

WANSARC NEWS

Incorporated in Victoria, 1985 Registration Number: A0007611S

The monthly magazine of the club celebrating its 35th year,



Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club

Melbourne, Australia



VK3AWS



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DELIVER TO:

If not delivered within 7 days, please return to: WANSARC P.O. Box 336 Reservoir 3073

NEXT MEETING Friday 3rd June 2005, at 19.30 hours

This months meeting features a presentation from Mark VK3PI, Demonstrating exotic modes using computers using Mix-W Software, with SSB, AM, FM, CW, BPSK31, QPSK31, FSK31, RTTY, Packet (HF/VHF), Pactor (RX only), AMTOR (FEC), MFSK, Hellschreiber, Throb, Fax (RX only), SSTV and MT63.

The next day after the WIA meeting in Canberra, a group of members visited the Tidbinbilla Deep Space Tracking Station. Complete with a tour of the control centre and computer systems and antenna farms it was a unique day for WIA members to drool at some of the sheer VHF-UHF-EHF and higher TX & RX equipment in use to track the Solar system and our probes out on Mars and beyond. Taking CQ DX to the full reaches of space.

Visit <http://www.cdsc.nasa.gov/> to see more on this Australian facility,

The first to get images of the first moon landing, as you may have seen on the movie "The Dish".



Around the shack, News & Stuff

2

The Wireless Institute Of Australia Open Forum, Canberra, 7 May 2005

3

WANSARC Club Profile

10

Around the Shack, News & Stuff

WIA AGM - CANBERRA

Your editor, along with my Dad, VK3IV (ex:VK3CH) attended the WIA Annual General Meeting in Canberra, the first since the WIA went National. Many issues were discussed and a very nice dinner had afterwards were more discussions continued with invited ACA delegates dining as well. I am sure the meeting, along with photos, will be covered in much detail in AR magazine so I am only printing copies of the discussion papers circulated at the AGM in this month's issue. All I can say is the whole meeting was very well run, cut straight to the point, covered a wide range of relevant issues and the comments and discussions were firm, frank but civil and sensible. It's easy to see that Michael Owen has been involved in the legal profession by the way the meeting was conducted in an orderly manner, achieving lots in a short time. I'm told by some it was not always this way!
WIA AGM Papers, page 3, regular columns return next month.

ACA & ABA Merge Due in 1st July 2005

A major challenge facing the ACA as an organization in 2005 will be the merger with the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) to create the Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA) nominally from 1 July. This new organization will be in a better position to work with and regulate a rapidly converging communications sector in which technology is evolving swiftly and the regulatory boundaries are constantly shifting. ACMA will take on the existing responsibilities of the ACA and the ABA and regulate telecommunications, radiocommunications, broadcasting and online content. The relationships developed by ACA and ABA staff with key stakeholders over many years will be further enhanced under the ACMA banner. The need for ACMA to be aware of demand side issues, as well as provide consumers with up-to-date information on industry developments, will grow as the converged industries further develop. The Consumer Bulletin will continue to be a primary means by which we will raise issues and present consumer information.

From ACA website

VK AMATEUR RADIO REFORMS DELAY

The Australian Communications Authority has put back by four months the introduction of a package of reforms for amateur radio. WIA President Michael Owen VK3KI has described as "very disappointing" the advice just received from the ACA that the reforms are now not able to be introduced until the third quarter of 2005. In a public statement issued on 31 May 2004, the ACA Acting Chairman, Dr Bob Horton announced details of the new license restructure including the introduction of the new entry level Foundation License. Dr Horton said 12 months ago, "We expect the new arrangements to come into force early next year." The reforms were part of the outcomes of the ACA's review of amateur service regulation that began in August 2003, involved extensive public consultation involving more than 1,300 submissions. The amateur radio fraternity and those seeking to enter the hobby via the proposed new Foundation License will share the WIA's extreme disappointment. The cause of the delay was not immediately known. (*probably on account of happenings in the previous article! – Ed*)

Amateur Radio Victoria

Managing interference from Broadband over Power Lines

The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) today called for public comment on possible ways to manage interference from Broadband over Power Line (BPL) communications. BPL communications is an emerging technique that uses electricity networks to transmit data, voice and video. Releasing a discussion paper on the issue, ACA Acting Chairman Dr Bob Horton said the challenge for the ACA was to establish arrangements that did not unnecessarily inhibit BPL deployments but protected radiocommunications services from unacceptable interference. "The paper contains a range of options that could be used to manage interference from BPL systems and will assist interested parties in preparing their submissions," Dr Horton said. "Using the electricity network to carry BPL signals will result in leakage of radiofrequency emission into the surrounding

environment. This could interfere with radiocommunications services. "Interference could potentially affect defense operations, shortwave broadcasting, maritime and aeronautical communications, radio astronomy, amateur radio and numerous short range applications." Dr Horton said submissions and comments on the options in the discussion paper would assist the ACA to develop arrangements to manage interference from BPL communications systems. The deadline for written submissions on the discussion paper is Friday 24 June. They should be sent to: Manager BPL Project Team, Australian Communications Authority PO Box 78 BELCONNEN ACT 2616 Submissions can also be emailed to bpl.issues@aca.gov.au or faxed to (02) 6219 5231. The discussion paper can be found on the ACA website. Hard copies may be requested by email to bpl.issues@aca.gov.au or by calling 1300 850 115.

Gippsland Gate Hamfest

On the 16th of July 2005 the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club shall be conducting their annual HAMFEST SALE for the sale of new and used electronics and radio equipment. As with last year the venue shall be at the Cranbourne Community Hall on the corner of Clarendon and High Streets, Cranbourne. (High Street is part of the Sth Gippsland Highway, Melway 133 K4) Some 40 tables will be available for stall holders, but demand will be very high. Please book early to avoid Disappointment. Observe the following details regarding bookings: Table hire will be \$20 per table. Table hire provides access for TWO persons to operate the stall. This will also include two tickets to the door prize and free tea/coffee throughout the day. The \$20 fee must be paid in full to the Club before the event in order to reserve a table. Cancellations made more than 14 days prior to the event will be given a full refund by cheque. To make a booking contact Dianne Jackson on (03) 5625 2545. Or email details to hamfest@ggrec.org.au Payment may be made by sending a cheque or money order (payable to 'GGREC') to Post Office Box 1098 Cranbourne 3977 or by direct payment to: BSB 063607 ACC 1015 7247. When making a table booking, Stall Holders will be asked to provide a Name, Postal address and Contact phone number. Upon receipt of the \$20 fee and contact details, a Booking Number will be posted with a receipt of payment. IMPORTANT! No booking is confirmed until this number has been received by the Stall Holder. Access to the Hall shall be from 8:30am for Stall Holders (not later than 9:30 am unless by arrangement) and 10:00am for buyers. Last year, the sale was a great success with many hundreds of people through the door in our large Cranbourne Venue, making it a premier event for radio markets in this state. All proceeds from the sale will contribute to the GGREC fund for their new Club Shack & project room and to help promote Amateur Radio in the region.

