



FLOAT a BOAT

Fine Models Since 1962

ESPECIALLY FOR SHIPLOVERS



MODEL MARITIME NEWS

Nov 2009

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NOISE, NOISE AND MORE NOISE !!

We have recently received more stock of a number of sound modules manufactured by Amiralty Electronics. The sounds are some of the best around and each unit comes pre-wired and complete with a 2" speaker. This is good news for the modeller who is not very skilled with electronics for there is very little wiring to do to make the unit operate. Sort of like a "Plug and Play" !!

Sounds covered are engine sounds, both steam and diesel, various sirens and whistles and even weapons sounds. Pricing is very reasonable at \$75.00 for the Steam Engine and \$59.00 for the others.

Remember that this includes a speaker which is an extra cost with other brands.



P.S. "ALEXANDER ARBUTHNOT"

If you are a card modeller and a paddle steamer enthusiast, we have great news for you!!

Even if you only qualify in one of the descriptions above, the news is still great !

A card kit has been released for one of the Murray River paddle steamers and as far as we know, this is the only one in existence. It is most surprising to us that no one has ever done a kit for one of these vessels up until now. The boat is the PS "Alexander Arbuthnot" that is based at Echuca and is one of the fleet of tourist vessels operated by the Port of Echuca. The Kit contains two versions: a simple version that can be built by anyone 12 years & over & the advanced version for experienced builders. The scale is 1:100 producing and overall length of 23 cm. price per pack is \$24.95



FLOAT-A-BOAT WILL BE CLOSED

Monday 23rd - Monday 30th November.

We will be taking a week off during the last week in November - our first break in two years so we are packing our bags and deserting the ship like a couple of bilge rats.

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WALLY ST. JOHN

Monday 19th October was a very sad day for us and we know for many other people involved in the modelling world. Many would know of Wally St. John and his modelling ability in the field of 18th & 19th Century Sailing Ships. We are aware that there would be many who have known Wally and maybe not aware of his passing. Wally's family decided that they would conduct a private family cremation. This has not allowed his many friends to pay their respects so hopefully our short tribute below will allow some reflection of his life.



Wally would rise early every morning and go to his workshop to work on his models. This was always a joy to him and there was always someone who wanted him to build a model for them. He also helped Adrian on many occasions when the Float-a-Boat work shop was overflowing. On the weekend before his passing, he spent it doing one of the things he enjoyed best and that was being part of a modelling exhibition, enjoying the show, the people and of course displaying his models. This was the annual show at Nunawading. Some time back, Wally had been diagnosed with cancer and had now almost finished a lengthy chemotherapy treatment. He was doing well and very proudly announced that soon he would be free of trips to the hospital and all the uncomfortable and inconvenient things that had become part of his everyday living. Unfortunately, something that none of us expected happened, he had a heart attack and we lost him on the Monday morning.

There were many things about Wally that we admired. His attention to detail with his modelling (just the weekend before he had gone to Queenscliff to get detail on a model in the museum, as he wasn't happy with the photos he already had), his attitude of always looking on the bright side of things, the way he would take such interest in each modeller that he came across, encouraging them and teaching them anything they would want to know. Talking about anything nautical was always a wonderful pastime for him. Many times we sat in his kitchen and chatted boats and building. During those times in his kitchen and when he would drop into the shop or our home, there was always one thing that especially drew us to him and it was his love and devotion to his wife Rita. Rita had slowly developed Alzheimer's disease which made everyday matters more difficult to cope with, but when faced with another challenge he would look for a way to overcome it and make it as light hearted as possible.



Wally and Rita migrated to Australia from England many years ago but he never lost his broad accent which was a strong part of his personality. We will miss his contagious greeting as he entered the room: "Ullo young man" and "Ullo luv", but somehow I think those lines will always stay with us!





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MARYSVILLE MODEL BOAT REGATTA 11th Oct.

It is always so good to hear of people encouraging other people, and that is what the Lilydale Radio Yacht Club has been doing at Marysville. After the fires on Black Friday we have heard many stories of help being given to the Residents of many of the towns that were devastated by the fires. One that we have come across first hand is the encouragement given to the local people to begin a club and use the fantastic facilities at the Marysville lakeside. We could not make it to the Nov. 8th event but we have some pictures of the day in October to share with you where there was lots of sailing, chatting and joking along with the farmer's market which can be seen at the far end of the first pic. but beauty and colour are beginning to be seen again.

