

# WANSARC NEWS

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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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2006

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## Next Club Meeting 19.30 hours - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at the TAFE

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### WANSARC TRADING TABLE

It would appear that little or no use is made of the "TRADING TABLE" part of [www.wansarc.org.au](http://www.wansarc.org.au).

With **EBay** and other sites like **VK Ham** popular, perhaps it can be removed from the WANSARC website?

The club magazine at least goes to all members.

If there are no howls of protest, catch me on the Tuesday night NET to have your say – **or it will be deleted from next month.**

- Mick, WANSARC Site Webmaster

### VK3FY VISIT TO CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Listen out for Chris, operating as **VK3FY/9** at **Christmas Island**, 1200 UTC Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October until 0300 UTC Monday 8<sup>th</sup> active on the following bands; Phone & CW 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m & maybe 6m. Work 1<sup>st</sup>, QSO's 2<sup>nd</sup>!

### WANSARC CHRISTMAS DINNER 2006

Its time to plan this year's dinner. The committee has come up with suggestions which will be discussed next meeting, if you want a say, then be there! Formal announcement is in next issue.

### WELCOME BACK MAX

Spring must be in the air, good to see **Max VK3ZCW** back from his Winter health hassles.

**146.450 MHz** was very quiet for many weeks with his absence.

Given the fact that a power tool saw can't even cut his hand off, (*ask him!*), Max would have to be as tough as an army boot.

So the regular afternoon **NET** is back up and running again.

### WELCOME VK3AML

After obtaining his license after deliberating for about 30 years and then promptly injured himself before he could get on the air, I heard the call of **VK3AML** on **VK3RMM** repeater and I called back. Chris Long had just arrived home from out of hospital and was using a borrowed hand held running 1 watt in his kitchen.

Chris said that I was his very first contact with his new license.

Welcome to ham radio Chris, can't wait to see you on **VK3RTV**. You're PowerPoint Luxeon show seen last meeting at WANSARC was well attended and found very informative. Thanks from all at WANSARC. Mick, VK3CH has CD copies.

### NEXT FOUNDATION CLASSES

Next courses and assessments by Amateur Radio Victoria are 14 & 15 October held at Box Hill North for inquiries or to enrol contact - Barry Robinson VK3JBR 0428 516 001 or [arv@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:arv@amateurradio.com.au)

Courses and assessments by NERG held at Briar Hill Community Hall are available, contact John Wier at [www.nerg.asn.au](http://www.nerg.asn.au)

### REPEATERS

The Mt St Leonard **VK3RMU** site north-east of Melbourne now has a 2-metre repeater on **147.375MHz** in addition to its long-standing 70cm repeater. The use the new Amateur Radio Victoria repeater requires **CTCSS of 91.5Hz**.

In other repeater upgrading, the Bendigo City repeater **VK3RBO** at Specimen Hill is on air using a frequency of **438.025MHz**.

Among the contributions made by Amateur Radio Victoria to the repeater include providing the power supply, diplexers and standby battery. It has supplied a new antenna that is awaiting installation by an authorized rigger.

The Midland Amateur Radio Club paid for the repeater plus its controller and plans to make **VK3RBO** an IRLP node too.

### TPMS YET ANOTHER LIPD

A vehicle tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS) operates on the 70cm mainly on luxury cars in Europe and the United States. Using a frequency of on 433.920MHz the system communicates between the tyres and a monitor mounted in the dashboard.

Recent tests, conducted by the Korean Amateur Radio League, found that TPMS is seriously affected by any amateur station transmitting on or near the frequency at close range.

The same frequency is also under consideration for remote key enter of vehicles and already used for radio frequency identification (RFID) on some shipping containers.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER TO WANSARC

Greetings to our newest member;

**CHRIS**

**VK3KQU**

**MYRTLEFORD**

## Around the Shack...

### VICLINK NEWS

Viclink, the Victorian Amateur Radio Podcast will not be returning to the airwaves in its previous format. Simply, there is not enough support from the Victorian amateur radio community to maintain a weekly show. Special editions maybe the way forward. The web log will be maintained as a technology, radio portal. – Grant, VK3HFS -*Viclink website* <http://vk3news.info/>

### CORDLESS PHONE WOES

A number of telephone call conversations on the amateur 2-metre band in the Great Melbourne area are being investigated by the ACMA. A few skeptics have expressed doubts about these transmissions and how they seemingly disengage repeater timers or work around CTCSS encoding.

