



# Australian Battle Group

## A Big Gun Fighting Warship R/C Club

October 2001

### Editorial

Well, no rush of offers to do the Newsletter, so I shall have a go! Any complaints means you do the next one!

I will need any bits of information you have so don't whinge if your club news is not available on the net. Brett and I have decided that this is a lot of work for the few interested people NOT on the net and so we feel that we should put this on our home page for all members to use and also for any net surfers. This will show them that we are a going concern and that something is happening somewhere with our people.

### Minors

This problem is still around and Brett has explained our duty of care means that we cannot have un-accompanied minors at battles. Parents are responsible for their children. It is a big thing to put onto others, even more so if an accident occurs.

### Bowning Battle

Our October Battle at Bowning is on the 27th and 28th of October. Brett will be away to just before the Meeting so if you haven't booked with him, the Caravan Park number is 02 62261173.

We are hoping that Brett will be there with his Mogami working, that David Howard will have his replanked and revamped Richelieu ready for battle. The Richelieu class Jean Bart of Brian Evans should be there and with luck, his Yamato and Z class Destroyer complete with 10 aside Torpedoe tubes. There is an outside chance that Bob Booth who is working long hours and was last seen in Coffs Harbour, could be a visitor. Bob has one of the biggest collections of near completed ships, a KGV, and Littorio amongst others.

My Strasbourg is ready for tests and with my new 'Owen Foster' Barrels, my A and B turrets could give that bloody Alabama a bit of curry.



*Some of Brett's stockpile of hull moulds which have helped this hobby progress so quickly in 5 years (this November) These had to be moved out to let members work on their ships.*

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## T.O.N.E. Battle Squadron – Armidale, NSW

Richard Single of Armidale's TONE BS is busy repairing his ships. He left for Newcastle to support their meeting but all his ships did the dirty on him at the last minutes. How many of us have had our ships in tip top order and found out at the last moment the gremlins had arrived to play silly buggers. His Richelieu class Battleship is being redone as the Clemenceau with a new Raue hull, his Dunkerque class Battlecruiser Dunkerque is ready and Michael Raue is working at getting his fast destroyer ready. Looks like we will have all these super fast destroyers charging around, annoying the Battleships. Very interestink!

Richard has got a serious nibble from a very keen guy with 2 sons who are all into ship models. I suppose by country standards, they are just next door in Narrabri. Keep at it.

## Model Shows

The Canberra Malkara Model Show was a success and my thanks to Brian Evans who did all the hard work, everything was ready when I arrived. As usual, Brett's Firing Range took centre stage and had the public's interest. I believe this was also the Case when he went to Newcastle a couple of weeks later. The weather has been terrible in Canberra and we have not gone out at all. The loss of the Burden Brothers was a major blow as they had been a big part of the Group. We have a few things to do now for the club such as buying a light rescue dingy, request more additions to our water from City Parks and major recruiting.

With luck we could see Trevor Gotte's DKM Scharnhorst from Captains Flat, battle on Saturday at Bowning.



*Left - Brett Farquharson, hard at work, gathering in possible members. Brett now has his Firing Range which really gets the interest up and is usually surrounded by kids of all ages, all wanting to fire the cannons. With Brett are some of these big kids.*

## Tasmanian Battle Squadron

We could be lucky as Brook Miles in Tasmania has offered to be Contact Officer. Brook is ex-Navy and his email is [mongreldog@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mongreldog@optusnet.com.au) He has made contact with Aaron Cornwall and his friend, both juniors, who have two or three transports ready. Hope this will spur on the Tasmanians.

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## Victorian Battle Squadron

Noel Brain has informed us that the VicBS is getting organised down there and here are the office bearers. CO is Noel Brain, EO is Marcus Ward, TO is Tony Collins, Secretary is Shane Huxham with Reg Dempsey helping out. That sounds great and shows they have at least 5 members now. Noel says they are looking at better water and are casing a site near 5 vineyards. Boy, that should get huge numbers to each meeting for sure. Remember if you need BB's, give Noel a call.

Noel has his lowas and a Majestic carrier and the Squadron also has a Sodak, Cimieron, Prince Eugen, Yamato plus Ceribus monitor under construction. They had a Show with the Aero club guys and feel they will add to their membership with a couple of these people.

## Fremantle Battle Squadron – WA

Gordon Cranfield has been working hard to recruit members and has a top site now. He is sailing at the Ravenswood Sanctuary with a Model Boat club who have made him welcome and seem very interested in what he does. Gordon has been to a couple of Shows and will hold a public meeting on this site soon with the other club.

Remember, Gordon makes the CMS cannons which have proved so reliable. They are also certified so if you are going to spend good money on guns, and that is what this hobby is about, reliable guns, please buy a product which is guaranteed in quality and service is available if required. If you buy from the States, you could be up for Customs if inspected. While the quality of these overseas cannons is very good, (some of our ships are still using the Neubaurer Indiana cannons), we should support our own people if the quality and service is there.



*This fantastic picture of broadsides being exchanged by Glendon Pryor's Littorio (with the 'don't bomb me, I'm on your side' stripes) and Richard Simpson's USS Alabama. Richard is on the Dark Side but still a nice guy.*

*I often send this shot out with my contact letter as it is such a good one and really gets the juices flowing*



*Left - My French Battle-Cruiser, Strasbourg, which is armed with 2 quads of 7/32"BB's. Armour is a bit soft though.*

*Right - Magnificent picture of the Littorio sinking. With such a perfect mirror image, should be able to be counted as 2 lost ships*



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## SHIP OF THE MONTH



*This is the British Battleship HMS Lion, captained by Michael Raue of the TONE BS in Armidale. A very well balanced ship with a full stern, high above the water, it is armed with 9 x 16 " guns and does 30 knots. This model fires 1/4"BB's and with the Alabama, is the main threat from the Dark Side (Allied). A new HMS Lion is on the slipways and will make her presence known soon.*

*Her skipper Michael, was recruited to the hobby by Richard Single, from the adjacent stand at the Armidale Model Show and he has proved to be one of our maddest members, active as a cut snake. He also makes Battleship hulls for the hobby.*

## Comments

In the age of internet, a newsletter seems to be a real dinosaur. Items of interest are spread around on the same day and this can only stress more how old the information printed here is. The point of adding it to the homepage is so casual visitors can see we are currently functioning. Brett will send a copy to the few people who are not on the net.

You can help by giving me any news you have, who is building what, repairing what and who has joined or left the hobby.

I am using the superb photographs processed by Richard Simpson of Sydney BS. The sale of his CD's on AusBG Sinkings has progressed from paper to cardboard to tin and we have hopes to reach gold and platinum in the future.

Just a reminder for clubs to get one armed ship in the water and battling. You WILL grow! You can have 20 ships under construction and unarmed and you are just a model ship club.

I've heard that Peter Hawkins will be moving from Brisbane to Sydney in January for a 2 year stint. Good news for your growing Squadron, Richard.



*Top: View of the site of the 4th Nationals/AGM at Armidale, NSW. The preparations were done by the 2 man team of Richard Single and Michael Raue of TONE BS. Bottom: the tucker tent which offered food, drinks and shade, a very popular area to rest and discuss the days events.*

