

WANSARC NEWS

Incorporated in Victoria, 1985 Registration Number: A0007611S

Closing Date for Articles and Advertisements for next issue in December is 24th November

The monthly magazine of the

Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club



Melbourne, Australia



 www.wansarc.org.au

146.450 MHz FM **VK3AWS** 28.470 MHz USB



Volume No: 38

Issue 1

January

2007

WANSARC Family Fun Day & BBQ

At the usual Rotunda No: 1, Mount Cooper, Bundoora Park

WANSARC Family Fun Day – in its 4th year – Sunday 21st January 2007



Some photos of the well attended Syntrx Radio Tuning Night, read more about it on page 6. How's yours progressing...?



WANSARC 2006 Christmas Dinner at St Georges Restaurant at the Northern TAFE – 45 persons attended for a great night of food and a chat, with a very interesting talk from Michael Feramez on Digital Television & Radio. More page 5.



WANSARC Family Fun Day, Sunday 21st January, Mount Cooper, Bundoora Park

2

Around the Shack

3

WANSARC 2006 CHRISTMAS DINNER

5

Syntrx Radio Tuning Night

6

Amusements

7

WANSARC Club Profile

8



The very popular **WANSARC Family Fun Day / BBQ / Radio Fair** is on again at the same venue as last year. Gear will be setup from sunrise and cooking of food will be well in progress by 11.00 am
All Soft drinks, Food and Nibbles & Salads are all club supplied so just turn up!
The club station of **VK3AWS** will once again be active for the whole day, call in on **146.450 MHz FM**

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

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

Some of the attractions over the last few years and also this year include;

- Radio demonstrations for HF, VHF, UHF, Scanners...
- Club provided Food & Soft Drinks, expertly cooked and presented by our Club Chef's
- Your kids can annoy other kids instead of you
- Foundation License Information available – ask our examiners Mick & Chris all your questions
- Catch up with old friends – Make new ones – Put a face to the "voice on the air"
- Marvel at the radio setup and antenna work of some of our members vehicles
- Enjoy a lazy relaxed day in the sunshine with some yummy eats...
- Catch up on the gossip – radio and otherwise...
- Work some DX or see other modes (*even Morse Code!*) you may not play with much
- Hear the latest news about Ham Radio in general
- Discussions & preparations for the John Moyle Field Day 2007

*Bring along a prospective new member, spouse, kids, in-laws, neighbors, and the dog!
Just to show them Amateur radio isn't just radios and aerials!!*

If you only come to one WANSARC meeting this year – this is it!!! Look for Rotunda No: 1.

Bring along your chair, shade if you want extra, a hat, sunscreen and anything else you want on hand

HOLD THE PHONE!

Closure of Australia's VHF Marine 'Seaphone' service marks the end of an era. At midnight UTC on Friday 1st December 2006, the Australian VHF marine Seaphone service shut down.

Seaphone was used to connect ships at sea to telephone subscribers ashore via VHF marine radio. It provided an essential communications link for the maritime community.

The Seaphone service was established by OTC in the early 1970's, initially operating on VHF marine channels 23 and 26 in major capital cities. The network was expanded around the Australian coastline and eventually provided nearly continuous coverage of the East Coast of Australia from Torres Strait to Melbourne with additional coverage of other main coastal areas.

In the mid 1980's, the service was automated with the introduction of a DTMF hand held microphone.

Auto Seaphone, as it was known, provided a relatively inexpensive method of making radio telephone calls. The DTMF microphone connected to a standard VHF marine radio.

The Auto Seaphone facility provided direct dial calls from ship to shore, store and forwarding of call details in the shore to ship direction, '999' emergency calls and a '333' repeater call facility.

The unique Auto Seaphone technology was developed at a time when mobile phones were still a novelty item.

The closure of the Seaphone service ends a long tradition of radio communications services provided to the Australian Maritime Industry by OTC and its predecessors.

- Glenn Dunstan VK4DU, WIA News

NERG is seeking donations to establish an Amateur Radio Communications and Training centre. The centre's aim is to provide courses that will provide complete training in Radio and Electronics to all interested people. Age is no barrier.

Funds will be used to purchase teaching aids and radio equipment used in the classes. – NERG News

NASA DIGITAL RADIO IN SPACE

NASA has undertaken the first ever deep-space activation of software defined radio. The US space agency activated a UHF software defined radio aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter on Monday 6 November.

