

# VK3AWS



# WANSARC NEWS November 2008

Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club  
(WANSARC)  
Incorporated in Victoria  
A7611S

Volume 39  
Number 10



A WIA Affiliated club

News and views from the Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club  
VK3AWS—November 2008



**NEXT MEETING  
FRIDAY November 7, 2008.**

**Peter Cossins, VK3BFG, presents the latest news on the upgrade of VK3RTV, Melbourne's Amateur Television Repeater.**

**This is a rare opportunity to hear Peter, a guru in the ATV world, sharing his knowledge of ATV and his vision for the future.**

**Meeting commences at 1930 hours sharp.**

Not just another tower, this is the home of VK3RTV, Melbourne's Amateur Television Repeater.

With VK3RTV about to enter the "DIGITAL" world, now is the time to catch up on the latest ATV NEWS by attending the next meeting of WANSARC.

Peter Cossins, VK3BFG, the maestro leading a band of very keen amateur television enthusiasts, will present on NOVEMBER 7, 2008 at the WANSARC clubrooms.

This is a presentation not to be missed, so WANSARC cordially invites its members, supporters, associates and all other amateurs available on the evening to attend.

Meeting commences at 1930 hours sharp with talk in on 146450MHz FM Simplex.

### Inside this issue:

The "Good Old Days" from Geoff VK3AVJ	2
The Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award	3
In Brief	5
A Blast from the Past and Bits and Pieces	6
What about this? Member contributions.	6

## The Good Old Days?



Do you remember when, after a hard days work at the office, still resplendent in pants and tie, that you fired up the 807's and modulator for a good old "ragchew" session, knowing that your YL or XYL would be lovingly standing in the shack doorway, ready to serve you an ice cold drink and perhaps a snack before that home cooked, three course meal??

How times have changed? **SLAP !!!!!**

So is this how it is for you in 2008? I doubt it.

**Geoff VK3AVJ** supplied this gem and noted that "There are a thousand captions you could put to this picture, or a picture paints a thousand words. It would be interesting to give a copy to each gender and have them write their own."

**Amen brother!! Pass me another drink, love.....**

## WANSARC Christmas Dinner on again

WANSARC members, partners, friends and supporters will again have the opportunity of celebrating the club year and Christmas with a dinner at the NMIT Restaurant, St. Georges Road, Preston. The club has held its past two December meetings at this venue with high quality food and company!

A three course meal this year will cost those attending \$27.50, with drinks at bar prices.

The Dinner will be held on Friday DECEMBER 5, 2008. Bookings are ESSENTIAL in order for NMIT to cater for the club.

In the past WANSARC has had exclusive use of the restaurant through strong bookings and it is expected that this year will be no different.

Graeme VK3NE has organised a wonderful guest speaker—a well known amateur with a long history of supporting Amateur Radio at National to grass roots level. More details in the December newsletter.

A number of excellent prizes will also be available in the WANSARC club raffle.

Members of other radio clubs, local or otherwise, are invited to attend this dinner, together with all other amateurs, friends and partners.

Please contact **Gordon VK3YOD** ([vk3yod@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vk3yod@optusnet.com.au)) to make a booking and arrange a deposit.

## Squid poles now available

WANSARC has purchased a limited number of 6 metre squid poles, brand new, from a supplier in Sydney. Squid poles are for members only and cost \$18 each, a bargain for those who have seen these items on sale elsewhere.

If you would like one or two, please visit the club at the next meeting, pay cash or cheque to the club and you can walk away with a very handy piece of equipment for portable operations. The club has purchased these items outright so if you have already indicated your intent to purchase the poles, please organise for payment and collection ASAP.

