

# WANSARC NEWS

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Closing Date for Articles and Advertisements for next issue in July is 26<sup>th</sup> June

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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**NEXT CLUB MEETING – 19.30 hours, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the TAFE**

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## Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio Victoria (Wireless Institute of Australia, Victorian Division)

51 persons attended the AGM on Wednesday, May 24 at Ashburton. The motions prepared by Greg VK3VT and Ernie VK3FM were declared invalid on legal advice received by the Director & Chair of the meeting. The AGM was over fairly quickly with more discussions held during the 'open forum' that followed. Many persons gave presentations and statements, WIA President Michael Owen in particular. Grant, VK3HFS was there recording all the main speakers at the meeting and these will appear on the VicLink broadcast. No doubt websites belonging to all concerned will be telling their views of the evening. WANSARC had Mick VK3CH & Graeme VK3NE attend; hear more of the ARV AGM at our next meeting. Read more on page 5...

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

### 'KJW' PACKS MORE PUNCH

John has made improvements to his antenna system of late and is now heard much better by many on the NET. This also gives John an opportunity to stir up a wider audience than usual – possibly his drive to improve things and get more RF into the ether! (hi)

Now all he needs to do is fix up his misbehaving PC, or get a better one!!

### VK3PI ANTENNA TOWER PROJECTS

After being given time off for good behavior – Mark will be putting his R&R to good use carrying out maintenance to all the antennas on his tower. Plans are to bring them all down and bring them back to pristine condition. I'm sure more will go back up than come back to earth. Several beams are planned according to Mark, heard on the NET. Look forward to some improved signals, but over here it's already 9+ anyway!

### Look-a-like antennas - what will they think of next?

We're all too familiar with replicas of a wide range of products from expensive watches through to automobile spare parts that are being offered at prices a mere fraction of the genuine product.

The unethical manufacturing practice is to re-engineer or copy a highly successful brand name product and cash in by selling it to sometimes gullible consumers or others aware it's a fake and don't care.

Now we have word that there are fake diamonds being sold to VK radio amateurs. No, not the precious stone that adorns an engagement ring, but look-a-like Diamond brand antennas. A very carefully worded statement has been issued by one retailer of Diamond Antennas warning that fakes of the product have reached down under. They look the same, have similar packaging, sell at very attractive prices but according to the retailer are a decidedly inferior product.

- Amateur Radio Victoria.

### LETTER FROM "ZL" - Murray ZL3MH

I have known Bob VK3EL for many years and about 4yrs ago I came on one of your outings to the Radio Museum at Simpson Barracks Macleod when I was in Melbourne.

Bob has asked me to send you some news, so here goes.

I also enclose some SSTV pic's from VK2ZAZ.

Hi all WANSARC members, Daylight saving has gone here in ZL and because of that the times have become more convenient to work FO-29 in the evenings.

During the last two weeks I have been on FO-29 trying SSTV to VK2ZAZ Geoff. The satellite is a Mode J machine, that is 145.950 MHz up as a center frequency on LSB and down on 435.850 MHz USB as a center frequency minus or plus 50 Kc. The satellite is inverting to cancel out the Doppler Effect.

There is still around 10 Kc of frequency change on an overhead pass that makes tuning a SSTV very difficult indeed. To minimize the Doppler Effect a lower pass is preferred.

We started with Robot 36 and now have moved to Scottie 2 and have picture sending and receiving nearly down to a fine art. The problems are tracking the satellite and at the same time keeping the SSTV 1200 Hz sync pulses on the mark.

I use two computers one a 500MHz with 128 megs of ram on Receive running MMSSTV Version 1.11g and the Transmit one a 1 Gig with 256 megs of ram.

To start we send a 1900Hz tone for 7 seconds to tune your receiver to the 1900 Hz mark on the screen.

Then I send the picture leaving the transmitter alone and constantly on the RIT and tuning control of the receiver.

