

# WANSARC NEWS

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The monthly magazine of the

Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club



Melbourne, Australia



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

146.450 MHz FM **VK3AWS** 28.470 MHz USB



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2006

## Next Club Meeting – 19.30 hours, Friday 7th July at Tina’s Pizza

**NEXT MEETING Friday 7th July 2005 Commencing 19.30 hours, Or earlier if you’re hungry!**

**Tina’s Pizza**, 445 Plenty Rd Preston, Tina’s Phone: 9478 7950,

Talk in on 146.450 MHz FM **Melway ©Map 18 J 11**

**This is a Family Night and invitations to all Amateurs are welcome, “Christmas in July”, bring the whole gang, family, friends...**

Every club member knows where it is, but just in case, it’s on the Western side of Plenty Road, between Murray Road and Pender Street.

If you heading north and cross Wood Street, you have gone too far.

If you are heading south on Plenty Road and cross Murray Road, you have gone too far!



*“CQ, CQ  
Tina’s Pizza  
calling...”*

After how many years (since 1969?) of WANSARC meeting at Tina’s maybe its time for Tina to go for her Foundation License.

When we need to guide new members to the ‘establishment’ we could use her gear.

Signals should get out well with an antenna above the restaurant!



*“Best 73’s & 88’s to the guys at WANSARC...”*

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

### 'HUMAN ERROR' SPARKED RADIO LOSS

HUMAN error is being blamed for a breakdown in the ambulance radio communications system which affected services in Melbourne's western suburbs for 20 minutes on 28 May.

The Metropolitan Ambulance Service (MAS) said about one-third of the radio communication network went down at 9pm (AEST).

MAS managing director of operations, Ian Patrick, today said the back-up systems meant there were no delays to services and that patients were not put at risk.

"Although radio communication is important, we have other back-up mechanisms to give cases out and the main one now is the mobile data network, so cases are posted into ambulances automatically as they come in ... and an alarm goes off," Mr. Patrick said.

"Also we have pagers, and each branch where the crews are stationed has a phone, so if we have any problems with radio communication we have a way to give the jobs out," he said. "There wasn't any job that didn't go out to the right crew."

Mr. Patrick said the radio communication system's generators were tested on Saturday.

"There had been some testing during the day with our generators and for some reason our battery power switched in instead of it going back to mains power," Mr. Patrick said. "Then the batteries over time lost their power and we lost radio," he said.

He said the problem, which he blamed on human error, was fixed within 20 minutes and radio communication was restored by 9.20pm.

"Obviously that is not our ideal, but our processes that we have in place in terms of fail-safe were all working and we got onto the problem pretty quickly and it was resolved in 20 minutes," Mr. Patrick said.

"We're having a full investigation of the actual issue to see what we can learn from it and it just appears that really it comes down to human error," he said.

### AMATEUR RADIO VICTORIA LAUNCHES F-TROOP NET

A welcoming, friendly and helpful weekly net for radio amateurs has been an instant success. Called 'F-Troop' it began on Sunday the 28th of May with 27 callsigns including 12 Foundation Licensees taking part.

Also joining in was a mix of license assessors, class instructors, and mentoring-inclined experienced radio amateurs. Foundation Licensees asked questions about the Internet Repeater Linking Project and some useful information was provided on the spot. Other topics covered the building of equipment and regulatory matters such as whether there was a time-limit to upgrade - the quick answer is that the Foundation License has unlimited tenure. A number of the newly qualified radio amateurs who joined in are intending to be back again on the net with a few questions. One idea suggested was for a question and answer facility on the Amateur Radio Victoria website, which may be useful for lengthy or detailed questions. Within hours the facility was up and running.

Any newcomer to amateur radio having a question can email it to [foundation@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:foundation@amateurradio.com.au) and a panel of experienced radio amateurs will provide an answer. The inaugural controller for F-Troop, Ross Pittard VK3FCE explained that the idea of the on air net is to provide Foundation Licensees and other less experience radio amateurs an opportunity to participate in and talk about their new hobby.

The net was proposed by a number of members of Amateur Radio Victoria who are Foundation Licensees. It can be heard at about 11.40am straight after the Sunday morning broadcast callbacks, and using the wide area coverage Mt Macedon 2-metre repeater VK3RMM 147.250 MHz.