**DON'T FORGET THE CLUB NET—Tuesday evenings commencing at 1930 hours local time, 146.450 MHz FM—net controller Bob VK3EL. All club members and on air "visitors" welcome.**

## The Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award

*Significant interest amongst club members has been generated following the promotion by Amateur Radio Victoria of the Keith Roget National Parks Award. So much so, that some members of the club are contemplating the activation of some local National Parks to assist other amateurs to gain this award.*

The following information is provided to club members and readers of WANSARC News to further promote amateur radio portable activity in support of this award.

### Rules and requirements

#### Valid Contacts

1) To qualify a radio amateur must make contact with and/or from a specified number of National Parks see [www.amateurradio.com.au/download/natparklist.pdf](http://www.amateurradio.com.au/download/natparklist.pdf)

A contact with/from a National Park earns 1 point. While multiple contacts with the same park are permitted, only one contact per National Park can be used in a claim for the award

2) Short Wave Listeners: SWL earn 1 point for logging a valid contact between 2 radio amateurs (see 1 above)

3) Contacts after 1 September 2008 are valid for this award (see grandfather provision below)

4) Contacts via Repeaters, IRLP or Echolink **are not permitted**

5) The basic award will be issued where the following criteria are satisfied

**VK3 station achieves 15 points**

**Other VK (ie. Non VK3) achieves 10 points**

**P29 and ZL achieves 8 points**

**DX achieves 5 points**

A grandfather provision applies in recognition of the award's history, dating back to circa 1971. Holders of the initial WIA Victoria National Parks Award and the earlier Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award can claim them as a credit towards the revived award. To do so they must satisfy the Award Manager of the validity of their claim by such as a copy of an earlier award or relevant log book entries.

People operating from within National Parks must observe all rules and guidelines as published by Parks Victoria and respect the rights of other users within the park. Refer to information on the Parks Victoria website [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) and in particular the "Looking after our parks" and "Enjoying a safe park visit" sections. Operation on days of total fire ban is discouraged.

Special Endorsements for:

1. 25 points - making contact with and/or from 25 Parks
2. 40 points - making contact with and/or from all 40 Parks
3. CW Only Endorsement
4. Activated ALL National Parks Endorsement
5. Worked ALL National Parks Endorsement

### Endorsement on-demand - special request endorsement

The opportunity for radio amateurs to chase their own particular area of interest and seek endorsement upon attainment. Eg. 160m, 1.2GHz, QRP

### Submission for Award

1. Copy of log or extract showing all claimed contacts and must include:
2. Callsign, Date, Time, Name of Operator, National Park Name, Freq, Mode
3. Include \$AUD5 or equivalent, or 2 IRCs to cover postage and costs
4. Awards Manager has the right to check log validity and carry out cross-checking or make other inquiries

### Activation Events

To further the aims of the Award and Amateur Radio in general, there will be a number of initiatives which may include activation weekends. In addition, activators (people operating a National Park) are encouraged to publicise their intentions via email to Amateur Radio Victoria

[awards@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:awards@amateurradio.com.au)

### Qualifying National Parks for this award

1. Alfred National Park
2. Alpine National Park
3. Baw Baw National Park
4. Brisbane Ranges National Park
5. Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park
6. Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park
7. Churchill National Park
8. Coopracambra National Park
9. Croajingolong National Park
10. Dandenong Ranges National Park
11. Errinundra National Park
12. French Island National Park
13. Grampians National Park
14. Great Otway National Park
15. Greater Bendigo National Park
16. Hattah-Kulkyne National Park
17. Heathcote-Graytown National Park
18. Kinglake National Park
19. Lake Eildon National Park
20. Lind National Park
21. Little Desert National Park
22. Lower Glenelg National Park
23. Mitchell River National Park
24. Mornington Peninsula National Park
25. Morwell National Park
26. Mount Buffalo National Park
27. Mount Eccles National Park
28. Mount Richmond National Park
29. Murray-Sunset National Park
30. Organ Pipes National Park
31. Point Nepean National Park
32. Port Campbell National Park
33. Snowy River National Park
34. St Arnaud Range National Park
35. Tarra-Bulga National Park
36. Terrick Terrick National Park
37. The Lakes National Park
38. Wilsons Promontory National Park
39. Wyperfeld National Park
40. Yarra Ranges National Park

