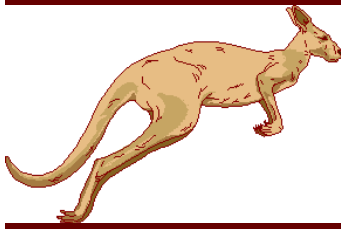


Volume 35 Issue 3

April 2004



IO CLUB

SUBURBS AMATEUR RAD

WESTERN AND NORTHERN

WANSARC NEWS

April 2004

Incorporated Number A7611

Why is VK3EL in a spin???



What's this? Bob VK3EL in full swing spinning a couple of beams in the air?

Turn to pages 4 and 5 for the story on Bob's quest to become a manual rotator.....

Photo VK3PI

DELIVER TO:

If not delivered within 7 days, please return to:
WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR Victoria 3073

NEXT MEETING 2000 Hours sharp Friday February 6, 2004.
General meeting to plan 2004 WANSARC activities, including the John Moyle Field Day participation in March 2004.

Presidents message	2
WANSARC coming events	2
Councils on the prowl	3
Laughter is a medicine	4
Rotary Raffle update	4
John Moyle 2004 wrap up	5
Club information page	6



CLUB FREQUENCIES

146.450Mhz FM and
28.470MHz USB

From the President—Grant VK3HFS

Welcome to the April newsletter of WANSARC. It's been an active few months for the club with the AGM and our participation in the John Moyle Field Day.

Firstly, I'd like to thank those that volunteered their services for the club committee. Whilst not an onerous task, it is an important component of the clubs activities. If you'd like a say in how the club runs, please feel free to talk to a committee member. Committee meetings are usually held prior to the main club meeting.

The John Moyle Field Day was a great success for the club with VK3AWS being active from Kinglake. It is a tremendous feat to plan and execute such an exercise and thanks must go to Mark, VK3PI for coordinating the event. Whilst I was personally unable to participate due to work commitments interstate, I did manage to swap a few numbers with the team on my return. It's great to see such enthusiasm within the club and great to see the club callsign on air again after many years away from contesting.

Away from the club, the Annual General Meeting of the WIA is being held the first weekend of April in VK4. The most interesting topic is the proposed changes to the WIA to make it a truly national organization. This would see the Divisions merge to form the new organization. Many rumours are flowing and politics abound, but we'll soon see the results within the next week.

Until next month, happy hamming!

Grant, VK3HFS

P.S. Trust you heard the latest Q-news and reference to WANSARC.....good publicity regarding the net and use of Echolink. It would appear that information was lifted from the WANSARC web site!

WANSARC COMING EVENTS

APRIL 2 - General meeting and a video/DVD night. Catch up on the stories of portable club action and watch the club in action via "home movie style" VK3CH video's. 1930 hours start.

MAY 7— Learn of the mysterious DIGITAL DX modes and the use of technology to snare the most elusive of DX stations. Jim Baxter VK3DBQ is a long time DX enthusiast and aside from pumping out a healthy signal on 20 metres is a user of the latest in digital technology. Come along to the club and here of Jim's DX exploits. You may not be a DX'er, but the application of PSK31 and other digital modes will be of interest for those that no little or nothing of these modes. 1930 hours start.

JUNE 4—Time to dust off your tuxedo's and Sunday best for a Friday night.

This will be the date for the first ever formal WANSARC dinner, to be held at a venue near you. Cost will be dependant on numbers, so make your tentative bookings with Mark VK3PI. Members and partners are welcome—the more the merrier for this first ever mid-year dinner.

Councils on the prowl again over antennae

Remember all of the antics of Banyule Council over Mark VK3PI's 8 metre tower?

Well the same council has issued a bulletin to local residents regarding the installation of satellite dishes, so if you are an amateur with a passion for satellite TV, or use a dish for amateur radio applications, read on.



From the "Banner" , Banyule News of April 2004 comes the following:

"Over recent years, residents would have noticed a proliferation of satellite dishes particularly on domestic properties within residential areas. These dishes are often erected by satellite dish companies on behalf of individuals so that they can receive overseas or long distance telecommunications and television programs. Many of these dishes are small and appropriately positioned, but others can be quite large and create an unsightly visual intrusion in residential areas.

