The ACTSMS has lost two of its favourite sons recently with the passing of MR John Marane and MR Geoff Shain. Both members made a significant impact on our society over the years and both will be sadly missed.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

President’s Report

Hi everyone,

Firstly, Vale John Marane and Geoff Shain - they were both long time and enthusiastic members. They will be missed. See later in the newsletter for their commemoration.

The theme this year is "participate" - there are plenty of club themed builds going on, and I encourage you all to join in- don't be a stranger- your models deserve to be displayed proudly because they are your achievements. The club builds are all targeting ScaleACT in November, so you have some time left...

The club builds include:
1942 display - something for everyone here- midway, the desert wars, Asia pacific, Eastern front - planes, tanks and automobiles are all included. Have a chat to Richard Hobbs next time you see him.

Star Wars - everyone loves Star Wars. Build a model of your favourite space ship or droid and join in. Please see Tim Floyd

Humanitarian - the “grail” anon military theme- emergency vehicles, UN vehicles, thunderbirds etc. have a chat to Peter Shum.

34 squadron - Canberra's very own VIP squadron. Have a chat to either Peter Mahoney or Ray Seppala regarding this one.

109 109’s - our very own Tony Allocca is organising a display of one hundred and nine bf/me 109's.

How many variants and schemes can you think of? So there are heaps of opportunities for members to get involved- don't be a stranger, talk to your fellow club members. Get to know them by participating.
Another way you can participate is putting your hand up for committee positions. Its great fun and a great development opportunity. The need for a committee is also a statutory requirement. We just heard that a club has recent dissolved because they could not fill the requisite committee positions. Formalities are a nuisance, but important to keep the club alive.

That's it from me, now go and participate and build something!

President ACTSMS Ben Frohling

Secretary’s notes

It has been a couple of issues since I have provided my last update on the talking points from the committee. As you’d expect, the last couple of months immediately after the AGM are dedicated to ScaleACT preparations.

There have been however, other issues we have tackled during that time. These include venue options in the event the Hellenic Club is unable to host us, determining the clubman of the year, organising sales of stashes and making sure the club’s handbooks are completed.

At monthly meetings we have an average of between 50 and 60 club members attend, and on average we seem to have one or two visitors or new members. Attendance figures have peaked into the mid-70s for the AGM and the end of year meeting – both of which featured super raffles.

This current committee year will be my fourth, and final, year as secretary of the club in accordance with the Club’s constitution. So, come August we will be looking for a new secretary. The position is an essential one, but one that is neither complicated nor onerous.

The main tasks are taking notes and producing the minutes for each committee meeting and AGM, providing the membership with periodic updates of what the committee is working on or achieved, keep the committee meetings running and focused, and send a number of emails to the membership. Time wise it will require you to set aside a couple of hours once a month for the committee meeting, and hour or so to write up the minutes and a little more effort in August to support the AGM.

So, if you are interested, please come and talk to me, or attend a committee meeting (which, incidentally, is open to all financial members of the club).

Secretary ACTSMS Tony Allocca
Mr John Marane

22 May 1947 – 20 February 2017

The requiem mass was held at St John the Apostle Catholic Church in Kippax on 27 February, and was very well attended by many family, friends and colleagues.

He leaves a wife and two daughters

He was raised in the Catholic faith, and educated in Sydney

He spent 50 years in Department of Defence, about 30 in the Army and 20 in the Public Service.

His family remember him as a proud and enthusiastic member of ACTSMS, and they fondly recall his passion for his modelling room and his collection of armour models.

He was a teetotaller and never smoked.

John was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2011, with a subsequent discovery that the disease was also in his bones, which (I inferred) was more troublesome to treat and ultimately led to his demise.

A very private person in many ways, John chose to keep his illness from all but a few people who needed to know.

So (as discussed with Ben), the club members and committee should not feel guilty at not knowing of his illness.

John was treated in The Canberra Hospital and spent his last weeks in the care of the staff at Clare Holland House.

