

# WANSARC NEWS

Incorporated in Victoria, 1985 Registration Number: A0007611S

Closing Date for Articles and Advertisements for next issue in September is 25<sup>th</sup> August

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 8

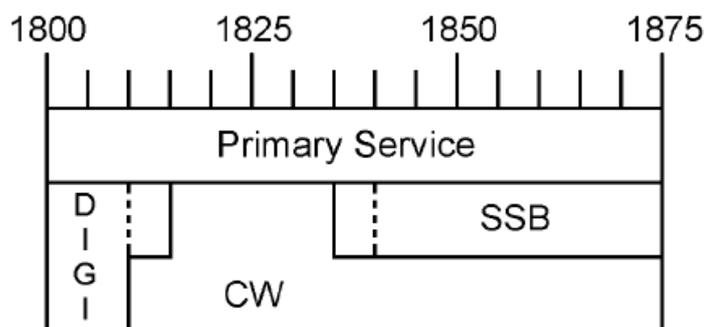
August

2006

## Next Club Meeting

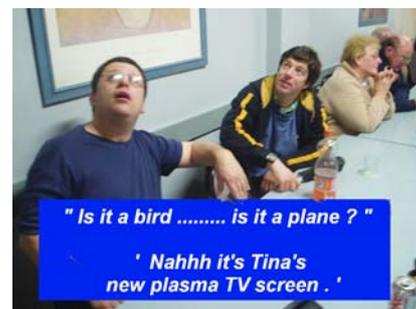
**19.30 hours - Friday 4th August, Building 'K' at the TAFE**

**Harry VK3KBA will attend our next meeting to discuss the building of 160 meter antennae.**



*"160 meters and all that stuff - practical tips on building a top loaded vertical for 160 meters" by Harry VK3KBA*

Last meeting – “Christmas in July” at Tina’s Pizza



- Next September Meeting at WANSARC -

A presentation of the excellent PowerPoint Show first shown at **GippsTech 2005** by Chris Long & Mike Groth (VK7MJ)

**“Recent advances in optical communications”**

***DX light communication by Luxeon - A license-free, broadband and duplex wireless technology***

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

2

Bits & “PI”eces

7

WANSARC Club Profile

8

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

### 'MIND-READING' COMPUTERS NEXT

A RAISED eyebrow, quizzical look or nods of the head are just a few of the facial expressions computers could soon be using to guess people's minds. An "emotionally aware" computer being developed by British and US scientists will be able to estimate an individual's thoughts by analyzing a combination of facial movements that represent underlying feelings. "The system we have developed allows a wide range of mental states to be identified, just by pointing a video camera at someone," Professor Peter Robinson, of Cambridge University, said.

He and his collaborators believed the "mind-reading" computer's applications could range from improving people's driving skills to helping companies tailor advertising to people's moods.

"Imagine a computer that could pick the right emotional moment to try to sell you something, a future where mobile phones, cars and websites could read our mind and react to our moods," he said.

The technology is already programmed to recognize different facial expressions generated by actors.

Prof Robinson hopes to get more data to determine whether someone is bored, interested, confused, or agrees or disagrees, when it is unveiled at a science exhibition in London today.

People visiting the four-day exhibition, organized by the Royal Society, Britain's academy of leading scientists, will be invited to take part in a study to hone the program's abilities.

The scientists, who are developing the technology in collaboration with researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, also hope to get it to accept other inputs such as posture and gesture.

"Our research could enable websites to tailor advertising or products to your mood," Prof Robinson said.

"For example, a web cam linked with our software could process your image, encode the correct emotional state and transmit information to a website."

It could also be useful for online teaching – to show whether someone understands what is being explained and in improving road safety by determining if a driver was confused, bored or tired.

"We are working with a big car company and they envision this being employed in cars within five years," Prof Robinson said.

He said that a camera could be built into the dashboard.

Anyone who did not want to give away too much information about what they were feeling could just cover up the camera, he said.

*-Herald and Weekly Times*

### VK3FIRE, ON FIRE!

Janice sat and passed the Standard / Advanced Regulations paper at NERG's last month and obtained a pass mark; makes a difference when you actually get proper nights sleep before attempting an assessment!

Study for about 1 week, comprising not much more than the practice exams on the ARV website and explanation of the regulations by her OM and learning the main "Q" codes were all that was needed. She already knew the phonetic alphabet and VK call areas by state and territories.

Study for the Standard License Assessment is now underway.

Younger sister **Michelle, VK3FAME**, is watching in the wings, knowing that in a few years she will be next!

Michelle sat the Regulations paper as well but still gets tripped up by the acronyms and the cryptic emission mode designators, such as 4K00J3E.