Regulations often don't keep pace with changes in technology and until recently it was not entirely clear whether these installations required Council approval. However, a change to all Victorian Planning Schemes introduced by the State government last year has made it clear that a planning permit must be obtained for the installation of a satellite dish with a diameter greater than 1.2 metres in a residential area. There are exemptions for dishes which have a diameter of between 1.2 metres and 2.4 metres and are not visible from an adjoining property.

Property owners are advised to obtain approval from Council before installing a dish, or authorising the installation by another party if it does not meet the above exemptions.

The illegal installation of a satellite dish could attract a Planning Infringement Notice with a fine of between \$500 and \$1000 and a requirement to remove the dish.

If residents have any further queries regarding local requirements relating to satellite dishes they should contact Council on 9457 9808."

BUT WAIT, THERE IS MORE.....

The same Council (Banyule) placed the following notice in the Diamond Valley Leader of March 17, 2004.....

"Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 190 (3) of the Local Government Act 1989, Banyule City Council intends to lease land to Hutchison 3G Australia Pty. Ltd at 50 Chapman Street Macleod.....

Well, on the one hand Council does not like antenna's but on the other bring on the commercial vendors with money to spend!

Maybe we should rename ham radio masts to 5 G or 7 T and that way we would get better reception from Councils!

Pity the poor folk of Kosovo (right) if a Council tries to regulate the satellite dishes and antenna's on their building!!



Laughter is a medicine

Letters to council can vary in seriousness—consider the following:

- I wish to complain that my father hurt his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage;
- I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof. I think it was bad wind the other night that blew them off;
- My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?
- I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.
- Will you please send someone to mend the garden path. My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant;
- Will you please send a man to look at my water—it is a funny colour and unfit to drink;
- My lavatory seat has broken in half and is now in three pieces;
- I am a single woman living in a downstairs flat and would you please do something about the noise made by the man on top of me every night;
- Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like to have a third so please send someone around to do something about it;
- The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared;
- It's the dogs mess I find hard to swallow.



Don't forget to support WANSARC and Preston Rotary in the 2004 Raffle.

If you need tickets, see our Secretary Mark VK3PI and he will be happy to give you some.

Remember all sales assist the club and we are aiming to surpass our previous efforts of sales.

So snap to it, grab a book or three and assist our club.



VK3AWS activates during John Moyle Field Day 2004

The club frequency was chattering like a monkey in a freezer as the sun shone bright for the start of the John Moyle Field Day 2004. Bob VK3EL, Mick VK3CH and Chris VK3FY (with harmonic Nick in tow) were first onto Plenty Road heading north. Mark VK3PI was kept company whilst he made last minuted adjustments to a HF inverted vee, with Dan VK3DWH on the road despite a serious hand injury from the previous day.



The Three Wise Monkeys? No it's Mark, Nicholas and Chris generating lots of numbers for the John Moyle

By 10am many cars bristling a wide variety of antennae had made it to the Field Day site. Soon a flurry of activity converted the sterile countryside into a sea of cables, batteries, antenna's and rigs. With some pager interference from a commercial site nearby it was soon found that horizontal polarisation on 2 metres was the order of the day and that the newer amateur rigs with broadband receivers were pretty useless from front end desensitization. To the rescue Dan's old FT290R. Bob VK3EL had purchased a weird looking portable clothes line contraption which proved useful to hold the 2 metre and 70cm beams. Graeme VK3NE arrived to bolster our numbers and we were set for the starters whistle.

Our first contact was unsure as to whether he should be giving numbers out, but having convinced him that it was indeed starting time VK3AWS began in earnest to populate the airwaves. Mick VK3CH concentrated on 23cm with Ian VK3XIJ arriving soon after the start to lend moral support. Dan VK3DWH kicked off on 40 metres with his new FT7B – this rig provided many excellent contacts on HF. Chris VK3FY had a stranglehold on 70cm with Mark VK3PI jumping on any band given the opportunity. Gordon VK3YOD arrived mid afternoon (with harmonic Michael) and kept the seat warm on 6 metres.