You can see your own picture coming back from the satellite to keep the SSTV sync pulse as near as possible to the 1200Hz mark.

The gear that I am using on receive is 20 elements on 70cms to a cavity filter then a MRF901 preamp then a Microwave modules converter and an FT101zd mk2.

On transmit an IC202s; 20w PA and a 10 element beam fully track able. Geoff is using a FT-736 with fully computerized tracking and Doppler tuning and similar antenna's to mine.

The program he is using is SSTV Pal Multi Mode which has two screens and a loop back function that you can send and receive a picture at the same time so you can do it all with one computer provided you have a duplex sound card.

We can do a total of four Scottie 2 pictures a pass which are 71 second each long.

73 Murray ZL3MH



## Around the Shack...

### “THE THIRD HAND“(Or, the Tinkerer’s Little Helper)



Ever wish you had an extra helper or a ‘Third Hand’ in the workshop or shack? Someone or something to hold that little fiddly bit of work you’re trying to solder to, or hold in place while you complete a project? There are some commercially available gadgets on the market, but when you’re stuck you can construct this item quickly and cheaply from stuff usually found around the house. I don’t claim credit for this idea as I saw something similar published somewhere years ago and that design was probably much better than mine, but this one works for me. The basic requirements were some plastic clothes pegs from the clothes-line, a piece of scrap timber, some wood screws and small flat washers under the wood-screw heads to let the pegs swivel 360 degrees. Obviously you can modify the basic design idea to suit your own needs



Picture of my ‘Third Hand’ showing some possible uses for it with the addition of a couple of extra pegs on the front edge to hold circuit boards vertically.

©Bob VK3EL

### GIPPSTECH 2006

A reminder about the GippsTech on July 8th and 9th weekend. GippsTech is a premier two day conference organised by the Eastern Zone Amateur Radio Club for VHF, UHF and SHF enthusiasts. Mick VK3CH is planning to attend again this year. Room in the (AR equipped) car for more persons if required – let me know if you’re keen.

### ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME EXPERIENCE

The impact of participating in an Amateur Radio International Space Station (ARISS) school contact that happened on 31 March, is still being talked about by the students, teachers and parents from Brian Hill Primary School in Melbourne’s north-east. As is tradition with these events, curious children were eager to learn more about life in space, and ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur KC5ACR was able to give them accurate information. One student, Oliver, asked: "What does a didgeridoo sound like in space?" Bill KC3ACR responded: "As a matter of fact, Don Pettit on Expedition 6 carried a didgeridoo into space ... and he said it sounded the same as it did on the ground, because the air on board is at the same pressure."

Another student, Emma asked: "Can you play tennis in the Space Station? Does the ball go where you aim it?" The Commander replied, "Valery (Tokarev, his crewmate) is a very good tennis player, and I would not let him play tennis because he serves the ball so hard it might hit some of our equipment and break it." Ben and Hayden asked if it was fun in space and whether the astronaut preferred the Space Station or being on Earth? That was easy to answer, with the response being, "It is so much fun I can't believe this is a job for which I get paid." With a more scientific question about the effects of microgravity on the human body, Patrick asked, "Does your blood run normally?" Bill McArthur explained that space travel does have an affect, "The blood that is normally down in your legs and feet, because there's no gravity, your body doesn't know that, and so that blood tends to move up into your chest and head." Despite the low elevation of the International Space Station, the pass through a telebridge provided by Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI last about nine minutes enabling in all 22 questions being asked and time left-over to let Bill know how appreciative all at the school were in talking to a space traveller.

Members of the North East Radio Group (NERG) assisted in setting up for the contact with the chief organiser of the event being Don Haslam VK3KDT.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### REPEATER RESTORATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

The Mt Big Ben 2m repeater VK3RNE has been restored to full service. In last month's column it was explained how the Commonwealth Games had put a big demand on available rigging services, further delaying the overdue replacement of the repeater's antenna.