From ACA website & WIA AGM Meeting, Canberra

Bad Boy

Reputed Los Angeles-area repeater jammer and former Amateur Radio licensee Jack Gerritsen was taken off the air and into custody this week. Acting on a criminal complaint, FBI special agents, accompanied by personnel from the FCC Los Angeles Field Office, arrested the 68-year-old Gerritsen without incident early May 5 at his home in Bell, California. Federal agents also confiscated Gerritsen's radio equipment. "A criminal complaint filed Wednesday afternoon charges Gerritsen with a felony charge of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license," said a May 5 statement from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. "The two charges carry a potential penalty of 11 years in federal prison."

At an initial court appearance May 5, bond was set at \$250,000 "fully secured." A spokesman in the US Attorney's office explained that Gerritsen will have to post property or cash to be released, but that it will be several days before the necessary paperwork is ready--assuming that Gerritsen is able to make bail. Once released on bond, Gerritsen would be subject to home detention and barred from possessing any radio equipment, the spokesman

said, adding that Gerritsen's house would remain subject to search to make sure. Unless Gerritsen is indicted beforehand, a preliminary hearing in the case is set for May 25, with arraignment to follow on May 31. The criminal complaint says an FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen "transmits his prerecorded political messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time, often making it impossible for licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies." Gerritsen already faces a total of \$52,000 in FCC-imposed or proposed forfeitures for alleged interference. In March, the FCC denied a Petition for Reconsideration and upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. Gerritsen has yet to pay the fine. An FBI affidavit sworn out this week in advance of obtaining a search warrant of Gerritsen's residence indicates that FCC agents have been investigating multiple instances of unlawful radio transmissions and malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen over the past four years. FCC agents on a regular basis have been monitoring radio transmissions said to be coming from Gerritsen. They've also spoken with him in person and asked to inspect his station, although earlier FCC documents say he refused that request. In addition to Amateur Radio repeater communications, Gerritsen is alleged to have interfered with Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) transmissions. The FCC also reported that it has received complaints from other government agencies that Gerritsen interfered with local and state police and fire agencies, the American Red Cross, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and other radio services. A MARS training exercise in March had to be canceled as a result of interference attributed to Gerritsen. Earlier this week, Gerritsen, who briefly held the call sign KG6IRO as a Technician licensee and still uses it on the air, was taken into custody by Bell, California, police officers on an unrelated contempt of court citation after violating the terms of a temporary restraining order (TRO) a local radio amateur had obtained to keep Gerritsen off a local repeater. He was released without bond after being held for a few hours and was reported back on area repeaters not long afterward. Radio amateurs on the West Coast have been complaining for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los Angeles-area repeater owners have taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen. Five years ago, Gerritsen was convicted in state court of interfering with police radio transmissions and sentenced to 38 months in prison. Following his release in July 2003, the FCC soon began receiving complaints about Gerritsen's activity on the airwaves, according to this week's criminal complaint. Yang's office said the FBI "received substantial assistance" from the FCC in the case.

From ARRL Website

AWARD: "POPE JEAN PAUL II - DXSPEDITIONER OF PEACE"

The section ARI of Sala Consilina (SA), ITALY, desiring to honor and to remember Karol Wojtyla , Pope Jean Paul II has founded the award "JEAN PAUL II - DXSPEDITIONER OF PEACE".

General requirements: Awards are available to all amateurs and SWLs for worked or heard at least 40 countries for BASE award of the 131 countries visited by Jean Paul II during his pontificate; 80 countries worked or heard for SILVER award and 131 countries worked or heard for GOLD award. All the bands assigned to the Radio Amateur Service and all the modes are allowed, satellites included. There are 4 versions of the award: MIXED, PHONE, CW , DIGITAL MODES. To claim the Award the QSL cards are not required but they must be in possession of the applicant and could be requested anytime for checks. To receive the forms for the award application and the list of the 131 countries visited by Pope Jean Paul II you can write to the award manager IZ8AJQ Erminio iz8ajq@amsat.org to receive them on your email address. The fee is 10 Euro or 12 Dollars. To receive the Award as registered mail please add 3 Euro or 4 Dollars. Application forms must be sent to this address: ARI SEZIONE SALA CONSILINA, CASELLA POSTALE N.11, CAP 84036 SALA CONSILINA (SA), ITALY.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them "Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down." It's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's"

Gippsland Technical Conference Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 July

Program

Formal sessions to be held on Saturday, followed by the Conference Dinner. Sunday will have some time available for some short talks, practical demonstrations of microwave equipment and techniques. Lunch will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday. The cost of lunch is NOT included in the registration fee. An informal dinner will be held at the Morwell Hotel / Motel - 311 - 327 Princes Drive, Morwell on Friday evening at 19:30 hours. Please book when you register so that we can ensure enough seats! Costs - To Be Advised

Travel Directions:

The Conference venue is the Churchill campus of Monash University, located approximately 170km east of Melbourne. The area is well serviced by road and rail. Travel along the Princes Highway towards Morwell, staying on the freeway. Once at Morwell, look for the Churchill / Monash University Exit (east side of Morwell). Take this Exit, traveling south for 8 km to Churchill. In Churchill, turn left at the first roundabout (just past the first set of pedestrian lights) at Switchback/Northways Roads (signpost). Travel to the next roundabout and turn Left into McDonald Way (signpost). Turn Right at the first sealed entry into the University grounds (North car parks) (signpost), then right into the N5 car park. Enter the building in front of you (via the Boardwalk) and look for the signs.

Talk In:

The WIA (Vic. Div.) Eastern Zone Amateur Radio Club (Inc) will be listening on the Latrobe Valley Repeater VK3RLV on 146.800MHz (output) from about 0900 Saturday.

Accommodation:

Hotel / Motel accommodation is available in Morwell or Traralgon. There are also some good B&B establishments in the area. The Morwell Hotel Motel has a number of rooms reserved for the Conference - first in, first served. The Morwell Hotel Motel can be contacted on 03 5134 1355.

Contact details:

If you have any inquiries regarding the Conference, contact the Organizing Committee through one of the following means:

Mail: PO Box 459, MOE, 3825. E-mail: vk3kai@qsl.net or wredgar@net-tech.com.au or vk3bez@qsl.net or Phone: Peter Freeman 0427 388 044 or Ralph Edgar 0428 870481 also <http://www.qsl.net/vk3bez/> Proceedings from the 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Conferences will be available for sale at this year's event (while stocks last).

(Your editor is intending to attend both days; a report on the event will appear here, keen to get back up on 10 GHz - Ed)

WANSARC 1 ST JULY MEETING AT TINAS PIZZA

Just a reminder that the next meeting in July 1st will be at Tina's Pizza restaurant, NOT at the NMIT TAFE College.