A change to the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Telecommunications Interception and other Measures) Act in July 2005, in effect allows Inspectors under the Radiocommunications Act to investigate case of illegal cordless phones opening in aeronautical and amateur spectrum.

However, members of the public (radio amateurs) are not so authorized to listen or record conversations, except for say note the frequency, time and possible location information incidental to the conversation/transmission.

This information can be provided to the ACMA. Should an investigation lead to prosecution, the source and how the information was received and handled can be critical in the successful prosecution of offenders. *-from ARV Website*

### ACMA CLAMPS DOWN ON EVENTS

A new policy introduced by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) will mean it's now more difficult to obtain special event VI prefixed callsigns.

Callsigns such as last year's VI90ANZAC would also be most unlikely to be granted if requested now, because the ACMA policy is that anniversaries must be multiples of 25-years - such as 25, 50, 75, 100 years.

After end of August, special event callsigns such as VI2LH would not be issued for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, unless the occasion also celebrates an important anniversary under the 25-years' multiple rule.

A previous practice of attaching a short-term special event Callsign to an existing club station license for free also appears to be discontinued by the ACMA which now requires payment of a license fee.

Special event callsigns are short-term or temporary. Apart from the Sydney Olympics in 2000 which had the AX20000 Callsign issued for two months, special Callsign periods will generally not exceed 30 days.

The ACMA is continuing its policy that the AX prefix is for significant national or international events while VI is for agreed events of local significance.

It has however introduced new regular AX prefix days for ITU Day, 17 May and ANZAC Day, 25 April, in addition to the long-standing practice for Australia Day 26 January. On those three days all radio amateurs may substitute the VK prefix with the AX alternative.

*- Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### SPORTS SCANNING

If you're a sporting buff and plan on visiting the **MCG** or **Telstra Dome** with your scanner, then make a note of these two bands,

MCG scan 506.4 through 509.150 MHz

Telstra Dome 505.7 through 507 MHz

*- courtesy of ScanVictoria.com*

### “DEAR FRIENDS OF CHRIS & PRUE LONG,”

This is just a circular letter to tell you that following the sad death on 24 June 2006 of our old friend - and the Best Man from our wedding - **Tony Sanderson**

("The Branch", amateur radio Callsign **VK3AML**)

Chris finally decided to 'remove the digit' and sit for the Amateur Radio transmitting license exam (Advanced Level).

The death of such a close contemporary forcibly impressed us with the finite limits of mortality and the need to complete a few projects that had been set aside for many years... Chris had been waiting for Tony's retirement in three years', time to get into some digital comms experiments on HF, specifically relating to transmitting moving television images and high quality (DRM) audio within a narrow bandwidth.

With Tony's sudden and unexpected death, this was not to be... Chris instead read the final eulogy at Tony's funeral on behalf of the 200 guests, about one-third of whom were ham radio operators.

After Tony's death, **Lionel Curling VK3NM** and **Tony Formosa VK3AAZ** both pushed Chris along towards the ham radio license, providing important updates in regulatory information and generously providing Chris with trial exams and a few evenings of tutoring.

Meanwhile Chris approached Tony Sanderson's family - his widow Anna and offspring Andy and Rosie - to see if they'd consent to Chris having Tony's old call-sign of **VK3AML**.

All were very willing to facilitate the gesture.

On the afternoon of Sunday 20th August 2006, Chris sat for the Advanced ham radio licensing exam at the Eastern and Mountain Districts Radio Club, with results as follows:

PRACTICAL TEST: 100% correct.

REGULATIONS: 98% correct.

THEORY: 88% correct.

As the pass mark was 70% in each case, the result was excellent and consequently Chris **IS** now amateur radio station **VK3AML** with full transmitting privileges to 400 Watts of sideband; 120 Watts of amplitude modulation. Our home in Newton Street has acquired a very sizeable 'T' antenna working against an earth mat ground, which has already been tested by **Peter VK3YE** using only a 5 Watt QRP rig on 160 and 80 meters with excellent results into Hobart and into Queensland.

In particular, Chris wants to establish an 80 meter link with his Hobart-based friend **Mike Groth (VK7MJ)**, with whom he holds the world record for DX audio communication over a modulated light beam (set on 19 February 2005).

