

A Victorian Member Report (by Martin Borg)



TF72 - FLEET BASE VICTORIA

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Wagga Wagga—Carriers & Escort's Queens Birthday Weekend



Special points of interest:

- LARGE TURNOUT OF TF72 MEMBERS FROM 3 STATES AND 1 TERRITORY
- VICTORIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE EVENT
- 2 PART MOULDING DEMO
- IMPROMPTU DISCUSSION ON CONSTRUCTION OF AN ARMADA
- IMPROMPTU AFTERMATH DISCUSSIONS ON TF72 PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE DIRECTION

Day 1 Highlights

Saturday saw a very frosty start to the day with the temperature at a lovely 20C, with the promise of a lovely day indicated by blue sky and sunshine.

Upon arrival at the Oasis pool in Wagga Wagga mid morning, it was clear that a large contingent of TF72 members from NSW,

SA, ACT and a couple of us from VIC, had taken the opportunity of a long weekend to indulge in our favorite past time.

TF72 members had decided to attend the 2011 Carriers and Escort's weekend with a vast array of ships (and a couple of submarines) in attendance.

A large contingent of TF72 members from Fleet Base Gulf Waters in SA once again ventured up to Wagga to make their presence felt via member numbers and the beautiful models that they brought with them.

With this being the 3rd year I have ventured up

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TF72 Fleet Base Victoria— Chris Thorn at the Oasis pool in Wagga Wagga —Chris was a bit camera shy and proved very elusive to capture on film.

INFORMATIVE -
DEMO ON DOING
2 PART MOULDS
WAS ONE OF THE
HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE WEEKEND
TOGETHER WITH
THE DISCUSSION
ON
CONSTRUCTION
OF AN ARMIDALE.

to Wagga, it was great to see another Victorian in attendance with Chris and his lovely partner Marion. In attendance and with craft sailing.

The vast array of models on display at the event was a sight to behold and a great inspiration to get my models completed for when my leg is healed (hopefully for the annual regatta in Canberra).

The submarines appeared to have a few issues and spent the majority of the weekend on the sidelines as static models or being worked upon rather than being in the water.

As you can see from the photo's the size and depth of the models on display was vast. From the massive bulk of HMAS Melbourne to the smaller models of Steve Batchelor, the display was

great to see.

The beautifully clear waters of the Oasis outdoor pool was perfect for the event, and the Wagga boys did a wonderful job in creating some docks for TF72 members to anchor their models to in the water when not actually sailing.

Saturday Night

There were 26 TF72 members who decided to brave the cold weather and attend the Saturday nights festivities at Kerry James's Place.

All members in attendance were extremely grateful for the 3 makeshift wood heaters present. Whilst the weather wasn't as cold as last year, virtually all members spent most of the evening as close to the heaters as possible.

Once again the hospitality of Fleet Base Wagga was evident on the evening. A

lovely spread of food was put on for an extremely modest price for attendees and all in attendance were made to feel very welcome.

Most of the TF72 members adjourned to Kerry's shed to "discuss" matters of a naval variety and left the female contingent to amuse themselves around the fires.

A demo on how to do 2 part moulds for components for ships, was an impromptu addition to the night that resulted from a promise made to me from a couple

of the interstate TF72 members.

As with any social gathering of this sort, there was a lot of discussion on models (bragging was actively encouraged), some drinking, more drinking..

Chris from Victoria and a couple of the SA members showed off their pyrotechnic skills on building fires, and I do believe the Victorians proved the masters at this task.

Day 2 Highlights

Day 2 commenced with another frosty start which, as with Saturday, transpired into a beautiful sunny day.

Back at the Oasis pool again, saw a slightly smaller number of TF72 members in attendance with some members already departing for their home base.

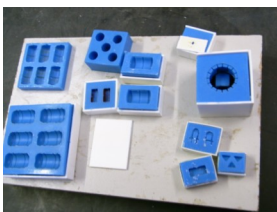
PRIME TV was in attendance

once again taking footage of the models both on display on the benches, moored to the docks and on the water. The TV cameraman did seem to take a liking to Bruce from SA's Long Beach. The TV coverage that has taken place proved successful over the weekend with a number of spectators commenting they

were attending after seeing all about the event in the media.

About 1pm saw the start of the exodus for home with the departure of some of the SA contingent and Chris from Victoria.

Around 3pm the day concluded with all members either departing for their



2 part molding demo at Kerry's place on Saturday night.

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home base or retiring to Steve Batcheldor's place for a cuppa and some more model discussions.

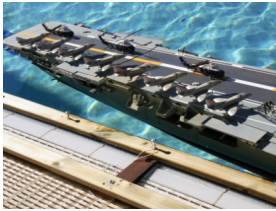
Back at Steve Batcheldor's around 8-10 members took advantage of the last of the days sunrays around the outdoor setting in the back-yard.

As Steve Batcheldor is an exponent of the Armidale having built several models in varying sizes, an impromptu discussion ensued about how to construct/build an Armidale model. This discussion was very informa-

tive with a number of highly respected model makers in attendance passing on their pearls of wisdom to all.

With a number of members in attendance who have nominated for positions on the exec/committee/fleet base reps at the upcoming elections, an impromptu discussion transpired on the TF72 past, present and the possible future direction that it should take. Items that were discussed included but not limited to, communication and passing on of information by fleet base reps to

members, funding and the spend of TF72 funds, structure of TF72.



HMAS Melbourne—One of the lovely models on display at the event.