Rest in peace MR John Marane.
Mr Geoffrey Shain

15 August 1951 – 24 February 2017

We have been informed that Geoff Shain suffered a heart attack on Friday evening and passed away. Geoff was a member of the ACTSMS, and also an enthusiastic participant in the Tuesday build group and the Old Contemptibles WW1 Special Interest Group.

I was asked to pen a few words on the recent and totally unexpected passing of a member of our Society, Geoff Shain.

Initially, I didn’t know Goff that well only in passing at model meetings and other ACTSMS events.

He had apparently heard of the small group (6 or 7) of modellers who meet every Tuesday and asked if he could come along. Geoff joined the group, knowing that all who attend are sledged mercilessly for any mistake or indiscretion (ask Len).

Geoff’s first mistake was arriving in his car, a Renault Megane, which promptly earned him his nickname of “Pierre”. However, he quickly settled in with his modelling of German armour (always a good start), sharing his views of the world and of course modelling.

He was also passionate about playing golf and regularly attended his local course. After “Pierre” joined our Tuesday group we came to know him better and enjoyed his participation and will miss his repertoire.

“Pierre” was a strong family man, who left a wife (Julie), a son, two daughters and four grandchildren. The Tuesday Group, and the Society as a whole, would like to pass on our condolences.

Rest in peace MR Geoff Shain.
2017 ACTSMS ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR v11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 MAR</td>
<td>Hellenic Club</td>
<td>Round Table 6:45 – 7:30, Break 7:30 – 8:00, HMAS Canberra 8:15 – 9:00, People’s Choice and Draw Raffle 9:00 – 9:15, Close 9:15 – 9:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 APR</td>
<td>Hellenic Club</td>
<td>Round Table 7:30 – 7:45, Workshop 7:45 – 8:00, Break 8:00 – 8:15, Dioramas 8:15 – 9:00, People’s Choice and Draw Raffle 9:00 – 9:15, Close 9:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 MAY</td>
<td>Hellenic Club</td>
<td>Round Table 6:45 – 7:30, Break 7:30 – 8:15, Judging Training – A How-to for Assessing a Built Kit 8:15 – 9:00, People’s Choice and Draw Raffle 9:15 – 9:30, Close 9:15 – 9:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 JUN</td>
<td>Hellenic Club</td>
<td>Set up for Swap &amp; Sell 7:00 – 7:30, Swap &amp; Sell 7:30 – 9:00, Close 9:00 – 9:30</td>
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Treasurer’s Waffle

Well, it never ends! ScaleACT 16 was by all accounts a great success and although we made a small loss, the overall position of the society is quite strong with the enthusiastic support at the monthly raffle prizes and of course the very healthy society membership.

As of the end of September we have 96 financial members with our three illustrious life members, as always we’re still happy to take new members (well over a dozen this financial year) with a couple of our newer members interests lying in the increasingly popular Gundam/Gunpla genre.

As planned, with the societies healthy finances the committee has been able to offer something back to the membership with subsidised society shirts (showing our colours!) and offering some of recent kit releases as part of the monthly raffles. All this effort should result in an overall loss for the financial year but leaving the society with enough cash to cover any of our large expenses (ie. ScaleACT).

As for the monthly raffle prizes at our monthly meetings, best you attend if you want to know what they are!

Cheers,

Treasurer ACTSMS Paul Dorival

From the Editorial Team

Welcome all to the 1Q17 newsletter. Well the first quarter for 2017 has come and gone, unfortunately the start of the year has been marred by the passing of two of our members within days of each other. Both John and Geoff will be sadly missed. As they say in the movies the show must go on. We have had a busy start to the year with all our meeting very well subscribed. Our club raffles have been excellent, with more to come. Plenty of presentations and demonstration to excite our modelling urges. It’s a great time to be a scale modeller.