The new Foundation Licensees and others in the Albury-Wodonga and north-east Victoria region are now able to have a reliable repeater giving a wide coverage area.

The Mt Macedon VK3RMM UHF repeater has been also been upgraded and from all reports providing a superior service and coverage area.

### SOLAR CYCLE FORECAST BREAKTHROUGH

The next sunspot cycle will be 30-50 per cent stronger than its predecessor and will begin as much as a year later than previous forecasts, according to scientists from the US-based National Centre for Atmospheric Research. If the prediction is correct, the next solar maximum could be the most intense since the historic solar maximum of 1958.

The National Centre for Atmospheric Research scientists believe they have mastered the art of accurately forecasting solar cycles. They have developed a computer model that they claim has simulated the strength of the past eight solar cycles with an accuracy of more than 98%. This amazing precision is achieved by using the subsurface movements of sunspot remnants of the previous two solar cycles to calculate the strength of the next cycle. Mausumi Dikpati, the leader of the research team, said: "Our model has demonstrated the necessary skill to be used as a forecasting tool." The Sun undergoes 11-year cycles of activity, from peak storm activity to quiet and back again. But until now there was no precise method of predicting their timing and strength. Being able to accurately predict the sun's cycles years ahead could help society prepare for periods of intense solar storms, which can disrupt communications, slow down satellite orbits and crash power systems. Solar storms are thought to be caused by twisted magnetic fields in the Sun that suddenly snap, releasing huge amounts of energy. They usually occur near dark regions of concentrated magnetic fields known as sunspots.

Thanks to the RSGB

-from WIA Website

### LIGHT BULB'S FUTURE DIM

The days of the traditional light bulb -- invented more than 125 years ago -- may be numbered. Scientists have developed a brighter, more efficient light source -- wafer-thin light panels that can cover a whole ceiling, wall, table or even curtains. The new sheets are made from light-emitting plastics. Scientists who designed them say they give off less heat and could be three times more efficient than standard incandescent bulbs. The sheets are clear, but flood a room with light when connected to electricity. They could be installed to appear as windows or skylights during the day, but at night mimic the effect of natural light. More than 20 per cent of electricity used in buildings is devoted to lighting. According to inventor Steven Forrest, a materials consultant from the University of Michigan, the panels may have to be changed just once every five to 10 years. "We hope it means the end of the light bulb," he said. "We really don't want them -- they use an extraordinary amount of electricity."

- DAILY MAIL

## Around the Shack...

### WIA EXAMS OFFICER - POSITION VACANCY

The WIA is looking for a full-time employee - see position description below.

With the introduction of the Foundation license the WIA office, in Caulfield, is now processing many more assessment and examination events per week and the position has now to a full time position.

Set out below is the position description which provide an overview of the position and the kind of person the WIA is looking to employ.

If you can recommend a suitable person please contact the WIA President, Michael Owen VK3KI at president@wia.org.au or the WIA Secretary Chris Jones VK2ZDD secretary@wia.org.au

#### **Position description for the WIA Examination Officer**

##### **The position:**

The WIA Examination Officer is primarily responsible for the operation of the WIA Exam Service and to act as a backup generally to the WIA office. Currently the WIA conducts examinations for people who wish to qualify to hold an amateur license on behalf of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

The Examination Officer:

<> prepares examination material

<> records details and sends the material to the examiners, in some cases marks papers, processes the results, records financial information, and notifies ACMA or the candidates of the results

<> generally maintaining the system, responding to queries from candidates, potential candidates and examiners in an accurate, courteous and prompt manner.

The Examinations Officer will need to refer some queries to various WIA officers, who will deal with them.

##### **Qualifications and skills:**

The person filling this position must be skilled in the use of Word, Excel, the use of e-mail, the Internet and general computer operation.

Training will be provided for the use of the WIA examination software.

