

# WANSARC NEWS

Incorporated in Victoria, 1985 Registration Number: A0007611S

The monthly magazine of the



Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club

Melbourne, Australia



 [www.wansarc.org.au](http://www.wansarc.org.au)

146.450 MHz FM **VK3AWS** 28.470 MHz USB

Volume No: 37

Issue 1

January

2006



Issued early on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2005

---

**WANSARC HAS NO CLUB "TAFE" MEETING IN JANUARY,  
BUT THERE IS ALWAYS THE 'MEETING' AT Bundoora Park**

## WANSARC Family Fun Day & BBQ At the usual Rotunda Mount Cooper, Bundoora Park

**WANSARC Family Fun Day – in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year – Sunday 22nd January**

See Page 2 for all the details – confirm and ask any questions on the club NET, let us know if you can attend and how many guests you are bringing so we can plan the catering – turn the page, rip it out and put it up on the fridge!!!

---

**FIRST WANSARC 2006 CLUB MEETING**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 @ 7.30 pm, at the TAFE**

---

WANSARC Family Fun Day, Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January, Mount Cooper, Bundoora Park	2
Around the Shack, News & Stuff, WANSARC Club & Members Activities	3
New Workplace Agreements – Making Going to Work More Fun	7
WANSARC Club Profile	8

# WANSARC Family Fun Day

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2006

### Mount Cooper, Bundoora Park

It's on again this year!

Remember **WANSARC has NO club meeting at the TAFE in January**, but this is a fine substitute!

The very popular **WANSARC Family Fun Day / BBQ / Radio Fair** will happen again at the same venue as last year. Gear will be setup from sunrise and cooking of food will be well in progress by 11.30 am – All Soft drinks, Food and Nibbles & Salads are all club supplied so just turn up!

The club station of **VK3AWS** will once again be active for the whole day, so if you confuse your bearings, have a 2 meter rig or hand held in the car and call in on **146.450 MHz FM**

You can find Bundoora Park in the Melway ® Ref: **Map 19, F4**

*As you enter the park from Plenty Road, turn right into River Red Gum Avenue and follow it all the way until you come to the last rotunda on your left, just look for the wire antennas and other club members, if you have 146.450 MHz going we can even "call out" to you as we see you approaching, for the rest that remember – it's the same place as last year, which puts it at Map square 19 F 1.*

Last year gear was being setup from nearly the dawn light, got to grab the Rotunda early!!!

Let Graeme 'NE', Mark 'PI', Mick 'CH' or any of the committee members, contact details listed on page 8, of anything you can bring or providing on the day, or tell us during the club Tuesday NET.

Advice on numbers attending, including invitees will also help in the planning & catering for the day.

Some of the attractions last year and also for this year include;

- Radio demonstrations for HF, VHF, UHF, Scanners...
- Club provided Food & Soft Drinks
- Your kids can annoy other kids instead of you
- Foundation License Information available – ask our examiner all your questions
- Catch up with old friends – Make new ones – Put a face to the "voice on the air"
- Marvel at the radio setup and antenna work of some of our members vehicles
- Enjoy a lazy relaxed day in the sunshine with some yummy eats...
- Catch up on the gossip – radio and otherwise...
- Work some DX or see other modes (*even Morse Code!*) you may not play with much
- Hear the latest news about Ham Radio in general
- Discussions & preparations for the John Moyle Field Day 2006

*This is the perfect time to bring along a prospective new member,  
Your spouse, kids, in-laws, neighbors, the dog! etc –  
Just to show them Amateur radio isn't just radios and aerials!!*

*If you only come to one WANSARC meeting this year – this is it!!!  
Bring along your chair, shade if you want extra, a hat, sunscreen and anything else you want on hand*

## Around the Shack, News & Stuff, WANSARC Club & Members Activities...

### **WIA allocated two 5 MHz land mobile channels by ACMA.**

"These new 5 MHz channels are commercial land mobile allocations. They have been allocated by ACMA for Wireless Institute of Australia Civil Emergency Network (WICEN) use only" WIA Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU said. "5 MHz channels will provide significant enhancement of WICEN capabilities. They will bridge the frequency gap between our 80 and 40 meter bands, and allow the use of Near Vertical Incidence Sky wave (NVIS) propagation to provide coverage into areas outside of VHF range." Because these channels are part of the commercial land mobile service, the use of amateur transceivers and call signs is not allowed. Only ACMA type approved land mobile equipment may be used. Interested in using these new channels? WICEN is always looking for new operators. Why not contact your local WICEN group and offer your services?