His and Mike's intention is to set up an on-air discussion group on either 80 Meters or a VHF IRLP repeater dealing with light communications on a weekly basis.

Chris is now waiting for a couple of weeks for the legal paperwork to go through the ACMA channels: as soon as confirmation is received he will commence operation on 80 or 160 meters, initially with borrowed equipment.

\*\*\* Chris received the license on 31<sup>st</sup> August. \*\*\*

For the first test on 160 meters, Chris intends to gather a group of Tony Sanderson's old friends for an on-air toast during the regular coffee break net at 11 am on a Saturday or Sunday morning.

It will be a happy occasion, but one tinged with poignancy for all of us.

Very best wishes, Chris and Prue Long.

### CHRIS JONES, VK2ZDD - SILENT KEY

It is with very great sadness that I have to tell you that **Chris Jones, VK2ZDD**, passed away Friday 25 August.

Chris was **National Secretary of the WIA**, but more importantly the person whose vision and commitment made the WIA what it is today.

It was Chris who talked a group of amateurs in late 2003 into believing that a national WIA was a realistic and better option.

It was Chris who believed fervently that the organization would grow if it delivered service and avoided conflict.

It was Chris who inspired so many to contribute in so many different ways.

It was Chris who contacted and organized the WIA Assessor training courses, who inspired so many people to make our new license system really work.

It was Chris who made sure that somehow the WIA delivered many things that many wanted.

It was Chris who worked the phones like no one else I have ever met. It was Chris who involved so many people in so many things. Chris Jones was a person who avoided conflict and loved to be surrounded by his many friends. I extend our most sincere sympathy to his family and his many friends.

His passing is a very great loss to the Wireless Institute of Australia.

-Michael J Owen, WIA President, 25 August 2006

### WIRELESS WEATHER

A small sunspot appeared on the surface of the Sun on the 31st of July and vanished again within hours, this was not given an official sunspot number due to the short duration of its existence. Normally this would not be significant, however this particular sunspot was of reverse magnetic polarization to that which would be expected and this is a possible indication that "Solar Cycle Number 24" is about to begin.

At present, the sun is quiet as we near the end of Solar Cycle 23, which peaked back in 2001. The next cycle is expected to be a particularly stormy one.

It will be a further year or two before the new cycle will have significant effects on HF radio communications.

Now this "sounds exciting", but typically, sunspots last days, weeks or even months. Three hours is fleeting in the extreme.

The latitude of the spot is suspicious. New-cycle sunspots almost always pop up at mid-latitudes, around 30N or 30S. The backward sunspot popped up at 13S. "That's strange." These odd-isms stop short of officially declaring the onset of a new solar cycle. "But it looks promising."

For a while, perhaps one or two years, Cycle 23 and Cycle 24 will actually share the sun, making it a hodgepodge of backward and forward spots.

Eventually, Cycle 24 will take over completely; then the fireworks will really begin.

(sourced to both irts and vk2sky) -from WIA News

### CHINA REPORTS GROWTH IN AMATEUR RADIO

The total population of amateur stations in the mainland of China has exceeded 20,000 with about 80% of them with a class 4 license giving VHF/UHF and 29MHz operating privileges.

The remainder consist of 12.7% class three that includes the higher sections of the main HF bands as well as VHF/UHF, class 2 which adds the WARC bands and class 1 which provide for 1kW HF power for contesting.

Transition or upgrading in the higher classes includes proof of operating a number of domestic and DX stations.

The China Radio Sports Association (CRSA) reports that there are also more active groups and groups, some specializing in contesting and do-it-yourself (homebrew) construction.

To encourage newcomers to be involved in emergency communications, CRSA organizes an annual simulated

emergency test that includes field-day type operation and message handling.

Making the hobby more affordable to some is newly developed kits for 15-watt PLL synthesized transceivers that cost less than \$US100, with small scale production underway.

- Amateur Radio Victoria.

### ACMA NEWS - 2010 - 2025 MHz band

The Australian Communications and Media Authority is inviting applications for an auction of spectrum licenses in the 2010 - 2025 MHz band. The spectrum is suitable for the delivery of wireless broadband services, although licensees can use the spectrum for any purpose as long as they comply with the associated technical framework,' said Giles Tanner, General Manager of ACMA's Inputs to Industry Division.