A working knowledge of MYOB would also be an advantage.

The position requires the person to interface with WIA members and people who have or will be using the WIA examination service and therefore the person filling this position must be customer oriented with an excellent phone manner.

Reports to: The WIA President or in his absence as directed.

Salary: The salary rate is negotiable and will be based on a 35-hour week, full-time employment, working 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, with lunch from 12 noon to 12.30pm.

The WIA will contribute an amount equivalent to 9% of the employees salary (or such other amount a may be specified by legislation) to the Superannuation Fund maintained for the WIA or an approved fund of the employee's choice.

The employee may contribute an additional amount to a superannuation fund of their choice on a salary sacrifice basis.

Probationary Period:

The probationary period for this position will be three months.

Conditions of Employment:

Other terms and conditions of employment with the WIA are to be found in the WIA's Conditions of Employment.

### HOWLS OF LAUGHTER

DOGS have a sense of humor and even laugh, according to research.

Dog laughter is the long "huffing" noise they make when playing with a favorite toy or in anticipation of going on a walk, according to researcher Patricia Simonet, from the Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service in the US's Washington state.

- found on the internet

### BPL - THE BATTLE BUILDS

#### **New WIA BPL Interference Advisory Service**

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the WIA, the board announced a new WIA Interference Advisory Service.

So why a BPL Interference Advisory Service?

More and larger BPL trials are planned for the coming year and we expect greater numbers of radio amateurs will experience BPL interference.

We also expect radio amateurs affected by BPL interference will wish to lodge interference complaints with ACMA and the BPL trial operator.

However, lodging an effective interference complaint is not easy. A radio amateur lodging a BPL interference complaint should show as much as possible that they have suffered "substantial interference", but "interference that may be substantial in one situation may not be substantial in another. The WIA board believes the WIA should assisting radio amateurs in both identifying interference as coming from BPL, and also in ensuring that their interference complaints have maximum effectiveness.

How will the service work?

The service will be provided by and funded by the WIA and available to all Australian radio amateurs. The WIA will provide the following services:

1. Validation of interference as likely coming from a BPL Source.

This will require an audio recording of the interference to be sent to the WIA. If the recording submitted has a high probability of coming from a BPL source the service will make a recommendation to proceed to lodging a formal interference complaint.

2. The service will then assistance the radio amateur in preparing and lodging an effective interference complaint - Proving as much as possible "substantial interference"

How to Access the Service

Access to the service will be via the WIA BPL webpage. The web page will include information about the service, links to sound files of actual BPL interference, and downloadable forms. Those wishing to use the service will be asked to download their interference recordings and complete the appropriate forms.

After analysis of the material provided a WIA BPL Group representative will contact the radio amateur by phone to discuss the best course of action. Those without internet access are asked to forward their recordings to the WIA office.

- From WIA website, Phil Wait VK2DKN

### GOVERNMENT EASES LAWS ON COPYRIGHT

LAWS will be changed allowing people to legally record music from CDs to their iPods and other digital music players. The federal government is reportedly proposing a raft of changes to the copyright laws to combat music piracy.

Taping TV and radio programs and using copyright material for parody or satire will also be legalised as part of the reforms, The Sunday Telegraph reports. The changes are to be announced today by Attorney-General Philip Ruddock. They will clear the way for millions of Australians who effectively break the law every time they reproduce copyright material for personal use.

The key changes relate to the recording of copyright material from CDs, audio tapes or vinyl records onto an MP3 player or home computer.

The government wants to crack down on those who are using the material to make a profit or causing significant losses by distributing other people's property.