But maybe a year later she will be ready. She knows 50% of it at present.

Am I asking too much of a 7 year old? ☺

Great to see that **Ralph VK3FRNB** is not resting with his "F" call with study plans to go straight for the Advanced Theory paper in his sights. Ralph is heard quite often on the club frequency, tinkering with some new toy or building or adjusting antennas. He has worked quite a few countries on HF already and has a nice elevated QTH.

*- Mick VK3CH*

### HOW TO BUY BLANK MEDIA

Now that most computers come standard with a disc recorder, choosing the correct media to use for burning is important. The type of recorder you choose when buying your computer will influence your choice of media. Lower-end computers generally ship with CD-RW/DVD drives. These units are capable of writing to CD-R and CD-RW media, but not DVDs. CD-Rs can hold about 700MB of data and are compatible with CD players. Higher-end computers now come with DVD-RW drives capable of writing to DVD media and can hold a maximum 4.7GB.

Some DVD-RW drives also come as DL (double layer), which means you can write 4.7GB of data to each side of the DVD. This effectively doubles your storage capacity.

Some media is "write" once, "read" many (R); others are write many, read many (RW).

RW media is always more expensive than R media -- typically 40 per cent more -- so deciding on the purpose of the burn is important.

If you want to keep rewriting data on to the same disc you'll need to choose RW. If you just want to archive data, you'll need only R media.

If you plan to use your burnt DVDs in consumer players, use DVD-Rs, not RWs. When buying blank media you'll also need to decide about buying in bulk. For example, if you buy 50 blank DVD-Rs on a spindle you'll pay about 70c a DVD. If you buy them in a five-pack, expect to pay \$1 a DVD. Individually, DVD-Rs can cost \$2.50.

DL media is more expensive, about \$6 a disc.

### POLICE ID PUTS YOU IN THE FRAME

POLICE hope to store more than six million photographs of Victorians on a database that will revolutionize offender identification.

The photos of all the state's licensed drivers could be stored in the new biometric system, which can match names to faces within seconds. More than 570,000 faces are already stored on the database.

All Victorians who have been through the police or prison system are recorded, as well as all registered shooters and all licensed members of the security sector.

Vic Roads holds 5.5 million images, including multiple photos of drivers as they age and are re-licensed.

The iFace system uses algorithms to measure facial features and create a unique numeric identifying code for every face.

Within seconds it compares the face of an offender or suspect caught on any type of camera with all those on the police database and identifies the closest match.

The system then nominates a degree of probability to estimate the likelihood of the match being identical.

The new face mapping system will allow:

EARLY identification of suspected terrorists, criminals or serial pests at points of entry to the country, target premises or sporting venues.

IMAGES dating back up to 50 years to be compared with those on the database in the fresh hope of achieving a match and solving "cold" cases.

SURVEILLANCE police to photograph a target and then use a laptop computer to confirm the suspect's identity by comparing the photo with the database.

OFFENDERS processed by police to be photographed and checked to discover immediately whether they are wanted or suspected over any other matters.

ELECTRONIC "line-ups" to be created within minutes for examination by victims or witnesses, rather than the hours it takes for photo boards to be done manually.

WITNESSES to review electronic images quickly instead of poring through hard-copy photo books.

"Invisible light" camera technology used with the system is so advanced that a camera on one side of the MCG will be able to scan faces in the crowd on the other side of the ground, even in low light, take a sharp, clear image and successfully match it on the database.

A Victoria Police pilot project that began last month has already been expanded because the iFace technology, hailed as world's best practice, is coping so easily with demand.

Project manager Sen-Sgt Kent Spry told the Herald Sun that images fed into the system were being matched within five seconds.

Commander Dannye Moloney said iFace was believed to be as advanced as any identification system anywhere.

*-Herald and Weekly Times*

### FOUNDATION TRAINING & ASSESSMENTS - ARV

The next Foundation license training & assessments held by Amateur Radio Victoria at Box Hill North will be on the weekend of 11 and 12 August. For inquiries or to enroll contact - Barry Robinson VK3JBR 0428 516 001 or email [arv@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:arv@amateurradio.com.au)

It also holds a bridging course for those wanting to upgrade from the Foundation License to the Standard License.

### F-Troop questions & answers

New radio amateurs are invited to submit their questions via email to [foundation@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:foundation@amateurradio.com.au)

## News & Stuff...

### READ ALL ABOUT IT - YOU'RE DIGITAL DAILY PAPER

THE newspapers of the future - cheap digital screens that can be rolled up and stuffed into a back pocket - have been just around the corner for the last three decades. But as early as this year, the future may finally arrive.