VK TRANS TASMAN CONTEST - WEEK 1

The 80 Meter Phone part of the contest was held under the VK3AWS banner on Saturday 21st May. Graeme has reckoned our score at 767 points. He will also host the 160 Meter stint on Saturday 9th July. I also enjoyed a nice BBQ and I'm sure another one will be put on for the 160 Meter contest, starting around 5.00pm. Graeme certainly has a low noise floor at his quiet QTH. RSVP dinner and microphone with VK3NE next club meet.

ACA CUTS DELAY FOR NEW LICENCES

The Australian Communications Authority is now working to reduce the delay in introducing the new three-tier amateur licence restructure that had initially been expected to begin earlier this year. The ACA had announced early in May that it was not able to implement a wide ranging package of amateur regulatory reforms before the third quarter of 2005 - a delay of at least six months on its original time-line. The Wireless Institute of Australia at its annual general meeting early this month unanimously passed a resolution expressing concern at the delay and particularly in relation to the introduction of the much anticipated new Foundation Licence. WIA President Michael Owen VK3KI began immediate discussions with the ACA asking that the new three-tier licence

structure be introduced without further delay, and seeking this to occur by 30 June. ACA acting chairman, Dr Bob Horton has now responded to advise that the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences will be introduced in the 'quickest time practical', while not being to guarantee this will be by the end of June. Dr Horton said there will be two steps in implementing changes for the Amateur Service, with the three tier licence system being first, and the rest of the reforms such as a class licence for visiting overseas radio amateurs to occur at a later time. WIA President Michael VK3KI said he is grateful for the ACA's response and understands that it is now making every effort to introduce the new licence structure as soon as possible.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria*

THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA OPEN FORUM, CANBERRA, 7 May 2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Michael Owen, VK3KI,
President, on behalf of the Board

1. Introduction

This report is submitted to the Open Forum to be held immediately following the formal Annual General Meeting on 7 May 2005, and outlines the activities of the WIA since 16 May 2004, and is submitted on behalf of all the directors. It does not repeat the formal matters set out in the Directors Report submitted with the Annual Accounts to the AGM, but has been prepared in consultation with all of the directors. It is convenient to commence at the time that the former Federal Council, the representatives of all of the then members of the WIA, passed the Special Resolution adopting a new Constitution and creating the single, national body. It is also convenient to bring this report up to date, and go beyond the period covered by the accounts ending 31 December last. I report briefly on some matters the subject of separate reports to be submitted to the Open Forum.

2. People

In the last 7 months the WIA lost 3 staunch supporters, leaving gaps that are very hard to fill. Last October we lost Henry Andersson, VK8HA, national Intruder Watch Coordinator until shortly before his death. In January we lost Peter Naish, VK2BPN, WIA secretary, a former Federal President and Chairman of Directors of IARU Region 3. In late April this year we lost Ron Smith, VK4AGS, national Education Coordinator.

The role of national Intruder Watch Coordinator is currently being undertaken by director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU, as we look for a suitable replacement. Chris Jones, VK2ZZD is currently filling the role of secretary. June Fox, the cheerful voice of the WIA for nearly 18 years will retire for health reasons within a few weeks, though I am sure that she will remain available to help us with her incredible knowledge of the WIA. I cannot tell you how much I have valued her cheerful assistance and unbelievable commitment to the WIA. We have engaged Ms Judith Oliver to take over that position, and who is currently working with June to learn as much as she can. Judith comes with a teaching and charitable organization background, and has much experience that will be very useful for us. In November 2004, Vice President Ernie Hocking resigned from the Board, and Robert Broomhead, VK3KRB was appointed director to fill the vacancy thereby created. Ewan McLeod, VK4ERM was appointed Vice President.

3. Board

Since 16 May 2004 the Board has met in person twice, communicated continuously by phone and email, and has formally adopted 64 resolutions outside the face to face meetings by written resolution signed by all directors, of which 38 dealt with the admission of new members and 14 related to the affiliation of clubs.

4. Office

The office continues to manage the membership applications and renewals, and from that the mailing lists for AR as well as the WIA Exam System and the very many other activities associated with the WIA. Initially I was the only director or officer in Melbourne, so I took particular responsibility for the office, and with the appointment of Robert Broomhead as a director, some of that responsibility has been (thankfully) shared. In the last 11 months we have addressed and are addressing a number of issues associated with the office. Shortly after the restructure a new but

inexpensive laser printer and a new facsimile machine were purchased, and with the help of a small number of people a great deal of rubbish and old and unused equipment was sent to the tip and the office cleaned up. Priority of tasks were established so that banking is done at least every second day, more routines have been established, so that certain tasks are performed on the same day every week. In all, new efficiencies have been found, though we recognize that we still have some way to go. The need for efficiency has been very obvious over the last period, as from the adoption of the new Constitution new pressures immediately developed. Renewals were delayed, then a new form had to be developed, letters written to accompany the renewal notices, signatures required and many questions answered. Then, membership certificates and welcoming letters were printed and with help of a group from EMDRC, posted. In short, the restructure has led to many new tasks, and will continue to do as we establish new procedures, for example to deal with the new QSL obligations. The Board has set aside funds this year to update the basic membership software, so that we can have access to information more flexibly, and various requirements can be met automatically. In addition, sums have been set aside to acquire new hardware, including new PCs and a replacement photocopier multi tray printer. A further sum has been set aside to allow some office refurbishment and new equipment. We are extremely lucky that we have had assistance at least one day each week, and more often when we have got into trouble, from Brenda Edmonds.

5. Clubs

We have repeatedly stressed the importance of the clubs as the natural and synergistic means of attracting new amateurs, training new amateurs, assessing competency of new amateurs and providing the social centre for local amateurs and the source of opinion on matters that the WIA should consider. The Board has developed the criteria for affiliation as required by the Constitution, and finally, immediately before Christmas we were able to write to each club that we knew to invite affiliation and to tell them of the liability insurance that we had arranged to cover the WIA and its affiliated clubs. 52 clubs have now become Affiliated Clubs of the WIA. Two of the directors have had a close association with their own clubs, we have conducted a clubs conference in Sydney, attended a conference of clubs in Melbourne and many directors have visited clubs, and in the past 11 months I have visited clubs in Townsville, Rockhampton, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Newcastle, Mildura, Ballarat, Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin and Alice Springs.

My lasting impression is of genuine interest, genuine goodwill and a concern for the future of amateur radio. We are now addressing what we believe to be the needs of clubs: we have developed and are lending posters, we have made available the Callbook for clubs to sell, to the best of our ability we have listed each club and (to the extent we have been able to extract it) relevant information about the clubs in both the Callbook and on the website. We are developing better pages of information and the ability to post information by clubs for clubs on our website. Unashamedly, we are asking the clubs for their support and for them to work with us to encourage more members, and to make sure that their members are also members of the WIA. I know that we must provide a service to clubs as well as to members of the WIA to justify their support. We have sought to identify the needs of the clubs at the various meetings we have attended, and are now working to meet those needs.