Editor Dave White
Modeller / Exhibitor of the Year stats

People’s Choice voting results September 2016 – February 2017

Halfway through our People’s Choice voting year, we’ve had five monthly votes that have seen some tight contests between high quality models.

First, second and third results for each competition month so far are:

September 2016

1. Dave Chalmers, 1/35 Mk.IV tank
2. Tied between Matt Lyons, 1/72 Bristol Beaufort Mk.I, and Ben Frohling, 1/35 251/20 Uhu
3. Ray Seppala, Revell 1/144 Airbus A350

October 2016

1. Mike Stynes, Private E.D. Stynes
2. Shane Davis, 1/35 Australian Army Centurion ARVE
3. Mario Marangoni, Revell 1/16 51/52 VW Kafer

Vintage Bug “1965 Bug - Free Love”

November 2016

1. Chris Hennessey, Frosty 5th AFG “Eggplants”
2. Mario Marangoni, Tamiya 1/35 Panther “Kursk” diorama
3. Len Bowen, 1/48 Monogram Catalina “RAAF 210 Squadron”

December 2016

1. Brad Fallen, Wingnut Wings 1/32 Roland C.II
2. Len Bowen, 1/72 Revell Fw 200 “Condor Down!” diorama
3. Gordon Whaley, 1/35 Opel Blitz
February 2017

1. Phill Martin, Hasegawa 1/72 Leopold
2. Dave White, AFV Club 1/48 RF-5E
3. Matt Lyons, MPM 1/72 Douglas Boston III

We have four more People’s Choice votes for the modelling year – March, April, May and July (with no voting in June because of the Swap’n’Sell) – before we bring all our monthly winners together at the AGM in August to vote on the People’s Choice model of the year. Last year it was Mike Nelmes’ marvellous 1/72 DH.88 Comet diorama that swept away the opposition – which model will it be this year?

Please also remember that the Society’s Exhibitor of the Year and Modeller of the Year competitions continue to run in parallel with the People’s Choice voting. Exhibitor of the Year is awarded to the society member who contributes the most models for assessment in the year (currently held by Ross Carlyon for the 2015-16 year). Modeller of the Year is awarded to the modeller who receives the highest number of votes in People’s Choice judging over the course of the year (currently Matt Lyons). Please contact me if you have any questions about this change – I’m happy to explain in more detail. In the meantime, keep building those kits and bringing your finished models along to our Society meetings, because you’ve got to be in it to win it!

A message from the other President:
Australian Army Project Land 400 – Replace the ASALAV and M113AS4 fleets.

ACTSMS Inc was going to have a talk given by a Lt Col Duus back in early 2016 but for various reasons this did not happen so here is a summary of where Land 400 is heading. John Myszka/ Gordon Branch

LAND 400 – will acquire and support the next generation of Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) with the firepower, protection and mobility to defeat increasingly lethal and adaptive adversaries well into the future.

LAND 400 will deliver enhanced levels of survivability to the Joint Land Force including sensors, weapons and information systems which will be networked to strategic intelligence platforms.

At its foundation, the project will deliver replacements for the Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) and M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) fleets.

The proposal will purchase up to 1100 combat vehicles to replace the 250 Phase III ASLAV reconnaissance vehicles and 423 M113AS4 APCs as well as some Bushmaster PMVs.

The new vehicles must be deployable by C17A Globemaster III and be compatible with the LCM 1E and Mexeflotes used by the Canberra Class LHDs and the LSD HMAS Choules. Growing weight and size dimensions will not allow the new vehicles to be deployed by C130J without at least removal of the turrets.

RFI responses will be used to refresh the current 2010 based data and to allow Defence to investigate the costs associated with the acquisition and support of the Mounted Close Combat Capability.

The project will also provide specialist Manoeuvre Support Vehicles (MSV) to properly enable Army’s combat brigades to undertake joint land combat.

