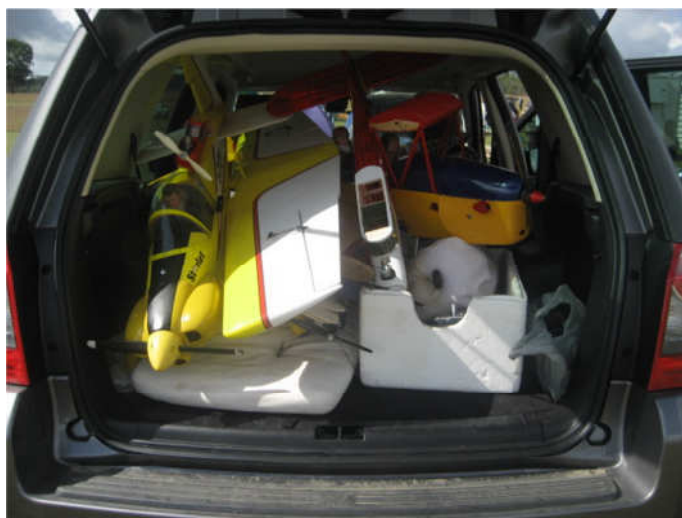


## The Veterans Gathering - Muswellbrook Apr 30, May1st

Having experienced the joys of the Oily Hand meetings I decided to venture to the far flung realms of the West again. I wasn't sure what to take so loaded up the car and set off on the Expressway North (you may spot 2 r/c models, 2 vintage, an Ebineezer, a chuck glider and a load of camping gear - I forgot to load the control liners!). It's 250 kms to Muswellbrook from Balmain and it rained most of the way



but on arrival the clouds cleared and they have a great field there with three c/l circles mowed, an r/c strip and a separate area for free flight.



There was a great selection of planes there and some very nice models. I flew the Madam (the scaled up Vic Smeed "Mam'selle") and the Tomboy all day Sat even though it was dwarfed by some models on the r/c strip. This Fokker flew and sounded like a real one!



Dave Brown was there with his Texaco "Lanzo Bomber", built from one of his own kit of parts of course, which brought back happy memories of my old one, they climb majestically and glide forever. His fuel allocation under Texaco rules is just 8cc but the motor will run for over 3 mins on that!



In the evening the spotlights came on



and night flying started. Most people had sent off to Hobbyking for their LED strips (gotta get one of them for our Christmas party!) and had them on, or in some cases, inside the wings - the effect was stunning. Laurie had long strips under his foamie wings while Warren had a control liner set up with lights - it was actually an electric powered c/l with a clever timer fitted that allows you to get to the centre before the motor starts.

Dinner was served at the field and a very good roast it was too. The evening carried on with talk and drinks (I had to apologise to one or two people in the morning as a result).





I was nominated for the prize of "least fuel used in the day" by Brian Winch - I made about 15 flights but a Mills 75 doesn't use much, here I am with the trophy which proved too big and heavy to bring home!

More flying on Sunday and some rather special c/l models - how about this for a scale Tiger Moth - only about 36" span and fitted with a third line for throttle control!



There were lots of teeny models in the free flight area, here is Peter Jackson with one of his gorgeous little vintage models and you should see his scale ones. It is

powered by a Schlosser, a very collectable motor now they are no longer made.



And here is our own Keith Murray with a variation on an Ebineezer, a Furynezer powered by an MP Jet.



It was John Goodwin who told me of the meeting and here he is doing a bit of f/f retrieval and trying not to get oil on his fingers as he has a very expensive camera slung over his shoulder. Will you look at all that space out there!

Thanks to the MDMAS club for hosting the event, a very friendly crowd and very well organised. I'm looking forward to next year but possibly not quite so much to drink on the Saturday night. If you are a bit wobbly on a Sunday morning even a Mills 75 will give you a nasty bite to wake you up!