The radio was used to relay communications to and from the Spirit rover on the surface of Mars. During the orbiter's 4.2 minute pass, 31 megabits of data from Spirit were acquired at a return link rate of 128 kilobits per second. – WIA News

WAFFLE AWARD - TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Not much time remains for the special activity operating certificate, known as the Welcome Aussie Foundation Licensees or 'Waffle' award. With more than 1,000 Foundation callsigns having been issued it has never been easier to qualify for this award. The rules are simple:

For VK stations make 50 contacts with Foundation Stations while DX stations need at least 10. Contact with the same Foundation callsign is permitted, provided this does not occur on the same day, unless on more than one frequency band. Repeater and IRLP contacts fall within the spirit of this award as they require use of radio at each end of a contact. Claims should include a log extract for the required contacts plus payment of \$5.

The No. 1 Waffle award certificate has been earned by John Nieuwenhuizen VK5NJ Mt Gambier. He reports having a lot of fun working new hams, particularly those who knew him from their short-wave listener activities. Ashley Clark VK3SSB and Andre Jones VK3FSCK now VK3AJR have also qualified for the WAFL.

Amateur Radio Victoria, which is making the operating award available, advises that the award certificate is yet to be designed, but expected to be issued soon after the Waffle award closes on Australia Day, 26 January 2007. - Barry Robinson VK3JBR, ARV

WANSARC Vol 38 Issue 01 2007.doc

NEW 432MHZ BEACON OPERATING

There is now a beacon signing VK2TWR at Nimmitabel on 432.414MHz. The beacon is currently running from the QTH of Rod, VK2SMC on 2 x 28 element yagis, but two big wheels antennas from Germany ready to go up once the weather improves. - from vk7wianews

HOWS THE AUDIO?

Have you ever wondered what you sound like on air? Many amateurs wouldn't have a clue what they sound like over the airwaves. Have you needed to set the mic gain and not been able to find someone to talk with on air? There is a great talk-back/check function that is available on most IRLP nodes. If you type in a DTMF 9990 and then say a sentence and release the PTT button, the IRLP node will, after a short delay, playback your sentence over the air. This allows you to check quality, levels, etc. To stop this mode just type the normal DTMF 73 and this will cancel the talk-back mode. - VK7HAH via vk7wianews

THE PHONETIC ALPHABET

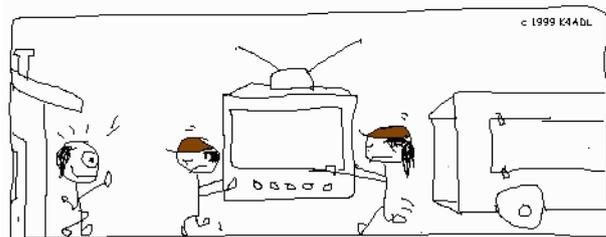
For all those people who may be new to HAM radio and those not so new – you may recall on Page 81 of the Foundation manual the reference to the Phonetic Alphabet along with a clear table describing the Phonetic representation for each Letter of the Alphabet.

All too often I hear HAMS referring to their call signs using their own version of the phonetic alphabet, which I and others often find makes their transmissions confusing to follow. At the age of 5 I had learnt the current phonetic alphabet and was now being forced to translate what was being sent.

So....I decided to look up to see what the history was behind this system and found a good definition which defined the phonetic alphabet as follows: "A phonetic alphabet is a list of words used to identify letters in a message transmitted by radio or telephone. Spoken words from an approved list are substituted for letters. For example, the word "Navy" would be "November Alfa Victor Yankee" when spelled in the phonetic alphabet. This practice helps to prevent confusion between similar sounding letters, such as "m" and "n", and to clarify communications that may be garbled during transmission." The web site goes on to explain that "the early version of the phonetic alphabet appeared in the 1913 edition of the Bluejackets' Manual.

Found in the signals section, it was paired with the Alphabetical Code Flags defined in the International Code. Both the meanings of the flags i.e. the letter which they represent) and their names (which make up the phonetic alphabet) were selected by international agreement. Later editions included the Morse Code signal as well." Looking through the historic table which plots the evolution for each Phonetic representation I found it interesting to note how some of the letters had developed.

