of the pool.

The weather was kind to us for both days. It was cool with clear blue skies. If you kept in the sun it was very pleasant. Spend too much time in the shade though and you would



cool off pretty quickly. If you put your hand in the water you knew that it was winter as the water was very cold.

One of the things that helps to make this event a great success each year is the number of public that come to view the models and talk to the TF72 members about their models. This year we were able to get significant coverage by two TV stations and the local newspaper, before during and after the event. Graham P was the star of the show; being the delegated spokesman for the group, he gave several interviews for local TV and was seen on the local news a couple of times. This media exposure helped to generate a fair bit of community support and seen many visitors to the event. It was great to see so many families come down to the pool for a look. The pool management was also pleased with the number of visitors as spectators are charged \$1 to get into the complex. The pool takings for the weekend were significantly higher than usual for this time of the year.

Saturday night saw everyone gathering in Kerry's back yard for a feast and a chat. As the temperature dropped most found a spot around one of the three fire pits to keep warm. Most also made the trek further up the back yard to the shed at some stage during the evening, just to check out what model ships were currently being built. Plenty of hot food was on offer during the evening to feed the group. A big thank you to the local members and their wives for cooking some great dishes for all to enjoy.

The models were running again on Sunday morning and once again plenty of interest from the public. Sunday afternoon seen most members packing up soon after lunch. Many



had long journey's home and wanted to get on the road early. For those that were staying around for a while, after packing up we adjourned to my (Steve's) place for a late afternoon cup of tea and a chat. Also took the opportunity to view projects taking shape in my (Steve's) shed.

A fair bit of work went into preparing for this event and several members need to thanked for their efforts. Thanks to Brian for organising the venue. Thanks to Graham for a great job organising the promotional aspects for the weekend. Thanks to Kerry, Craig and Brian for constructing the wharf sections used along the edge of the pool and thanks to Kerry and Marilyn for offering their back yard for the Saturday evening function.

Overall, another great weekend of sailing in Wagga Wagga and another successful regatta for TF72. The success of this event was largely due to all of those members who made the long journey to participate. The members of Fleet Base Wagga Wagga really appreciate your support and can't thank you all enough for taking the time to visit our part of the world. We hope that you enjoyed your time with us and we would love to see you again at our next regatta.





USS Scott (Scott Rice), HMAS Kokoda (Mike James), HMAS Hobart (Russ French), HMAS Melbourne, USS Gettysburg (Bruce Smith).





USS Longbeach (Bruce Stevens).





The ship models line the edge of the pool while spectators review the models on display.





Nemesis (Mike James).





The two Fremantle Patrol Boats spent some time running around the pool together. Front model Mike James, rear model Steve Batcheldor.





HMAS Darwin (Peter Cole).





USS Longbeach (Bruce Stevens) in the company of two Fremantle Class Patrol Boats.





A cool evening seen everyone well rugged up for the get together in Kerry's back yard.





HMAS Hobart (Russ French) leads HMAS Kokoda (Mike James).





HMAS Wollongong and HMAS Norman (Steve Batcheldor) both spent plenty of time dodging the bigger ships over the weekend.





The large fleet tug USNS Apache (Ron DeBrueys).





The smaller ships all tied up along side.





A couple of the visitors from Fleet Base Gulf Waters watch the action on the pool.





Ice Breaker Magga Dan (Ron Grosse) on her maiden voyage.





HMAS Melbourne (Kerry James).





USS Pinckney and HMAS Anzac (Graham Pack).