*From WIA website*

### **Can you help? Looking for an A.T.U.**

Mick is still looking for a basic Antenna Tuning Unit for use in the foundation exams, any one have an old unit I could have / swap / buy? Contact details on last page or club NET – Mick

### **WANSARC Seeking a WIA Exam Invigilator**

Is there anyone here or that you know of that would consider putting their name up as an invigilator, for the new classes of licenses of Foundation, Standard & Advanced. Full instructions of your duties are 'set' and you just "follow the procedures". The more that put up their hand – the less you get asked – I will 'rotate' around you. WIA financial membership is a requirement to undertake this role.

Contact details on last page or club NET – thanks from Mick VK3CH

### **BPL TO FACE NEW COMPETITOR**

The catch-cry of late comic actor Jimmy Durante was to say, "Everybody's trying to get into the act!" But today that's exactly how to describe the latest pipe-dream broadband delivery idea.

A United States company is proposing to use ultra wideband wireless signals to transmit data at broadband speeds. But here's the interesting part, the transmission medium will be the pipes that carry natural gas. The company claims it's yet to be tested technology could offer 100 megabits per second to every home - more than enough to provide voice, video and high-speed Internet access. Just like the promises made by BPL promoters that they can revolutionize the power industry, the same type of hype is likely to be associated with broadband over gas pipeline or BGPL.

The mind boggles as to who will be next to try and get into the act? Perhaps water companies or sewerage authorities? Who knows? (I heard this on the WIA broadcast – apparently this is NO joke! – Editor)

*From WIA website*

### **THREAT TO AMATEUR RADIO MICROWAVE BANDS**

The European Radio communications Office has announced plans to hold a public consultation into ultra wide band, a technology that potentially poses a threat to the amateur radio microwave bands. Ultra wide band is a wireless version of the popular USB technology used to connect devices such as keyboards and mice to personal computers. UK communications regulator Ofcom is keen for ultra wide band to use the 3.1 - 10 GHz spectrum, but this could interfere with the microwave bands used by radio enthusiasts. Amateur groups such as AMSAT-UK, the UK Microwave Group and the British Amateur Television Club are fighting Ofcom's proposals. The European Radio communications Office meanwhile is proposing to protect the 5 - 6 GHz band and use interference mitigation techniques below 5 GHz. Amateurs are urged to respond to the European Radio communications Office consultation, if only to offset the views of commercial organizations keen to use 3.1 - 6 GHz for ultra wide band.

The link to the consultation document can be found on [rsb.org](http://rsb.org)

### **DEAL AVOIDS INTERNET SPLIT**

Negotiators have avoided a potentially damaging split between the US and the rest of the world over control of the Internet, saying they had agreed to work towards enhanced international co-operation. Diplomats said a working group reached an agreement on key clauses on Internet governance for endorsement at the World Summit on the Internet Society in Tunis. A three-year deadlock in preliminary talks had revolved around Washington's single-handed oversight of the private body that oversees the technical and administrative roots of the global network.

The agreement set up two parallel tracks of talks, one an open-ended process "towards enhanced cooperation" by "relevant international organisations" on public policy issues, to be triggered by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan early next year, according to the final draft. The other creates an Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) to hold talks on all Internet issues, including problems such as spam, cyber crime or computer viruses. Officials said the private non-profit Internet Corporation For Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) was likely to exist even with its tender due for renewal by the US Government next northern summer, since nothing in the final draft ruled it out. "We did not change anything on the role of the US Government with regard to the technical aspects that we were very concerned about," top US negotiator David Gross said after the agreement struck between 170 countries. "We saw the world's countries recognising how very important the Internet is and how important the growth of the Internet is, and no one created a problem that could help retard that growth," Mr Gross, the US coordinator for international communications and information policy, added. Countries such as Iran and China had sought UN oversight of ICANN or the Internet governance, but the US firmly objected. The agreement reached in the preparatory talks loosely followed a middle-of-the-road formula proposed this week by the European Union. "The worst has been avoided but we're not sure that the best is to come in the future. We have left a door open," a member of the French delegation, Bernard Benhamou, said. "We did not close the door to the essential part, international co-operation," he added. Officials warned that an ongoing split could have prompted the emergence of competing networks and torn apart the Internet. Public policy issues include Internet resources, security of the network, and development issues, as well as ICANN's role in allocating domain names and addresses. Washington's critics had warned that no single nation could maintain control over top level domain or country names (.cn, .fr, .uk,) without the threat of it being misused to block a foe's access to the Internet for political or economic reasons. "It's as if the national telephone networks of all the countries in the world were run from Los Angeles," a European diplomat said. The US had warned that regimes that did not allow freedom of speech might be in a position to have leverage over the Internet. Business groups at the summit also objected to more sweeping changes, saying an intergovernmental body overseeing administration of the Internet would only "create uncertainty and hinder innovation". The number of users of the worldwide web has grown from 106 million to more than one billion under the present seven year-old governance structure, the International Chamber of Commerce said. – AFP