- From Herald and Weekly Times website

***"To make laws that man cannot, and will not obey, serves to bring all law into contempt."* - E. C. Stanton**

### SNIFFER DOGS TRAINED TO DETECT DODGY DVDS

Two black Labrador dogs have become the first in the world to be trained to sniff out counterfeit DVDs. The dogs - named Luck and Flo - have already passed their first big test. They were put to work at Courier Company FedEx's UK hub at Stansted in the UK where they successfully discovered DVDs in parcels and packages. Although none of the discs they discovered was a pirated copy, the organizations behind the trial expressed satisfaction with the results. "This is the first time dogs have been used anywhere in the world to search for counterfeit DVDs and the results were amazing," said Mr Ian Leinster, director general of the UK-based Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT). FACT teamed up with the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) to train the dogs, a process that took eight months. Sniffer dogs are commonly used to search for drugs, explosives, other contraband and, in the case of Australia, certain prohibited food imports. It is not immediately clear if the dogs will continue to work only with posted/couriered material or whether they will be deployed at airports to pore over passengers' suitcases and packages. However, before that happens the dogs are expected to go back to school to learn how to differentiate pirated discs from the kosher ones. DVD piracy is a growing problem in the UK and last year FACT seized over two million counterfeit DVDs.

-Herald Sun Media

## LICENCE CONDITIONS & BAND PLANS

A number of incidents have been observed of Standard and a few Foundation licensees operating within the 80m DX Window of 3776 - 3800MHz. This is contrary to the Licence Condition Determinations for both the Standard and Foundation licences, which are only permitted to use 3500 - 3700MHz.

Reference can be made to the ACMA website which shows that neither the Standard / Foundation Licence have access to the 80m DX Window.

On the 2m band, operation in the 145.800 - 146.000MHz range is for satellite operations only. This is because there are Mode J satellites that use this frequency range as their input or uplink, with the downlink in the 70cm satellite sub-band.

Simplex QSO's within the satellite segment does cause difficulties to genuine satellite operation.

Please refer to the Band Plans which can be read at:

[http://www.amateurradio.com.au/download/band\\_plans.pdf](http://www.amateurradio.com.au/download/band_plans.pdf)

- Amateur Radio Victoria Website

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Amateur Radio Victoria is looking for a person who can take on a supervisory and administrative role at the office in Ashburton.

The vacancy occurs with the retirement of John Brown VK3JJB.

Also needed are up to two people who can on a roster basis attend the office on Tuesdays to answer the telephone, deal with member and general public inquiries, plus some mailing, filing and general duties.

For more information please contact the President, Jim Linton VK3PC, at [arv@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:arv@amateurradio.com.au)

## ROTARY VISIT TO WANSARC

After receiving proceeds from raffle tickets from WANSARC for a few years, the local Rotary group decided to visit us to see what it is we do! Former member Tony VK3JED along with Gordon VK3YOD put on a full blown Echolink demonstration and Mark VK3PI explained all the different facets of our hobby.

They either left very informed or bewildered. But they were certainly impressed by it all.



Tony operating Echolink, in contact with a U.K. station

## INTRODUCING F-TROOP – AN ON-AIR GET TOGETHER

For some time there have been various suggestions that a weekly net on 2-metres be arranged as a meeting place for Foundation licensees.

Gary VK3FGAZ and Graeme VK3FTTG have gathered sufficient support for what is being to be called the 'F-Troop' net to discuss radio procedures and other areas of interest to new radio amateurs.

Amateur Radio Victoria will help kick off the net this Sunday with Ross Pittard VK3FCE being net control, on the Mt Macedon 2-metre repeater VK3RMM 147.250MHz immediately after the VicLink mini-broadcast and callback. The idea behind F-Troop is to get more experienced radio amateurs, such as WIA Assessors and course trainers, to provide advice and help in the spirit of amateur radio. Standard and Advanced License holders will also be most welcome to join in. The first F-Troop to get things going will be about 11.40am on Sunday the 28th of May.

Please don't just listen, join in and make it a useful and worthwhile exercise.

- Amateur Radio Victoria.

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## Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio Victoria (Wireless Institute of Australia, Victorian Division)

The annual general meeting of Amateur Radio Victoria was held on Wednesday, 24 May with nearly 50 in attendance.