'There is spectrum available in all states and territories covering metropolitan and regional areas.'

Demand for broadband services continues to increase and wireless technology is likely to play an increasingly significant role in the delivery of these services.

Un met demand for spectrum for wireless broadband services is evident from the consultation and spectrum allocations that ACMA has been conducting this year.

The licenses will be issued for a fixed term of 15 years.

- WIA News

### ANOTHER ALIEN VISITOR! (Bob, VK3EL)



Back in April 2006, some may recall I wrote an article in this magazine of an invasion of 'ALIENS' that have taken up residence in many Amateur Radio Operators' homes in recent years, and the subsequent annoying QRM they can cause in receiving equipment, but as they usually take the form of some innocuous item designed to be of help around the house are likely to be overlooked. Well bad news I'm afraid. With the advent of so many cheap imported goods being imported from China, yet another 'Alien' has landed here. Many homes now have a touch-sensitive AC mains operated lamp (often a bed lamp) that will either just switch on or off, or will allow a stepped increase in light intensity. However the home owner maybe unaware that they can generate some very nasty and unwanted crud on many different frequencies (HF, VHF & UHF) when you're trying to listen for that weak station. These lamps have been around and popular for quite a few years but have become quite attractive lately as the price has become more affordable. You can catch up on the theory of their operation if you have the internet. Just copy and paste the link below in your favourite Internet browser.

<http://home.howstuffworks.com/question42.htm>

There are lots of other sources of RFI that can be found around the house and also lots of information on the subject to be found on the internet. Don't forget that most suburban council libraries are now equipped with the Internet and if you have a library card you might want to arrange to call in to your local library and shake hands with a Computer for the very first time.

- Bob VK3EL

## ARRL GRANTED EXPERIMENTAL LICENCE FOR 505-510 KHZ

The United States Federal Communications Commission has granted an experimental license to the **ARRL** on behalf of a group of 23 US radio amateurs interested in investigating spectrum in the vicinity of **500 kHz**.

Experimental license **WD2XSH** was issued September 13. The two-year authorization permits experimentation and research between 505 and 510 kHz using narrowband modes at power levels of up to 20 W ERP.

The FCC decision to allocate an experimental band from 505-510 kHz is a logical outcome - it avoids the distress and safety channel at 500 kHz and the **NAVTEX** maritime safety information broadcast channel at 518 kHz.

The **WIA** is prepared to apply for a similar experimental allocation for Australian amateurs if there is sufficient demand.

Please send expressions of interest to **WIA** Director Glenn Dunstan, **VK4DU**, at [vk4du@wia.org.au](mailto:vk4du@wia.org.au)

## PLUTO OUT IN THE COLD IN PLANET REALIGNMENT

**THROW** away your childhood atlas; there has been a realignment of the planets. Pluto, the smallest and most distant of what we regarded as planets, has been sacked.

After clashing over the essence of the cosmos, the International Astronomical Union stripped Pluto of the planetary status it has held since its discovery in 1930. Astronomers rejected a proposal that would have retained Pluto and brought three other objects — **Xena, Charon** and **Ceres** — into the planetary club.

The vote effectively means the ninth planet will now be airbrushed out of school and university textbooks.

**"The eight planets are Mercury, Earth, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune,"** the astronomers' resolution said.

At its general assembly at Melbourne on August 24th, 2500 scientists and astronomers voted that Pluto would be downgraded and put into a category of "dwarf planets".

The decision by the pre-eminent international group spells out the basic tests that celestial objects will have to meet before they can be considered for admission to the elite cosmic club.

Much-maligned Pluto doesn't make the grade under the new definition of a planet as: "A celestial body that is in orbit around the sun, has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a ... nearly round shape, and has cleared the neighborhood (of dust) around its orbit."

-*Herald Sun Media*

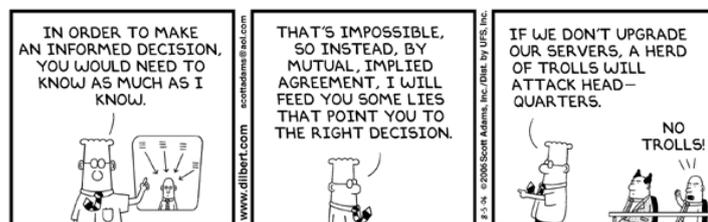
## 184-PROOF WHISKY SOLD OVER COUNTER

Following a 17th century recipe, one of the eight artisanal whisky producers on the tiny Scottish isle of Islay will produce a dozen barrels of 184-proof whisky, the company announced.