Bob VK3EL had a theory on horizontal vs vertical polarisation and with the flick of a wrist and some "grunt work" Bob proceeded to swing both beams at all angles to test the theory. What a sight! 645 metres above sea level dancing with two beams and a tripod!! The VK3PI inverted vee for 40 metres was at a crazy angle but the results were fantastic.....whilst on 6 metres the vertical did an adequate job but a beam next year will make the contacts easier.

It was great to hear club members on the air on various bands giving VK3AWS numbers—Jock VK3UB with the strongest signal we have heard, Tony VK3BZT, Russell VK3BMR, Reg VK3KK, Grant VK3HFS and Bert VK3BH. It was also a time to reacquant with many amateurs including Gavin VK3HY, Ray VK3ACR and Jim VK3DBQ. The bands were quite good and on 2 metres conditions were so favourable that Ken VK3YXC, near Penshurst (31km east of Hamilton) was a strong signal and great point score for our club. Chris VK3FY scored the contact of the day on 2 metres just before the finish of our 6 hour multiple operator section stint, working VK5SR at Mount Gambier.



Danny VK3DWH getting amongst the 40Meter activity .

So how has the club faired in this, our first contest, for many years. The jury is still out as our logs and points are still being reviewed, however judging by the number of contacts we scored in our 6 hours of operation compared to those in the 24hour sections heard the next day, we did reasonably well. The breakdown of contacts claimed is:

HF	27 contacts	6 metres	25 contacts
2 metres	63 contacts	70cm	44 contacts
23cm	15 contacts	TOTAL	174 contacts

Of course the number of contacts is not as important as the distance over which the contacts were worked, as the higher the distance on VHF the greater the number of points. So accurate calculations on distance between our location and that of stations worked is paramount in confirming the number of points scored.

Mention should be made of special visitors during the day—Helen and Danielle (XYL and harmonic of Dan VK3DWH respectively). Helen became a field day hostess by serving some scrumptous egg and bacon pie to hungry operators. The PI had no second thoughts on consuming PIE—and delicious it was. In fact food was not one of our major problems as this commodity was laid on.

WANSARC VK3AWS

PRESIDENT: Grant Stowell VK3HFS

Telephone: 0419 007 718

SECRETARY: Mark Stephenson VK3PI

Telephone: 0425 768 320

Email: wansarc@wia.org.au

All correspondence to be addressed to the SECRETARY:

PO Box 336

RESERVOIR 3073



WANSARC CLUB PROFILE

History

The Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club (WANSARC) was first formed in 1969 and since then has served the needs and interests of amateur radio operators, short wave listeners and those interested in hobby radio and electronics. The club is not gender specific, having both female and male members. Members come from all walks of life with a mix of experience, young and mature, novice and technical. The most important aspect of the club is the willingness of all members to share their knowledge for the benefit of others. Members mainly reside in the west and north of Melbourne, however membership is encouraged from all interested.

Meetings

From September 2003 Building K, Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology (NMIT), St. Georges Road, Preston (western side between Bell Street and Cramer Street) Melway 18 E12

Meetings held on the 1st Friday of each month (excluding January) commencing at 8.00pm local time. Talk in on 146.450MHz FM—call club station VK3AWS.

Benefits

Free technology and related presentations, sponsored construction activities, discounted (and sometimes free) equipment, network of like minded radio and electronics enthusiasts, excellent club facilities and environment.

Club Nets

146.450MHz FM each Tuesday evening commencing 7.30pm local time. Linked to Echolink for intrastate, interstate and international stations participation.

More Information

Website: www.wansarc.org.au

Committee: Bob VK3EL, Tony VK3JED, Gordon VK3YOD, Grant VK3HFS, Mark VK3PI
Dan VK3DWH

Email: wansarc@wia.org.au

Secretary: Mark Stephenson VK3PI vk3pi@optusnet.com.au

Postal: WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073

VK3AWS

A proud tradition of supporting hobby radio and electronics