After the statutory requirements dealing with the annual reports, finances, and election of the new council for 2006-2009, the meeting expressed a vote of thanks by acclaimed to our retiring Secretary, John Brown VK3JJB for a job very well done.

The operators of special event station AX3MCG, Peter Forbes VK3QI and David McAulay VK3EW, spoke of the Commonwealth Games celebration activity that also involved AX3GAMES.

AX3MCG amassed 140 countries, 100 each on 40 and 20 meters (a fuller report later). Peter and David presented a bound copy of the AX3MCG log book to the President, Jim Linton VK3PC.

The two Notices of Motion proposed by Greg Williams VK3VT, Jim Baxter VK3KE and Ernie Walls VK3FM were then addressed.

The motions, provided to members as part of the annual notice of meeting, were in summary proposing that Amateur Radio Victoria be wound up or donate at least \$500,000 to the Wireless Institute of Australia (refer to full wording of motions).

The chairman, Jim Linton VK3PC advised the AGM that under his responsibilities and obligations as a company director and chairman, he had sought advice from the company solicitors on the motions.

In particular, he requested advice as to whether the motions were in conformance with Corporations Law.

The advice received was that not only should both motions have been Special Resolutions, but they also were deficient in terms of requirements under Corporations Law, and that the Chairman should not accept them nor should they be put to the meeting.

The chairman said he accepted that legal advice. The AGM was then closed and forum session began with him providing clarification and responses to some of the points made in the failed motions.

The chairman then invited the gathering to discuss the contents of the motions and their supporting arguments.

Although no conclusions were reached there appeared to be a greater understanding of the opposing points of view in relation to the assets held by Amateur Radio Victoria.

It appeared that different viewpoints were held by those in provincial cities and rural areas when compared to some in metropolitan Melbourne. Greg VK3VT addressed the meeting by saying he did not think that motions would 'get up' (at the AGM), apologized for not having them in the correct style and content, and spoke in support of some of their proposals.

Fellow signatory to the motions, Ernie VK3FM said he would have an acceptable motion 'next time' and conceded the proposals for the AGM in the form that they were submitted were not acceptable.

The third signatory to the failed motions, Jim Baxter VK3KE, was unhappy.

There was plenty of discussion during the social part of the evening over sandwiches and coffee. It concluded amicably.

- Amateur Radio Victoria.

*Editors Note – This email was addressed “members only”, but in the wider interest of WANSARC members, I have presented it here “as is”.*

## TWO METRE BOOMER

Do you want extended range for your handheld on Two Meters?

Many of us have found that the rubber duckie antenna doesn't do a very good job at any distance from the repeater. Here's an inexpensive antenna that will boost your operating range many times over that of the duck.

As far as I know, this antenna was designed by Woody KA4OFE. I received the instructions from him and immediately tried it out on some distance repeaters. Wow! It opened up a whole new world of HT communications.

This simple antenna is shown in Fig.1. It is simple a vertical dipole with the lower half made of a section of 450 ohm TV ladder line. The top section of the dipole is made from the centre conductor of the coaxial line, with the white dielectric material left in place. A hanging loop is formed at the top and the distance from the top of the loop to the braid is 19 inches (48.3cm). Enough braid is left over to form a pigtail, which is soldered to a crossover wire between the two wires of the ladder line.

The 50 ohm coax should be woven in and out of the lattices of the ladder line, keeping it centered as much as possible.

The coax should then be tied in position along the ladder line by monofilament fishing line if you desire.