*-Herald Sun Media*

### **TINY TVS TO BE BIG NEWS**

TELEVISION is headed for the small screen -- the very small screen. Next week, our first Mobile TV trial kicks off, paving the way for Australians to watch TV on their mobile phones. The technology, expected to be commercially available late next year, allows pay and free-to-air channels to be streamed directly to a mobile phone handset. Users are able to watch live television broadcasts wherever they are, as long as they have access to one of Australia's 18 million handsets. "It basically means you can watch whatever you want, whenever you want, wherever you want," Nokia's Richard Sharp said. Sharp oversaw development of Nokia's N-92, the world's first mobile TV handset, a tiny gizmo that resembles a shrunken portable DVD player. The device, a mobile phone with an anti-glare screen, is being used in the Broadcast Australia-run Mobile TV trials, which start in Sydney next week before going national.

*-Herald Sun Media*

### **More BPL Commercial Trials planned for Tasmania**

This week the Australian Communications & Media Authority (ACMA) announced further BPL commercial trials by Aurora energy in Tasmania. The new areas affected are: Burnie, (postcode 7320) and Hobart (postcode 7000). These trials are in addition to the existing commercial trial at Hobart suburbs Mount Nelson and Tolmans Hill, (postcode 7007). The new trials will involve up to 500 users, and the timeframe stated is 9-12 months. The frequency band of operation is stated as 3 – 34MHz, but it remains to be seen what particular frequencies within this range will be activated. Aurora Energy is using its telecommunication arm, Tastel, to sell and promote the broadband products that will be carried by the BPL technology, including Voice over IP and data services. The success or otherwise of the trial will be judged on the number of subscribers that

Tastel can attract. However, reports are that Aurora may be experiencing a number of technical difficulties with their current trial, especially with the Voice over IP phone service. Justin Giles-Clarke, VK7TW, Phil Thomson, VK7SS, and I met with Minister Brian Green MHA, his Advisors, and a representative from Aurora early October to ensure the Minister was aware of the interference issues with BPL. Will Hodgman, the Shadow Minister for infrastructure was also visited and brought up-to-date with our concerns. In other BPL news, the WIA wrote to ACMA in August expressing our concern that ACMA's own guidelines for Access BPL trials were not being followed by BPL operators. The guidelines are intended to notify licensed radio users of upcoming trials in their area and to provide an interference resolution procedure. We are still awaiting ACMA's response to that letter. The WIA is attending a Buddecomm BPL conference next week, along with representatives from the ACMA and BPL proponents, and may hear more about how ACMA intends to manage BPL interference issues.

*-From WIA website*

### 1st VK3 Foundation Licences from early December

The paperwork has been finalised for the issuing of certificates of proficiency and call signs to those who had success at the Melbourne Foundation Licence Trial held late November. Each has chosen a preferred call sign and anxious to get on air to put into practice what they learnt while studying for their ham ticket.

December training and assessments sessions to be conducted by Amateur Radio Victoria are now full, with enrolments open for the January sessions. The radio retailing sector is gearing itself for increased sales. Some who do not currently sell amateur radio equipment are receiving inquiries about the new Foundation Licence from four wheel drive enthusiastic and CB radio users.

