



Sydney Model Shipbuilders Club Inc.

# CHATTERBOX

ISSUE # 1

APRIL 2012

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Welcome to the first issue of what we hope will be many SMSC Newsletters, I hope that we will be able to bring you lots of interesting reading in the future. It is my aim at this stage to issue these Newsletters every 2 months, but it will all depend on the number of contributions to fill the publication.

The aim of the Newsletter is to keep Members up to date with events and other useful information that will support our mutual interest in the hobby, and to keep those Members who are unable to attend meetings informed of the modelling being carried out by others and as displayed at our "Show and Tell"s at the meetings.

All photographs and articles published remain the copyright property of the contributor and SMSC unless released.

All contributions and constructive criticism can be sent to me to [modelshipclub@hotmail.com](mailto:modelshipclub@hotmail.com)

happy modelling

*Tom*



**We acknowledge the Founders of SMSC at the inaugural meeting in Granville, March 2011**



# A VOTE OF THANKS

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

We have been fortunate to have the facilities of ANMM for our club meetings for the past 12 months, and ANMM has encouraged membership of our Club in their Newsletter.. It is only appropriate that this very first SMSC Newsletter acknowledges this special relationship and that a vote of **THANKS** is given to ANMM with the hope that this relationship will continue well into the future.

## WHO'S WHO AT SMSC

### COMMITTEE (for 2011-12)

President:	Mike Barton	modelshipclub@hotmail.com
Vice-Pres:	Harry Goedings	
Treasurer:	Mario Nolasco	
Secretary:	c/- President	
Public Officer	Gary Renshaw	
Comitee:	Michael Bennett	
	Tom Wolf	
Webmaster	Gordon Pusey	
Newsletter Ed:	Tom Wolf	
ANMM Liaison:	Richard Keyes	

## NEXTMEETINGNEXTMEETING

The next meeting of SMSC will be at  
7:30pm on Tuesday, 22 May 2012 at  
the Peter Doyle Learning Centre,  
ANMM at Darling Harbour unless the  
Members are otherwise notified.

# NEW MODELS

## RED SQUARE by Richard Keyes

RED SQUARE is a 72 metre (236 feet) steel "superyacht" currently being built by Dunya Yachts in Turkey.

It is due to be launched later this year so the model was finished before the real ship, unlike the vast majority of our models. The builder and agents did not respond to any requests for information. A Russian oligarch commissioned this ship which is priced at \$83 million.

All the inspiration for the model and useful artists renditions came from the internet.

The model scale is 1:188, it is made mostly of "chemi-wood" and styrene plastic and took about four months to complete, working off and on. The windows are made of tinted perspex and dark x-ray film.

The various lounges around the yacht are matt painted chemi-wood which contrasts with the gloss paint of the hull and superstructure.



The model is set in a commercially made plastic "sea", with realistic waves set on a blue/green painted perspex stand which holds it suspended above a black vinyl base board. The rudder and propellers can be seen below the waterline.

Displayed at the March 2012 Meeting.

# CLUB NEWS

## WEEKEND "S & T" (show & tell)

The first weekend S&T was held at Mike Barton's home in Cherrybrook in February 2012 and was a success. We hope that these meetings can be held at a Member's home during the "even" month (as opposed to the night meetings held on the fourth Tuesday of every "odd" month), they provide a time other than a week night in the City for members to participate/socialise/learn from others/have models constructively criticised/etc. To make it simple, those attending brought along some morning tea type food to finish the morning with.

There was some lively discussion about basic building methods (Mike demonstrated fixing the bulkheads to the keel and planking the bow), making hanks for belay pins was also demonstrated.

We hope that we can organise a S&T for April, and if it can be done then emails to Members will follow with the details.

# CLUB NEWS

## MARCH '12 MEETING

This was an excellent night for displays, if you missed it make sure you don't miss any more of these meetings, they are just fantastic.