6. Club Grant Scheme

The Board has decided, subject to budget constraints, to offer a small number of grants to qualifying Affiliated Clubs in the 2006 financial year, following the previous VK4 model, where clubs are invited to make submissions for assistance for particular projects. Full details will be published later.

7. The Henry Andersson bequest

Henry Andersson, VK8HA, who had become a life member of the National Body as soon as he could, left the WIA his house and land at Humpty Do NT. The Estate is still being finalized, and the Board has decided to sell the property at the first available opportunity. I would like to acknowledge the assistance of local amateurs in dealing with this matter, particularly Gary Woods, VK8GW, and Karl Warchot, VK8CAW. Garry is acting on the WIA's behalf in organizing the clean up of the property, the

placement of insurance and the like, and liaising with the agents. Karl undertook the task of identifying radio equipment of value for the Trustee, arranging for its sale and accounting to the Trustee.

8. Publications

Since May last year we have attempted to achieve a much closer integration with the Publications Committee, with director Ted Thrift taking special responsibility for Publications and the Callbook. Ted by phone, and myself in person, have attended as many Publications Committee meetings as possible. I believe that we should all be grateful to those who contribute to and put together a magazine that I think has improved significantly over the last period. In particular, I thank Colwyn Low, Editor of AR and Brenda Edmonds, who makes the Callbook happen.

7. Broadcasts

At the end of July 2004 the Q-News team led by Graham Kemp, VK4BB, became the national WIA News team, providing ever since a totally professional weekly broadcast, replacing the state based divisional broadcasts. The only criticism I have heard is that it is too professional! However, it seems that most do not regard that as a failing. Thanks to the many who make these broadcasts so wide ranging and interesting, and particularly Graham Kemp, VK4BB.

8. WIA Website

The WIA website is extensively used, with all releases and as much other information as possible being found there. It has been the primary tool for providing information in a timely way. Perhaps it has grown a little too quickly, and currently we are investigation making it a little more user friendly, and a little easier to find things. Particular thanks to Cohn Thompson, VK2TRC, who we seem to approach on an almost daily basis.

9. WIA Information

Through the website, broadcasts and AR, the Board has sought to ensure that as much information as possible in relation to what the WIA is doing is made available as quickly as possible. Particular thanks go to Chris Jones, who has really done his best to ensure that as much information as possible is posted on the site just as quickly as possible.

10. Representation

The WIA, through various officers, groups and individuals represents the amateur service to various authorities. In August the WIA sought changes to the Australian Spectrum Plan, and in the result the 3776-3 800 kHz "DX window" was added to the Plan, and the band 1825-1875 kHz was allocated primary status. Also in August, the WIA made submissions that were ultimately successful in relation to the 5.6 GHz band. The WIA is represented on the Preparatory Groups working on WRC-07, and Australia now proposes a table entry, rather than a footnote, to allocate the band 135.7 — 137.8 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis. The WIA has made submission to the ACA in respect of the allocation of spot frequencies around 5MHz, as has been done in the USA among others. To date, these submissions have been rejected, and the Board is considering its position.

A major issue has been the restructuring of the amateur service, proposed by the ACA in its Outcomes paper, published last May, and of particular interest is the Foundation License. A specialist group has prepared draft syllabi for all levels, and the WIA has proposed what it argues is a better assessment system, with the accreditation of assessors. Against this background, it is really disappointing that the implementation of these proposals, originally promised for March, still remain at some undefined time in the future. In addition, the WIA has, from time to time, made submissions on various aspects of the restructure, or in response to invitations from the ACA to comment. BPL interference has emerged as a major global issue, and the group led by director Phil Wait has continually released information. Now the ACA has released its discussion paper, and the task is to provide a reasoned and reasonable response to that. With the death of Peter Naish, and the emergence of standards as becoming potentially relevant to the fight against BPL interference, we have restructured our representation on the various committees of Standards Australia, with David Wardlaw in Melbourne, John Bishop in Sydney and Gilbert Hughes in Canberra. There is no doubt that the WIA has, in its first year restructured as a national body, faced more challenges and threats than anyone believed possible at the start of the year. I believe that the organization,

thanks to the help of so many individuals with backgrounds, skills and experience built over many years, responded competently and I hope is becoming perceived as the responsible voice of amateur radio. We can only thank those who give of their time and skill, often with very little public recognition to these tasks.

11. Marketing, Image

The Board has agreed that new and more up to date material including posters and brochures promoting amateur radio and the WIA are needed. Robert Broomhead is the director accepting primary responsibility for these tasks and he has already produced 4 new posters that attracted favorable comment when displayed at the WIA stand at the Wyong Field Day. The posters can be made available by way of loan for a club event, or can be purchased by a club.

12. Membership

Renewals due since 1 July 2004 to end April 2005 amounted to 3472. Membership actually renewed amounted to 3151, or about 91%. In the year previous to the last financial year some 240 new members joined the WIA. In the time since 16 May 2004 there have been 323 new members. If you add those new members to the members who have renewed, the total is 3494, virtually the same number as the previous year. So long as we can keep attracting new members and keep our existing members, hopefully the future is bright. Your Board cannot stress too strongly how important it is to ensure that our membership is not merely static, but growing.

13. Membership categories and subscription rates

The Board has decided to introduce a Family category of membership, available to a second and further persons living at the same address as a Member receiving AR, the Family member not receiving AR, with an annual subscription rate of \$40 per year. The WIA will also offer a 5-year subscription for all existing categories of membership except Student Membership, costing 5 times the single year rate for each category, less approximately 5%.

14. Advisory Committees

The WIA Constitution requires Advisory Committees, initially the Divisional Councilors of the former Divisions, after 3 years elected, to advise the Board. We have allowed the Advisory Committees to evolve, as the best way to allow for the differences between the various states. Now we accept that we must start to use that resource, and the Board has recently resolved to ensure that each Advisory Committee has a WIA Nominee, and through the WIA Nominee in particular, improve the two way information flow with the Advisory Committees by the appointment of an Advisory Committee Liaison Manager. That person will need to be totally familiar with the Board's policies and views, and have the responsibility to receive information and provide information and guidance. That matter is current.

15. QSL Service

As part of the formal transition from a federal to national structure the WIA promised to provide a QSL service at no cost for WIA members. Ewan McLeod is the director responsible for implementing that promise, and it has now been decided that the existing inward system would be retained, that the Westlake Amateur Radio Club would undertake consolidation of all out ward cards, retaining existing reception points, with them forwarding to Westlake as required. Information is currently being distributed directly to those involved, and the QSL Bureau Expense Claim Form and instructions as to its use are on the WIA website. The WIA is now able to say that it is providing a QSL service at no cost for all national WIA members.