ICOM Australia has alerted its dealers to the change in Amateur Radio. It will provide many of its current transceivers already adjusted for the Foundation Licence power limit. This includes the new IC7000 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver will be become available in Australia next month with a price expected to be under \$2,500. *(Actual price likely to be around \$2200 – Editor)*

*(Probably a radio more suited to Standard or Advanced ticket holders – but a great excuse to upgrade your licence and use its true capabilities – Editor) –from Amateur Radio Victoria website*

### Foundation Licence Practical Assessment Questions

A summary of the Practical Assessment requirements;

**A- Identification of common transmission lines types.** Using physical examples or photographs or diagrams of common coaxial and parallel transmission lines provided. The candidate needs to identify correctly three types of transmission lines as coaxial or parallel line.

**B- Identify balanced and unbalanced transmission line** Using physical examples or photographs or diagrams of common coaxial and parallel transmission lines provided to candidate. At least one type of transmission line must be "balanced" and the other "unbalanced". The candidate identifies the types of transmission line as "balanced" or "unbalanced".

**C- Identification of common coaxial connectors.** Using physical examples or photographs or diagrams of three types of coaxial connector. The candidate identifies at least two of the three types present. Example PL-259, BNC, N-Type.

**D- Demonstrate how to conduct a continuity check on a coaxial cable which is terminated with RF connectors on both ends.** This is a physical skill test using a provided Ohmmeter and terminated coaxial cable. Or Oral questions and response on how the test procedure would be conducted and results interpreted. Using an Ohmmeter. Low loop resistance test with one end short circuited and high resistance open circuit test. Or an oral description of the test and interpretation of results of test.

**E- Identify antennas physical examples or supplied (standard) assessors diagram of five antenna types.** Candidates need to identify correctly at least four of the five antennas.

**F- Construct an RF choke Oral question.** Physically demonstrate or fully describe how an RF choke is constructed (of a type used for RF interference suppression). Simulated construction using a provided Ferrite toroid or Rod and cable or wire. Candidate will physically simulate construction of a simple RF choke.

**G- Identification of electronic symbols.** Candidates need to identify at least five Australian Standard electronic symbols from a supplied sheet, two must be the antenna and earth symbols.

**H- Equipment inter-connection.** Demonstrate safely the connection of a transmitter/receiver (transceiver), ready for powering up. Physically connect a transceiver to a power source, an antenna (or dummy load). Connect an external SWR meter and antenna tuner. All interconnecting cables and equipment supplied and in an appropriate uncluttered environment. The candidate must connect up the station in a safe manner with the devices in correct order.

**I- Frequency band identification.** Identify amateur radio bands for the Foundation Licence (or Standard or Advanced if the candidate is attempting that assessment). The candidate will be supplied a copy of the appropriate Licence Condition Determination. They need to correctly identify (using the LCD) the band limits of any four bands chosen by the assessor.

**J- On-air operating protocols.** Demonstrate the protocol(s) required prior to commencing transmitting. Candidate is provided a tuned, ready to use Amateur Radio station on HF and VHF or UHF. No tuning or adjustments necessary. Candidate needs to demonstrate the requirement to listen on frequency prior to transmission and may include increasing the receiver gain or opening mute for weak signal detection. This task should be repeated up to three times and may be incorporated in other elements of competency.

**K- Calling procedures.** Demonstrate making on-air calling procedures for HF and VHF or UHF Candidate is provided with a ready to use Amateur Radio station. Candidate needs to demonstrate preferably the procedure for make a call on HF and VHF or UHF.

**L- Signal strength measurement.** Demonstrate how the signal strength meter is used in conjunction with a signal report. Using an amateur radio station on HF and VHF or UHF the candidate demonstrates the use of a Signal Strength meter.

**M- Voice repeater operation.** With the material provided demonstrate the correct use of voice repeaters with and without

- CTCSS

- DTMF

The candidate must demonstrate the need to identify the station before transmitting DTMF tones.

**N- Purpose of breaks in transmissions.** By oral questioning discuss the purpose of and importance of breaks in transmissions on HF and VHF or UHF.

**O- Change to another frequency (QSY).** By use of an Amateur Radio station after making a contact with another station, the candidate needs demonstrate the correct protocol for changing to another frequency.

**P- Q-Code and the Phonetic Alphabet.** Use of plain language. By oral questioning only the candidate should be asked the purpose of the Q-code and the phonetic alphabet. Including the importance of standardised codes and signals over radio. Note- while not preventing such use- it is not a requirement for the candidate to use the Q-code or the phonetic alphabet in any part of this assessment.

