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## Next General Meeting

The next monthly meeting is on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May

Doors Open 7.30pm

Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, Seaver Grove, Reservoir

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## Check your license renewal !

It seems there has been an error made by the ACMA on some license renewals recently issued. If you have recently received or paid your license renewal, or are expecting it shortly then the following news courtesy of Amateur Radio Victoria (ARV) will be of interest to you.

April 22, 2015

### Amateur Radio licence renewals reduced

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has made the initial fee for all Amateur Radio licences \$75, an increase of \$1 on last year, but has reduced the renewal fee to \$51.

The new charges, part of the ACMA annual review of fees and charges, took effect on April 7. All WIA Assessors have been notified that candidates now need to pay \$75 for their initial licence.

However some renewals issued before April 7 ask for \$75, but these do not take into account the renewal period which falls on or after that date, and should be at the new reduced rate.

The administrative error occurs in only a very few licence renewal cases, and the licensee should take the matter up with the ACMA, or pay only \$51 as a licence renewal fee.

The ACMA said: "If anyone has the problem of being charged the old fee of \$75 they can have the licence period extended, or they can contact ACMA and request the new fee be applied and receive a refund."

## Setting up a radio shack Pt 1



An amateur radio shack circa 1957

Setting up a radio shack can be as simple as a handheld radio connected to a simple indoor or external antenna, through to a complex interconnection of multiple radios, antennae, computers and accessories. The only limitations are your budget and imagination, so where to start ?

A good place to start, would be to ask yourself some basic questions. What sort of communications are you interested in experimenting with ? HF only, VHF/UHF weak signal work or FM only, satellite work, data, Amateur TV, just to name a few. Knowing the answers to these questions will start to guide you in choosing appropriate equipment, from transceivers to antennae and accessories.

Will the gear be set up in a "shack", ie, a purpose built room in the house, or shed or garage, or will it be in an existing study or other area of the house having to share space. Once this is known, you will be able to work out the amount of space you have to play with, and the ability to get cables from external antennae to the various bits of gear that you choose. Carefully considering the layout of your intended station within the confines of the space will help you to choose the furniture for your setup, would an existing desk be big enough (and strong enough) to support all of the gear, or will you need to buy or build something.

The layout of the gear on desks and shelves is critical to your comfort and operating. Good ergonomic design of your operating position will enable you to enjoy your shack for longer periods and in more comfort, consideration of the placement on computer monitors, keyboard, mouse, transceivers that require a lot of interaction, rotator controllers, CW keys and Antenna matching units, all require good positioning. Think about the way you operate or intend to operate. What items do you need to reach often, these should all be placed within easy reach of your primary operating position. Equipment that requires little or no adjustment can be placed further away on shelves or under desks. Once a basic layout has been decided on it might be an idea to temporarily set it up for a while and see if it works for you before locking it all in, remember to leave adequate room for ventilation around the gear that requires it.

What budget do you have to play with ? This will greatly determine the type of gear that you buy or build, new or second hand, of course you can always upgrade later, but sitting down and planning your station in advance can save time and expenditure down the track.

The budget should allow for expenditure for the whole station. Everything from the antenna, mounting hardware, cables, transceivers, power supplies, extension speakers etc. will have to be built, bought, modified, or traded, so allow something in the budget for all aspects. Your shiny new top of the line transceiver sitting on a desk can't deliver it's best performance connected to a poor antenna system with lossy cables and connectors.

# GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

## Another Ham in Space

In November, Tim Peake KG5BVI will become the UK's first Astronaut from the European Space Agency (ESA), to head to the ISS for a six month stint onboard. He has invited students from his country to contact him whilst onboard via ARISS. Tim will use the GB1SS call sign when in contact with UK schools. At this stage there is no information on planned activity with students outside of the UK.

