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NEWSLETTER

Ensign's report 1st November 2010

"Every boat is copied from another boat. It is the sea herself which designs the boats, choosing those that perform well." This can be thought of as an example of Darwin's evolutionary principle at work. Is it true? Discuss. (10 marks)

Historic Port of Echuca, Victoria



The Canberra works upstream past the moored Emmy-Lou

Alan and I recently took a drive up to Echuca for their Heritage Weekend Festival. This was a great opportunity to see historic paddle-boats in their natural habitat, especially since the recent rains had raised the level of the Murray higher than it's been for quite some time. There were steam vehicles, period displays, a sail-past and a fireworks display.

Bob's Canberra paces restlessly around the tiny pool



We took a trip on the Emmy-Lou and learned that the old paddlers had a maximum speed of about six knots. Upstream, the current could be up to five knots, so you were down to something less than walking pace. On both days, Bob's model of the Canberra ran like clockwork around the small pool that had been set up for the model boats display.

Woodstock

Woodstock was drawn up to represent a typical 1920s racing runabout, with the characteristic hogged sheer line and heavily cambered deck of a Hacker-designed craft. To 1:8 scale, the model is only some 610mm long.



Framework assembly inverted on the building board

It has a conventional Lite-ply framework, but the planking is only a single layer of mahogany with fibreglass matting applied to the inside. I am quite taken with this approach as it provides most of the advantages of fibreglassing whilst leaving the timber finish natural and doing away with laborious sanding.



Planking and interior fit-out in progress

Power is by a small brushless motor mounted in the front engine compartment, running about 55 watts maximum and fitted with a simple water-cooling arrangement. The battery, a twin-stick 7.2 volt nickel or equivalent 7.4 volt lithium type, is mounted under the seat with the rudder servo behind it.

The fittings on the model are all of brass, clear lacquered, and 'Elvis' the driver has had to have extensive plastic surgery to make him fit.

Woodstock will be making its appearance in print with the 2010 edition of the Model Boats Winter Special.