**Richard Keyes** displayed "Red Square" (see article elsewhere in this Newsletter)



**Gary Renshaw** displayed his **Murray Paddlesteamer "Isabella"**, a model that is marketed by him at Modellers Shipyard

This model is based on a composition of a variety of paddlesteamers that used to travel along the Murray, Darling and Murrumbidgee Rivers. Using Gary's kit, the model was constructed by Richard Keyes who reported that he had some problems and offered constructive comments as to how he overcame them.

At the close of the display Gary generously donated the completed model to SMSC so that we can raffle it off at Christmas to support the Club's funds.



**Tom Wolf** displayed **HMS Unicorn (circa 1752)**.

This model is scratch built but without plans, using historical paintings of the ship and other similar ships of the era.. All research was done on the internet, the Unicorn was a 24 gun Frigate when built in 1748, but the number of guns was increased to 28 in about 1752 by adding 4 guns on top-deck as became common in the English Navy. This model has the 4 extra guns.

A discussion between Members as to whether the model should be left as is or have furled sails installed, and what flags ensigns and pennants should be displayed followed.

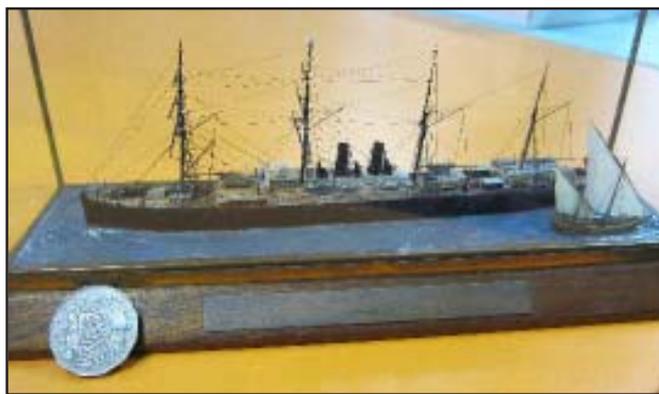


**Janos Nemeth** displayed his incredible **carvings**. Janos has previously displayed his work of carvings and inlaid parquetry, for a more complete report see the article elsewhere in this Newsletter

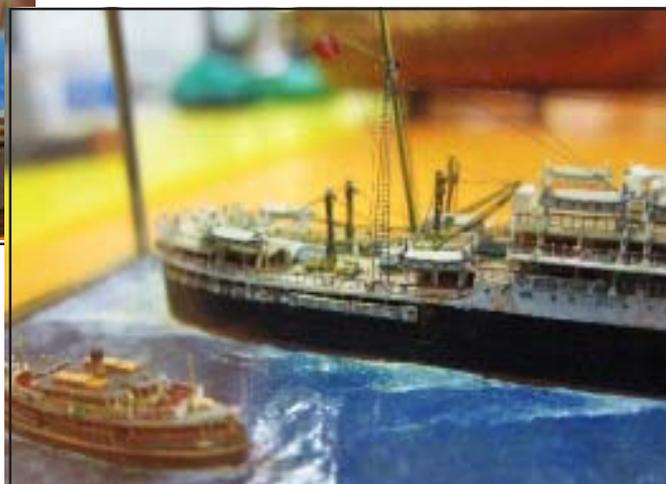


To finish the night off, **Michael Bennett** displayed his micro miniature scale models, Michael is working (and has been working for many years) on a project of the history of immigration to Australia since the late 1880's.

We were treated to 2 finished dioramas and some partly finished models and Michael explained how he goes about making the models. As will be seen from the photos, the detail in the migrant ships is fantastic and the settings are realistic and to scale.



An example of Michael's work is the diorama of the **Oronsay** and the **Lady Denman** in **Sydney Harbour** circa 1930.



The use of thinner-than-hair wires for the models (rigging, railings etc.) was demonstrated by Michael.

# AN INCREDIBLE CARVER



Over the past 3 meetings Janos Nemeth has displayed his incredible **carvings and wood-work** and explained the woods, tools and methods he uses.

