



*September – October 2004*

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**Australian Battle Group Inc.**

***A Big Gun Fighting Warship R/C Club***

## **New Home for the Newsletter**

Hello from sunny Brisbane...well actually it has been very wet lately...not to mention humid and HOT. Anyway the Aus BG Newsletter has now moved from Canberra to Queensland...just the latest of the thousands who have already made the move!!

Let me introduce myself...my name is Marcus and I was a member of the Southern Highlands Wolfpack but with my recent move to BrisVegas I am now the newest member of the Iron Bottom Sound Squadron. Now that I have settled down here, Bill asked me to take over the newsletter and give his tired old bones (and brain!!) a rest.

Bill has left a fantastic legacy and I can only hope that I will be able to maintain his good work. I would very much appreciate it if you could keep me up-to-date with all the goings on in the hobby across the country...the more information I have the better I can keep everyone else informed. To that end my contact details are:

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In terms of the newsletter I have a few ideas on things I would like to insert from time to time such as Naval stories, maybe some historical features, perhaps the odd actual battle report and anything that would put a human face to the Naval period covered in our hobby (i.e. 1905 – 1946).

If anyone else has anything that they would like to hear about or not hear about, please give me a call, send an email or even a letter....I am very keen to keep in close contact with everyone and ensure that the Newsletter reflects the Aus BG as a National Body.

Lastly I would also encourage anyone who has pictures to please send them through...a picture says a thousand words and I am sure you would all appreciate more colour than less.

Anyway...enough prattling and before I forget, everyone please join me in thanking Bill for his efforts on the newsletter in the past and his continuing support for the hobby in general. I also have to remember to thank Bill personally for the several holes he left in my hull recently...but more about that next time.

Marcus

## October Long Weekend – Canberra Battle

The October long week-end was a good excuse to hold a battle at the Canberra Pistol Club as the Victorians had said they were willing to come up just to be able to battle. It was to be a warm up to eliminate any bugs from the system. We had 2 Victorians turn up, Marcus Ward with his Battle ship X and Paul Tauro with his Bismark Class Anvil. From the north came the dependable Michael Raue of Armidale who picked up Mark Reisbeck for the trip.

So here we had the HMS Lion and another transport sailed by Mark who is rebuilding the USS Indiana for the Nats. The local scene had David Howard with his Richelieu, Brian Evans with his Kittikami as well as his mighty Mustashi, Mark Strong with his powerful SoDak USS Nebraska and my Strasbourg. It was to be a one day battle and we even had Bob Booth turn up to help.

Sides were Visitors vs Home and battles were about 3 hours long with ships coming off the water being repaired and replenished and sent back on again. Action was non-stop with each side at one stage out-gunned the other and then being out-gunned as their ships left and the enemy returned. Much laughter and comments during the day, especially when Mike Raue's HMS Lion took on the Molly and blasted it constantly saying, 'sink you bugger', not realising this was the Unsinkable Molly Brown with solid f/g sides. Everyone pissed themselves laughing.

Very pleasant indeed, all skippers helping each other, good comments and quick repairs saw lots of action and damaged and sunk ships (at least 5 went down). My Strasbourg performed well and was not sunk! See, you too, can finally understand this hobby after 7 years! Our thanks to the visitors who made this a great day. The Only blemish was that the Canteen was not open, and we did not bring a BBQ, so we ended up having to go to McD. Apart from that, bloody marvellous! Last comments were we must do this again next October. We'll see.

## Snippets

Marcus and Stuart from Brisbane have arranged to go down to Armidale in November and battle with Mick and Richard and anyone else who can be roped in. Everyone is looking forward to this and it is a hopeful sign that the Brisbane club is becoming more active.

The AUSBG needs to put together a list of financial members, boats and frequencies that members are using. Everyone is urged to get their information to Brett as soon as possible.

## Research and Development

There are some funny things happening in the South...with more details following once the spies report in. If anyone is working on any projects from new cannon....control units...targeting technology...or even historical research...please let me know and I will put it in.

Members are also encouraged to forward misinformation...subterfuge...or even propaganda. I am also open to "inducement" if anyone does not want me to reveal something that they would rather remain a secret....

## Next Issue – Historical Feature, Armidale Battle and more...