LAND 400 has four discrete phases:

- LAND 400 Phase 1 – Project Definition Study (completed).
- LAND 400 Phase 2 – Mounted Combat Reconnaissance Capability, Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) mission system (the ASLAV replacement) 225 Vehicles
- LAND 400 Phase 3 – Mounted Close Combat Capability, Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) (the M113 APC replacement) and MSV mission systems. 450 Vehicles
- LAND 400 Phase 4 – Integrated Training System

Phase 2 tenderers:

- BAE Systems Australia – Patria AMV35 with the Hagglunds E35 turret system – 30,000 kg and 35mm cannon;
- GDLS Australia – LAV6 with GDLS low profile turret – 28,000 kg and 25mm Bushmaster;
- Elbit Aust / ST Kenetics - Terex 2 with RWS up to 30mm calibre – Named, for the tender, the Sentinel II
- Boeing Defence Australia – Centauro IFV 28,000 kg and 25mm cannon;
- General Dynamics Europe – Piranha V and Lance 30mm turret – up to 30,000 kg
- ARTEC GmbH – Boxer with a 2 man 30mm Lance turret – up to 36,500 kg
The Minister for Defence Industry announced on 23 August 2016 that BAE Systems Australia Ltd and Rheinmetall (ARTEC) have signed contracts with the Commonwealth for the Risk Mitigation Activity (RMA) of the Patria AMV 35 and Boxer respectively. Three each of these companies’ vehicles will undergo trials for about 12 months as part of the RMA. These trials commenced in late 2016 and have already tested the vehicles compatibility with the Canberra Class LHDs. One of each type of vehicle will be tested to destruction to ascertain their level of protection for the crews.

The Boxer (left) and AMV 35 (right)

The two types of CRV during trials aboard a Canberra Class LHD.
Phase 3

The LAND 400 Phase 3 Request for Information (RFI) was issued on 13 November 2015 and closed on 7 March 2016.

Seven original equipment manufacturers have responded to the request for information for the M113AS4 replacements.

Modelling:

The Rosomak (Wolverine) has a different turret to the Patria AMV 35 vehicles being trialled by Australia.

No one at this time makes a Rheinmetall Lance 30mm turret.
References:

Australian and New Zealand Defender magazine various

Australian Defence Magazine – various


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boxer_(armoured_fighting_vehicle)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patria_AMV


John Myszka / Gordon Branch

National war memorial and museum of South Korea

I have been fortunate to visit Seoul a few times recently. Just across the road from the Yongsan Army Garrison is the national war memorial and museum. As you’d expect, the Korean war is a major part of the museum. I haven’t had time to go inside; however I understand that Australia has good coverage in the narrative. I have however, had time to walk around the outside displays. There is a large display of Korean and US aircraft and AFVs as well as a Korean Patrol Boat. There are also a number of North Korean exhibits – captured and asylum seekers. Here are some highlights.

An over view of part of the outdoor display. To get it all in, you would need a good couple of hours to allow time to crawl over and around things.
It's not just planes and tanks. There is a large display of various missiles. Here are a Scud, NIKE, LANCE and HAWK missiles.

Displays cover all aspects of Korean military history. From the Korean war to present day (nearly).

An example is the P51D sheltering under a C-123 (with wing tip jet engines)
There are a large number of North Korean items on display – from T34s, Su-100, Kaytusha trucks, to semi-submersible boats and Type 69 light tank. Also on display is a MiG19 that defected to the south in February 1983.
All is not it seems. This F4D looks to have many seams lines all over. In fact, on closer inspection, all the panels are raised. It looks to me that the airframe has been used as an instructional airframe for battle damage repair.

Back in 2002 when Korea and Japan hosted the soccer world cup, patrol boats from the North crossed the north limit line. Here they engaged in a firefight with South Korean patrol boats. In the ensuing firefight, the North sank PB357 while losing two of their own being sunk. The Koreans eventually salvaged their vessel. On display is one of its sister ships marked up as PB357. The red and black marks over the vessel are a map of where all the North Korean rounds hit the vessel.
So, there is heaps to see including the indigenous Korean tank (M1 clone), The KTX1 trainer prototype and to finish off I'll leave you to google this one.
Keen to find that model you’ve always wanted?