16. QSL Curator

Ken Matchett, VK3TL continues to collect the most interesting and most important QSL cards, a function we do not always recognize. More information about this function will be placed in AR from time to time.

17. Implementation Agreements

The so called "Implementation Agreements" were entered into with each former Division, in the case of the Divisions that were wound up, (Queensland, South Australia and NT, Western Australia and Tasmania) for the benefit of their members, and with the Divisions continuing as an entity, CRARC, ARV and ARNSW, setting out the basic relationship between the former Division and the WIA. The last of these agreements was entered into just before Christmas

last, with the New South Wales Division, now Amateur Radio New South Wales. While these agreements took a lot of time, hopefully they represent the final step in a process that did not end on 16 May 2004, when the Federal Council, in effect, voted itself out of existence and created the national WIA.

The national Contests Co-ordinator is Ian Godsil, VK3JS, who has submitted a report to the Open Forum, and some contests are managed by a separate manager as follows:

Ross Hull Contest: John Martin, VK3KWA, John Moyle Field Day: Dennis Johnston, VK3ZUX, Remembrance Day Contest: Northern Corridors Radio Club, VK6ANC, Oceania DX Contest: Tony Burt, VK3TZ (Conducted alternate years with NZART)

The Board has relied heavily on the expertise of these people and we thank them for their efforts.

19. Awards

Malcolm Johnson, VK6LC is the national Awards Co-ordinator, and has spent much time updating the WIA awards to reflect the new structure, and enhance the WIA awards as described in his report. We thank Malcolm for his enthusiastic support.

20. Merit Awards

The Board recently reviewed the WIA Merit Awards, Honorary Life Membership being covered by the Constitution, but updating the rules of the G A Taylor Medallion award, the Ron Wilkinson Achievement Award and President's Commendation. Further announcements relating to the WIA merit awards will be made.

21. Conclusion

I have not covered all of the activities of the WIA in this overview. Most are covered in other reports submitted to the Open Forum. Each of us who accepted a role on the board of the WIA after the adoption of the new Constitution was very aware of the difficulties that faced us and the importance of somehow doing our best to persuade those who were unconvinced that the WIA could not merely perform as well as it had under its old federal structure, but could perform better. Whether that has been achieved is for you to judge. But I can assure you that each of us has devoted a great deal of time and effort into making this "new" WIA meet the expectations of the many who supported it. I would thank all of the directors, our secretary Chris Jones, and our Treasurer David Pilley for all that each of them has done to make the last year as successful as I believe it has been. Finally, I would thank all the amateurs, members and non-members, who have given me encouragement. We now must face the challenge of the next year.

REPORT ON ITU MATTERS 2005

David Wardlaw, VIK3ADW,

ITU AND INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY COORDINATOR

WRC Preparation

It is now two years since WRC-03 and at this conference the provisional Agenda was set for WRC-07 which is scheduled to be held in September 2007 although it is possible that the date could slip. On the agenda, which was endorsed at a meeting of the ITU Council, are two items of great importance to the amateur service. The first is Agenda Item 1.13. The section of this agenda item which is of interest to amateurs, relates to the review of the allocations to all services in the HF bands between 4 MHz and 10 MHz, excluding those allocations to services in the frequency range 7000 - 7200 kHz. The second is Agenda Item 1.15. which is to consider a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the frequency band 135.7-137.8 kHz. The LF band issue first arose out of a Canadian proposal at WRC-03 to create a footnote giving the amateur service secondary access to the band 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. Some administrations claimed that it was not strictly within the agenda. Although supported it was decided to add it to the agenda for WRC-07 in order for further sharing studies to take place. As soon as a WRC is concluded work starts on the preparation for the next conference. This task is given the ITU Radiocommunications Sector Study Groups, who prepare possible ways of satisfying the agenda items, giving the reasons for their decisions. At the September 2004 at a meeting of ITU Study Group 8, Working Party 8A (which deals with Amateur issues) there was a proposal that the agenda item could be satisfied by just a footnote to the table. And this was supported by the Working party. In Australia, the ACA IRAC Preparatory Group for WRC 07 agreed with a WIA submission, that an entry in the

18. Contests

Trevor Quick is the director who takes primary responsibility for Contests and Awards, though Chris Jones has undertaken a number of specific tasks in this area.

Frequency Table of the Radio Regulations would be a more satisfactory solution. A proposal that a second method of satisfying the agenda item was to have a table entry was forwarded by Australia to the March 2005 meeting of WP8A. This proposal was aired at the February meeting of the APT APG2007 and received support. WP8A has accepted the Australian proposal that would give the amateur service greater security on the band. At WRC 03 the solution to the 7MHz issue was only partially completed as far as the amateur service is concerned and it was the result of a lot of difficult work. At WRC 07 all the bands between 4 and 10 MHz are to be examined with some exceptions, one being frequencies between 7 000 and 7 200 kHz. The Broadcasting Services are making a case for wider bands while other services claim they cannot give up any spectrum. No Australian way forward has surfaced as yet. Australian preparation for WRC-07 is being carried out by the International Radiocommunications Advisory Committee Preparatory Group for WRC-07. The WIA is a member of this group along with all affected stakeholders. The WIA is also a member of Australian Radio Study Group 8 which is concerned with the work of ITU Study Group 8 which amongst other things, deals with a number of technical questions concerning the amateur and amateur satellite services. SG8 is very important to amateurs and its meetings are regularly attended by IARU representatives who unlike at a WRC have full rights of participation.

WIA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT 2005

John Martin, VK3KWA, Chairman

This annual report is quite brief because the past year has largely been business as usual. Activities have included the normal tasks of processing record claims, updating the data base material, and liaison with the state TACs, mainly in areas such as repeater frequency co-ordination. There is as yet no solution to the 70 cm LIPD problem. A plan has been developed in consultation for the state TACs on the most suitable alternative frequencies for 70 cm repeaters if the LIPD situation becomes intolerable. However it has been agreed that any change to the band plan should occur only if and when all states agree to adopt it. Such a changeover would be costly for repeater licensees, so for the time being it has been agreed to stick to the existing band plan and see how the situation develops. During 2003 it was necessary to give a great deal of attention to discussions with the ACA liaison team on the new license structure and its implications for the band plans. However in the last year the issue has occupied much less time because the WIA's policies appear to have been finalized and it is now just a matter of waiting for ACA to finalize the details. One question mark that has arisen during the past year is the structure of FTAC (now just "the TAC") as a part of the new national WIA. Of particular concern is the need to maintain close contact with the members of the liaison panel in each state. There has been some uncertainty as to whether the existing state TACs would continue, and if so what form they would take and how they would be appointed. I am anxious to see the existing arrangements continue, because a single TAC without state representatives would be too remote from the amateurs and clubs around the country. This would pose problems in a number of areas, especially the regular updating of the data base material which requires input from all states. I would strongly recommend that the state Advisory Committees which have replaced the Divisions should continue to formally appoint a state Technical Advisory Committee - or at least a state technical liaison officer - who will also become a member of the liaison panel of the national TAC. I wish to record my thanks to the members of the TAC liaison panel, and the technical panel, for their assistance and advice during the past year. Thanks also to Brenda Edmonds and to members of the Board for their support.