Some of the world's top newspapers publishers are planning to introduce a form of electronic newspaper that will allow users to download entire editions from the web on to reflective digital screens said to be easier on the eyes than light-emitting laptop or mobile phone displays.

Flexible versions of these readers may be available as early as 2007.

The handheld readers couldn't come a moment too soon for the newspaper industry, which has struggled to maintain its readership and advertising from online rivals.

Publishers Hearst Corp in the US, Pearson Plc's Les Echos in Paris and Belgian financial paper De Tijd are planning large-scale trials of the readers this year.

Earlier attempts by book publishers to sell digital readers failed due to high prices and a lack of downloadable books.

But a new generation of readers from Sony Corp and iRex, a Philips Electronics spinoff, have impressed publishers with their sharp resolution and energy efficiency, galvanizing support for the idea again.

"This could be a real substitution for printed paper," Jochen Dieckow, head of the news media and research division of Ifra, a global newspaper association based in Germany, said.

It's easy to see why publishers are keen. Digital newspapers, so called e-newspapers, take advantage of two prevailing media trends -- the growth of online advertising and widespread use of portable devices like the iPod music player.

Nearly all papers run web sites, but few readers relish pulling out laptops in transit or risk dropping one in the bathroom.

E-newspapers would cut production and delivery costs that account for some 75 per cent of newspaper expenses.

Circulation in the \$US55 billion (\$A74.23 billion) US newspaper industry has slid steadily for nearly two decades as papers compete with internet news for attention and advertising dollars.

Some publishers now see new devices as a way to help them snatch a bigger slice of online advertising and protect their franchise in reading away from home.

Ad spending on newspaper web sites grew 32 per cent in 2005 but only accounted for four per cent of total ad spending in newspapers, according to the Newspaper Association of America.

Still, little is known about demand for an e-paper.

"The number of consumers who are interested in reading on the go as opposed to listening to music on the go is probably smaller in the US today," NPD Group analyst Ross Rubin said.

Sony and iRex's new devices employ screen technology by E Ink, which originated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab. Investors include Hearst, Philips, McClatchy Co, Motorola Inc and Intel Corp.

The company produces energy-efficient ink sheets that contain tiny capsules showing either black or white depending on the electric current running through it.

Some of the latest devices apply E Ink's sheets to glass transistor boards, or back planes, which are rigid. But by 2007, companies such as UK-based Plastic Logic Ltd will manufacture screens on flexible plastic sheets, analysts say.

Separately, Xerox Corp and Hewlett-Packard Co are developing methods to produce flexible back planes cheaply. Xerox, in particular, has created a working prototype of system that lets manufacturers create flexible transistor boards much like one would print a regular paper document.

Production costs are expected to be low enough soon for publishers to consider giving away such devices for free with an annual subscription. Data on subscribers could also help publisher's better tailor ads.

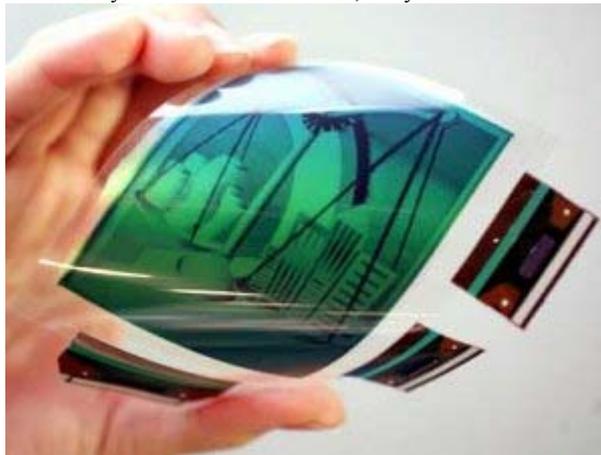
Sony's reader will cost between \$US300 (\$A400) and \$US400 (\$A540).

"If you can get one of these products to cost less than the cost of a year's subscription it could probably work," Kenneth Bronfin, president of Hearst Interactive Media, said.

He declined to name which other groups plan testing, but said Hearst's San Francisco Chronicle and Houston Chronicle will likely be among the first of its 12 daily papers to offer such devices to several hundred subscribers later this year.

In Europe, Ifra is discussing trials with 21 newspapers from 13 countries. The New York Times Co is a member.

Sony is separately in discussions with some publishers to offer newspaper downloads in its e-bookstore due to launch this northern summer, although no decision has been made, said Lee Shirani, vice-president of Sony's online content service, Sony Connect.



Way of the future: New and improved iterations of this e-paper may become a familiar morning sight on trains and trams.