For example; The Letter A (which we represent today as Alfa) started in 1913 as 'Able' from 1927 it was 'Affirmative', from 1938 it was 'Affirm' from World War II it was 'Able' and then in 1957 it became 'Alfa'. So the next time you are communicating with another station and you want to phonetically communicate something in a professional manner how about using the 1957 approved list of the phonetic alphabet. - - KYLEA VK6FXV



UNAWARE THERE ARE 14 HAMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OPERATING ON 6 METERS, VICTOR TAKES DELIVERY OF A 60 INCH TV, COMPLETE WITH RABBIT EARS.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED...

Scenario: Jack pulls into school parking lot with rifle in gun rack.

1956 - Vice Principal comes over, takes a look at Jack's rifle, goes to his car and gets his to show Jack.

2006 - School goes into lockdown, FBI called, Jack hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in for traumatized students and teachers.

Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fist fight after school.

1956 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up best friends. Nobody expelled.

2006 - Police called, SWAT team arrives, arrests Johnny and Mark. Charged with assault, both expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario: Jeffrey won't be still in class, disrupts other students.

1956 - Jeffrey sent to office and given a good paddling by Principal. Sits still in class.

2006 - Jeffrey given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. School gets extra money from state because Jeffrey has a disability.

Scenario: Billy breaks a window in his father's car and his Dad gives him a whipping.

1956 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2006 - Billy's Dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy removed to foster care and joins a gang. Billy's sister is told by state psychologist that she remembers being abused herself and their Dad goes to prison. Billy's mom has affair with psychologist.

Scenario: Mark gets a headache and takes some headache medicine to school.

1956 - Mark shares headache medicine with Principal out on the smoking dock.

2006 - Police called, Mark expelled from school for drug violations. Car searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario: Mary turns up pregnant.

1956 - 5 High School Boys leave town. Mary does her senior year at a special school for expectant mothers.

2006 - Middle School Counselor calls Planned Parenthood, who notifies the ACLU. Mary is driven to the next state over and gets an abortion without her parent's consent or knowledge. Mary given condoms and told to be more careful next time.

Scenario: Pedro fails high school English.

1956: Pedro has summer school, passes English, goes to college.

2006: Pedro's cause is taken up by state democratic party. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that teaching English as a requirement for graduation is racist. ACLU files class action lawsuit against state school system and Pedro's English teacher. English banned from core curriculum. Pedro given diploma anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he can't speak English.

Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from the 4th of July, puts them in a model airplane paint bottle, blows up a red ant bed.

1956 - Ants die.

2006 - BATF, Homeland Security, FBI called. Johnny charged with domestic terrorism, FBI investigates parents, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated, Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

NEXT FOUNDATION STUDY & ASSESSMENT - ARV

All it usually needs is a single weekend of training and assessment, plus preparation by reading the Foundation license manual. The next weekend courses and assessments are 20 & 21 January, 17 & 18 February. For inquiries contact - Barry Robinson VK3JBR 0428 516 001 or arv@amateurradio.com.au

STUDY: MOBILE PHONES DON'T RAISE CANCER RISK

Using a mobile phone does not increase a person's risk of cancer, according to a broad study released on Tuesday involving more than 400,000 Danish mobile telephone users.

A team of researchers used data on the entire population of Denmark to determine that neither short- nor long-term use of mobile phones, also called mobile phones, was linked to a greater risk of tumors of the brain and nervous system, salivary gland or eyes, leukemia or cancer overall.

It is estimated that more than 2 billion people worldwide use cellular phones. "I think the results of this study are quite reassuring," Joachim Schuz of the Danish Institute of Cancer Epidemiology in Copenhagen, the lead researcher, said in an interview by cellular phone from Denmark. The study, one of the most comprehensive to date, represented the latest evidence endorsing the safety of cellular phones.

The data available to the researchers allowed them to look at a large number of cell phone users and assess potential risks many years after they first used them. "The big advantage is a whole nation is included in the study," Schuz said. The phones emit electromagnetic fields that can penetrate into the brain, and some scientists have sought to determine if this could cause cancer or other health problems.

Schuz's team studied data on 420,095 Danish mobile phone users (357,553 men and 62,542 women) who first subscribed for mobile service between 1982 and 1995 and were followed through 2002 - meaning some were tracked for two decades. The researchers then compared their cancer incidence to the rest of Denmark's population. A total of 14,249 cancer cases were seen among the mobile telephone users, a number that was lower than would be expected for that population, according to the study appearing in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

"We were not able to identify any increased risks of any cancers that could be related to the use of the cellular phones," John Boice, a cancer epidemiologist at Vanderbilt University who worked on the research, said in an interview.