THE NATIONAL WICEN REPORT 2005

John Weir, VK3ZRV, National WICEN Coordinator

During the latter part of 2004 I had a request from Michael Owen to provide information regarding the activation of WICEN in various States to Alan Jordan of ACA. This was achieved after some problems as to contact points in the first instance. The intonation was eventually passed to Alan Jordan so as to enable him to formulate an LCD for WICEN in a case of National activation. As of this date I have not had any further correspondence on this matter. A request was made to me to clarify the Insurance for WICEN from VK6 which was clarified by Michael who contacted VK6 and I am assured that this matter has now been resolved. The final case for the year was in regard to a request from Michael to set up a National listening watch after the tsunami disaster on Boxing day. As I was about to go on holiday within an hour of receiving the request I enlisted the aid of Ken Fuller VK4KF (who had previously contacted me offering assistance should the need arise). Ken very quickly arranged with various VK4 and VK8 amateurs to set up a listening watch. I remained in contact with my son Andrew VK3HFT who very professionally passed information to me enabling me to proceed on holiday. Emergency Management Agencies were notified that WICEN had set up a listening watch and were given contact details should we be required to activate a support service. I must make mention of the way in which Ken handled the task set and the precise arrangements and Sop's he produced and put in place for the activation and I commend him and his team for the professionalism in which he achieved the answer to the original request. After a period of some two weeks, and there being no requests from other agencies I notified Ken to close down the watch and revert to normal operations. It is of interest to note that from the time of request to the time the watch was set in place was approx. 4 hours and as such it goes to show just how quickly an emergency activation can be achieved on a National basis.

REPORT ON AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

Colwyn Low, VKSUE, Editor

This is my sixth year as Editor and the magazine is still able to maintain a good standard. This is not due to my efforts but to the authors of the technical articles, the general articles and of course the authors of the regular columns. The regular columnists provide about half the magazine each month and theirs is the contribution that shows the breadth of Amateur Radio as a hobby in Australia. We would not have a magazine without them. Thanks to you all. When I took over from Bill Rice in 2000, articles were just ahead of the publication needs and if it had not been for Drew Diamond VK3XU and Peter Parker VK3YE there would have been little technical content. Today we still have a steady flow of articles from Drew but with contributions from Dale Hughes VK2DSH, Jim Tregellas VK5JST, Keith Gooley VK5OQ and many others I am now able to think about what goes with what in a particular issue. I do not seem to get too many brickbats so the magazine must have a good balance. However there is still not much on microwaves and digital modes submitted to AR. It was pleasing during the year to be asked by the RSGB for permission to use material from AR in a new book on aerials and have requests from other overseas magazines to reprint material from AR. The magazine is produced by the Publications Committee and the Editor. The Publications Committee meets monthly to review material submitted to AR, allocate vetting officers and review the last available issue of AR. This is to make sure we keep the standards as high as possible. While everyone works hard, special thanks are due to Bill Roper VK3BR who is secretary of the Publications Committee and receives and distributes articles as they are submitted to the magazine. Bill also prepares the final diagrams to the magazine's standard. He keeps the files of articles being vetted and those available for production. Finally, we need to record our continuing reliance on Gill Nieman who does all the setting up of the magazine for printing. All credit for the layout is hers, so while I determine the content, Gill sets it up to be eye catching and easy to read. Thanks Gill. John Nieman looks after the advertising and the distribution. Since we placed AR on the Newsstands we have been able to make a small profit to help with production costs and we are

selling a slowly increasing number of magazines each month. So all in all we have had a good year. It has been pleasing to have Ted Thrift VK2ARA Director and Michael Owen VK3KI President attend most of the Publication Committee meetings.

WIA VK3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT 2005

Jim Linton, VK3PC

At its meeting on 3 May, 2005, the WLAL VK3 Advisory Committee reviewed its activities during the first ten months of the restructured WIA. Highlights during that period were the holding of two very well attended meetings hosted jointly by the Advisory Committee and Amateur Radio Victoria. These were a VK3 Club Forum on 23 October 2004 at which the WIA President Michael Owen attended to address and respond to questions, and a VTAC Technical Meeting on 13 November 2004 of repeater owners and custodians. Reports on both were widely reported and appear on the WIA VK3 Advisory website www.amateurradio.com.au/vac which is detailed below along with a report on the weekly broadcast. The eight Advisory Committee members, at their meeting, also reviewed the WIA's Code of Ethical Conduct, under which they are bound in relation to their role on the Committee. They also looked forward to the expected further development of the roles of the now eight states and territory based WIA Advisory Committees.

Webpage

A dedicated webpage was set-up for the WIA VK3 Advisory Committee. It explains the role of the committee, includes a photo gallery and contact details. The webpage 'current activities' section has reported on the club Forum and the VTAC meeting that were held. It also included publicity for the WIA AGM and details on the revision of the Cal for the 2006 edition. The webpage is linked to the WIA National website and the other Advisory Committees.

Broadcast

The transmission of the VK1WJA broadcast twice on Sundays (1 1am and 8pm) via the VK3BWI network is proving to be very successful. While up to 30 stations check-in on the repeater session each Sunday morning the listening audience would be much larger. All are making positive comments and expressing appreciation for the VK 1 WIA broadcast and the Vic Link mini-broadcast which follows it. In addition to the VK3BWI network, radio clubs in Ballarat, Mildura and Gippsland have been relaying both the VK1WIA and Vic Link packages on Sundays; it has been aired via an Echolink Conference Server, and rebroadcast on 2-metres on Wednesdays by the EMDRC in Melbourne. Further possible increased penetration of the broadcasts is being considered. Vic Link has a webpage at <http://www.vk3news.info>

STANDARDS REPORT 2005

David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, Co-ordinator, Standards

Following the death of Peter Naish, who represented the WIA on Standards Australia Committee RCO06, WIA standards representation has been reorganized, with David Wardlaw, VK3ADW to attend Melbourne committee meetings, John Bishop, VK2ZOI Sydney meetings and Gilbert Hughes, VK1GH Canberra meetings, each reporting in sufficient detail to enable another member to attend the same committee in different cities. The WIA has membership in the following Standards Australia Technical Committees:

RCO06 Radiocommunications equipment—General

This Committee deals with standardization in the field of radio communications equipment intended for communications and distance signaling. Work is proceeding on the following: Draft Standard AS/NZS 5316.1 :200x This draft is called "General guidelines for fixed, mobile and broadcasting services independent of the operating frequency." The object of this Standard is to recommend good practice for, and to set out desirable outcomes in the planning, locating, constructing, commissioning, operating and decommissioning of radiocommunications sites. It addresses particularly the sharing of

radiocommunications sites and the management of sites to manage interference and to ensure regulatory compliance. This standard is not intended to apply to individual amateur stations but would apply to repeaters sharing sites with other users. WIA representatives have proposed an amendment to make it absolutely clear that the standard does not apply to individual amateur stations.