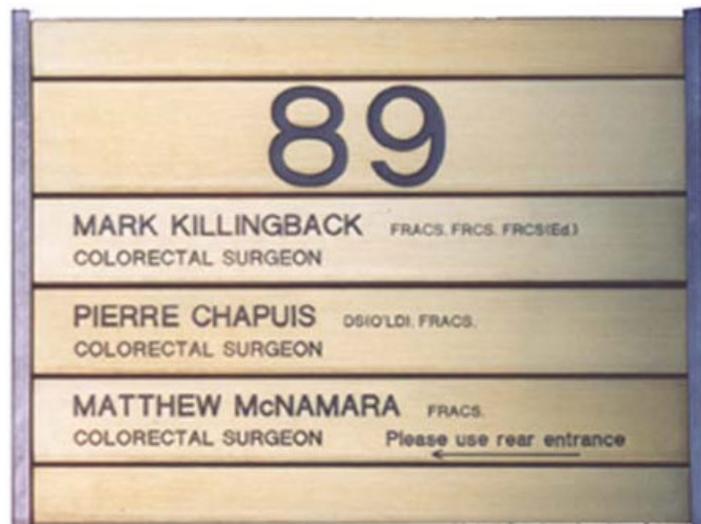


Diet water...

From the some mob who proposed putting fly screen doors on submarines...



No need for a puncture repair kit, then...



Well ... OK, Matthew, you're the doctor...

## News & Stuff...

### NEW D-STAR NET SATURDAYS ON 14.295 MHZ

"D-Star" users net is now on 14.292 MHz on Saturdays at 4 p.m. Eastern in the USA. D-STAR is an open digital protocol published by Japan Amateur Radio League, available to be implemented by anyone.

While much of D-star involves linking and position reporting, its narrowband mode and digital modulation scheme is a very interesting topic for semi-weak signal mode on VHF simplex.

So far D-star is only supported commercially by ICOM, but its growing popularity means that other companies are bound to come on board.

More information on the D-Star system is at [www.icomamerica.com/support/forums/tt.asp?forumid=2](http://www.icomamerica.com/support/forums/tt.asp?forumid=2)

### MARCONI CENTENARY

The Geelong Amateur Radio Club in conjunction with the North West Tasmanian Amateur Radio Interest Group at Devonport, will on 12 July re-enact Marconi's history trans-Bass Strait transmission.

In addition for five days the clubs will celebrate the centenary of the first wireless transmissions over open water in the Southern Hemisphere, with special event stations VI3MC at Queenscliffe and VI7MC in Devonport.

The re-enactment will be witnessed by politicians and interested members of the public. A display of antique radio artefacts and memorabilia from museums and will be exhibited.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### UN-COOL TO BE QRO

Cool country radio FM has been fined \$5,000 for transmitting hundreds of times their permitted power limit under the terms of their narrowcast broadcast license. In the Downing Centre Local Court, Sydney, the former licensees of open narrowcasting service Cool Country Radio pleaded guilty to offences against the Radiocommunications Act 1992, for breaching the conditions of their radio licenses.

Transpax Pty Ltd and Australian Narrowcast Services Pty Ltd were operating radio transmitters at Glenbrook, Katoomba and Razorback in New South Wales, enabling their Cool Country Radio service to be heard over large areas of Western Sydney.

The ACMA outside the court said the penalty imposed by the court sent a strong message to the low power open narrowcasting industry.

This type of service is generally limited to a coverage area of a 2km radius of the transmitter. The successful prosecution followed continued high power operation despite warning and infringement notices being issued.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### DIGITAL RADIO D24 MAS & MFB

The Metropolitan Mobile Radio network is now providing communications for the Victoria Police, and soon the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and Metropolitan Ambulance Service.

The multi-million dollar network has more than 3,300 portables, 2,150 mobiles and 500 fixed stations.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### ACMA LICENCE FEE REDUCTION

The amateur station 12-month license fee has been **reduced by \$2** and is now **\$57 effective from 1 July, 2006**. This results from the removal of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on most ACMA charges and it now issues renewal notices with the new \$57 fee. Anyone who paid the previous fee of \$59 for licenses due on or after 1 July, or in applying for a new license issued after that date, will have their license period extended slightly to make up for the overpayment.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### SEXY SOCKS NOW "LEGITIMATE"

Sexy Socks was always 'legal' as in a licensed station, but the Antenna going up on the roof was somewhat a clandestine affair! *Well, it was...*

Last month some electricians were on the shopping centre roof on unrelated works when they came across the 2 antennas. A quick phone call to centre management came back with the reply "... what antennas?" So it was time to play 'follow the coax', only 6 meters of it going to guess where smack right underneath!