**Q- Transmitter power measurement and adjustment.** Demonstrate the measurement of output power of a transmitter. Adjust the transmitter power to within legal limits. This may be done using an Amateur Radio station connected to a dummy load. Candidate demonstrates the ability to make simple power measurements and adjustment using a wattmeter.

**R- Measurement of SWR.** Preferably with the use of an Amateur Radio station connected to an antenna, the candidate should demonstrate the ability to make a simple SWR measurement. Candidate demonstrate the correct technique (including identification of transmission if conducted on-air) for making a simple SWR measurement. Candidate needs to be able to interpret if the reading is within acceptable limits (equal to or less than 1.5:1)

**S- Correcting high SWR.** Using oral questioning the candidate is asked on methods available to correct an antenna system that may have a high SWR. Examples use an antenna tuner or correct an antenna fault or adjust the antenna. Specific adjustments or tuning are not required in this assessment task. Candidate orally describes what remedial action may be taken to rectify a high SWR problem.

**T- Electrical safety.** High voltage and currents Oral questions and responses from the candidate to ascertain that the candidate is aware of the dangers of high voltage (electric shock) and current (heat, burning and possibly fire).

*These are taken from the syllabus from which Foundation License questions for the practical exam are drawn upon. More information appear in the book – "Your Entry Into Amateur Radio" – now available from the WIA Bookshop and your newsagent.*

### VK3 GETS ITS FIRST FOUNDATION LICENCES

Welcome and congratulations to Victoria's first Foundation Licensees who were issued licences and their call signs by the ACMA on 21<sup>st</sup> November. The first was Brian VK3FIMT followed by Greg VK3FUNK, Hayden VK3FRST and Andrew VK3FHBC. A further ten licences resulting from training and assessments that occurred on 12-13 November are being processed by the ACMA in Canberra. Amateur Radio Victoria President, Jim Linton VK3PC described it as a "very special moment" when the new entry level licence began in VK3. Jim VK3PC says their arrival on the bands follows 15 years of decline in amateur radio. Hopes are pinned on the new three tier licence structure to kick-start amateur radio in Australia. He says "I got to know each of the new Foundation Licence holders during their training and assessments. They're good people who are very keen to become active members of the amateur radio community. "At first, a few may need a little on air guidance. Like most new radio amateur some will be a little nervous or unsure when first using their call signs and rigs." Listen for the distinctive VK3F\*\*\* call signs appearing on voice repeaters, VHF/UHF FM simplex, the 80, 40, 15 and 10 metre bands. Say 'hello' and welcome them to the amateur radio community.

- Jim Linton, VK3PC, Amateur Radio Victoria.

### CITY GOES WIRELESS IN KATRINA'S WAKE

IT might be in ruins, starved of electricity and residents and remain defenceless against floods but New Orleans today claimed the title of America's first wireless Internet city. City Mayor Ray Nagin launched a humming new wireless network which will initially serve the storied French Quarter and central business zone, two of the few areas left largely untouched when Hurricane Katrina hit on August 29. The free service is intended to lure businesses back to the ravaged city, engulfed by a flood tide in the wake of Katrina, and to send a message that it is determined to rebuild. The service is expected to go city-wide within a year. "Thanks to a lot of partners, we are implementing a low cost solution that creates government efficiency and gives citizens free Internet access," Mr Nagin said. Much of the technology, which works via wireless internet boosters attached to street lamps, was donated by Intel and Tropos networks. More than three months on from the Hurricane, New Orleans remains a ghostly city, the bustle of downtown a contrast to the vast swathes of ruined residential districts, empty since the flood tide sent residents fleeing. Since Katrina hit, the city's population has plunged from 462,000 to an estimated 100,000.

-Herald Sun Media

### US WANTS TO TAP VoIP PHONES

US law enforcement authorities want expanded ability to tap any phone call between an internet phone and a traditional phone if needed for an investigation, according to documents filed this week. The US Justice Department urged communications regulators to require internet phone companies to provide the ability to conduct surveillance on services that offer only outgoing calls or incoming calls to or from the traditional phone network. With the growth of high-speed internet services, several companies like privately-held Vonage Holdings and Skype, which eBay recently bought, are now offering low-priced internet telephone service as an alternative. There are approximately 3.6 million US customers who have signed up for two-way internet phone service, known as Voice Over Internet Protocol, or VoIP, according to a new survey by TeleGeography Research. The group projects 4.4 million US subscribers by the end of the year and close to 20 million by 2010. The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) passed by Congress in 1994 was aimed at preserving the ability of authorities to conduct court-ordered wiretaps as technology advanced. The US Federal

