

# WANSARC NEWS

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Closing Date for Articles and Advertisements for next issue in May – April 28

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



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April

2006

## John Moyle 2006 Field Day Report



The perfect portable “shack” for a field outing, Derek, VK3AOF, was nicely setup for the day at Kinglake. Even more impressive was some of the gear inside the van. Read more about the contest, page 4.

**NEXT CLUB MEETING --- Friday 7th April @ 7.30 pm, at the TAFE**

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## WANSARC 2006 AGM RESULTS

Thanks to those offering help in running the club for the next year.  
The results of the elections held last meeting are;

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Public Officer**  
**Committee Member # 1**  
**Committee Member # 2**  
**Committee Member # 3**  
**Committee Member # 4**  
**Net Controller (VK3AWS) Main**  
**Net Controller (VK3AWS) Standby**  
**Magazine Editor / Producer**  
**Webmaster**  
**W.I.A. Club Sponsored Assessor**

**Graeme VK3NE**  
**Mick VK3CH**  
**Mark VK3PI**  
**Gordon VK3YOD**  
**Graeme VK3NE**  
**Chris VK3FY**  
**Bob VK3EL**  
**Dan VK3DWH**  
**Tony VK3BZT**  
**Mick VK3CH**  
**Bob VK3EL**  
**Mick VK3CH**  
**Mick VK3CH**  
**Mick VK3CH**

### NEW MEMBERS - CORRECTION

Peter's Callsign should read as  
Sorry for any confusion, it was incorrectly stated as VK3YXF last month.  
And a welcome to new member;

**Bob** **VK3 YSF**

**VK3ZLQ**

### WANSARC AWARDS LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

After approaches to and discussions by the club committee, it was decided to bestow not one, but two life memberships to two long serving club members. Since both nominees were both on the previous and now current committee, it took some careful but nevertheless successful "secret" voting of committee members conducted by Graeme.

Receiving Life Membership Certificates at the AGM last month were; Bob VK3EL and Mark VK3PI. By the looks on their faces both were surprised as they thought that only one award was to be issued, to the other person known to them, but not to themselves respectively. Even Mark by his own admission was "lost for words", but still managed to say a few. Both Bob and Mark have been involved with WANSARC for many years, involved in many aspects of running the club, both in and behind the scenes. Congratulations to you both.

### AUCTION NIGHT

The pre-loved gear night was a great success for the Laurence family and some members, I think, received some bargains. Quite a deal of cash floating around for a small club and yes, Bob, Frank's first bid for the walkie talkie of \$20 sent all of us into shock! Good night for all.

- Mark VK3PI, Auctioneer

### CLUB FEES NOW DUE

The committee has decided to leave club fees at same level as last year. \$10 Concession or Student; \$20 Employed.

If you have already paid your annual subscription many thanks.

If you wish to pay your subscription please make cheque payable to WANSARC and post to WANSARC, Attention: The Secretary, PO Box 336, Reservoir, 3073. Alternatively you may pay cash direct to the Treasurer, Gordon, VK3YOD, at the next meeting to square your ledger.

### EMDRC AM NETS

In addition to the Monday to Saturday 160M Nets beginning at 11am on 1843 Kc, there is another 160M Net on Wednesday night at 8:30pm local time, on 1843 Kc AM. Harry VK3KBA is the Controller and will be listening for "tune ups" from 8:15pm onwards.

Lionel, VK3NM conducts yet another Net on Sundays, same frequency, at 08:30am local.

### DODGY DIGITAL BOX SPARKS BIG SEARCH

Lifeboats and a helicopter scoured the sea to track down an electronic distress signal - only for coastguards to discover it came from a British pensioner's faulty digital television box on dry land.

The coastguards were scrambled after a rescue coordination centre in Scotland picked up what it believed to be a distress signal coming from the sea off southern England.

But communications experts later traced the signal to the digital television set-top box in the home of 67-year-old Mary Donaldson in the southwestern port of Plymouth.

"We sent a helicopter out and two lifeboats before we discovered that the signal was in fact coming from inland," a spokesman for the coastguards said yesterday. Ms Donaldson was at the cinema when the experts tracked down the signal. "We sent two officers there to investigate and they were still there when the lady came home," the spokesman said.

The incident late last month was the second time this year a set-top box in Britain has been blamed for a distress signal. Communications regulator Ofcom said both boxes were being analyzed but stressed such cases were extremely rare.