Boice said the type of radiation involved in mobile phones is not known to damage cells or DNA. "So there's no biological mechanism that would suggest that even this type of exposure could cause cancer or DNA damage," Boice said.

The study reinforces the consensus among leading health organizations that mobile phones do not cause harmful health effects, a wireless industry group said. "The overwhelming majority of studies that have been published in scientific journals around the globe show that wireless phones do not pose a health risk," said Joseph Farren, spokesman for CTIA, the Washington-based wireless industry group. The researchers acknowledged some limitations in their work. Schuz said they could not differentiate between people who used the phones frequently and those who did so sparingly, meaning the researchers could not rule out the possibility that some type of increased risk exists among heavy users. "There is, in fact, a hazard from the use of a cellular phone that we have to all be concerned about," added Boice, but it is not cancer-related. "And that's using a phone when we're driving an automobile," leaving a driver distracted and causing accidents.

The study was funded by the Danish Cancer Society and Danish Strategic Research Council.

- 2006 Reuters.

WANSARC 2006 CHRISTMAS DINNER

WANSARC has always been one of the smaller clubs in Melbourne, but when food gets a mention, the numbers always seem to be there. 45 persons accepted the dinner invitation from the club committee and from all accounts had an enjoyable night of food and chatting. The night was organized by club secretary Mark VK3PI who had to do things twice it seemed, but it all sorted out in the end! The menu consisted of Soup of the day, Roast Turkey, Pork and Glazed Ham with root vegetables and caramelized cranberry and apple jam. Dessert was Steamed Christmas pudding with brandy custard and vanilla ice-cream. As the club meet at the TAFE, it seemed quite logical to give St Georges Restaurant a try. A raffle was held on the night and Raffle ticket winners were - Joan (XYL of Brian VK3RA) 2 x bottles of wine, Jock VK3UB took the multimeter, Jocks wife chose the Christmas cake and Michelle VK3FAME chose the television.



Michelle, VK3FAME, buying raffle tickets
One of them won her a prize later,
A 14cm Black & White Television / Radio.



Graeme, VK3NE, drawing the club raffle
Having a 'Blue Ticket' seemed to be handy!

← Graeme welcomes everyone to the night
VK3CH, VK3FAME & VK3FIRE & XYL Jane. Graeme all relaxed as a winner screams with delight



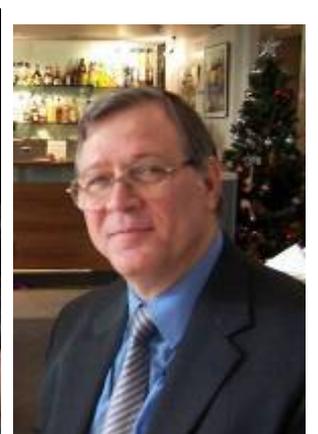
The Main Course in its glory...



New member Wilfred & girlfriend Nana



Nikolaas, VK3FNIK buying raffle tickets



Guest Speaker on Digital
Radio & Television
Michael Feramez



All told a good evening, which is sure to be held again next year, either at the TAFE or another venue. Thanks to committee members that organized the night and raffle prizes and granted a club subsidy for the meal for members and guests.

As expected a well attended turnout for the first of possibly many nights until the freely distributed Syntrx Radio's are heard on air. **Mark VK3PI** handed out some more written information, while **Ken Church VK3YXC** arrived with a battery of test gear to tune and test any radios that had adapter boards made up to accept 20 of the newly 'flashed' EPROMS supplied to WANSARC free as well.

Mark made it quite clear that getting these radios onto 70cm will be "works in progress".

This will consist of, in no real, but suggested, order;

- * Making up a board for your EPROM,
- * Removal of the CTCSS board from the radio & jumpering out pins,
- * Adding / Removing jumpers in radio as required,
- * Adding capacitors to VCO block to lower TX/RX frequency to 70cm,
- * Tuning Radio,
- * Checking frequency channel settings,
- * On Air Testing & Adjustments.

More information will be forthcoming at the next few meetings.

