

The David Owen Oily Hand Perpetual Free Flight Scramble Trophy

This year saw the passing of our great friend and regular Oily Hand day attendee, David Owen. If there was anyone who epitomised what Oily Hand is about, it was David. Aeromodelling, and model diesels in particular, were a huge part of his life. From skipping school to fly models as a youngster, through 'coincidentally' competing in the Nationals whilst honeymooning, to his regular attendance at events like OHDD, he was always a keen participant and contributor to our hobby.

David, of course, was notable for his association with model diesels in this country. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of them, and a gift for making them and working on them. For some of us, our first diesel (and many subsequent ones) came with an "Owen Engines" sticker on the box. Almost all the PAWs, MP Jets and Schlossers that we enjoy so much at Cowra were sourced through David, and there are plenty of other model diesels that are only running today because of his skills in the workshop.

While there were many aspects to aeromodelling that David enjoyed, Oily Hand was one of the highlights of the year. For him, being one of a bunch of relaxed and happy modellers out in a paddock was about as good as it got. He loved the area, the atmosphere, and the company. He didn't always manage to fly as much as many of us, because he was forever answering questions and helping out with problems, but he enjoyed that too.

In honour of David's contribution to proper aeromodelling, a perpetual trophy has been instituted. While he was active in CL and radio, David's great love in modelling was FF. He was the first winner of the OHDD FF Scramble, and it's fitting that this event will now be known as 'The David Owen Oily Hand Free Flight Scramble'. The perpetual trophy will be awarded each year to the winner. David will be in our hearts and minds as we run around the paddock chasing our aeroplanes. We will remember him, as we enjoy the pleasure of running the engines David provided and fixed for us.