Those on the F-Troop net were also reminded about the Young Hams Net on Wednesday night at 8pm local 3.590MHz +/- QRM - both nets will cross-promote the other.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AFTER JAVA QUAKE

Reports are coming in about how radio amateurs have provided emergency communications in the wake of an earthquake in Java that has claimed thousands of lives and left 100,000 homeless. The quake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale struck on Saturday 27 May reducing some 35,000 buildings around the ancient city and popular tourist destination of Yogyakarta to rubble. The national radio society ORARI (Organisasi Amateur Radio Indonesia) has been coordinating an emergency communication network. Praharto YB2BFZ, who is a head of ORARI (Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia) branch in Banyumas city 200km west of Yogyakarta, led an emergency radio team that took back-

up generators to help with communications. A VHF repeater in Purworejo city 100km west of Yogyakarta has been handling traffic from emergency radio communicator teams from both within Java and further away in the national capital of Jakarta. Some of those radio amateurs also provided assistance after the tsunami disaster on Boxing Day last year in Aceh and North Sumatra including badly hit Nias Island.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### CHANGES FOR RD CONTEST

The WIA has announced changes to the Remembrance Day Contest with a new manager in Peter Harding VK4OD replacing Chris Edmondson VK4AA who has had to resign due to health problems.

Peter VK4OD has reviewed the rules that were mainly introduced for the 2005 contest and made changes.

He says the rule changes are designed to boost scores without making the scoring too messy for either the competitor or the manager.

A major change is the way in which the winning state is decided. To determine the overall winner will simply be "how many people take part from each state and actually submit logs".

Other changes include:

- An end to the bonus points for HF contacts in excess of 1000km
- Signal reports won't be necessary for a contest exchange but logs should still show a sequential contact number starting with 001
- Repeat HF contacts will be allowed after two hours
- On VHF a station worked on FM can be immediately re-logged on SSB, CW or both
- Contacts on 10m or 160m will include those within state boundaries
- Separate entries for HF and VHF
- All contacts on bands 23cm and above will attract double points

The 24 hour Remembrance Day Contest, held in memory of those radio amateurs who died during World War II, is traditionally held on the weekend closest to the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific.

This year it will be on August 12-13 commencing 0800 UTC on the Saturday evening.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

### NEXT FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSE - ARV

Do you know someone who could be interested in getting their license? Please let them know about the next Foundation License training and assessment weekend at Box Hill North on 17-18 June.

Any current Foundation Licensees interested in upgrading to the Standard License? There's a bridging course starting for you very soon.

Inquiries about both to Barry Robinson VK3JBR 0428 516 001 or [arv@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:arv@amateurradio.com.au)

### PIMP YOUR RIDE

You can out-do James Bond if you 'pimp your ride' out with gizmos ranging from video players to Internet connections and cable TV or even a device to start your engine from halfway around the world says Ed Will writing in the Denver Post. Long gone are the days when a pair of fluffy dice and CB radio put a car owner on the cutting edge of mobile electronics. Totally 'sick' cars have moved on to video players, satellite TVs and radios, iPoD adapters, navigational devices and even mobile Internet connections. Even DVDs and video games are not enough for some travelers, so they buy a satellite TV system. Pretty much just for SUVs you can buy a special luggage rack for certain vehicles to tie down your 1.5 meter dish which automatically rotates to continuously lock onto the Direct TV signal. One popular device is not for entertainment, though you certainly will get a kick from telling your friends what it can do. It is a remote starter that is almost like having a chauffeur.

The gizmo works like this: A small hand-held transmitter connects with a unit in the vehicle. At the bottom of the hand-held sits an icon of a red car. You can set a timer to run the car for up to 25 minutes - perfect for warming up the vehicle on winter mornings. Then it automatically shuts off the car. If someone opens the car door, the hand unit sounds a single chime and a door opens on the little red car, if someone has thrown a football at it or just bumped their car door against it and set the alarm off, it will show a hammer hitting on top of the car. That means nobody is in your car, but your alarm has been set off somehow." You also can sign up for a satellite system enabling you to start your car from anywhere in the world. One possible application: A soldier posted overseas could keep the battery in his vintage GTO charged until his return home!

- *WIA News*

## LEARNING THAT TALK ISN'T ALWAYS CHEAP

MOBILE phones have become such a debt-trap that schools are running classes in how to manage rocketing bills of up to \$2000 a month.

While students happily download ring tones, evict least-favorite Big Brother contestants and text until their thumbs blister, many are oblivious to hidden costs, teachers say.

Alarmed by horror stories of massive monthly bills, Victorian schools have launched mobile phone management courses to spread the message that talk is not always cheap.