After explaining what they were and what it did, with an emphasis on the ability to summon help in an emergency and the non-commercial aspect, there appeared to be little fuss! (*Better hide the Mini-Bar! hi*)

But I was expecting a rap on the knuckles, if not more.

So now we can operate safe in the knowledge that all is approved of OK.

*But I think I'll give the planned Discone and Stacked Omni's a miss..!*

### MARCONI CENTENARY SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

A re-enactment of the first wireless transmissions across water in the southern hemisphere in 1906 will occur on Wednesday, 12 July and involved special event stations either side of Bass Strait.

At Queenscliff VI3MC (Geelong Amateur Radio Club) and from Devonport VI7MC (North-west Tasmanian Amateur Radio Interest Group) at Devonport Tasmania will be on air for four days. The re-enactment will initially use CW on 7100KHz, and then switch to voice.

The Governors of Victoria and Tasmania will exchange greetings, and then followed by other dignitaries.

After the re-enactment the stations will separate in frequency by about 5kHz with nominated frequencies being plus/minus 14.170MHz, 7.100MHz and 3.570MHz. VI7MC will also be on IRLP Node 6616 and Echolink 152375 VK7AX-R. A contact between VI7MC and the International Space Station involving students of the Devonport High School and Reece High School is hoped to occur on Thursday 13 July, depending upon the space mission operational requirements.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### ROTARY RAFFLE 2006

I have received a cheque from Rotary for our 2006 efforts - around \$190, which I will now pass to Gordon.

Now for the 2007 raffle, I believe we should do this again.

Well done to all at WANSARC for their support again this year.

Kind regards - Mark VK3PI

### FOUNDATION TRAINING & ASSESSMENTS - NERG

The next Foundation Training & Assessment weekend will be held at the NERG club rooms at Briar Hill the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> August.

[www.nerg.asn.au](http://www.nerg.asn.au) for more details and details of how to contact class leader, **John Wier VK3ZRV**

### NERG's SUCCESS AT JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY

It's official! The John Moyle results have been published in Amateur Radio and the NERG wins both the highest overall score, and the highest score in the portable 24 hour, all-band, all-mode, multi-operator category.

Congratulations to the NERG team consisting of Greg VK3VT, John VK3ZRV, Ernie VK3FM, Kimberly VK3FHQT, Ewen VK3OW; Mark VK3BYY; Mark VK3XB, Don VK3KDT; Peter VK3DU, Stephen VK3SN (with sub-harmonics), Mat VK3HFI, Nick and visitors.

One of NERG's newest amateurs, Kimberly VK3FHQT, was responsible for about 99% of the 2 meter contacts which was a large percentage of the overall score.

- *from NERG News*

### RD CONTEST DRAWS NEAR

The Remembrance Day Contest for 2006 will be held on **August 12-13** 2006, for 24 hours commencing 0800 UTC on the Saturday evening.

Full details are listed on the WIA website as well as links to an excellent choice of logging programs to track all your contacts.

Or see July AR.

Check out <http://www.wia.org.au/contests/rd/index.php>

### IC-7000 TRANSCEIVER REVIEW

Being the owner of one of these units, I was going to do a review, but I have been beaten to it by AR magazine. If you're thinking of purchasing this radio, check out the **July edition of AR**.

Or you can always have a chat to Mick VK3CH or Chris VK3FY

But one thing they don't mention in the review is that compared to the **IC-706 MKIIG**, the **IC-7000** is much more resilient to pager interference, with Chris VK3FY telling me he can drive around the CBD and still use 2 meters mobile most of the time.

### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORK AND PRISON

In case you get the two mixed up, this should make things clearer...

IN PRISON... you get time off for good behaviour.

AT WORK... you get more work for good behaviour.

IN PRISON... they allow your family and friends to visit.

AT WORK... you can't even speak to your family.

IN PRISON... you can watch TV and play games.

AT WORK... you get fired for watching TV and playing games.

IN PRISON... the taxpayers pay all expenses with no work required.

AT WORK... you get to pay all the expenses to go to work and then they deduct taxes from your salary to pay for prisoners.

- So Now You Know!

- *From ALARA Newsletter*

## News & Stuff...

### WIA COMMENCES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

From July, the WIA commenced sending to candidates passing assessments, a letter of congratulations on becoming a radio amateur and inviting the successful candidate to become a WIA member. Accompanying the letter is a copy of AR magazine, a membership application form and a newly produced full color leaflet outlining the WIA and the services it provides to members.