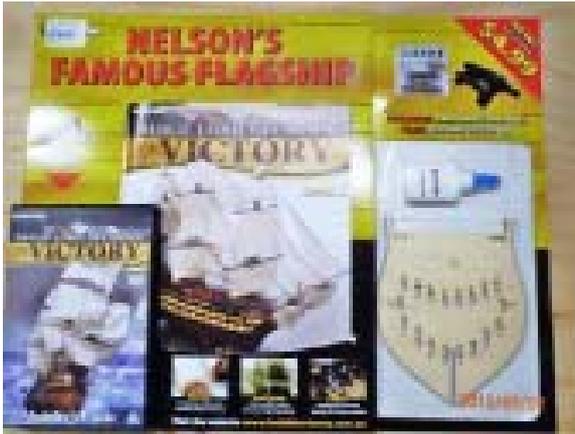


For his carvings Janos uses a variety of timbers, for the "HMS Royal Charles 1655" emblem Janos used European boxwood.



The precision and detail in Janos' work just blows us away ... time and again every time we see them.

# NELSON'S VICTORY



Jason Heard (a friend of SMSC) started a lively exchange of emails/correspondence when he wrote to us about this model being sold through Newsagents as periodic issues. It was commented that you get a piece of the kit each month, with a build guide, history, gifts, dvd, etc.... I am sure you have all seen this style of thing before. Jason found that the model pieces appear to be a good hardwood. Is clearly laser cut. Looks to be of a good quality, "No name" generic glue is supplied, the 12lb cannon looks to be well detailed and complete with very clear instructions.

The total number of instalments to complete the ship is 120, each instalment is \$14.99. The fine print in the magazine says total cost is \$1788.80. After some research Jason says that a Victory kit to this scale is normally around the \$900 to \$1000 mark. So yes, you are paying more, however Jason thought that:

You are paying \$15 a month instead of one big hit of \$1000.

You are getting lots of hand-held information each month on model ship building, which can only benefit you with future builds.

You are getting free gifts, some of which must surely be useful.

You are getting a tremendous amount of the background story of the ship, which you would normally have to go and spend extra money on to buy the book, or books.

He likes the idea of instalments, provided the quality keeps up.

The replies and (edited) comments were just as interesting (we don't identify the contributors):

"Over the last 84 weeks I have received parts to make the Endeavour. Same style as the Victory magazine. The quality of the parts has been excellent and the model is progressing well. The only drawback was that I started the order with my local newsagency and missed out on the free gifts. Suggest if you wish to build the Victory that you ring Bissett Magazines in Melbourne and become a customer. I look forward to a very fine model."

"These "instalment" models violate one of the basic rules of model making which is to plan ahead. And what do you do if you have some spare time and want to work on your model but have run out of instalments? Each monthly instalment only provides you with small amount of activity. The maths suggest that you are paying \$788 for the "free gifts" many of which you may not want or use. Better to spend your money on items you do want. In my opinion, you are much better off in the long run with a kit. But as the saying goes, "whatever floats your boat".

"The "instalments" of parts seems erratic..... Going by the build logs on the DeAgostini website. The sequence is all over the place. Probably better to just buy a kit up-front.... If one can afford about a grand."

"My brother gave me issue 1, the DVD is worthless, the 12 pdr is made in China and is quite good except for the axle which is too small in diameter. The rest appears to come from Artisanaria Latina, the keel and bulkheads are a vast improvement over previous kits but the fit is still sloppy, so you would need to glue on blocks to stiffen them up. I purchased the San Juan Nepomuceno from the same maker and would never do so again, as I have had to remake the keel and stem, as well as cut more planks, the castings were rubbish, the ship's boat is in the bin, bought one from elsewhere, perfect!! I like the idea of buying it weekly, as a pensioner, to find over a thousand dollars for a decent kit is impossible, but to scrape up a few bucks a week is ok.

**SO IT IS NOW UP TO YOU IF YOU DECIDE TO BUY THE MODEL!**