That's 92 per cent alcohol, which is about as strong as whisky can get without being sold in a pharmacy.

"The first taste affects all the members of the body," a 1695 description of the elixir reads. "Two spoonfuls of this last liquor is a sufficient dose - if any man should exceed this, it would presently stop his breath, and endanger his life."

The Bruichladdich distillery said it would install webcams so that customers thirsty with anticipation could watch the potentially lethal concoction come into being. "If the distillery doesn't explode during the process," Bruichladdich said. -*AFP*



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## Member Spotlight - VK3FMPB, John

My involvement in radio started with CB radio in 76 or 77. I got a HMV Roadhound TX 55, 18 channels - AM 27 MHz CB. That was fun and I met lots of people on the CB, but there were always a portion of the crowd being idiots on it. So I knew there would have been something better than that somewhere.

I tried UHF CB radio, which was ok for a while until the idiots found their way up there too. I always knew about ham radio but I never thought I would be good enough to get a license. I bought a few copies of ARA and looked at them but it was a different world to CB radio, the equipment looked too hard to use with knobs and dials and beams and Morse and stuff. It all looked just too hard. So I just continued on the CB using HF and UHF for a while, but I could see there was a limited lifespan in it for me. The 'on-air behavior had not really changed in 20 or so years and I had.

So I thought to myself; I had matured, got older and wiser and the CB radio hadn't; so maybe it was time to move on? I came upon the foundation license almost by accident, I was looking up propagation on the internet and I saw this thing called a foundation license and it didn't look too difficult.

So I bought the book and did a bit of reading, the book looked a bit involved but there wasn't that much new that I hadn't seen at some stage in the last 20 or so years. The trick was to bring it all together and know how to use that knowledge.

The foundation license may seem like a basic license but when you haven't really looked at radio stuff for 10 or 15 years it can be a little daunting. What was a cycle, a watt a ground plane, an SWR meter? It may seem simple but there is a lot of it and you need to learn how it all interconnects.

Then you need to know how to use it as well. I did the course, which was a lot of fun and miraculously, I passed.

Now comes the hard part, buying all the equipment.

I had seen a huge quad antenna in Flemington a long time ago and I knew I wanted one just like it. I settled for a 2m 5 element beam instead. That is only the start though. This has been a time of great learning for me and I just want to keep going, learning, improving, and upgrading my license and equipment. The journey has only just begun.

Now for my standard license, when are we running the next course?



73's VK3FMPB Johnno

**NERG 'CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST' DINNER - Mick VK3CH**



As you can see by the ticket number, #001, your editor is not one to miss out on good food, be it a WANSARC or NERG gathering. Held at the **NERG** Clubrooms Briar Hill Community Hall, at least 30+ persons enjoyed a tasteful meal with plenty of conversation of amateur radio at some tables and 'anything else but' at others! The Menu was; Roast Turkey and Lamb plus Ham on the Bone served with Roast Vegies and Greens and finished off with Plum Pudding and Brandy Sauce or Ice Cream or Fruit Salad.

The **NERG** raffle was drawn on the night of 1st prize - 5 bottles each of fine Red and White wines, 2nd prize - 1 bottle each of fine Red and White wines; donated from the limited private bottling of the "Gentle Annie" Estate, by **Tony VK3TQC**.

Your editor, **VK3CH** won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – a nice 1998 Shiraz vintage. Well done to all at NERG, I'll be back next year, a bargain at \$20



"... Come and get it!" Greg all ready to dispense Brandy Pudding



Greg VK3VT, slicing up one of the two Turkey Roasts



Nearly everyone was here, including the Dog!



The NERG dinner at Briar Hill Community Hall in full swing



The hall was completely "dressed" into December, great for kids



I started foxhunting in about 1969 with a group of hams that included Bill Rice VK3ABP, Graham Farthing VK3 AFR, Kevin VK3???, Tony VK3BZT as regulars and a couple of Melbourne University students who were more trouble than they were worth.