**All those people who have passed an assessment from mid October 2005 and are over the age of 15 and are not already WIA members have been sent the letter, a total of about 500 people. In addition, those people whose assessments were processed by the WIA office this week have been sent the material.**

As well as the leaflet outlining the WIA and its services we are currently working on a leaflet that outlines amateur radio and the many and varied activities within the hobby and how it might apply to various peoples interests. We expect to print around **50,000 copies** of this full color promotional leaflet. The leaflet will be made available for clubs to use when promote our hobby, for the office to send to people inquiring about amateur radio and any other groups or individuals who are promoting the hobby. A copy of the leaflet promoting the WIA can be downloaded; the leaflet is folded into three equal sections and can fit into a standard long envelope or your shirt pocket.

### AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC 28 MHZ CALLING FREQUENCY

There is the need for a 28 MHz national calling frequency.

**28490 kHz** was suggested, as this frequency has been used by some VK operators for informal skeds". WIA Director Glenn Dunstan VK4DU has quickly overseen this suggestion which apparently had been muted on several occasions.

"Unfortunately, whilst **28490** may be quiet at the moment because of low sunspot activity, it falls within the international DX segment.

**28490, 495** and **500** are often used by DXpeditions." Glenn said.

**28400** to **28500** is the internationally recognized DX window.

It therefore makes sense to assign a domestic Australian calling frequency outside of the DX portion of the band. Don't forget that we do have **1.7 MHz** of band to use on 10 meters.

So, where should we put the domestic calling frequency?

The most suitable spot seems to be **28390 kHz** as this frequency is below the DX window, and aligns with the band plans of other countries."

Glenn said. What do you think?

Make your views known - send Glenn an email to [vk4du@wia.org.au](mailto:vk4du@wia.org.au)

### "SOME REFLECTIONS ON MATE" (BOB VK3EL)

At age 67, this year I find myself approaching 30 years of involvement with Amateur Radio as a licensed operator, and maybe like some others out there, I'm wondering where and how those years went so quickly. In that time I've seen changes ( both good and bad ) in Government regulations that have made it possible for many new people to become involved in Amateur Radio who may have not done so otherwise, this at a time when our hobby faces so much competition from other forms of media, hobbies and entertainment.

It also seems to me that in a 30 year blink of an eye, I've seen our Australian culture change in many varied and wonderful ways, in large part due to the thousands and thousands of immigrants who've arrived here throughout the years, both before and since I was born here in 1938, and some years after my Great grandfather arrived here from Italy in the 1850's. Sadly and more recently I've also seen political correctness rear its sometimes ugly head in this country, and seen and heard some people seemingly striving to adopt a usage of speech which appears to me to be more and more modeled on the American way. More later, but a question to ponder for a moment?

Can someone please explain to me why Radio and TV ad. producers find it so important to use presenters with an American accent to sell a product here, even though that product is likely to have been produced here in Australia?

Just in case you think I'm being Anti-American I have a very good mate who moved here from the USA, and has been living here in VK3 with his family for several years and we still joke about the accents from our two countries.

Sadly, as I've become a "Grumpy Old Man", I've also seen the gradual drop in usage of some of the older words that were once a part of our everyday speech. Words like 'bloke', 'chap', 'cobber' and dozens of others have almost been lost from our own Australian way of speech and

conversation. But I would like to know what is happening to the word 'MATE' recently, and have you noticed the way it's now being used by some VK amateur radio operators, compared to the way Australians once used it? I realize that languages and culture are changing and will continue to do so, but I really do object to having to listen to a new and gratefully annoying use of the word 'mate'!

'Mate' came to this country with the first English speaking settlers, saw service during the various War Years, and has come to be a common greeting amongst both new acquaintances and good friends, and in some cases is still used as a form of male or female endearment, or simply as a beginning or end to a short exchange with someone we've not met before. But please ... NOT to be used repetitively, over and over again in every sentence and at every opportunity!

Maybe it's because the speaker has fallen in love with the word 'mate', or has a belief that using the word to excess makes him sound like a 'Fair Dinkum Aussie'? Or is it just that they are too embarrassed to use the person's given name for fear of sounding too intimate?

While still on my soapbox, have you also noticed how some of our VK Amateur Radio Operators who've just met someone on air from the USA, suddenly adopt a pseudo-American accent, which in my younger days used to be referred to here in VK3 as "Yarraville Yank Talk". Perhaps it's because they believe people from the 'States' might not understand what's being said because of their Aussie accent, or maybe it's just that nasty old Australian Cultural Cringe that is still surviving amongst some of our citizenry! Sure there may sometimes be a momentary shock for an overseas visitor as they hear "G'daymateowergoin" for the first time, but please don't try to tell me it's not a sound we as Australians love to hear when we arrive home again from our own overseas jaunt?