- Reuters

### ACMA ISSUE THE 250TH VK FOUNDATION LICENCE

During the Week of February 27, four short months since its introduction, ACMA has issued the 250th foundation license. This period includes the Christmas break when there was very little training and assessment activity.

The WIA is currently processing assessments at rate averaging around 40 each week and at the end of the week commencing February 27, had processed just over 400 packs. So we can look forward to seeing ACMA issue the 500th license in the not to distant future.

Meanwhile the number of clubs offering training and assessment for the foundation license continues grow and the WIA has received several applications from members of clubs yet to commence foundation license training. Training off additional assessors will commence shortly and on completion the WIA will have around 200 qualified assessors.

- WIA Website

### They DO Live Amongst Us! (Bob, VK3EL)

Some months ago I noticed that when trying to make my almost daily contact with long-time friends in Japan on 15 meters (21mhz.), the received signals were always marred by what sounded like power line or industrial noise, usually about Strength 6 to 7 on an Icom IC-746 transceiver, and often the noise was apparent even when it had been, or was raining, when the expectation would have been the power line system might have been washed clean of dust and other 'nasties' that often cause HT insulators to arc over.

In the past, I HAVE had problems with power line noise which I located and after complaining to the appropriate authorities it was corrected in due course. Because of this, I started searching around the local area in hopes of once again locating the QRN, but after several days of 'sniffing' with a small 'tranny' had found nothing and began to think the problem was more close to home so I decided to investigate further as time permitted. Time passed and just recently I took a break from weeding and giving haircuts to trees and shrubs in my garden (read jungle) and decided it was time to renew the search for the elusive interference.

While looking at the internet one day, I had came across an advert for a used Sangean portable general coverage receiver and as the price was reasonable decided to purchase it to assist in my "investigations" for noise pollution.

Where to start? With the IC-746 running I decided to begin in the "shack" and work from room to room.

SHOCK, HORROR! Using the Sangean, I quickly found that my DSE ac/dc power supply had been infested by thousands of bees and assorted other insects that were very busy creating lots of QRN not only in the PSU, but in other appliances in the room and were extremely loud! Not only that, but it seemed they had worked out how to climb inside the house electrical wiring circuits and travel from room to room!

After some time spent disabling what seemed to be a huge number of items connected to the 'mains' with no real success, I was getting closer to the other end of the house, and was starting to worry that I was going to find the 'hash' was not on my property, but a neighbor's, but I pressed on. Then as I approached one of those useful power boards we all own, (the ones that let us plug in all those additional electrical gadgets), the front end of the Sangean almost had a stroke trying to cope with a huge burst of audio garbage which appeared to be coming from the power board. The board had four small ac/dc plug packs inserted and one by one I removed them with no effect until the very last one. Beautiful silence! I did some back checking and found the IC-746 was now purring with none of the dreaded 'hash' I'd been experiencing for those past few months.

At this point I was able to recall how that particular plug-pack had arrived. Some months earlier I had invested in a 4 socket USB hub for my computer which came with a plug pack. I installed the hub and promptly (as we do) forgot about it! Sadly this plug pack seemed to be a switch mode design, and as sometimes happens switch mode psu's sometimes generate heaps of 'crud'. This one was no exception, and is now buried somewhere in a garbage dump after being savagely beaten, drowned and emasculated by yours truly!

Finally never assume! I made a blunder in the first instance by assuming that the mains supply was at fault!

Some houses do occasionally get visits from invading insects and these can mostly be dealt with quite easily with the appropriate bug killers. BUT! Do you realize that almost all houses now have a semi-permanent infestation of "ALIENS"? No, not the little green or grey beings with the big bug eyes, but electrical "ALIENS", my acronym for, "A LOUD INVASIVE ELECTRICAL NOISE SOURCE" that can be very small, and live amongst us virtually unseen, taking the form of useful and friendly beings, but NOT always taking on the guise of plug-packs!

Beware Of Aliens! They're Out There! They might be living with you, too! - Bob VK3EL

#### LOCAL COUNCILS ON THE PROWL

Your editor had a knock on the door from the "Town Planning" section of the local council on the 8<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am. Seems someone had a question as to what all the antennas on my roof are for.

I invited the council officer (with an official badge hung around his neck) in to look at the shack.