"There's barely a student who hasn't been caught out with some sort of extraordinary bill," said Gary Taylor, headmaster at Sebastopol College, Ballarat, where year 8 and 9 pupils study mobile phones for four periods a week for 10 weeks.

The compulsory course teaches youngsters to read the fine print on seductive advertisements for ring tones and wallpaper. Phone etiquette is also taught to discourage using mobiles to bully other students.

Belinda Plummer, who teaches the mobile phone class at Sebastopol College, said the course began last year after staff learned pupils were falling prey to phone rip-offs. "A lot of them were getting sucked into the ring tones — there are deals where it's \$5 every week but the kids aren't realizing that," Ms Plummer said.

"They're only wanting one ring tone and then they're getting sucked into purchasing more.

"They were also going for things like Australian Idol and Big Brother where they try to get people hooked on voting," she said.

Sebastopol launched its course with the help of a Commonwealth Bank Foundation grant, while 141 schools throughout the state have benefited from a free mobile phone information package from the Financial Basics Foundation, which educates young people about personal finance.

A recent News poll survey revealed 90 per cent of 13 to 19-year-olds in Melbourne and Sydney own mobile phones but 70 per cent don't follow a budget.

Katrina Birch, Financial Basics Foundation national development manager, said many teenagers fell prey to scams. "We heard of one student who had a \$2000 bill in one month," she said. "It's their parents who get stuck with the bill because kids can't take out contracts until they're 18."

Mr. Taylor said learning to manage their mobile phone bills could teach students valuable lessons. "The experience of buying a product and then realizing there are a whole list of responsibilities, obligations and costs that go with it relates further down the track to something like buying a car," he said.

Brayden Dorney, 15, changed his mobile phone plan after taking the course. "We've learned how to not get ripped off. You see all those ads on TV for ring tones and stuff but once we heard how much they cost we won't be downloading any," he said.

Scoresby Secondary College runs a mobile phone module as part of the year 10 financial literacy course. "Schools evolve in everything," said Vice-principal Gus Martin. "Even in English, instead of just a writing folio they're getting kids to write a blog, so it makes sense to match in with the terms and technology that they use."

A spokesman for the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association said the industry was concerned about youth debt and was tackling it in a number of ways, including urging parents to get pre-paid phones for their children.

### What they learn

#### ■ Phone terminology

What is a fixed-term contract? What does pre-paid mean?

#### ■ Plans

Decipher the plans on the market to get the plan that suits you. How much do texts, pictures, calls, cost?

#### ■ Scam awareness

Read the fine print. Beware of hidden costs in voting lines, 1900 numbers, spam text and offers of free gifts.

#### ■ Phone protection

Who can help you if you get into debt? Office of Fair Trading, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Telecommunications Ombudsman.

Can you get out of a contract?

What happens if you get a bad credit rating?

#### ■ Security Knowing your PIN, protecting against theft.

■ Phone etiquette Turn your phone off in cinemas, hospitals, when talking to shop assistants, etc.

- *The Age, Melbourne*

## 450 MHZ TO 6 GHZ DIGITAL-TO-RF TRANSMITTER CHIP

The wireless industry's first fully software-programmable direct-conversion digital-to-RF transmitter chip that can operate continuously over frequencies from 450MHz to 6GHz is in use.

The TC-TX1000 D/RF transmitter chip will support cellular base stations and handset applications, as well as automotive, emergency response, and other emerging wireless applications. The chip can also be programmed for multiple modes, including family radio, emergency, short-wave, all cellular protocols and GPS.

Utilizing patented True Software Radio architecture, the TC-TX1000 transmitter receives a digital signal from the DSP and directly converts it to an RF signal, ready for transmitting by a power amplifier at the antenna. The True Software Radio technology, with its direct D/RF conversion, eliminates all active and passive electronic components usually associated with a conventional wireless transmitter, including the DAC section and all analog RF filtering and mixing sections, simplifying the electronics and producing a cleaner wireless signal.

(Electronics Asia / press release) – *From WIA News*

## VK1WIA & VICLINK WEEKLY BROADCAST

This can be heard each Sunday at 11am and 8pm.

Victorian official broadcast frequencies;

80m -	3615 kHz	
40m -	7085 kHz	
10.130	USB	
VK3RML	Mt Dandenong	146.700
<b>VK3RMM</b>	<b>Mt. Macedon</b>	<b>147.250 *</b>
- <i>Callbacks on VK3RMMRepeter</i>		
VK3RWG	Mt. Baw Baw	147.225
VK3RMU	Mt. St. Leonard	438.075

## NEXT FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSE – NERG's

Trainer & Examiner John Wier tells me that NERG will be having an information night on Thursday 22nd June, with the weekend of 24-25 of June for training and assessment at the NERG's clubrooms, located at Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill. (Melway map 21-C3).