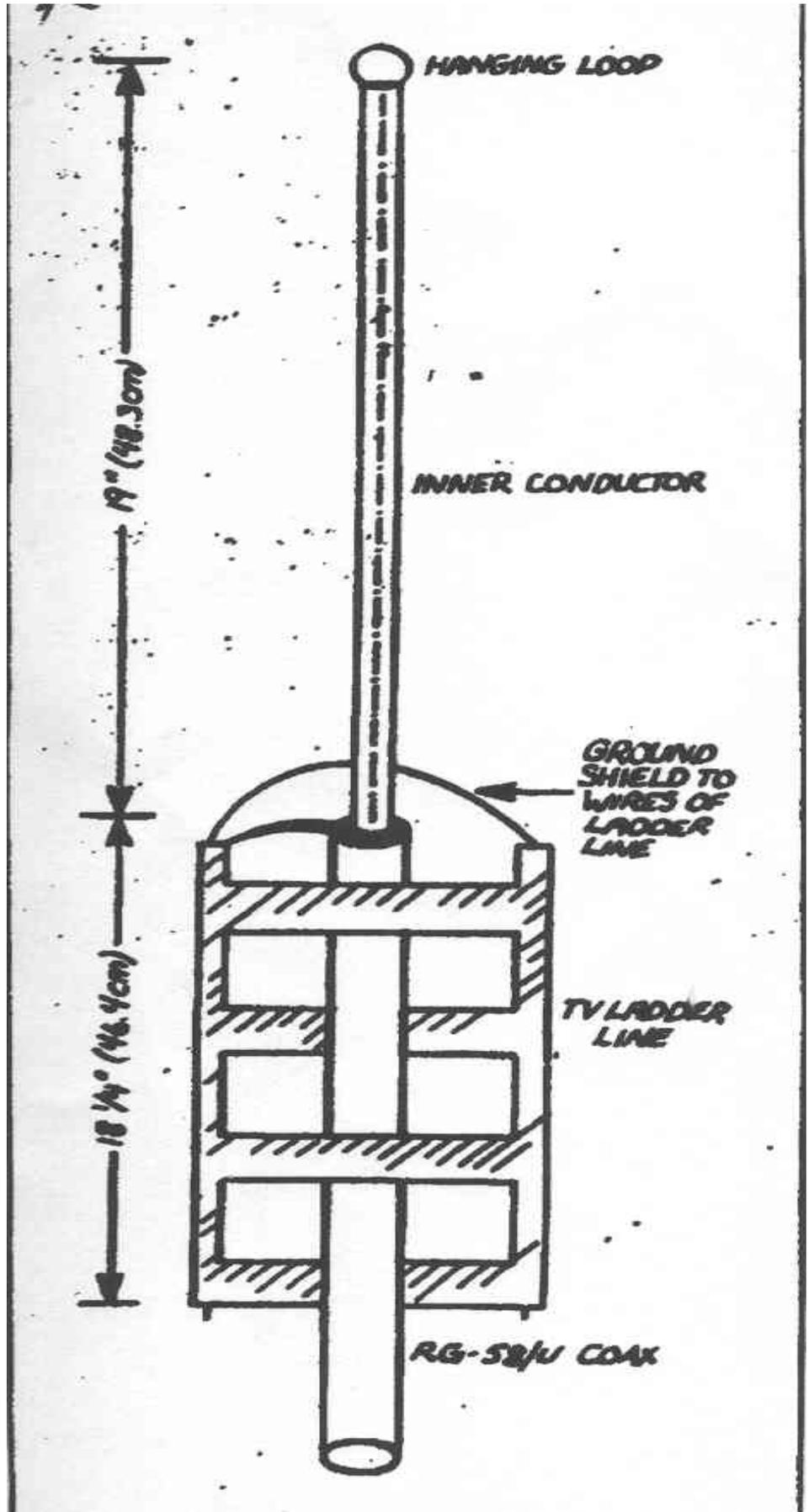
The two wires of the line are separated at the bottom end and joined at the top end, at which point the coax braid is attached. The ladder line seems to work well as a decoupling stub and when the antenna is mounted in the clear (hung from a tree branch, for example) it is a great improvement over a conventional HT antenna – even a full size one.