I produced my license, showed and explained to him the Radiocommunications Act, explained what Amateur Radio was and explained all about one hams experience with his antennas in a neighboring suburb. I also explained my involvement with WANSARC, showed him some of our magazines, the issues dealing with another operators antenna issues with council and generally what we get up to. After all that he decided he had no authority with the aerials at my property as it was a hobby and not a business.

Had it been a business he would have ordered all the aerials taken down. I asked him what the problem was, such as TV interference.

He said no, just that someone was concerned what the whole setup was and what it was being used for. He admitted not knowing about ham radio but had listened to scanners years ago as a kid. He said I would be hearing nothing further about my station from the council, but was going to advise the complaining party that they had other avenues of appeal. (What these 'other avenues' consisted of was not told to me, nor did I bother to ask.)

After "pressing" him for more information he sort of admitted that the complaint was more about a person feeling that the value of their property will be affected as they were planning to sell soon.

Seems strange to me as the aerials have been up since 1998 and all the houses close to around me are rental properties.

They must have keen Estate Agents! Oh well, when I see the "For Sale" board go up, I will know who it is (hi). I'll wait and keep you informed.

I wanted to tell him we are a 'secret' facility put in the suburbs so surrounding properties could be used as "human shields" in case of attack, but I don't think they were in the mood for jokes (hi).

#### LATE NEWS;

The following week - what did I see - not one but 2 "For Sale" signs up. One for a new development townhouse and the other a vacant block of land next to that one, 2 whole streets away along the route I take to my kid's school, at least a 4 minute walk from my house.

Guess I have found my source of compliant

Oh well, lucky for them I'm short of cash at present after purchasing a new Icom 7000, which is a great little radio, more about that in a later issue - otherwise I would be transferring all my antennas to a great big Nally Tower, just to spite them! (And improve my signals of course!)

- Mick VK3CH

#### BPL FOR MELBOURNE

Silk Telecom has announced it plans to begin a trial of broadband over power line (BPL) technology in Melbourne.

The teleco's Chief Executive, Simon Perkins is reported saying that Silk's parent company (Hong Kong's Cheung Kong Group) has 40,000 BPL users in Hong Kong and BPL will be trialed in Melbourne.

When and where this will occur has not been revealed. It is understood to involve an arrangement with a property developer.

- Amateur Radio Victoria.



### Moorabbin and District Radio Club.

PO Box 58 Highett 3190

VK3APC

HAMFEST 2006

Saturday 13th May 2006

### Location - BRENTWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Watsons Road, Glen Waverley. Melways Reference 71 D7  
(Enter via Heath Street.)

GREAT VENUE, PLENTY OF SPACE, MELBOURNES BIGGEST, MAJOR AND MINOR DOOR PRIZES

The Moorabbin & District Radio Club have much pleasure in inviting you to participate in VK3's BIGGEST ANNUAL HAMFEST  
Snacks and hot food will be available.

Talk in via VK3RSR 2M repeater on 147.075MHz and on 439.900  
70cm  
VK3RSE

#### PRIZE DRAWS:

Major and minor draws during the day. Every entry ticket goes into the draw. Additional tickets on sale  
**SALES: NEW** - Importers and suppliers of amateur



equipment & accessories.

**SALES: USED** - Preloved ham gear & accessories, PC's & bits & pieces  
**All inside and undercover. Demonstrations of ATV and packet radio.**

**ENTRY ONLY \$6.00 (Doors Open 10am - entry tickets on sale prior)** (INCLUDES **FREE** DRAW IN THE MAJOR DOOR PRIZE)  
Tables available at \$18 each, (1.8m long) includes lunch voucher.

For further info or to book a table please contact:

Lee Moyle, VK3GK. Tel: (03) 9705 1051. Fax: (03) 9705 1054.

Email: [vk3gk@aanet.com.au](mailto:vk3gk@aanet.com.au)

Graeme Lewis, VK3GL. Tel AH: (03) 9702 1199 or

Mob (0418)289928 Email: [vk3gl@aanet.com.au](mailto:vk3gl@aanet.com.au)

Web- [www.mdrc.org.au](http://www.mdrc.org.au)

#### NEXT FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSES NEAR WANSARC

Amateur Radio Victoria has spots left in its 22-23 April session.

If you know of someone interested, please let them know about these weekend sessions held at Box Hill North.