Check out [www.nerg.asn.au](http://www.nerg.asn.au) for more information or give John a call on 9431 0667 or email him at [vk3zrv@nerg.asn.au](mailto:vk3zrv@nerg.asn.au)

## TIRED OF GETTING SPAM?

The Australian Communications and Media Authority wants the spam you receive. Instead of using the delete key on these unwanted messages, simply select the ACMA's Spam MATTERS button to simultaneously delete the spam and report it to ACMA.

The Spam MATTERS button can be downloaded directly from the ACMA website [www.spam.acma.gov.au](http://www.spam.acma.gov.au)

The referred spam it receives will be analyzed to monitor trends and hopefully track down the source of the unsolicited offers, annoying junk mail, often fraud bids or potential virus carriers.

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## NEW COUNCIL BEGINS - AMATEUR RADIO VICTORIA

Following the Annual General Meeting the Amateur Radio Victoria Council for 2006-09 is about to hold its first meeting. The Council consists of Jim Linton VK3PC, Peter Mill VK3APO, Barry Robinson VK3JBR, Keith Proctor VK3FT and Ross Pittard VK3FCE.

We thank the outgoing Secretary, John Brown VK3JJB for his assistance with filing annual reports to ASIC, which notified it of the new directors and the appointment of Peter VK3APO as Company Secretary.

Other portfolios including the position of Treasurer will be decided at the first meeting on Wednesday, 7 June.

Still needed is a member who can volunteer to carry out administrative, banking and supervisory matters at the Ashburton office.

Any member wanting to put a matter before the council for consideration is encouraged to do so in writing.

*Amateur Radio Victoria © 1998 - 2006*

## DIGITAL VERMIN POSES A REAL THREAT TO RFID TAGS

Is your pet infected with a computer virus?

Has your dog or cat contracted a computer virus? It's not impossible. These days, large numbers of pets and livestock have a small chip implanted under the skin so that they can be identified if they stray or turn out to be infected with a disease. As these chips only have a limited memory capacity, it was widely assumed that they could not become infected with a computer virus. However, researchers at VU Amsterdam have now discovered that this is a real possibility. Fortunately they have also come up with a number of adequate countermeasures.

The chips in question are called Radio Frequency Identification Tags, or RFID tags.

These are small, relatively cheap microchips, which can be used to tag supermarket products, for example. They can also be implanted into pets or livestock.

The same chips are used in public transport chip cards, ski passes or on baggage labels at airports.

Thanks to these tags, we will soon be able to do our shopping without having to queue at the tills. An RFID scanner placed at the exit will transmit a radio wave that will be received by all the RFID tags in your shopping trolley. The tags identify themselves, the scanner registers the products you have bought and the total bill can be debited directly from your bank account. Walmart, the largest supermarket chain in the world, expects to make a total switch to products with RFID chips within the next few years.

But these tags are apparently more vulnerable than was first thought. PhD candidate Melanie Rieback and her supervisor Prof. Andrew Tanenbaum have found a way of placing a computer virus onto a RFID tag.

This was previously considered impossible on account of the limited memory capacity of the tags. Melanie Rieback will be giving a demonstration of her discovery on Wednesday 15 March at the annual IEEE Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications in Pisa.

Digital plague

These chips may be small, but just one infected RFID tag is capable of disrupting an entire system with disastrous consequences. Take, for example, the airport at Las Vegas, which handles two million items of luggage per month.

As from May 2006, RFID tags will be attached to cases to speed up the baggage handling process. If someone intentionally attaches an infected RFID tag to his case, the entire system will be thrown into disarray.

As soon as the case is scanned, the infected tag will be able to invade the airport's central baggage database and all cases subsequently checked in will also become infected. On arrival at other airports, these cases will be scanned again and within 24 hours, hundreds of airports throughout the world could be infected. The perfect solution for smugglers and terrorists wanting to send suspicious luggage across the world without being noticed.

Countermeasures

Fortunately, the threat of infection can be countered using standard measures. Rieback stresses that developers must check their RFID systems, and implement safety procedures and secure programme technology.

Although these countermeasures will curb the threat posed by RFID viruses, extra time, money and effort will need to be spent on implementing them.

It is therefore imperative that RFID system developers and users check the security of their systems now, before they are put to large-scale use.