Bill Rice drove an old Valiant, Graham had a late model Holden and Kevin drove a very battered old Vanguard which appeared to have more body damage every time he came with us. He was a stop for nothing driver, which accounted for a lot of the damage to his vehicle.

I had an old ex-taxi, an FJ Holden, which still had the taxi antenna hole in the roof into which we placed the 2mx. Yagi, so it could be turned from the back seat.

I also had as helpers, my wife, Lyn and on several occasions, our very young daughters, Mandy and Carolyn. Also with us would be my good friend Adam Jakymczuk, a math and science teacher from Macleod Tech School, and a first year student from this school named Ross Gardiner, who became a ham and went on to be a well respected local electrical contractor, and a member of N.E.R.G. After forty years he still drops in for a chat which I really appreciate, and has been a great help on more than one occasion.

We used gear which was all 'home-brew,' most of which would be consigned to the scrap heap today.

For example I used a Pye 3A low band uhf. ex taxi radio which I converted to 2mx tuneable, with a 3/12 in the final giving it about 10 watts out. It was my first attempt at converting, and although it was pretty rough and the receiver drifted several megs. off frequency when it warmed up, we managed to track the fox on most of the hunts. I only did this conversion because I was told by the experts that it could not be done.

The fox transmitter was also 'home brew,' courtesy of Bill Rice I think, and was packed into an old ammunition box to allow for the rough treatment it received being placed in some of the hiding places. Bill came up with some weird and wonderful pieces of tracking equipment, which included a C.R.O. installed in the dashboard of the old Valiant.

We often had as many as eight or ten cars turn up in College Cr. on Friday night, and if we had a few difficult hunts we may have been out till 1am or often later, leaving wives or friends wondering if we would ever get home for supper. The supper providers seemed to try to out do each other and nobody went home hungry.

Panic envelopes were provided but these were never opened until it became obvious that a hound was totally lost and a search party needed to be organized. Of course no hound would want to have everyone know how far off the track he was, so there were often long delays while we waited for them to decide if they needed help. Loss of maximum points was always an issue in these decisions. Locating these lost travelers was often made more difficult when they had wandered so far off course that their voice signal became almost unreadable, when it became necessary to take the fox transmitter to a nearby easy high location and sit and wait.

There were some ingenious locations although some of the most baffling hunts made use of surrounding buildings and metal structures causing the hounds to chase reflected signals in a totally different area. One of these hunts saw several hounds chasing reflections off the high insurance buildings in the western end of the city while we waited for them in the Fitzroy Gardens. Another difficult location was at the end of the St. Kilda breakwater with hounds as far away as Williamstown and Black Rock. One of the most difficult locations where we had most of the hounds within a hundred yards and still unable to pinpoint the spot, was when Graham Farthing floated the TX. out on a motor tube raft into the middle of a lake in the Moonee Ponds Gardens. No one was prepared to go into the water and it was not until someone tripped over the fishing line to which it was attached that it was reeled in.

Laneways around the industrial areas of Collingwood and around the Yarra Boulevard caused a lot of signal tracking problems, which created a need for hand held 'sniffers', a small hand held antenna attached to a tobacco tin sized transistor amplifier and an ear plug or a set of head phones. These units allowed us to become 'pedestrian mobile' through the narrow lanes when we were nearing the fox.

Reflections from the oil refinery and the mud flats around Altona and Laverton caused other problems trying to get traction on the soft ground. One night saw Kevin spend an hour sliding around before we were able to get a rope on him to get him out. Kevin's old Vanguard showed the scars of his erratic driving, which, as I recall, only included one scrape with our own group.

Another interesting hunt was when we asked a lady friend to stand at the tram stop in Clifton Hill with a pram. No hound was prepared to question her as to the blanket wrapped bundle even though the signal appeared to be emanating from that spot. From fifty yards away we watched the antics of the hounds and it was only our laughter that finally gave the game away.

We had a few brushes with the law when a fox would park in a lane in Toorak not realizing he was actually in someone's driveway, and they had called Police. Other times saw us pulled up by Mr. Plod who only wanted to know what all these cars with funny antennas and guys hanging out of car windows were all about.

These nights were a lot of fun for whole families and my own children often stayed awake till midnight before they went to sleep in the back of the wagon I used in later years. I wish I was young enough to do it all again but time has caught up with us all - although it has left behind a lot of happy memories.