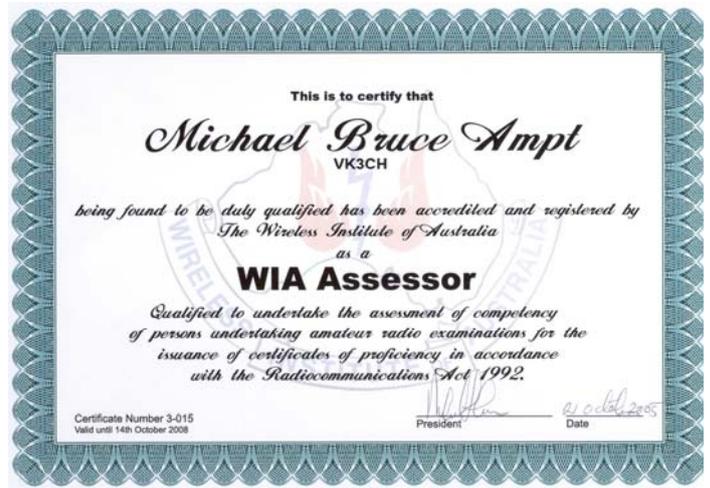
Communications Commission in August ruled that companies like Vonage must offer law enforcement authorities the ability to conduct surveillance on Internet phone services that can both make and receive calls to and from the traditional phone network. However, Skype offers independent one-way services, SkypeOut which permits outbound calls that can connect to the traditional phone network, and SkypeIn which receives calls from the phone network and gives the customer a phone number. Without referring to Skype, the Justice Department asked that CALEA be extended to services that "enable customers to place calls to or receive calls from the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)." The agency filed comments on Monday with the FCC, which is weighing how to apply the law to new communications services. Skype argued against applying the surveillance law beyond two-way internet phone services, noting that the FCC decision was aimed at those that replace traditional phone service.

"Many software-based VoIP products are used not to replace traditional telephony, but as a component of electronic messaging and other information services, which Congress clearly indicated was not covered by CALEA," Skype said. The FCC decision in August also extended the surveillance law to broadband Internet access, a move that raised concerns by educational institutions like Cornell University which said the agency overstepped its bounds. "If Cornell is not providing services for hire, it should be exempt from CALEA," the university said in comments to the FCC filed on Friday. "Congress expressly excluded 'private networks' from CALEA's reach." The FCC said in its order that private networks would not be subject to the wiretap requirements but those that are connected with a public network would have to comply with the law.

-Reuters

### WANSARC NOW HAS A QUALIFIED W.I.A. ASSESSOR

After being sponsored by WANSARC and attending training provided by the WIA, your humble editor is now qualified to conduct examinations both theory and practical assessments, for the new grades of licenses issued by the ACMA. I have gone along to a few sessions conducted by both Amateur Radio Victoria and the NERG's, and once a venue is selected and approved I will be running exams in earnest. The certificate issued by WIA;



The WIA has also given all assessors their own email address redirection so my alternative email contact is now [vk3ch@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ch@wia.org.au)



Don't forget the **WANSARC** club frequency of **146.450 MHz FM** (often also on **28.470 MHz USB**)

The weekly Tuesday night Radio Net is on 2 meters at 7.30 pm local time, listen for the club call of

**VK3AWS**

Many if not all **WANSARC** members monitor this frequency at home, in the car, some at work, so if you're looking for a contact with a 'local' give this spot a try – you never know who is there!

If you consider that there have been an average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theater of operations during the last 22 months, and a total of 2112 deaths, that gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000. The rate in Washington D.C. (among others) is 80.6 per 100,000. That means that you are about 25% more likely to be shot and killed in the U.S.A.'s Capitol, which has some of the strictest gun control laws in that nation, than you are in Iraq. Conclusion: You should immediately pull out of Washington D.C.!!