© 2006 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – from the internet



## TELEMARKETING 'BIGGEST PRIVACY ISSUE'

THREE out of four callers to a national phone-in have nominated telemarketing as their number one privacy complaint, the Australian Law Reform Commission said. ALRC president Professor David Weisbrot said 130 people took part in the commission's two-day phone-in, to share their views about privacy protection.

"An overwhelming majority of callers were unhappy with the number and timing of calls they received from telemarketers," Prof Weisbrot said. "Some older people struggled to get to the phone to find out it was an unwanted call. People with privately listed numbers were concerned about how organizations obtained their details. And shift workers complained about being constantly interrupted while they tried to sleep." He said a large number of callers were also concerned about how private sector organizations and government agencies stored and shared their personal information. The results will be used to help the ALRC determine priorities for its current inquiry into the Privacy Act.

- Herald Sun Media

## GGREC 2006 HAMFEST

Held on Saturday 22nd July, The Cranbourne Public Hall, on the corner of Clarendon St and High St, Melways 133 K4 (High Street forms part of the South Gippsland highway in Cranbourne) 40 tables of new and used Electrical, Electronic and Amateur Radio equipment

Everything is under cover, Free Tea & Coffee available all day; selection of food will also be available. Doors open to sellers at 8.30 am & buyers at 10.00 am, Buyers can gain entry for \$5.00, Sellers will pay \$20.00 per table, which includes entry for two. All proceeds from the sale will go to the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club (GGREC). Club for facilities upgrade. Persons wishing to reserve a table position must Contact Dianne Jackson VK3JDI before the event on 03 5625 2545 to obtain a Stall Holder information sheet.

-GGREC Website

## MASS AMATEUR SATELLITE LAUNCH - 28TH JUNE

In the largest ever deployment of Amateur Satellites, thirteen Amateur Satellites will be simultaneously launched at on the 28th of June from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Each satellite is a 10 centimeter cube weighing just 1kg into which contains the battery, transmitter and various experiments. Twelve of the satellites have downlinks between 435 and 438 MHz and one will operate on 145.950 MHz. Further information regarding the launch can be found at:

[www.littonlab.atl.calpoly.edu/](http://www.littonlab.atl.calpoly.edu/)

## 2 LETTER CALLS

ACMA have advised that they are still working through the issues associated with 2 letter suffix amateur call signs. Accordingly, the freeze on allocation of new 2 letter suffix amateur call signs remains in place for the moment. The WIA has stressed to the ACMA that this issue should be resolved as soon as possible, as many amateurs are very keen to apply for a 2 letter Callsign.

## 40 METER BAND PLAN FINALIZED – REPORT FROM WIA

"The overall aim of the plan is to stimulate activity above 7100 kHz. The Australian 40 meter band is 300 kHz wide, and yet we persist in using the bottom 100 kHz. Yes, broadcast activity can make operation above 7100 kHz difficult at times, however we must spread activity into the higher portions of the band whenever possible." Glenn said. "Unless we start to increase our occupancy of the higher end of 40 meters, it will become increasingly difficult to justify those extra kilohertz that we fought so hard for at the last World Radio Conference."

If you are planning a sked with a mate on 40, please think about using a frequency above 7100, or even better still above 7200.

Don't forget the **WANSARC** club frequency of **146.450 MHz FM** (often also on **28.470 MHz USB**)

The weekly Tuesday night Radio Net is on 2 meters at 7.30 pm local time, listen for the club call of

# VK3AWS

Many if not all **WANSARC** members monitor this frequency at home, in the car, some at work, so if you're looking for a contact with a 'local' Give this spot a try – you never know who is there!

### BPL INTERFERENCE ADVISORY SERVICE

There is now a BPL Interference Advisory Service on the WIA webpage at [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au) Click on BPL and you will see a link to the menu. Within the menu you will find up to date information about BPL, sound files so you can hear what it sounds like and an Interference Reporting facility. BPL in Brief : BPL does not usually appear as noise on one spot frequency. It is more likely to cover whole bands and beyond, all at the same time. DS2 G1 Technology produces unmistakable carriers 1.1KHz apart, across a wide spectrum.

G2 200Mb/s Technology is more noise like.

Advice :

1. Listen and tune across the whole band.
2. Check the webpage and confirm that it is BPL
3. Report via the WIA webpage.

Cheers and hope you do not hear any.

