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NEWSLETTER

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

Ensign's report 1st August 2011



Members Burt and Tom were in the news recently, appearing in the Hume City Council's publication *Hume Weekly* in an article entitled *Small Wonders*. This featured the activities of local associations devoted to miniature pursuits of one type or another, including model boats. *Photo by courtesy of Hume Weekly*

Northcorps Lake improvements

Murray has made a submission to the Hume City Council on behalf of the BMBG for improvements to our launching area at Northcorps Lake. Here's hoping that with the extra publicity from the *Hume Weekly* article and our presence now twice monthly, we can look forward to a good outcome.

RN centenary stamps

Australia Post's recent stamp issue to mark the centenary of the Royal Australian Navy is possibly a little disappointing in that it only depicts two vessels, the first HMAS Australia and the current HMAS Sydney (*below*).



A simple steamboat to try

I hope some readers will try making this simple design for a 300-450mm steamboat that first appeared over a hundred years ago in the pages of *Popular Mechanics* magazine. It may look like a crude reaction-propelled toy boat- but take another look.

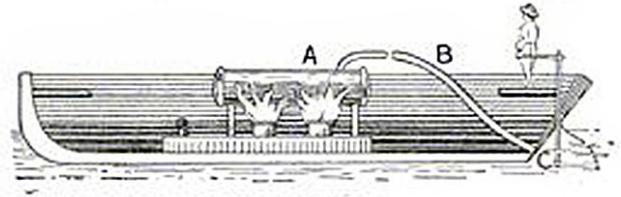


Fig 1

Fit a safety valve in case your jet gets blocked!

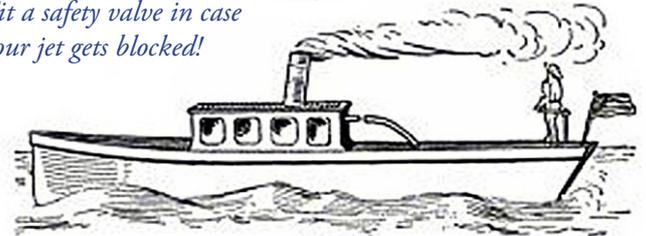


Fig 2

Sectional View and Completed Boat

The steam pipe from the boiler A ends in a small jet and there is a gap between it and the larger diameter tube B leading down to exit under the stern. As steam issues from the jet down the centre of tube B, it entrains with it some of the surrounding air from the gap. With a larger mass of air and steam now exiting from the exhaust, the thrust is increased and the model travels considerably faster than it otherwise would, leaving a nice stream of bubbles as it goes.

This principle has been applied elsewhere. Jetex motors, for example, had an accessory called an Augmenter Tube (*below*), a bell-mouthed exhaust fitting that increased the thrust of the engine. Can you think of other examples? Here's one. On the Convair 240 airliner, the engine exhausts were ducted to outlets at the rear of the nacelle where their effect boosted the cooling airflow over the engine and eliminated the need for cowl gills.



Craig's summer excursion

I close with this picture of tugboat Craig at Brodies Lakes as a reminder of what warmer weather looks like.