Inquires to Education Team Leader, Barry Robinson VK3JBR

0428 516 001 or email [arv@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:arv@amateurradio.com.au)

#### VICLINK WEBSITE UPDATED AND A NEW LOOK

You can now → Listen to the pod cast on demand by clicking "Listen Now" when the new edition is published. You don't need an MP3 player as the audio player is embedded into the site; Subscribe to the RSS feed to get latest news and edition notification in you email box. Use this RSS feed for your pod cast software as well (iTUNES or similar). The new edition will be downloaded straight to your PC; Register on the site and post a comment about a news item or pod cast. Sunday the 5th March sees the Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club start its new 40 meter newscast relay on 7.153 MHz LSB at 10am local and the 40 meter newscast relay of Amateur Radio Victoria on 7.085 MHz LSB at 11am and 8pm. Amateur Radio Victoria also relay on 30 meters 10.130 and 80 meters 3.615 MHz. Check it out at <http://vk3news.info/>

## WANSARC John Moyle Field Day 2006

Once again WANSARC took part in the 6 hour stint at Kinglake for the 2006 John Moyle Memorial Field Day. Club numbers were down a bit from previous years, due to working commitments. We really should have a person per band and mode to get serious results. Dan was very lucky to get a 'leave pass' from the XYL as it was his 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but She still turned up with family to see the day unfold (or check that he was actually there?!)

Club members taking part were Derek VK3AOF, Chris VK3FY with sons Nikolaas VK3FNIK and Norman, Bob VK3EL, Dan VK3DWH, John VK3FMPB, Ralph VK3FRNB, Mick VK3CH and also Barry, studying for his "F" call.

The weather was kind, we had gear aplenty, keen operators and were even reasonably well organized (?), with nothing serious forgotten. But alas we had two main problems. One was the pagers and newly installed digital services, which we were told later, are running several hundreds of watts – not the sort of thing you want when trying to work a contest! But the biggest stunner was – no operators on air – or so it would seem. Getting contacts in the first three hour block was very difficult – many stunned faces were on view as we all wondered what was happening this year. The pagers knocked the stuffing out of signals from 10 meters, 2 meters and even 70cm. I suspect that the services have either been in overload with traffic due to the games and probably "had the wick lengthened" as well. When trying working stations on 2 meters it was like they were in the ocean being cutoff for air as waves swept over them – a very uncanny sound.

WANSARC needs a new site free of pager services to do any contesting and DX in peace. The Commonwealth Games was possibly a factor in why numbers were down – its hard to say – maybe VK Amateur's are not as interested as much anymore – which if true is a pity. We looked across Melbourne and with the naked eye's clear view, should have been able to work anyone there with just a handheld, let alone the verticals and beams setup at the reserve. Things picked up later in the afternoon, but there was no chance of catching up with the quiet periods earlier in the day. Still, until the numbers and distances are collated, it will be interesting to see others results in AR, including other clubs and operators.



23cm gear getting setup ready for power.



2 meter beam in the stages of preparation.



Derek's very nice transceiver in the van, absolutely studio quality sound and performance.

If you like this one – you should see the other one, A full 250 watts on all WARC HF bands...

Now I really know what I want this Christmas!!

I better put 'Santa' on our mailing list...



Coffee break time – Bob sits astounded at the poor showing of stations on 10 meters.

Our operators reported very low activity on all bands this year.

WANSARC  
John Moyle Field Day  
2006 – Continued...



Chris and Dan discuss “tactics” before the start. 6 Meter stacked Omni Antenna’s 23cm table & HF Vertical for 10m



Nikolaas running the 70cm setup



Dan catching another station on 2 meters, using both Vertical and Beam, rotated with the ‘Armstrong’ rotator.

Another shot of Derek’s van, with ‘butterfly’ HF Vertical mounted at the end of the van.