Ted Thrift VK2ARA WIA National Clubs Coordinator

[tthrift@iprimus.com.au](mailto:tthrift@iprimus.com.au) [vk2ara@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2ara@wia.org.au)



DELIGHTED AT HOW WELL HE GETS OUT WITH A KILOWATT AND AN INDOOR DIPOLE, BOB GIVES LITTLE THOUGHT TO THE EFFECTS OF NEAR-FIELD RF.

### STAY CLEAR OF 7.065MHZ

Please remember to stay clear of 7.065MHz. Hamradio Emergency Services in Indonesia are using HF channel 7065 for all emergency traffic associated with the earthquake.

### ANTENNA EGG INSULATORS. (Bob VK3EL)



I've recently sourced a supply of plastic, UV treated egg insulators at a Farm Equipment Supplies business in Kensington at 42c each (RRP). If club members need a quantity of these, they can enquire through this website [http://www.daken.com.au/dlr\\_vic.htm](http://www.daken.com.au/dlr_vic.htm) and find their nearest Dealer and shop for themselves. This company, through their various dealers, supplies a variety of electric fence insulators [http://www.daken.com.au/electric\\_fencing\\_insulators.htm](http://www.daken.com.au/electric_fencing_insulators.htm) Some of them are very suitable for Amateur Radio use, and are competitively priced compared to what some insulators have been sold for at radio retail outlets in the past. The insulators I referred to in particular on the Club Net recently are black in color and measure approximately 36 mm long and 26 mm diameter. If Club Members need more information they can email me at [noodynut@hotmail.com](mailto:noodynut@hotmail.com) or call me at home. Bob, VK3EL. (QTHR)

### TOADS IN FOR A SURPRISE

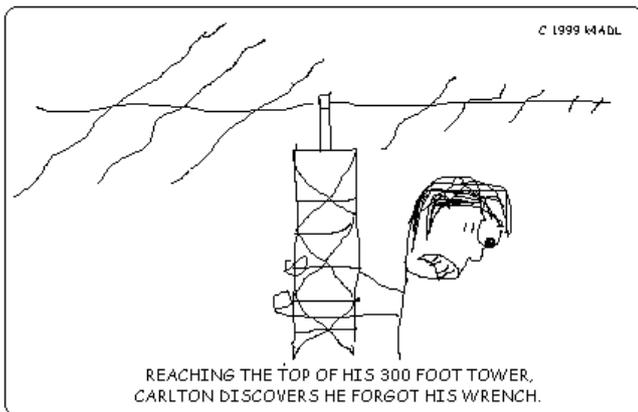
SCIENTISTS have devised a plan to wipe out one of Australia's most pernicious and prolific pests, the cane toad, by turning the entire species into males.

The professor of developmental biology at the University of Queensland, Peter Koopman, says an estimated 200 million cane toads live in Queensland, the Northern Territory and parts of NSW.

Prof Koopman, who heads a team of scientists at Brisbane's Institute for Molecular Biology, said researchers had launched a yearlong project aimed at genetically engineering toad embryos.

"We are trying to devise a strain of cane toads in which the males stay as males and the female tadpoles reverse their sex to male," Prof Koopman said. "So if we can release this strain in the wild, obviously this is going to cause a lack of females in the population and the males are going to find it hard to find someone to mate with and the population should be able to control itself."

- Herald Sun Media



REACHING THE TOP OF HIS 300 FOOT TOWER, CARLTON DISCOVERS HE FORGOT HIS WRENCH.

### GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM BENELEC

Benelec Pty Ltd has made a considerable donation to Melbourne's North East Radio Group (NERG) in the form of a full complement of gear for an amateur station to cover all bands and modes from 160m to 70cm.

These items will be invaluable in the training of new amateur operators, and give them a place to get on air before they set up their own stations.

They will also be used by the club members to polish their emergency communications skills and in the ongoing education of amateurs.

- NERG News

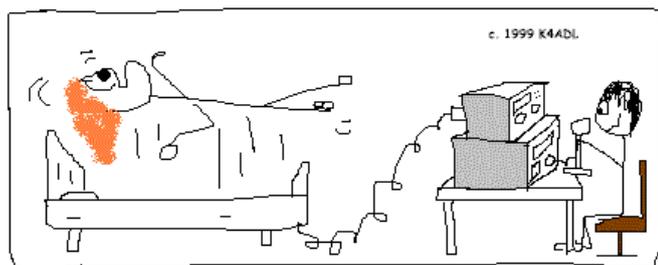
### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - RFID TAGS EVALUATION

Boeing and FedEx have jointly initiated an in-service evaluation of active RFID tags on some major airplane parts for a FedEx MD-10 Freighter. The active tags operate at the internationally recognized 915 MHz frequency and provide the ability to inventory an aircraft without opening access doors.

