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<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~bmbg/>

Ensign's report 1st April 2013



My Engel Type 212A has achieved initial operational capability following crew training (me), trim adjustments and fine tuning of its systems. Its proving voyage is planned to be the first submerged circumnavigation of our lake, something I was never able to achieve with the Delphin as I couldn't run fast enough.

ST Wattle update

Thunderbirds were 'go' at the recent ST Wattle barbecue as the restoration group played host to this classic car club.



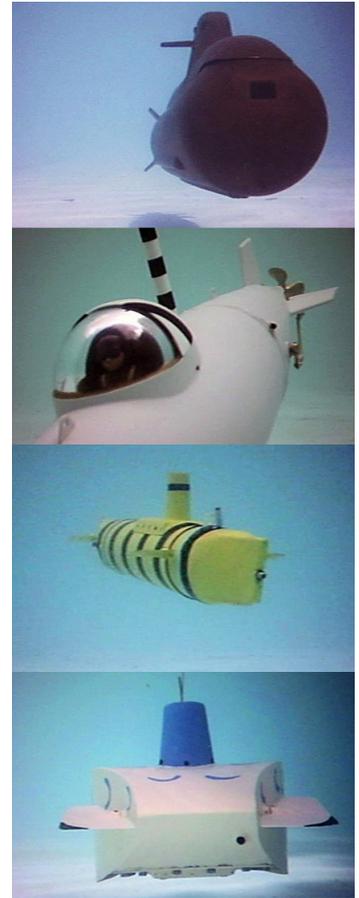
It looks likely now that the Wattle will not be back in the water until at least next year, a renewal of their lease making it prudent to continue with as much work as possible whilst the ship is on dry land. We are pleased to report that Richard, one of our BMBG members, has for some time now also been a member of the 1:1 scale Wattle project team.

Alan and I were able to have a good look around the engine room where 'BJ' was able to answer all our questions about its oil fired two-cylinder compound steam engine, such as how long it takes for it to build up steam from cold.

Yea Festival 2013

March 17th was Yea Festival time again and we acknowledge the enterprise of Brain Beecham and the Surrey Dive Model Boat Club in getting model boats on the program. This year brought cooler windy weather but it did not deter members of the Surrey Dive, Illawong, Task Force 72 and BMBG organisations from enjoying themselves.

Battleships, tugs, paddle-boats, sailing boats and high-speed craft ruled the waves whilst five or six submarines waived the rules below them. We set up a fixed underwater camera to capture the sub action but unfortunately Phil thought it was a part of the pool equipment and deliberately kept his model well away from it!



I was learning to drive my new Type 212 (*top photo*) and letting my Delphin off the leash (*second photo*) whilst Les had his two scratch-built subs 'Sea Wasp' and "Kermit" running with good reliability (*next two photos*). Search "Model Submarines at the Yea Festival" on You-Tube for some video coverage of the subs.

Don brought his destroyers and a schooner, Phil brought his Sub Chaser (it didn't catch any), Murray his revamped Boss Drover speedboat and Chris his new rescue boat, which this time did not repeat its sinking act of our previous sailing day.



Murray took this photo of a model of the PS Mary Anne, the first paddler launched onto the Murray River in 1853. It was built by a member of the SPMBG, and due to lack of space must stand representative of the many fine models on display at the Yea Festival.