**THE FOUNDATION LICENCE STUDY GUIDE**  
**“YOUR ENTRY INTO AMATEUR RADIO”**  
**IS AT ALL NEWSAGENTS NOW, PRICED AT \$17.50**  
**OR GET YOUR COPY FROM THE W.I.A.**  
**SEE [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au) FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
**OR ASK OUR CLUB'S WIA ASSESSOR MICK, VK3CH, [vk3ch@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ch@wia.org.au)**

**A perfect Christmas present for that budding new Amateur Operator, relative or friend**

**DINNER AT TINA'S**

WANSARC's end of year, or December 'meeting' dinner at Tina's Pizza was a great night out for the many that attended. I arrived at 7.30 and the place was already full with at least a third of the room taken by WANSARC guests, with at least 20+ members and family enjoying pizza and a chat. Bob "EL" took many photos, but due to a failure of the memory card, all these were lost. But then given some of the mischief on the night, all the evidence is no longer around! (hi) So I am unable to show any pictures this year. But there is always the BBQ in January – hope as many of you can attend.

**REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH THE FOUNDATION LICENCE**

At the end of the first week of December, seven short weeks since the foundation license was introduced, the WIA office has dispatched 241 assessment packs of which 92 have been returned. ACMA have issued 40 foundation licenses, 12 in VK2, 12 in VK3, 14 in VK4 and 2 in VK7. We are on track to have well over 100 foundation licenses by year end. The office will continue to ship 50 assessment packs each week till mid December and then take a well earned 3 week Christmas break before recommencing shipping and processing more assessment packs in January.

30 Radio clubs right across Australia have told us that they are or shortly will be offering training courses and assessment. We expect the number of clubs offering training to grow quite quickly over the next few weeks. A complete list of clubs offering foundation license training and their contact details will be added to the web shortly.

25 additional people have applied to be trained as WIA assessors and it is expected that Fred Swainston will conduct the next training course in March. The venue for this training course will be announced shortly. After completion of the March training we should have around 140 WIA assessors and nominated assessors.

The foundation license manual is continuing to sell like hot cakes. We have shipped almost all the manuals on order and we have all but worn out John Weir, VK3ZRV. John, with assistance from the office staff has shipped well over 1000 manuals.

The WIA foundation license information enquiry e-mail address of [foundation@wia.org.au](mailto:foundation@wia.org.au) has been busy, answering questions on the foundation license and many clubs have reported that they are busy dealing with foundation license enquiries.

The WIA foundation license team is now working on finalizing the foundation license remote assessments procedure. One completion of the procedure a nominated assessor will be able to assess candidates for an amateur license in remote areas of Australia. Several people in remote areas have already applied to be assessed and we expect assessments to start in around a week's time.

Many of the successful foundation license candidates are joining the WIA. Membership number has been growing over the last 18 months and has now started to grow at a rapid rate. Over the last 4 weeks 47 people have joined the WIA. It would seem that we are starting to see a substantial growth in the number of Amateurs and WIA members.

-From WIA website

**WANSARC Magazine now on Acrobat V7.0**

After a trial run, this magazine is now produced with the latest version of Acrobat version 7.0 Reports have been very good and I have noted both a reduction in file size of about a third and better picture quality, so we will stick with this from now on, any comments to me in the usual way. Many thanks to those who took the time to offer comments back to me and a thank you to the favorable comments about the magazine, from both the club and DX.

**FIRST AID ORGANISATION NEEDS RADIO AMATEURS**

St John Ambulance Victoria is looking for volunteer radio communications operators to boost its participation in the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

If you're interested and would like to know more, call St John Ambulance State Communications Centre on 8588 8367 or [arv@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:arv@amateurradio.com.au)

**SCAM IN THE SPAM**

Many of us get spam or unsolicited emails. Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) during a recent survey over a 14-day period found that 12.6 per cent of spam contained, or was linked to, malicious programs that could compromise or disabled computers.

Even if you don't fall for the scam in the spam, your computer might easily be infected by just opening the email.

Here's some of the top Internet junk subjects found by CAV:

Advance Fee Fraud – 13.7%

These promise a lottery win, inheritance or some other guise, but in reality want your bank account details and money.

Pharmaceuticals – 11.4%

Selling medicines or drugs that are either prohibited or unregistered in Australia, illegal to import, fake or dangerous.

Phishing – 9.7%

Fake bank emails requesting you provide them with account, password or PIN details.

Cheap Software – 8%

Seems like a bargain but are often illegal copies with no support.

- Amateur Radio Victoria website

**FOR SALE**

**NetComm NB5Plus4/W ADSL/ADSL2 Modem Router.**

Never used, brand new still in the box with all accessories.