## The Station of VK3FTTG

Hi to you all, my name is Graeme I live in Craigieburn, 23km north of the CBD.

I am new to Amateur Radio and to the WANSARC club; I have met a few of you at the meetings and look forward to meeting the rest of the members as time goes on.

I have just recently reconfigured my whole setup in the shack which is actually our third bedroom and am now on air again with a new antenna setup as well.

I have just installed a home brew G5RV about 5 metres above ground, I am unable to go much higher unfortunately due to a covenant on the properties in the Delfin Estates, which states we cannot have antennas visible from the front of the properties.

The antenna works fine on all foundation bands but is a little disappointing on 80 metres, so I have tried a long wire which I find works much better on 80, so I will keep that up till I build a 80 metre dipole which is next on the agenda.

On 2 metres and 70 cm I have erected a Diamond X-200 which I have located onto the TV antenna mast, it can be seen from the front of house, so lets see if Delfin picks up on it, if not I will sneak it up a little higher. I was previously operating 2m and 70 on a Comet dual band mobile antenna, and of course was not ideal, especially for working simplex.

I have on the drawing board some plans for a 2metre "J" Pole and a 70 cm beam for when I get bored.

Another antenna I have up is a Mobile One 9db UHF which handles SES Craigieburn communications of which I am a member of and run a remote station for my unit when the local HQ is unable to be manned, the radio is an Icom IC-400PRO running at 25 watts.

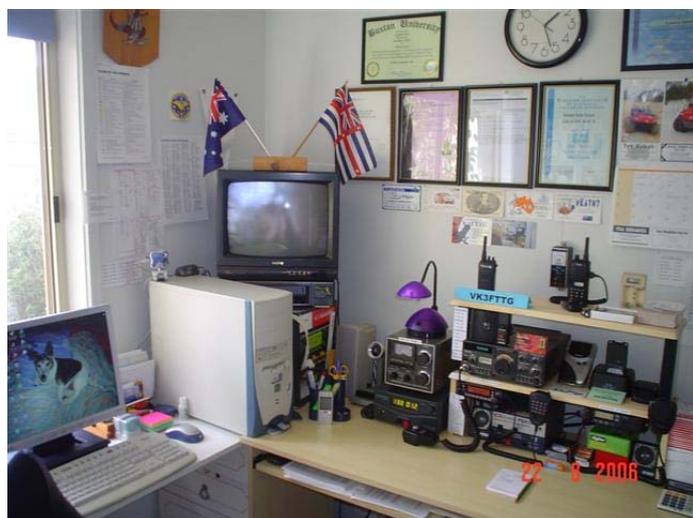
Amateur rigs at this stage is an old Kenwood TS-130S in mint condition for HF running normally at about 5 watts for QRP work. 2 metres and 70 are handled by a Yaesu 7800R dual band normally running at 5 or 10 watts, depending on whether I am operating on repeaters; (5 watts) or simplex (10 watts), this rig will eventually end up in the car.

Future toys are at this stage a Yaesu FT-897D all mode all band for the shack and portable operations and possibly a Kenwood TS- 570DG HF for a permanent fixture in the shack.

I am currently studying for an upgrade to the standard licence.

I have included a couple of photos of the "Shack" and some of my antennas.

Cheers and 73`s from Graeme Koch VK3FTTG.



The 'shack'  
Flag on the right is "City of Echuca"



Antenna setup at the rear of the house  
Ground level is 216 meters above sea level

# WANSARC VK3AWS

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## WANSARC CLUB PROFILE

### History

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

### Meetings

Building K, Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology (NMIT), St. Georges Road, Preston (Western side between Bell Street and Cramer Street) Melway 18 E12 *PARKING at NMIT- Members please note that parking adjacent to the club room building K is illegal and NMIT staff WILL book any cars which are parked in that area. ALL members must park cars in the main car park to the WEST of building K. Just look for vehicles with lots of aerials!* Meetings held on the 1st Friday of each month (excluding January) commencing at 7.30pm local time.

Talk in on 146.450MHz FM—call club station VK3AWS.

### Benefits

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

### Club Nets

146.450MHz FM each Tuesday evening commencing 7.30pm local time.

Sometimes 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”**

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