## UPCOMING EVENT DATES

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

MDRC Hamfest

Southern Community Centre- Rupert Drive- Mulgrave. Melways reference 80 F4

**July 11-12**

VK3 GippsTech 2015

**July 18<sup>th</sup>**

Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Hamfest

**July 25<sup>th</sup>**

ALARA 40th Birthday Celebration

The Novotel Hotel 285 Springvale Road Glen Waverley Victoria

At 12 Noon

**August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**

Remembrance Day Contest

## Payment of Membership Fees

Members have the option to pay their membership fees via internet banking and direct deposit, details:

Bank Name: Bendigo Bank

BSB Number: 633-000

Account Number: 139996052

Account Name: Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club

Please quote your callsign and "renewal" as the reference.

Annual membership fees: Full - \$25.00 Concession - \$15.00 Family - \$40.00

When paying by internet banking or direct deposit, please email our Treasurer, Rod, and he will confirm receipt of your payment. Alternatively, you can send us a money order or cheque made out to "Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club" to WANSARC, PO Box 336, Reservoir VIC 3073. Membership fees can be paid in cash, cheque or money order at our monthly meetings. Please note, we do not have EFTPOS facilities. Rod can be contacted at [treasurer@wansarc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@wansarc.org.au)

## VK1WIA ~ ARV WEEKLY BROADCAST

SUNDAY 9:30am

Melbourne 147.175 VK3REC Olinda, Mt Dandenong - EMDRC

Mildura - Sunraysia 146.800

SUNDAY 10:30am and 8:00pm Melbourne

VK3BWI - Amateur Radio Victoria Network

3.615, 7.158, 10.130

147.250 VK3RMM Mt Macedon

146.700 VK3RML Ferny Creek

146.825 VK3RPL Portland

439.800 VK3RMU Mt St Leonard

SUNDAY 10:30am Bairnsdale

146.900 MHz EGARC IRLP Node 6008

SUNDAY 11:00am Ballarat (Ben Nevis)

147.000 VK3RWA

SUNDAY 7:30pm Shepparton

146.650 VK3RGV Node 6992 Mt Wombat.

WEDNESDAY 8:00pm Bairnsdale

146.900 MHz EGARC IRLP Node 6008

# WANSARC NET

Tuesday Night  
8pm Check In

# VK3AWS

# 146.450MHz FM Simplex

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## WANSARC VK3AWS

**PRESIDENT:** Frank Petrowitz  
**SECRETARY:** Frank Benotto  
**TREASURER:** Rod Tacey  
**INFORMATION:**

VK3OP  
VK3ZO  
VK3FAB

[president@wansarc.org.au](mailto:president@wansarc.org.au)  
[secretary@wansarc.org.au](mailto:secretary@wansarc.org.au)  
[treasurer@wansarc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@wansarc.org.au)  
[info@wansarc.org.au](mailto:info@wansarc.org.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. **WANSARC** is an affiliated club of **The Wireless Institute of Australia**.

#### Meetings

Meetings held at the **Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, SEAVER GROVE, RESERVOIR** (Melway Map 18 D5) 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 likeminded 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, ARV, WIA, ACMA, Melbourne Clubs, VK and Worldwide.

#### Club Nets

**146.450MHz FM** each Tuesday evening commencing 8.00pm local time. Net Control Station - **VK3AWS**

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

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

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

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All editors' comments and other opinions in submitted articles may not always represent the opinions of the committee or the members of **WANSARC**, but are published in the spirit in which they were submitted; 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. Email attachments of Word™, Plain Text, Excel™, PDF™ and JPG are all acceptable. 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 [magazine@wansarc.org.au](mailto:magazine@wansarc.org.au). Email attachments not to exceed 5 Mb in file size. Attachments of (or thought to be) executable code or virulently affected emails 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, except copyrighted (©) material or as otherwise indicated. 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 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 **8:00 pm Local** is recommended to discuss and confirm information and any dates.

The club website has current information on planned events and scheduled meeting dates. You can get the WIA News sent to your inbox each week by simply clicking a link and entering your email address found at [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au). The links for either text email or MP3 voice files are there as well as Podcasts and Twitter. This service is FREE.