The tags have been installed in all zones of the airplane including the flight deck, avionics compartment, cargo compartment and wheel wells.

The testing phase will also identify potential electromagnetic interference effects. The active tags transmit less than 1 milliwatt of power. By comparison, a cell phone transmits 500 milliwatts. It's key to keep the power levels of these tags in perspective -- cell phones and laptops emit a great deal more power, these tags are very safe for use on an airplane.

(Info: Nancy Standifer; Boeing Communications)



ONCE A COMMON PRACTICE FOR APARTMENT DWELLERS, LOADING UP THE BEDSPRINGS IS NOW CONSIDERED POLITICALLY INCORRECT.

## Foundation License Forum

After some requests from within our club, the following comments are presented. WANSARC will not be the only club with new "F" calls asking these sorts of questions or raising these issues. For the Full Calls or Advanced Calls amongst us, try and cast your mind back to when you first got on the air. Getting on air is an achievement – but once you have a microphone in your hand, all legal, ready to have your first QSO's, what then... Email received by your editor from a member of our club;

*Dear WANSARC members,*

*I think, as a newly licensed F call, and I also think that there may be others who feel the same way that we could concentrate on "on-air" operations for a while perhaps. Perhaps we could reserve a small part of the meeting to teach us new F licences a little about how to actually talk correctly on the ham bands. It doesn't have to be too long. Just a little while to show us about on-air etiquette, calling procedures, which frequencies to use for a certain purpose, how to use repeaters, things like that.*

*I read in the latest WIA Amateur radio magazine that there are some problems with on air behaviour (May 2006 p 3). I think we could spend some time training 'our' WANSARC operators to be the best in the business, so to speak. I started on the CB radio in the 70s and the behaviour was already feral back then and has only become worse as time wore on. That is one of the reasons I turned my CB off. I would hate the ham bands to become a bad as the 27 MHz CB was. So I think that it might be useful if we were to have some form of training schedule where we taught the newbies things like generally using the ham bands and well as emergency operations and any other aspects of amateur radio that we may decide on. I know that the main reason I took up ham radio was to learn new skills in relation to radio. Finally, I think that we have an opportunity to make WANSARC a leader in training new operators. One that other clubs can look at as an example of how to do it right perhaps.*

*- Name Withheld (for now)*

And another in reply from our club (a Full Call)

*I can sympathize; I for one, never ever had any HF type training nor was I ever shown. I never had access to a full call type person's shack or one with an active HF station. This made it very hard to develop the correct procedures and so am fully aware of where he is coming from. After all, we are a radio club but the emphasis seems to be more on a social club with an interest in radio!*

*We must come up with new methods of developing and nurturing new members and trying to meet their reasonable requests for assistance.*

*We are very much an ageing fraternity and MUST help our newer and younger members.*

### Editors Comments

I suppose I was lucky in a way having my father (*Ian ex: VK3BBA, ex: VK3CH, currently VK3IV*) sparking the interest from a young age, with the usual 'rite of passage' of Crystal Set building, progressing to the transistor radio and amplifier stage. I can remember 'Electronics Australia' magazine offering a Transistor in the post if you cut out a coupon from the magazine! After that it was making Radios with the ZN414 chip and loud amplifiers with the popular LM380 IC, which was touted as being nearly impossible to destroy (but I sure tried!)

Watching my Dad working both HF and VHF I learnt the way to "speak". I can remember when a QSL card arrived via the bureau from a UK station; Dad could not quite put a date to it. Well of course not – I worked the station at night while Dad was out to dinner, I think I was 12 years of age at the time! (Taking second operator qualifications, as well as Dads Call & "Handle" into my own hands!)

In 1979 I worked probably more DX on CB than I have since with my ham radio license. This was while living Horsham where there were not too many persons on to ruin the DX, but enough to have a chat to at night. It was quite well run with only a few nutters about – which we all ignored. I can still remember truckers from the USA squashing out signals from less than 10km away – such was the peak of the sun spot cycle. And all this from a stock legal 40 channel Midland CB radio running the legal 12 watts SSB into a five foot helical whip on the roof with crappy coax fed with a 4 amp "battery charger" power supply.

After much pestering from the OM I finally sat and passed the Limited Call Qualifications, upgrading with the necessary Morse Code a few years later. It was only once I was living in my own house that a whole roof became "mine" for the erecting of antennas in a serious way. Even then I stayed mainly on UHF as with repeaters and the ease of copying FM and running Packet, it seemed enough at the time. I knew a few hams, but you could count them with your fingers.