TEO07 Human exposure to electromagnetic fields.

This Committee is addressing the following tasks:

- The establishment of maximum permissible exposure limits for electromagnetic energy in prescribed frequency ranges for the purpose of preventing harmful biological effects to the human body;
- The establishment of principles and methods of measurement of relevant electromagnetic fields; and
- Liaising with other organizations as necessary regarding limits of exposure.

Work has commenced on redrafting of the standard AS2772.2 — 1988, called "Methods of measurement of electromagnetic interference and the use of associated Equipment." The existing Standard was last revised in 1988 and is a very old standard that is badly in need of updating. It is entirely to do with measurement and cannot make any changes to exposure levels. The work on this standard is in its early stages

Committee TEO03 Electromagnetic Compatibility

The prime functions of this Committee are to develop standards specifying:

- Limits of interference for protection of radio receptions;
- Levels of immunity to electromagnetic interference for electrical equipment; and
- Methods of measurement of electromagnetic interference and the use of associated equipment.

This Committee is responsible for the Australian EMC standards and examines IEC/CISPR standards (International Electro technical Commission International Radio Interference Committee) for adoption as Australian Standards. A number of members of the committee attend meetings of CISPR, participating in many of the Working Groups involved in the development of international standards.

A BPL Sub-committee of this Committee has been formed.

The WIA will be represented on this Sub-committee which has not yet commenced its work. It will probably work by email. There will be a CISPR meeting in Australia in 2007 with about 250 delegates from all over the world expected to attend. Some manufacturers rely on the CISPR 11 (ISM) standard to just higher ISM band emission levels from their products, even though the standard does not cover the product. They are also using these higher levels on frequencies outside the ISM bands, a further problem given the fact that much higher limits for interference are allowed in the ISM bands, another potential source of interference for communications services, including the amateur service. Committee members have raised objections to this practice.

BPL INTERFERENCE REPORT

Phil Wait, VK2DKN, Director, WIA, Coordinator, BPL Working Group

BPL interference is probably the greatest threat to amateur radio in its almost 100 year history. Radiation of electromagnetic interference on the HF amateur bands at levels stronger than the strongest signals commonly worked have been measured in areas of BPL deployment overseas and more recently, here in Australia. Widespread BPL rollout of current BPL technology would change the face of Amateur Radio dramatically, BPL interference would prevent use of the HF bands by most amateur stations in or close to BPL deployments, irrespective of whether the amateur subscribes to BPL derived telecommunications services. Early in the BPL debate the WIA made a strategic decision to focus its attention on the interference to radiocommunications services caused by BPL, and on the related regulatory. The WIA is focused on measuring and documenting the effect of BPL interference on amateur radio communications in order to mount a case for protection from "Substantial Interference" in accordance with si 97 of the Radiocommunications Act, 1992. Our pluralistic

society works by limiting the number of political actors through special interest groups such as the WIA, and as a special interest group the WIA can exert significant influence through its relationship with the ACA. Our relationship with the ACA is now excellent and we believe our submissions are being taken very seriously indeed. The WIA published an authoritative report "Institute of Australia Review of PLC/BPL in Australia December 2004" with assistance from the WIA's BPL Working Group and Owen Duffy and Keith Malcolm. In December 2004, the WIA wrote to the ACA expressing concerns for the observed radio interference from BPL deployments overseas and more recently in Queanbeyan, NSW. The WIA asked the ACA to make its own measurements of background noise levels and radiation of electromagnetic energy in the BPL trial areas; to act to mitigate the risk of interference to radiocommunications users during such trials; and to develop a policy for such trials including disclosure of key information about the trials. The WIA also stated its position that the ACA needed to consult with all radiocommunications users to determine appropriate standards to protect the important social and economic values of radiocommunications services in Australia. The ACA published its "BROADBAND OVER POWERLINE COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS BPL TRIAL GUIDELINES" in late January 2005, addressing most of the points raised by the WIA. Importantly, the ACA also stated its intention to release a discussion paper on BPL early in 2005. WIA BPL Working Group members David Wardlaw has represented the interests of amateur radio on numerous standards committees, and Barry White has attended conferences, presented information to clubs, and represented our interests in ARNSW. Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ and Rick Warnett, P29KFS have represented the BPL working group in New Zealand and PNG. Soundly documented BPL interference complaints to the ACA will be extremely important to resolution of the BPL interference threat. The WIA is taking a leadership role in a response to the expected wide scale trial of BPL Access technologies announced by Aurora Energy in Hobart. The WIA will assist local amateurs in measurement of background noise levels and anticipated BPL interference in the Hobart trials. This project will allow documentation of the interference environment in the trial area, and will assist any amateurs who may be directly affected by BPL interference to file soundly based interference complaints with the ACA. The current BPL situation is very complex and difficult, and the news is mixed on a daily basis. On our side, we have a good regulator in the ACA, who are much less politically influenced than their equivalent in the USA, the FCC. It is encouraging to see other Australian stakeholders such as the Department of Defense, the ABC, and many other HF radiocommunications services, especially safety of life services, are now actively lobbying for protection against BPL interference. The ACA announced a public consultation process with respect to BPL, and indicated that they would publish a discussion paper for public comment around April 2005. At the time of writing, that discussion paper has not yet been released. The WIA will respond to the anticipated ACA discussion paper on BPL.

We expect many radiocommunications users and stakeholders to make submissions to the forthcoming ACA public consultation process. Many of these organizations are closely monitoring the WIA website. The WIA publishes frequent updates on its website and in the WIA National News to inform members and others of its activities and other relevant news. I believe our strategic approach is the correct one, and it is proving effective. The WIA is well respected in the BPL debate, we have substantial support of other HF users, although not necessarily publicly, and a strong case to put. However our numbers are few and the WIA needs a strong membership to be effective. Thank you for your support.

AWARDS MANAGERS REPORT 2005

Malcolm K. Johnson, VK6LC, Awards Manager

Awards status

Total awards claimed over the past 12 months has been 109,45 VK and 64 DX. Total for 2004 was 73 and 2005 up to April is 33,

the trend is up for the same period. This year's trend has shown 21 DX and 12 VK, 1.75 :1 ratio which is fine.