*We May Not All Be Perfect 'Down Under' - But We Are Australian!  
Be Proud Of It!*

- Bob VK3EL

### A POSTSCRIPT TO "SOME REFLECTIONS ON MATE"

(or "The Ugly Head Of Political Correctness" ) - Bob VK3EL

As a courtesy to my American friend mentioned in 'Reflections', I sent him a copy of the piece before it was published. Readers might recall the mentions I made of 'political correctness' and the diminishing use of some of the older and popular Australian slang words, and perhaps my own inferred disappointment? Speaking to him on the phone later, you might imagine how I felt when he told me of the following event that happened at his place of work recently:

It seems that one of the company's employees' speaking on the phone to a client used the word "Cobber" in conversation. Some time later he was very surprised to be called up to his manager's office and was informed that the client had made a complaint about the use of the word 'cobber'! The employee was informed that on pain of dismissal, he was on no account to use that term in the future while acting for his employer! Seemingly the client had no knowledge of the word 'cobber' and believed he had been treated with a lack of courtesy or even worse, verbally abused! Maybe the title of this little tale should be;

"Welcome To The World Of Conversational Globalization."

### GIPPS TECH 2006 - ANOTHER EXCELLENT PRESENTATION

Like last year the Presentations, Sales on offer of quite hard to source stuff, technical expertise and of course, the food was very well done. WANSARC had **Ian VK3XIJ** and your editor **Mick VK3CH** attending. Speak to either of us if you want to find out more - I'm sure **Peter VK3KAI**, **GippsTech Host**, will be penning an article for AR soon.



Some the yummy 'projects' on offer at GippsTech...



Buyers hunting bargains at GippsTech and below,



One of the Luxeon LED full duplex light transceiver units on show

### A SMALL BATTLE PROVIDES BIG VICTORY

For two months a threat had existed to the revival of amateur radio in Australia. It was the introduction of a new minimum age limit of 16-years imposed on all radio amateurs.

A suspected, but misguided motive for this was that somehow amateur radio may pose a risk to young people

Such a draconian move could rightly be described as a defacto censorship classification for amateur radio – making it only possible for qualified youngsters to operate their stations under adult supervision.

The new age limit was indeed imposed, initially resulting in a halt to the issuing licenses to those aged under 16, and then the issuing of conditional licenses.

The WIA immediately objected to the condition, advancing a number of reasons. The reasons included the fact that the condition was inconsistent with the whole object of the Foundation license and in direct contradiction of the 'Outcomes' paper, where it was said "it was decided not to introduce an age limit for operating under the Foundation licensing option". It is not a condition of the class license covering CB equipment and so discriminated against amateur licensees who were trained in the relevant safety aspects.

As more licenses were issued with the condition, more people became aware of it and expressed their concern to the WIA.

A new Special Condition\* was attached to Foundation Licenses. Ultimately those who already had a license issued and were under the age limit would face that same restriction.

The WIA on learning of the restriction began negotiation with the ACMA. It found the ACMA did not initiate the restriction and that it came from elsewhere in the national capital.

The age limit for radio amateurs in Australia was abolished 20 years ago. Originally it was imposed out of concerns for operator safety and interference related issues.

This latest restriction move has now been resolved and hopefully won't be raised again.

The under-16 age limit that was being applied to all three grades of license (Foundation, Standard and Advanced), is to be removed.

The conditional licenses already issued will be replaced.

This is an excellent and sensible outcome that restores amateur radio as the hobby for everyone.

Well done WIA and ACMA!

\* **The special condition read:**

*Use of amateur equipment by the license is only authorized while under supervision of a licensed amateur over the age of 16.*

*This license will be subject to the supervision condition only until the licensee attains the age of 16 years.*

- Amateur Radio Victoria & WIA website

### NEW COUNCIL BEGINS

The Amateur Radio Victoria Council for 2006-09 at its first meeting immediately down to business of forward planning. A number of new initiatives will be announced in coming months.

The council consists of **Jim Linton VK3PC (President)**, **Peter Mill VK3APO (Secretary)**, **Ross Pittard VK3FCE (Treasurer)**, **Barry Robinson VK3JBR (Vice President)** and **Keith Proctor** who has the events program portfolio.

Interestingly four of the councilors are very active accredited assessors and the fifth is an exam invigilator - all involved in amateur license assessments.

One of the first issues they discussed was how to promote amateur radio and in particular the Foundation License. It was decided to provide assistance to Amateur Radio Victoria members introduce the new license to late primary or secondary schools.

The level of knowledge and comprehension skills required for the new license make it attainable for youngsters who are aged 10 years or older, who sufficiently apply themselves to the necessary study.