Even after obtaining the Full Call, with access to HF, I only ever worked my father on HF. After that I listened, but felt I would not "match" the 'professional' operators I heard on HF.

This remained that way for years – that was until I joined WANSARC.

Since then I have met many hams, acquired a wealth of information, found some great deals on gear, obtained much technical advice (reading an article is one thing – seeing it working at someone's place 'in your face' is another thing). Not to mention occasional free stuff, BBQ's and the general social life of WANSARC all a good deal for the membership fee - pretty cheap fun!

Getting on A.T.V. was something I never dreamed I would ever do, but thanks to the club it became reality.

I don't know how Gordon balances the books – I reckon I "eat" my membership fees each year at the family Fun day BBQ!

My roof has gone from 4 antennas to 16! And of course the best reason of all – I've made some bloody good friends.

So as to the comments above, its time WANSARC had a Foundation Night, either at Tina's or the TAFE, with new "F" calls fielding their questions.

But don't forget about the new "F" Troop segment that commences right after the WIA weekly broadcast after Vic Link on the VK3RMM (147.250 MHz) repeater. 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.

So how about it folks? It would be a pity for the early enthusiasm of our new "F" Calls to fade away once the next time the licensee fees from ACMA are due! So next time you're on air, spare a thought and some time for our new operators.

Looks like WANSARC will be running an information night, maybe even a short session at each meeting for those interested;

We have a room full of aptly experienced instructors!

73 from Mick VK3CH (Editor)

## Amusements

Let's see if I understand how the world works lately...



If a man cuts his finger off while slicing salami at work,

He blames the restaurant.



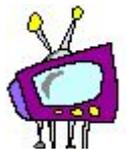
If you smoke three packs a day for 40 years and die of lung cancer,

your family blames the tobacco company.



If your neighbour crashes into a tree while driving home drunk, he blames the bartender.

If your grandchildren are brats without manners, you blame television.



If your friend is shot by a deranged madman, you blame the gun manufacturer.



And if a crazed person breaks into the cockpit and tries to kill the pilot at 35,000 feet, and the passengers kill him instead, the mother of the crazed deceased blames the airline.

I must have lived too long to understand the world as it is anymore. So, if I die while my old, wrinkled ass is parked in front of this computer, I want all of you to blame Bill Gates...



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After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!" "Don't what?" Adam replied. "Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said. "Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve. We have forbidden fruit!" " No Way! ""Yes way!" "Do NOT eat the fruit!" "Said God. "Why?" "Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped Creation after making the elephants. A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked! "Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God asked. "Uh huh," Adam replied. "Then why did you?" Said the Father. "I don't know," said Eve. "She started it!" Adam said. "Did not!" "Did too!" "DID NOT!" Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve Should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, Don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?!

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY:

Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.

AND FINALLY: IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF TENSION AND YOU GET A HEADACHE, DO WHAT IT SAYS ON THE ASPIRIN BOTTLE: "TAKE TWO ASPIRIN" AND "KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN"!!!!!

# WANSARC VK3AWS

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## WANSARC CLUB PROFILE

### History

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

### Meetings

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

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

### Benefits

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

### Club Nets

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

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

### More Information

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

**Committee:** Chris VK3FY,  
Dan VK3DWH,

Bob VK3EL,  
Tony VK3BZT

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

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

All editors' comments may not always represent the opinions of other club members of WANSARC.

In any case anything stated is to promote interest and active discussion on club activities and the promotion of Amateur Radio in general.

Contributions to WANSARC are always welcome from any part of the world. You can either post material to the Post Office Box address at the top of this page, or email your submission to the editor direct at [vk3ch@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ch@wia.org.au)

Email attachments not to exceed 1 Mb in file size. Attachments of (or thought to be) executable code will not be opened.

Other persons or radio clubs may edit or copy out such as they like from the magazine but a reference to WANSARC is appreciated.

Other articles that are credited to outside sources should be asked for their permission if they are used.

While we strive to be accurate, no responsibility will be taken for errors, omissions, or other perceived deficiencies, in respect of information contained in technical or other articles.

Any dates given for upcoming events should always be checked with a reliable source – coming up on the weekly WANSARC Tuesday evening NET on 146.450 MHz starting at 07:30 pm AEST is recommended to discuss and confirm information and any dates.

If not delivered within 7 days, please return to:  
WANSARC P.O. Box 336 Reservoir 3073

**“WANSARC NEWS”**

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**Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club**