The best example of how to go about it was **Allen VK3SM**, with a very neat board as can be seen in the photo, more importantly his wiring to the IC socket pins was all correct. So the supplied paperwork is correct. Mick's radio gave similar results as Allen's so the wiring of the adapter board and rainbow cable appears correct as well. The whole tuning of these two radios was video taped and a DVD was made, available by the next club meeting in February 2007.

Most persons have sourced their parts from Jaycar, if they did not already have them in the junk box.

Allan's VK3SM adapter board in place



Ken adjusting those tender ferrite slugs



Ken's test gear used to tune the radios



Some other members are in advanced stages of board design or construction. This will give others some suggestions on how to best to make up a board that suits your construction area of expertise. Some have been 'wire wrap', Vero board, and IC sockets and of course if you have all the kit – etched PCB's.

Dan VK3DWH with his board

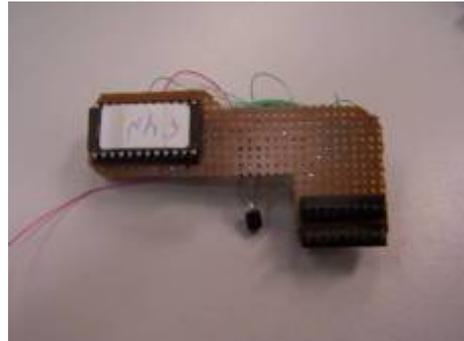
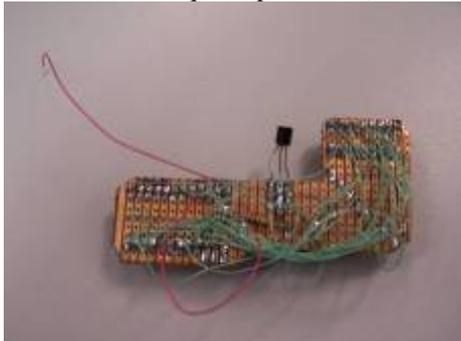


Bill VK3KBL has been on a project of his own, an Aerial Analyzer.



Syntrx Radio Tuning Night – tuning courtesy of Ken Church VK3YXC

Ken's 'wire wrap' adapter board, wire side & EPROM side



Mick VK3CH Vero board soldered to underside of radio via rainbow cable

More news on this club project will be presented in future issues as results are known... A DVD of the first night of tuning and information provided by Ken VK3YXC is available, contact Mick VK3CH.

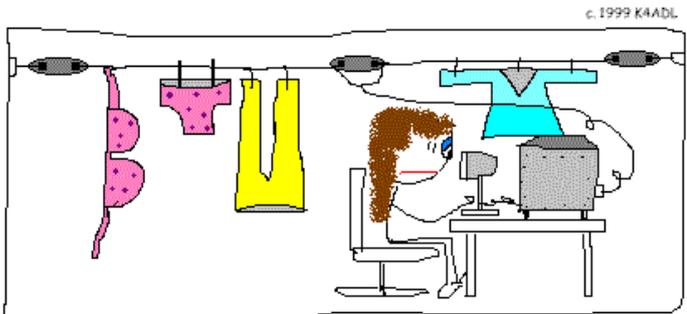
Amusements

Australia (Cynical Definition)

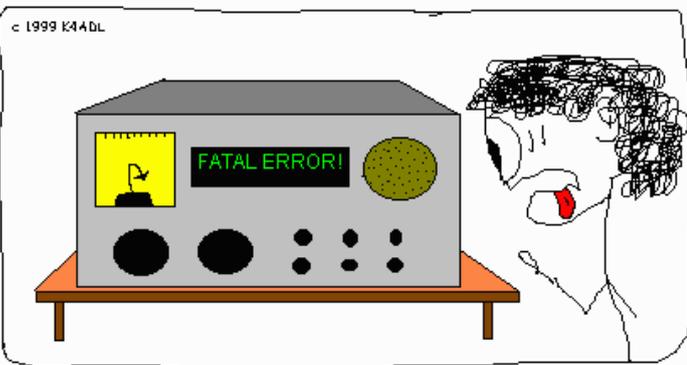
- n. A country of the South Pacific whose industrial and commercial development has been unspeakably retarded by the preference of the inhabitants to enjoy life as opposed to submitting to ambition.



DURING A LATE-NITE STUDY SESSION FOR HER AMATEUR LICENSE, BUFFY LISTENS ON 75 METERS TO PICK UP SOME HAM LINGO.