The key of getting it into schools seems to be the use an "insider" to convince the school that the Foundation License is a worthwhile scholastic or self-development activity.

These can be a teacher, member of the school committee or their spouse - and it helps enormously if they are themselves a radio amateur. Another asset would be to have a student who already has their ham ticket and enjoys the hobby, making them an ambassador for it.

And what assistance will ARV provide to support its members? For the rest of this calendar year up to 10 Foundation License Manuals will be provided free directly to a school that commits to have a training course and assessment session.

### F-TROOP LAUNCHED

What an enormous initial success the F-Troop weekly Sunday net for Foundation Licensees has been, resulting in a welcoming, friendly and helpful on air session. The idea is to provide Foundation Licensees and other newly hams an opportunity to participate in and talk about their new hobby. The net was proposed by a number of members of Amateur Radio Victoria who are Foundation Licensees. It is held at about 11.40am straight after the Sunday morning broadcast callbacks, and using the wide coverage Mt Macedon 2-metre repeater **VK3RMM**.

### A.R.V. OFFICE UPGRADE

Much needed and overdue improvements to the computer system including a new printer in the Ashburton office have been completed in time for this month's major mail out of two-year membership renewal notices. New window signage, cleaning, painting and general maintenance work has also been scheduled to improve the conditions for our office volunteers, visiting members and to make the premises more suited for training classes and an operating amateur station.

### TEAM VICTORIA STANDBY

The Remembrance Day Contest next month will be run under revised rules, including the manner in which the overall winning state is decided. However for Victoria to win in 2006 it basically comes down to many more VK3's going that extra step and actually submitting a log entry. Amateur Radio Victoria will be doing all it can to encourage both greater participation and the number of logs contributing to the VK3 score.

### VICLINK ON HOLD FOR AWHILE!

I have decided to place **VICLINK** in a holding pattern for awhile. There is a need to review the pod cast and its position in the Victorian Amateur Radio landscape since there has been no offers of help despite weeks of requests. I hope to relaunch the pod cast in a few months.

Grant Stowell - Viclink Producer

# Bits and Pi-eces

by Mark VK3PI

- Great to hear from Dan VK3BCD, who says ***“Sorry for not coming over now days but age has caught up with me. I think I am still the oldest in age in the club. I am now in my 95<sup>th</sup> year. Regards to you and all in the club”***. Thanks Dan – fantastic to hear from you and yes, I think you are a nose ahead of Hal VK3EKF in the age stakes.
- And fantastic to hear Reg VK3KK on air with his new box of tricks. Reg wrote ***“I received my new FT897D recently and tried it out on the club net and it seemed to work OK. It is a little different in that the instructions must be read first and not as a last resort which was the way with a new rig in the past. Many thanks and best 73 to all.”*** Thanks Reg and yes, the rig did sound very good. Hope to hear you on many more of the club nets as your signal is excellent.
- The results of this year’s Rotary Club of Reservoir Raffle have been released and unfortunately club members were not amongst the winners. First prize was ticket 36106 , held by N.Lachmond and sold by Heartbeat Epworth Hospital. However a positive is that a cheque for \$172.55 dollars has been received from Rotary – a sterling effort given the shortened timeframes for this year’s raffle . Thank you to all club members for their support.. This is a very worthwhile club activity which benefits the community and us.
- Another batch of QSL cards have arrived for sorting and line honors for the most cards goes to **Chris VK3FY**, followed closely by **Bob VK3UY**. When next we catch up with Chris we should have an explanation of how he operates mobile CW?? Shades of **Tim VK3IM**, who is one of the only amateurs I have ever worked mobile. I am currently holding cards for the following calls – **NR, FY, UY, YXC, TXZ, KOS, CHN, FRB, KK, and MEC**. If you have not already made arrangements with me to retrieve cards, please give me a call.
- This month’s photograph features a house on the South Mountain Road near Mt. Disappointment. Note the level of the house roof given that the photograph was taken from the side of the road.....so how would you adjust your television antenna on this roof? Given the height of the surrounding hills the pictures from Dandenong might not be too good anyway. Give me a flat roof any day!!!



- Well done to Bob VK3EL and Ralph VK3FRMB for assisting Frank VK3ZO with his antenna set up at home. Frank’s signals have improved on VHF and Frank has said that his ability to come up on HF has improved. Not only that, but Frank is also dusting off his old homebrew AM box for some contacts. Brings back memories of our old Preston contacts, Frank!
- Speaking of Bob VK3EL it was pleasing after 28 years to finally work Bob on 6 meters. Not strong but very readable, Bob popped up on 52.525 FM. You show me your QSL card, Bob, and I will show you mine!!!!

***73 de Mark VK3PI***

# 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**