So for those that took part this year, more field experience was learnt – which is the whole point of doing it – and have fun as well. The result in contacts made was disappointing. But there is always next year! It will be necessary to have a rethink on our chosen location – some field inspections over the year by the core crew that’s keen is a must! At least some of our new members and Foundation operators got a feel for what the John Moyle is about and is no longer a mystery. My list of forgotten items I should have brought along has gone from 3 pages from 3 years ago to just a few items – so I think I’m learning from experience! Thanks to the crew that took part and family members for support, XYL’s for leave passes and the stations that did exchange numbers with us – see you somewhere next year.  
- Mick VK3CH

## More Photos from WANSARC 2006 Family BBQ Day at Mount Cooper



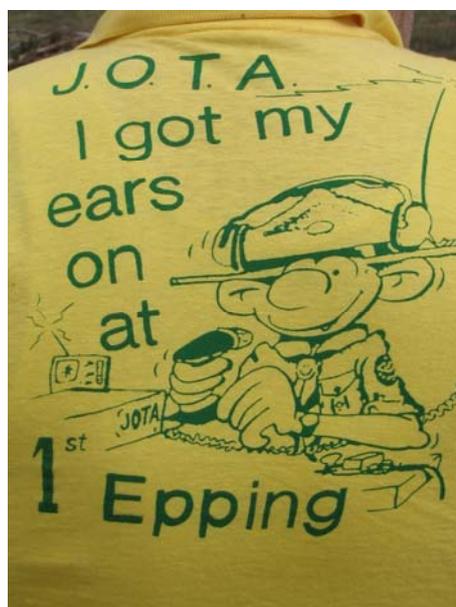
"He who holds BBQ tongs is considered the boss" - old tribal custom. Bob VK3EL (centre) is in charge as Dan VK3DWH (left) and John VK3KJW (right) agree.



Peter VK3YSF looks as proud as punch to actually have a WANSARC membership application form. Frank VK3ZO (middle) and President Graeme VK3NE look as pleased as punch to have Peter aboard!!



Winner of the best looking car at the WANSARC Family Day was Derek VK3AOF, with his red 2 door sports car. Derek has kept this car in very good condition and likewise having now obtained Rolf's old callsign of VK3AOF Derek will be keeping it nice and shiny!



John VK3KJW was showing off the fact that his body is as beautiful as many years ago. He chose to wear a 1st Epping JOTA T-shirt from years gone by. Good on 'yer John



Tony VK3BZT can be a little shy before the camera; however Brian VK3RA is up for the shot. Joan, Brian's XYL, is very much focused on the tucker cooked by Bob VK3EL.



Jock VK3UB monitors the club frequency 146450 to hear if any "rogue" attendees have got themselves lost.

*Thanks to Mark VK3PI for these extra photos and comments!*

Commonwealth of Australia  
Postmaster-General's Department

Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency

January 1936

Time allowed - 3 hours

Theory

1. Indicate by diagrams a method of obtaining regeneration by each condenser and resistor control. Outline the operation of each system, and discuss their relative merits.
2. Two resistors of the value of 30,000 and 25,000 ohms respectively are connected in parallel across a constant EMF. Calculate the terminal voltage when a current of 44 m/as flows in the complete circuit.
3. Explain the operation of a triode as an amplifier; using characteristic curves to illustrate your explanation.
4. Select one system of modulation, and discuss fully its operation and suitability for use with low power transmitters.
5. Discuss the piezo-electric theory. Compare the quartz crystal system of frequency control with at least two other methods.
6. What factors determine the anode efficiency of an oscillator? In what way do you consider such efficiency would be obtained?
7. Briefly outline the theory of "Wave Motion". Give a short discussion on Velocity, Frequency, Wavelength and Amplitude in association with Wave Motion.

Regulations

1. How frequently, and at what intervals is one station permitted to call another?
2. State fully the precautions an operator is required to take before commencing a call. Should he fail to observe the necessary precautions, what would be the results?
3. Translate the following abbreviations:
  - (a) QRV; QSR?; QTQ; QUD; RPT.
  - (b) Give the Morse characters for all figures.

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This 1936 AOCP exam taken from "RAOTC Old Timers News" issue No. 36 March 2006. So how did you go, did you pass?

## Amusement

### Instructions on how to clean your toilet

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close both lids. You may need to stand on the lid.
4. The cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a "power-wash" and "rinse".
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift both lids.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the toilet pan and the cat will be sparkling clean.

Sincerely,  
The Dog

*EchoLink - adding interest to dead repeaters worldwide 24x7*

# 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.

Sometimes the NET is linked to Echolink. 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.*

### More Information

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

**Committee:**

Chris VK3FY,  
Dan VK3DWH,

Bob VK3EL,  
Tony VK3BZT

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

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

All editors' comments 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 1 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 and any dates.

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**