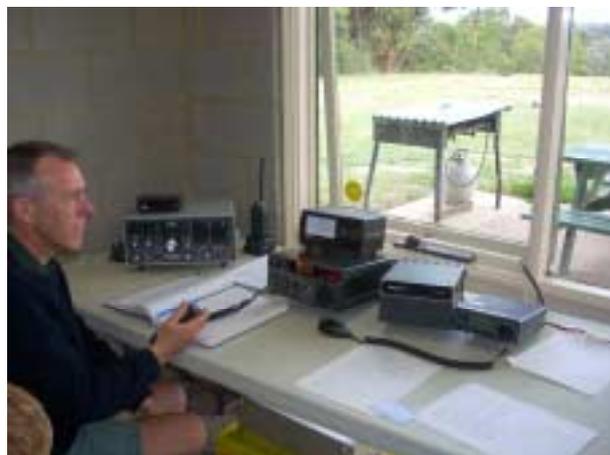
For detailed road maps showing the location of most parks visit [maps.google.com.au](http://maps.google.com.au)

Parks Victoria website has detailed information on each National Park. It is well worth researching each park before visiting to assess local conditions. It's also a great source of information on related activities, such as bushwalking [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) Award Manager Chris Chapman VK3QB *from AR Victoria*

## RIDDELLS CREEK JOTA/JOTI October 2008 by Johnno VK3FMPB and Ian VK3JQ

Another successful JOTA or JOTI was held at Riddells Creek Victoria on Sunday the 19/10/08. The terms JOTA and JOTI stand for Jamboree of the Air and Jamboree of the Internet. The hall we used had an internet table, with a scout only dedicated chat line, a TV where the kids watched a scout video and the radio table. (The lunch table was there too, we can't forget that).

Your WANSARC representatives this year, as last, were **Ian VK3JQ** and **Johnno VK3FMPB**. We used a similar set-up to last year, we were allocated a table next to the window, (easy to get the coax into the room through the window) and we ran both bands on the same table. Not a great idea because anyone who has ever run HF will know how noisy it can be, hash and clarifier problems with off frequency stations made it difficult to hear yourself think let alone run 2 stations.



The question was asked of me. Why is that radio so noisy and your is not? Rather than go into an explanation of what hash was I decided to move the VHF table outside. Using two stations improved things markedly by not having so many kids crowded around one table and by having the table outside we were actually able to cut out the hash and the other kids' talking and hear things too. We were also able to rotate the kids through two tables and that hopefully gave those scouts who wanted to talk an opportunity to do just that.

Once again **Rod VK3MRT** came to the rescue and entertained the kids for about 2 hours or more. This was with no notice whatsoever also. I put out a call for him at 0900 or thereabouts he was on and Rod had to drop anything he was doing and talk for 2 or even 3 straight hours to what I found out was about 150-200 kids. Rod did this quite happily. He probably didn't talk to the whole lot of them but those who wanted to talk and who also wanted the badge had the chance to talk. Ian and I also earned our communications badges, again. Well done Rod, Thanks a lot.



Also heard on the frequency was **Mick VK3CH** as well as **Graeme VK3PGK** who both had chats with scouts at various times through the day. Thanks fellows.

Next September I will arrange things a little better and try to get a team of you WANSARC people on air to chat to the scouts, who are really just young kids who have the drive to achieve things and I think we could encourage that drive as a club. Next September and October meetings I will be advertising just that and asking for volunteers who could help have a little chat and take the strain off Rod. You must admit that spending most of the day yapping to kids and trying to keep the conversation 'fresh' is no mean feat.