UNABLE TO AFFORD REPAIRS TO HER CLOTHES DRYER, VELMA LEARNED TO TOLERATE POOR SIGNAL REPORTS.

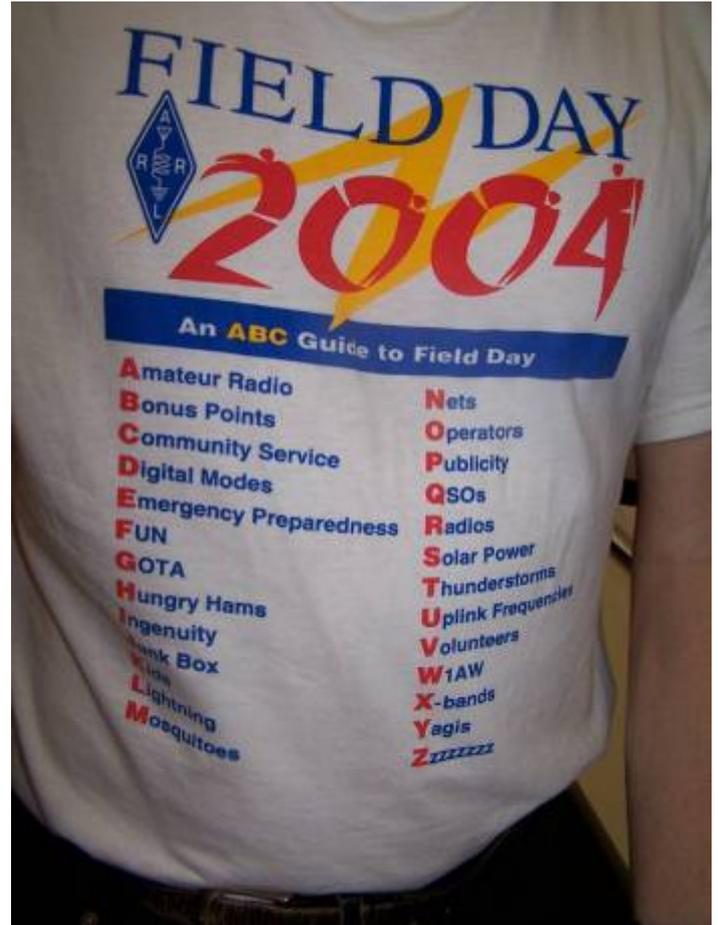


IF MICROSOFT MANUFACTURED HAM GEAR



IN A RARE BURST OF CREATIVITY, JIMMY SPAMS THE NEWSGROUPS WITH A QUESTION THAT HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN ASKED.

Tony VK3JED 'A.R.R.L. 2004 Field Day' T-shirt, as seen on WANSARC Tuning Night



A man has tickets for the Euro 2004 final. After he has been sitting in his seat for a few minutes, the man in the seat behind him taps him on the shoulder and asks if anyone is sitting in the seat next to him. "No," he says. "The seat is empty." "Absolutely incredible!" said the man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the Euro 2004 Final, one of the great sporting events, and not use it?" "Well actually," he says, "the seat belonged to my wife. She was supposed to come with me, but she passed away. This is the first Euro final we haven't been to together since we got married." "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that," replies the man. "That's terrible. But couldn't you find someone else to take the seat? A friend or relative, or even a neighbor?" The man shakes his head and says, "No, they're all at the funeral."

During the final surgery examination, the professor asked the student: Why do surgeons wear masks during operations? The student replies - So that if anything goes wrong, no-one can recognize them.

After helping put up some antennas on the roof, Jack remained up there. When the others in the crew were having a BBQ they asked Jack 'why are you still up on the roof?' He replied "I was told drinks are on the house..."

WANSARC VK3AWS

PRESIDENT: Graeme McDiarmid VK3NE vk3ne@wia.org.au

SECRETARY: Mark Stephenson VK3PI Telephone: 0400 443 218 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 plus an informative monthly newsletter for members to post articles, news, classifieds for all radio, test equipment, etc, featuring Amateur Radio news from WANSARC, WIA, ACMA, Melbourne Clubs, VK and Worldwide.

Club Nets

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

Sometimes the NET is linked to Echolink on 146.450 MHz during the WANSARC Net on Tuesday nights and *only when VK3FY is present at his QTH.*

More Information

Website: 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

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, times and locations given for upcoming events should always be checked with a reliable source closer to the event – coming up on the **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