Happy to demonstrate, all manuals, cables, SMA Plug, Power Supply, CD, ect. Not even 1 month old! Auto detects, configure and install. Paid \$160, Haggling starting at \$100. Includes receipt and manufactures warranty.

Contact Mick, VK3CH [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au)

## New Workplace Agreements – Making Going to Work More Fun

Well, with all the workplace law changes, I thought I would go and make a few alterations myself. As most of you would know your editor has for the last few years finished full time technical employment and now works with the wife in her business of supplying fashion accessories to retail. Most of my days are spent either delivering goods or sorting and organizing the stock, well according to the missus “trying to!” Often time is spent just waiting for customers to turn up or couriers. So an idea struck me, and I don’t know why I didn’t think of this before. What do you do when boredom strikes, but you can’t leave your post? Apart from email and internet use there is of course another great alternative – Ham Radio of course! So to make the day more interesting it was time to do a survey and decide what to put into service. A quick look on the roof, 11 meters high above ground, made it perfect for a few antennas in a line with access to a desk right nearly underneath where the radios would be installed. With Mount Dandenong TV towers all visible from the roof I knew operation on VHF and UHF must be good. Only worry is other services such as taxis and commercial users with repeater towers nearby that overload the RF front end. So a future purchase will be a pager filter for 2 meters.



Power Supply and 23cm and 2m/70cm rigs  
Supply is a 40amp switch mode type,  
the same type of one as I use at home.



Win Radio scanner display on the monitor

The Win Radio card (larger card) in the P.C. →



A few days the job was all finished, with 2 Diamond verticals, X300 for 2 meters and 70 cm and U200 for 23cm installed on 1 meter high masts bolted to the concrete wall tops with “9913” coax dropped nearly straight down to the radio table. An existing spare 23cm FM box was moved from the house to “work” and another IC-2720H was bought to operate on 2m & 70cm. The IC-2720H is a full cross band FM radio so you can either listen or work 2m/2m or 2m/70cm or 70cm/70cm. A spare Discone from home was erected as well and my old Win Radio MF/HF/VHF/UHF Scanner that I haven’t used for years was put into the PC and works quite well. Of course the sensitivity of it compared to an Amateur Radio made for a set frequency is not as good, but it’s still a reasonable all mode receiver. Next project for later on next year will be getting on HF, an antenna could either be a vertical or an end fed long wire draped across all the warehouses “on the quiet!” Even if it was only along ours it would still be 14 meters in length if I was to run it the full edge of the building. Hopefully during the day next time you put out a call on 146.450MHz we will hear you and be able to have a chat. If I have to work back late I can still run the NET from the warehouse. The signals are better at “work” than they are at home! Given that we have been there for over 3 years – I should have done this a long time ago! But now that it’s done, I wonder how long it will be until I hear the wife say “Its time to move into some place bigger!” No doubt the coax lengths will all be just a meter too short wherever we move to next! So next time your mobile or on a day off, give a shout on 146.450, chances are we’re on.



View of the city with the 4 antennas either side of the city towers,  
nice view, the pagers come through really strong as well.  
A decent in line cavity filter fixed that up, more on that next time.



The 4 antennas looking towards Mt Dandenong with the TV  
towers seen easily with the naked eye, so good signals right  
across the suburbs. Better than at home – so off to “work” I go!

# WANSARC VK3AWS

**PRESIDENT:** Graeme McDiarmid VK3NE [vk3ne@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ne@wia.org.au)

**SECRETARY:** Mark Stephenson VK3PI Telephone: 0400 443 218 [vk3pi@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vk3pi@optusnet.com.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

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.

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, operating 24 hours continuously. 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/index.html>

### More Information

**Website:** [www.wansarc.org.au](http://www.wansarc.org.au)

### Committee:

Chris VK3FY,  
Dan VK3DWH,

Bob VK3EL,  
Tony VK3BZT

**Email:** [wansarc@wia.org.au](mailto:wansarc@wia.org.au)

**Magazine Editor / Contributions:** [vk3ch@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ch@wia.org.au)

**VK3CH Mobile:** 0434 149 045 Editor Fax: 03 9489 9961

**Postal:** WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073

## ***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. 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@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ch@wia.org.au)

Email attachments not to exceed 2 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 WANSARC Tuesday evening NET on 146.450 MHz starting at 07:30 pm AEST is recommended to discuss and confirm information.

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

**“WANSARC NEWS”**

*Monthly journal of the*

**Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club**