Both Ian and I enjoyed the day and there were no technical problems. The scouts, boys and girls, seemed to enjoy talking and we may have planted the 'F call' seed in a few youngsters you never know do you. As well as enjoying chatting to some bright kids we may well be contributing to the longer term viability of our hobby.

*Postscript: The club may very well have some extra operators available next year to assist Ian and Johnno in this very worthwhile cause. Given some early warning this is a possibility and we will also place this event on the WANSARC 2009 calendar of events. Editor*

## A BLAST FROM THE PAST.....

**Now who is this strapping lad?** Well, it is non other than our Treasurer, Gordon VK3YOD. Gordon has been associated with WANSARC since the late 70's and I can recall marvelling at his very shiny, very new Ken KP202 portable. This limited channel portable provided 1 watt of output (maximum) from a bank of batteries. These were in the days of the club meeting at Elizabeth Street, Coburg, at the old Melbourne Caravan Park. Gordon did not drive at this stage, nor did yours truly, so it was an adventure to walk home from the club meetings listening on 2 metres to the rabble using the Mt. Dandenong Channel 2 repeater. (Did I say rabble? None of that on two metres these days!). Now to the photograph at hand—the club was very active in supporting multiple scout groups in the Hoadley area and this photograph shows Gordon preparing a mast for antenna's at Brunswick. Gordon supported many of the field day activities, including adventures to Mt. Hickey and Mt. Disappointment for the John Moyle Field Days., always being one of the first to volunteer to assist in promoting the club and amateur radio. Don't' forget if you have any old photographs of club members, activities etc. please contact me directly so that your contributions to the 40 year club history are recognised. **Mark VK3PI**



## ALTERNATIVES TO MICROSOFT OFFICE by Rod VK3MRT

Looking for an alternative to Microsoft Office? Here are some free alternatives:

**Open Office** - Sun Microsystem's free office suite. Highly recommended. <http://www.openoffice.org>, available for Windows, Mac, Linux and more.

**Lotus Symphony** - IBM's free office suite. Worth a look. <http://symphony.lotus.com>. Windows and Linux

**Google Docs** - from the mighty Google! No software to install, web based online office suite. It works! <http://docs.google.com>

**Zoho** - another web based office suite. <http://zoho.com/>

Open Office is a serious alternative to Microsoft Office It is a good all round office suite and it has the advantage over Microsoft in that it can export files directly to PDF without a third program. Google Docs may not have the bells and whistles of MS Office, however you can easily create and edit documents, spreadsheets and presentation files online using your web browser. It works a treat and you can also save your files online within Google. It works!

Hope this is useful! Cheers **Rod VK3MRT**

**ISS Contact— Anderson's Creek Primary School students, located 30 kilometres North east of Melbourne,** are scheduled to contact the ISS on **10 November 2008**. The link-up will commence at 6:56 pm Vic Summer Time, which is AOS (Acquisition Of Signal) or when the ISS comes in range of the ARISS base station. Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI will be providing the ISS to Earth link-up and the students will be speaking with ISS crew member Mike Fincke. Have a listen on 145.800 FM for the contact.

## BITS AND PIECES

Who said the bands are dead? Only takes a contest or two and the QRM levels rise. 40 metres has been good late in the afternoon— early evening into Europe with DK's and I's prominent on both phone and CW. A ZM2 was heard very loud and clear at the top end of the 40 metre band working split frequency.

James, VK3FRES, is set to move QTH to Sunbury and is already thinking about antenna placement. It would seem that his new QTH has a very good take off so hopes are that we will hear James well on 146.450MHz simplex when he moves. Best wishes to his partner and young family for the move.

Great to see Brian VK3RA at the last meeting and to hear news that XYL, Joan, is recovering well from a fall resulting in a broken leg. **Get well soon, Joan.**

WANSARC has the opportunity to use the club facilities outside of normal club nights. It has been suggested that the clubrooms are open on NOVEMBER 16, 2008 from around 10am to have a working bee and plan a calendar of events for 2009. Any takers? Voice your opinion at the next meeting.