Financial

We have been running in a cash flow deficit for many months and this has been boosted by donations to the Program and not by net income or trading. Year 2004 we were running a cash flow of \$240.33 at this period we are healthy with a cash flow balance of \$525.32 this has saved my life, generosity was received by the VK6WIA closing Council and faithful DX members.

The Awards Management

This year has seen me in many bad moods with having to update all my existing programs again, I refer to the development of the Federal awards to the W.I.A. Awards. To change all my award files, documents and managerial administration has consumed over 200 man hours. I am now on top of this and moving forward.

National website

In 8 months we saw two documents updated and after sending two CD with the complete up date of this site saw no positive development at all. In all cases for this period the existing web site files were now close on to eight months out of date. This is precisely what I went through 3 years ago and we cannot progress when others lower our world credibility. The National Awards website again has been relocated back to Perth on a new website sponsored by Robin Edwards VK6XRE, via VK6ZLZ and WARG. We have now direct access and control, it's being directly updated and will be on line in a few weeks time. The Board has to understand the awards website is not something that is posted and forgotten, as you all have heard just last week ZK1 South Cook Islands will change to E5A-E5Z Callsign prefix. This is a typical big change for many Awards files, not forgetting also to update our VK Call Book 2006. Without an efficient website then our worldwide famous awards system collapses and has no derived income.

New award releases

The official date for the release of our new Multiband DXCC Program along with the 3&5 Band Certificates will be 1 June 2005. This is now complete, and will go to the Website and AR magazine on that date along with World Wide advertising and other international websites, magazines promoting our new release. Again to all the Board members, this is the best and biggest thing that has happened to our awards program in 58 years. What we have to offer is now equal and better than any other world wide Amateur Radio Societies. To me a real milestone for the National W.I.A. and our membership. Financially all covered by our sponsors.

Awards Managers statement

To the W.I.A. Board and its membership, I have continued to work very hard under all circumstances leading the way for the W.I.A. Awards Program and see great prospects with its very bright future. Your support and tolerance has paid off, as we have progressed with results, I am certainly looking forward to the future with this new program and demonstrating enthusiasm with the existing. We as a National W.I.A. are achieving many things, and this has been one of them. I have no formal requests to make for this period. I am happy to stay committed to our W.I.A. Awards Program for another year, the best in the "World". We or I the manager of the W.I.A. Awards Program have not received any written formal complaints 2004-2005. (Only the National website complaints which have been resolved)

CONTEST REPORT 2005

Ian Godsil, VK3JS, National Contests Co-coordinator

Contesting in Australia is not regarded very highly by the majority of licensed Amateurs.

Remembrance Day Contest

As has always been the case, the RD remains the single event that captures widespread support. Certain sections within this contest have lost participation, but this may be due to the idea that the scoring system is "unfair". In fact, I would argue that the several years of thought that went into the establishment of the

present formula have produced a very fair marking system that allows for the vastness of Australia.

After the 2004 RD Contest, Alek Petkovic VK6APK, decided that it was time for him to step down as Manager. He had done the job for nine years and I ask that this Forum to take the opportunity to thank Alek for sterling work.

The new Manager will be Chris. Edmonson VK4AA.

Harry Angel Sprint

Recently held for 2005, this sprint generates a pleasing level of participation from VKs 2,3,4,5, & 7.

VK/trans-Tasman Contest

Has maintained its devotees and fosters strong co-operation between New Zealand and Australia. Privately sponsored by Bruce Renn VK3JWZ, he is to be congratulated for the time and effort that he puts into the event.

Oceania DX Contest

Organized in New Zealand with help from several VKS, remains our international contest. This appeals to the dedicated DX contesters and therefore fails to attract large numbers of ordinary operators. This is a shame, as many operators in overseas countries relish an opportunity like this to make contacts "down under".

Contest Loggers

Whilst it has been accepted that VKs are not widely motivated, I am still amazed at the small usage of logging programs by those who do participate. Many of these use their computers, but via Word Processors. This means quite a period of work after an event, as it would if they did everything by hand. Perhaps the answer here is to write about such loggers in the Amateur Radio Contest Column.

WIA Web Site

The contest section of this web site needs general expansion. Here I need to liaise with Mr. Quick and the webmaster to see what can be done.

Final Comment

Whilst each contest tends to attract its own group of participants, it has been pleasing to see the interest being taken by those call signs recently admitted to the HF bands. This is probably a strong factor in the decline of VHF participation, but no doubt a balance will be struck after a few years.

Computers - Male or Female?

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. "House" for instance is feminine: "la casa." "Pencil," however, is masculine: "el lapis." A student asked, "What gender is computer?" Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give 4 reasons for its recommendation. The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computadora"), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
 2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
 3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval.
 4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.
- The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ("el computador"), because:
1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on.
 2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves.
 3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.
 4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

WANSARC VK3AWS

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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

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

PARKING at NMIT- Members please note that parking adjacent to the club room building K is illegal and NMIT staff WILL book any cars which are parked in that area.

ALL members must park cars in the main car park to the WEST of building K. Just look for vehicles with lots of aerials!

Meetings held on the 1st Friday of each month (excluding January) commencing at 7.30pm 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. Sometimes transmitted on ATV via VK3RTV Linked to Echolink for intrastate, interstate and international stations participation, Echolink VK3FY Node # 20928, Repeater VK3RFY Echo IRLP Repeater Nodes Echolink Node # 3037, IRLP Node # 6079, 438.400MHz (-) offset, PL=123Hz (coming soon) 147.425MHz Simplex (cross-band linked) currently being updated, not currently always functioning, check on the actual night. This link is only brought up on the frequency of 146.450 MHz during the running of the WANSARC Net on Tuesday nights and *only when VK3FY is present at his QTH.* <http://members.tripod.com/~VK3FY/>

More Information

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A proud tradition of supporting hobby radio and electronics enthusiasts since 1969

All editors comments are the comments of Mick, VK3CH and may not always represent the opinions of other club members of WANSARC. In any case anything stated is to promote interest and active discussion on club activities and the promotion of Amateur Radio in general. Contributions to WANSARC are always welcome from any part of the world. Send text as ASCII, PDF, or Word, RTF, plain or HTML email, pictures in JPG format. You can either post material to the Post Office Box address at the top of this page, or email your submission to the editor direct at vk3ch@alphalink.com.au Email attachments not to exceed 4 Mb in file size. Attachments of (or thought to be) executable code will not be opened. Other persons or radio clubs may edit or copy out such as they like from the magazine but a reference to WANSARC is appreciated. Other articles that are credited to outside sources should be asked for their permission if they are used. While we strive to be accurate, no responsibility will be taken for errors, omissions, or other perceived deficiencies, in respect of information contained in technical or other articles.

Any dates given for upcoming events should always be checked with a reliable source – coming up on the weekly Tuesday evening NET on 146.450 MHz starting at 07:30 pm AEST is recommended to discuss and confirm information.