SWR on the line is low and so far I have encountered no loading problems with any equipment.

My version of the KA4OFE antenna comes complete with a 25 foot (7.62 meter) lead-in and matching plug to fit the HT on the free end of the line. The antenna can be coiled up into a small bundle and erected in a few minutes. It's a lot of antenna for very little money.

Fig. 1—The KA4OFE answer to the 2-metre rubber duckie antenna. Costing just cents, this simple dipole runs rings around an HT antenna. It can be rolled up and stuffed in your pocket (depending upon the length of the feed line). It's a great antenna for an emergency when you need the punch to break into a distant repeater!

*From BARG Newsletter – reprinted with permission*



## The VK3APC 2006 HAMFEST by Mark VK3PI



When club member Peter, VK3YSF, invited me to attend the Moorabbin and District Radio Club Hamfest 2006, the thought appealed having not been to a Hamfest for many years.

As we entered the Brentwood College Car Park it was clearly “the” place to be, with the car park full and intrepid buyers risking the muddy “alternate grass car park” to park their cars. As 10am neared the sea of amateurs kept one ear on their group conversations and a fixed eye on any movement of the hall doors.

The starter’s gun was the stiff door bolt being forced up and the race was on. I had forgotten the thrill of the hunt where amateurs large and small swell forward like frenzied hounds chasing a knowing fox. Even for a big bloke like me it was a battle to remain afloat in this sea of exuberant sharks, smelling the burly of a good buy and circling the table to go in for the kill.



It was a credit to MDRC and the traders that much of the pre-loved gear on sale was in very good condition. One observation is that the influx of “F” calls to the amateur ranks has inflated the price of some gear; however bargains were to be had by all.

And well done to many of our WANSARC members who traveled afar to support the MDRC Hamfest. Not only was it a pleasure to have “eyeball QSO’s” with many on air contacts (Rod VK3CR, Eric VK3AX, Ron VK3OM, Ron VK3IO and Drew VK3XU, to name a

few) but it was also amazing to see the number of members from our club on site – nearly became a pseudo club meeting day.



Congratulations to MDRC on a very well run Hamfest and already my leave pass for next year’s Hamfest has been secured from the Director of War. How did I do that so quickly, you asked?



Immediately after the Hamfest I endured the Swans vs. Tigers AFL game – you guessed it...Director of War and in-laws are staunch “Bloods” supporters and 100 minutes of Tiger blood was spilt on the Telstra dome with nary a complaint from your “Tiger” scribe. Sometimes I can be silent!

Photo’s from top left to bottom - (Left to right) WANSARC’s Ray VK3KEL, Bill VK3DWF and Peter VK3YSF, WANSARC’s Derrick VK3AOF and Ian VK3XIJ, WANSARC’s Ralph VK3FRNB, Bob VK3EL and Danny VK3DWH, Bruce VK3BL, Eric VK3DIT and WANSARC President Graeme VK3NE were scouting for gear. Finally a pleasure to catch up with Drew VK3XU, master of constructions and Ron VK3IO, master of the DX signal on 160 metres/40 meters, two gents with enormous AR knowledge.

# WANSARC VK3AWS

**PRESIDENT:** Graeme McDiarmid VK3NE [vk3ne@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ne@wia.org.au)

**SECRETARY:** Mark Stephenson VK3PI Telephone: 0400 443 218 [vk3pi@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vk3pi@optusnet.com.au)

All correspondence to be addressed to the SECRETARY: PO Box 336, RESERVOIR 3073

## WANSARC CLUB PROFILE

### History

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

### Meetings

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

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

### Benefits

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

### Club Nets

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

Sometimes the NET is linked to Echolink. This link is only brought up on the frequency of 146.450 MHz during the running of the WANSARC Net on Tuesday nights and *only when VK3FY is present at his QTH.*

### More Information

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

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## *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.

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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.

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