## GET TO IT !!!!

**DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION OR AN ARTICLE YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH MEMBERS?**

**Why not write it up for the magazine in word format, with pictures, and send to the club:**

**WANSARC, PO Box 336, Reservoir 3073.  
or via email to [vk3pi@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vk3pi@optusnet.com.au)**

**It's your magazine!!**

Your magazine contributors this month include—

**VK3MRT, VK3PI, VK3PGK, VK6YSF, VK3AVJ, AR Victoria, VK3JQ, VK3FMPB, WIA news.**

Thanks folks de Mark VK3PI, Editor/producer.

## WHAT ABOUT THIS ? Contributions from members

**IQ**

*From Peter VK6YSF*

A man enters a bar and orders a drink.

The bar has a robot bartender.

The robot serves him a perfectly prepared cocktail and then asks him, "What's your IQ?"

The man replies "150" and the robot proceeds to make conversation about global Warming factors, Quantum physics and spirituality, bio-mimicry, environmental interconnectedness, string theory, nanotechnology, and sexual proclivities.

The customer is very impressed and thinks, "This is really cool." He decides to test the robot. He walks out of the bar, turns around, and comes back in for another drink.

Again, the robot serves him the perfectly prepared drink and asks him, "What's your IQ?" The man responds, "About 100."

Immediately the robot starts talking, but this time, about league, Holden's, racing, the new BIG Mac, tattoos, Nicky Watson and women in general.

Really impressed, the man leaves the bar and decides to give the robot one more test. He heads out and returns, the robot serves him and asks, "What's your IQ?" The man replies, "Err, 50, I think."

And the robot says ... really slowly ... "So.....ya gonna vote for Kevin again?"

## GUTS AND BALLS

*From Graeme VK3PGK*

### The medical distinction between Guts and Balls

We've all heard about people having guts or balls. But do you really know the difference between them?

In an effort to keep you informed, the definition for each is listed below...

**Guts** - is arriving home late after a night out with the guys, being met by your wife with a broom, and having the guts to ask: 'Are you still cleaning, or are you flying somewhere?'

**Balls** - is coming home late after a night out with the guys, smelling of perfume and beer, lipstick on your collar, slapping your wife on the butt and having the balls to say: 'You're next.'

I hope this clears up any confusion on the definitions.

**Medically speaking, there is no difference in the outcome since both ultimately result in death .**

**Don't forget the club liaison frequency of 146.450MHz FM simplex. You will be surprised by the number of club members and supporters who congregate at varying times for a chin wag or to conduct some radio testing.**



*WANSARC is at*  
[www.wansarc.org.au](http://www.wansarc.org.au)  
Or [www.wansarc.org](http://www.wansarc.org)

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

**WANSARC continues to grow its membership and has settled in well at the Reservoir lakeside club-rooms.**

**The club has recently gained quite a few members and this is very pleasing.**

**Do you know someone who is keen to gain a licence, has recently passed their exams or has been on the air for many years?**

**Why not bring them down to the club to experience the sharing of knowledge, equipment and a good time?**

**Club fees are the least expensive of any club in Victoria, if not Australia. For a modest annual fee you can experience club events such as guest lecturers, club outings and a plethora of new, used and pre-loved electronics, radio and computer equipment.**

**Come on down to WANSARC!!**

# 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

FIRST Friday of each month except January at the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, SEAVER GROVE, RESERVOIR. See map).

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. Also monitor 28.470MHz on 10 metres USB.

**More Information:** **Website:** [www.wansarc.org.au](http://www.wansarc.org.au) **Email:** [wansarc@wia.org.au](mailto:wansarc@wia.org.au)

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

### Next meeting Friday November 7 , 2008

If not delivered within 7 days, please return to WANSARC, PO Box 336, Reservoir, 3073

**Australia Post  
stamp here**

**TO:**