Need to convert those unwanted kits into cash (or other kits)?

_Then make sure you come to the ACTSMS Swap 'n Sell!!_

_You can expect to see new and 2ndhand kits, books and modelling products_

**When?**

The June meeting, Wednesday 14th June

**What time?**

Be ready to start setting up at 7.00pm, for 7.30pm meeting start

**Where?**

Upstairs at the Hellenic Club, Woden

We’ll also invite some "official" traders, stay tuned for more details...

For more details, please visit

http://www.actsms.asn.au

or email actsms@hotmail.com
Water Effects with Silicone

At a recent society meeting I ran a demo on the technique of using domestic Silicone sealer for water effects.

For those who missed the demo, here is a brief overview of the process.

Overview:

This technique creates fairly large, rough waves and is therefore most suited for relatively large scale subjects.

I used it recently for the base for a 1/72 scale Walrus flying boat (the old Matchbox kit) which was done for a Blitz Build - it’s a really quick to do and works surprisingly well.

(I wouldn’t use this method for doing the water of a 1/700 or 1/350 ship, the waves would be too big and out of scale - for a ship I’d be far more inclined to use the more traditional method of laying down a thin coat of plaster, then paint and gloss varnish... but that’s another article.)

Materials:

You need very little for this technique,

1) A tube of clear silicone sealer (I used “Parfix brand, ‘all Purpose clear’. Bunnings around $5.
2) An applicator gun - you don’t really need this, but it does make things easier and you’ve probably got one lying around the shed already.
3) A couple of tubes of cheap craft water-based paint. Also available from Bunnings or $2 shops. I used a mid-blue, black and white.
4) A couple of disposable sticks (paddle-pop or similar) for spreading the Silicone.
5) A disposable plastic spoon...

Method:

The first step is the most important - and that is to paint the base (I typically use 6mm MDF board as its cheap, readily available and takes paint very well).

There is no real art to the painting, just splash the various colours around to build up the look you are going for and to match the prevailing weather - North Atlantic in winter is likely going to be much darker and nasty looking than mid Pacific in summer! If it helps, I usually lay down a base of blue, then put a few dobs of white and black straight
on top while the blue is still damp and work them in, in a fairly random fashion... how much you add will affect how stirred up the water ends up looking.

For example, if you are trying to replicate the wake of a vessel, you might add more white in that area and fan it out in a ‘V’ shape to represent the area where the water is churned up and lighter...

Or, if you are showing a scene where water meets a beach, you might graduate the colour from a dark to pale colour in line with the beach to represent different depths of water.

When you’ve finished the arty bit, clean up and wait for the paint to dry (an hour or so) then comes the really fun bit...

Get your silicone gun and squirt a thick gooey layer over everything, try for a reasonable depth, aim for roughly 3 mm thick over the whole area... squirt on thick worms of the silicone then spread it around with the paddle-pop sticks (if you wet them first the silicone is a bit less likely to stick to the sticks). It will look pretty random and awful at this stage, remember the silicone will dry much clearer and transparent that it comes out of the tube... The final step is the magic.

Grab your plastic spoon lightly by the very end of the handle and lightly and rapidly ‘tap’ the spoon all over the surface of the silicone! Bits of the silicone will stick to the underside of the spoon and lift up a bit as the spoon lifts off, in a minute they will settle down and start looking like the rough surface of water.

You have a fair bit of control over how rough a surface you want by simply whacking the surface more or less! It’s fun and quite therapeutic :-)

The top of the silicone will start to dry reasonable quickly - so you do need to move briskly - within a few minutes it’s already skinning and will be less malleable... but the whole thing will take a few days to set fully.

* By the way - Silicone is a great glue, so while it’s still wet you can simply press your completed model down into the silicone and it’ll stick (like s**t to a blanket!)... No worries about trying to carve a hole to match the model later on, just press it in and it’ll stay there :-)

Finally, for the very brightest whites of foam, when the silicone is nice and dry you can carefully dry-brush pure white paint over the very tops of the waves, a little is all it takes and they will really ‘pop’ against a darker blues and look great. (In the pic of the Walrus, have a look at the water right next to the hull and at the closer bits of the wake to see the difference a little dry-brushing makes).

* Dry Brushing: Dip your brush in paint, then wipe most of it off on a tissue, when there’s only a trace left, drag the brush quickly over the surface - the raised bits of the surface will catch the paint giving a useful highlight effect.

That’s it! The technique takes longer to write it up than it does to apply - it’s fun, cheap and looks surprisingly good (I think).

Give it a go!

Jerry Cashman
Royal Canberra Show – Model Section 2017

Well after a very lightly supported 2016 Show and with the threat of the Model Section possibly disappearing, there was a slight turn around for 2017. After much encouragement on my part the Model Section has a reprieve but more support is still needed. I have some ideas for 2018, as in size, location and most importantly support from you modellers within the Society, but more of that later.

The entries in this year’s Show were as follows:

Models 50

Number contributed by ACTSMS members 6 + 1 junior

Number contributed by CSMS members 2

Juniors 4

Others 4

Winners:

**Aircraft**

1st Brad Fallen 1/32 Wingnuts Roland C11

2nd Ross Carlyon 1/32 Special Hobby P39 Air cobra

3rd Len Bowen 1/72 Handley Page Hayford

**Ships**

1st Ross Carlyon 1/144 Revell Flower Class Corvette

2nd Len Bowen 1/72 RAF Air Sea Rescue Launch

**Road Non Military**

1st Gordon Whaley BMW R80 G/S Paris/Dakar Bike

2nd Gordon Whaley Subaru WRC 2001

3rd Gordon Whaley Honda RC166 Race Bike

H/C Gordon Whaley Kawasaki HZR Ninja Bike

**Road Military**

1st Gordon Whaley L/70 Lang 70

2nd Gordon Whaley Opel Blitz 4x4

3rd Ross Carlyon Churchill Tank

3rd Ross Carlyon Tiran 5 Israeli Tank

H/C Phil Martin Leopard Tank

**Diorama**

1st Andrew Britt Wilmott’s Warriors ABC Field Unit
2nd Andrew Britt  Following the Front Aust Photo Unit
2nd Bruce Kirk  Fishing Cutter on Slipway
3rd Len Bowen  Condor down Fw200 North Atlantic

Space  1st Philo Martin  1/72 Apollo 10

Model from Wood
1st Bob Evans  Charles W Morgan Whaler
2nd Bob Evans  Juan Sebastian De Elcano

Any Other Model
1st Ross Carlyon  SA2 Guideline SAM
2nd Phil Martin  1/72 Leopold Rail Gun

Seniors
2nd Len Bowen  Short Sunderland Mk1

Juniors:
Aircraft
1st Marc Beauvais  Bf110
2nd Alex Yialeloglou

Diorama  1st Emilia Martin  1/76 Cromwell Tank

Student Champion
Emilia Martin

Overall Champion
Bob Evans

Overall Reserve Champion
Bob Evans

For next year, I hope to have a different location (along a wall) and hopefully 3 cabinets instead of 2 as it was this year and a work table in line with cabinets instead of around a corner. But again this will mean more support from the modellers within the Society in entering models in the Show. Apart from the satisfaction of displaying your models, there are cash and gift card prizes to be had, for example Bob Evans from CSMS for the second year won $350 (cash) and $150 (Toy world gift cards). Lesser value gift cards were won by other place-getters.

I wish to congratulate all winners and place-getters and also thank the Judges for their time and efforts.

Till later this year and the 2018 Show, I bid you adieu.

Ross Carlyon Scale Models Chief Stewards
Australian International Airshow 2017

This year I was again lucky enough to attend the biannual Australian International Airshow for several days, it was held from the 28th of February until the 5th of March at Avalon Airport, Geelong, Victoria.

So, what is The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition for those who are not familiar with this event? It is the largest display of civilian and military aircraft of its kind held in Australia and is now one of the top five largest of its kind in the world. The exhibition is usually a six-day event that allows national and international companies from around the world to exhibit and demonstrate anything and everything that is new or on the horizon for the aerospace and defence markets, this is the main reason this event is held.

For most people who attend or wish to attend it’s all about the final three days of the event, this is when the event opens to the public and allows you to get close to the latest military and civilian aircraft from around the world and some of the historic and classic aircraft from throughout the ages of aviation. This is also when the main Airshow is conducted and you get to see the latest Australian Defence Force equipment take centre stage with handling displays and simulated combat manoeuvres. You will also see some of the classics fly and some of the best stunt aircraft performances in the world. The event opens to the public to attend from mid-morning on the Friday that goes into the night with some great night displays, then it’s open all day Saturday and Sunday.

This year was themed around “air power in action” and I think everyone who attended this year would have to agree they got it pretty much spot on. We got to witness the two best fifth generation fighter planes in world take to the sky being the F-22 Raptor joined by the F-35 Lighting II and the power and performance of our already very capable defence force in a one hour Army, Air Force and Navy integrated Australian Defence Force showcase displaying just about every aviation asset our defence force has to offer in a mock battle scenario. If you had to pick from the shuddering power and the high octane burning solo performances delivered by the Royal Australians Air Forces own FA-18F Super Hornet or the two fantastic solo displays put on by the United Stated Air Force with their F-16 Falcon and F-22 Raptor demo teams then I would still have to pick the one hour Australian Defence Force showcase, not only was it impressive to see such a highly capable integrated force working in close proximity together to achieve their mission, but also knowing everything your witnessing in front of you is all being done by our very own Australian Defence Force members.
If you decide you want to take a break from the awesome action in the sky then the stroll around the static displays did not disappoint this year either and is growing more and more with each event. The obvious highlight for many would have been seeing one, or both, depending on what day you attended, of our brand new 5th generation F-35 Lightning II aircraft up close and personal for the first time. I’m sure everyone is now more excited to see them officially handed over sometime in 2018. The late announcement and arrival of the F-35 to the show did overshadow the arrival and handover of our first two Pilatus PC-21 pilot training system aircraft that are slowly replacing the now well used Pilatus PC-9. There really was something for everyone on static display this year, from an Antinov-124 still the largest military transport aircraft in the world to tiny hand held military helicopter drones used for covert observation and reconnaissance. There is now a growing contingent each show from the Army and Navy with some of their hardware going on display. In my eyes the best static display of the Airshow, and everyone in the Air Force would agree, was the Army M1A1 Abram main battle tank.

It would take far too long to list everything that was present at this year’s exhibition but I’m sure with the show now over there will be a large expanse of photos from the media who attended and from other public attendees who attended the event start to turn up in various social media forums and magazines. If you have not attended before or have been wondering about attending I could not recommend making the effort enough, it’s truly an international event and there are days of entertainment, probably the only let down would be trying the leave the Airshow over the weekend there was up to a two hour wait to exit the carpark due to this when it comes around to the next show I will be looking at an alternate means of travel.

There are a few different ticket options that range from general admission, grandstand seating right through to a fully catered VIP style arrangement. Naturally all the tickets give you a few more creature comforts as the price increases, all tickets go on sale around November before the Airshow is to be held, there is a website that you can check for updates on and also subscribe to receive regular updates including ticket release information and a Facebook page. Accommodation around the event especially Geelong can sell out extremely fast so if you’re travelling to attend the event and will need somewhere to stay be aware of that. Bring plenty of sunscreen!
Committee Contact Details

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<th>Position</th>
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