

# WANSARC NEWS

Incorporated in Victoria, 1985 Registration Number: A0007611S

Closing Date for Articles and Advertisements for next issue in December is 24<sup>th</sup> November

*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 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the TAFE**



The view from the 'shack' Chris VK3FY/9 had to endure working 400+ DX stations on CW & Phone from Christmas Island.

Apparently Chris had go for work purposes for half a day, then was trapped on the island 3 nights waiting for a return flight back to VK3.

So he gets paid to work (and be) rare DX as well...  
Read his story on page 6

\*\*\* *Advance Notice* \*\*\*

## WANSARC CHRISTMAS DINNER 2006

*Christmas Dinner – Will be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December @ N.M.I.T.*

*Club Secretary, Mark VK3PI, will be in postal contact with all club members with costs & menu*

*Watch your letterbox & keep the date free! This is one week after our usual December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting which will still happen, so that's two meeting's in December, the second one is the Club Christmas Dinner*

WANSARC has no club "TAFE" meeting in **JANUARY**, but there is always the 'meeting' at Bundoora Park

## WANSARC Family Fun Day & BBQ

*At the usual Rotunda, Mount Cooper, Bundoora Park*

**WANSARC Family Fun Day – in its 4<sup>th</sup> year – Sunday 21st January 2007**

*Keep this date free as well...*

*Please note the committee has decided that as a benefit of paid membership, the club magazine will be posted or emailed to financial members, with non members able to download a copy from the club website one month later. The front page only with article index will be posted on the club website for potential members to view.*

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## Around the Shack

### GRAEME VK3FTTG IN THE NEWS

Michael Newhouse writing in the **HUME STAR** has given a great story on Amateur Radio and it features new comer, Cragieburn amateur radio enthusiast Graeme Koch (WANSARC Member **VK3FTTG**). Koshy it seems spends up to four hours a day in radio contact with people around - and out of -this world. Two weeks ago, the paper reported, using his ham radio Graeme spoke to the astronauts aboard **NASA's** new rocket **Atlantis**, "There is no limit to what you can do, you can talk to the world," he said. There are only two licensed operators in the Hume area, something that Graeme is determined to change. He encourages young people in Hume to get involved in amateur radio, emphasizing how exciting and cheap it can be, with the cost of a basic set-up only around \$400. "It looks complicated, but it's all pretty easy," he said.

Well done Graeme and well done the Hume Star. – *WIA News*

### ARRL 500 kHz EXPERIMENT

The project manager for the ARRL 500-kHz experiment, Fritz Raab, W1FR, says The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio is still in the organizational stages but has already recorded its first two-way contact. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology on September 13 granted Part 5 experimental license WD2XSH to the ARRL on behalf of a group of radio amateurs interested in investigating the LF spectrum. The two-year authorization permits experimentation and research between 505 and 510 kHz (600 meters) using narrowband modes at power levels of up to 20 W effective radiated power (ERP).

"It will probably be a free for all through October as guys get their stations on the air," Raab told ARRL Headquarters. "The Midwest stations will be limited to 505 to 508 kHz for the time being, and the rest can use 505 to 510 kHz."

The first QSO took place September 21 between the stations in Tennessee and North Carolina - a distance of some 300 miles.

Raab eventually would like to see at least a secondary 600-meter Amateur Radio allocation from 495 to 510 kHz. He envisions eventual use of the spectrum to provide Amateur Radio emergency communication via ground wave.

More information is on the 500 kc Experimental Group for Amateur Radio Web site [www.500kc.com](http://www.500kc.com) – *WIA News*

### SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS MARK THE CENTENARY OF SOS AND 500 KHZ.

Friday the third of November is the centenary of the **Berlin International Wireless Telegraphy Convention**. The 1906 Convention established **500 kHz** as the maritime calling and distress frequency and **SOS** as the Morse Code distress signal.

The UK and Italian Merchant Navy Radio Officers' associations will be activating special event stations in November using distinctive commemorative callsigns to mark the **centenary of SOS and 500 kHz**.

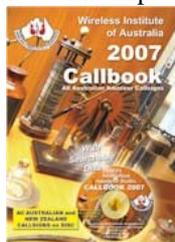
This special event is also designed to launch the campaign for **500 kHz** to be preserved internationally as a 'heritage' frequency.

The UK station will go to air with the callsign **GB500KCS** on the third of November from the historic Lizard Wireless station, and on November four from the Poldhu Marconi Centre.

On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of November, a special station will be activated by the Italian Radio Officers' Association with the callsign **IY1SP/500KCS**. This station will be located at the site used by Marconi for his first wireless experiments with ships at sea. – *WIA News*

### 2007 W.I.A. VK CALLBOOK READY

Orders for **2007 WIA Callbook** accepted now. Posted to WIA member \$25, Non member \$35 Download an order form at [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au)



### AUSSIE FOUNDATION LICENCE IN ZL-LAND

All Australian radio amateurs visiting New Zealand, including Foundation Licensees, can operate there without the need to take out a local license. NZART President Bruce Douglas ZL2WP says any VK visiting New Zealand with their VHF hand-held will be most welcome to pop on either local or national-grid voice repeaters.

Bruce says Foundation Licensees are certain to be warmly welcomed and will enjoy using their hobby during a holiday or business trip. New Zealand has a single license system having discontinued its Novice license, but this is not a barrier for VK Standard or Foundation licensees to operate under the visiting radio amateur provisions.

All a visitor has to do is use their home Callsign slash (/) the ZL Callsign area in which they are operating.

– *Amateur Radio Victoria*

### NEXT FOUNDATION CLASSES

Next courses and assessments by Amateur Radio Victoria are Foundation Licence training and assessments on the upcoming dates: 11 & 12 November and 9 & 10 December.

For inquiries or to enrol contact - Barry Robinson **VK3JBR**

0428 516 001 or [arv@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:arv@amateurradio.com.au)

Next courses and assessments by **NERG** are held at Briar Hill Community Hall each month. Contact John Wier, **VK3ZRV** 9431 0667 More information at [www.nerg.asn.au](http://www.nerg.asn.au)

### ACMA NEWS

The Australian Communications and Media Authority have placed an embargo on frequency bands potentially suitable for use by broadcasting services using **Digital Radio Mondiale**.

These bands are outside the broadcasting services bands used by traditional broadcasting services. 'ACMA intends to plan for the introduction of **Digital Radio Mondiale** but is also aware that international arrangements are still evolving and that Australia is influenced by these arrangements,' said Giles Tanner, General Manager of ACMA's Inputs to Industry Division.

The frequency bands involved are **5950-6200, 7100-7300, 9500-9900, 11650-12050, 13600-13800, 15100-15600, 17550-17900, 21450-21850 and 25670-26100 kHz**. It is intended that no new frequency assignments in these bands will be authorised except for certain purposes.

We contacted WIA Director Glenn Dunstan when we saw our **40 meter** segment ear-marked as "embargoed" but Glenn assures us after having spoken to ACMA on the issue it does **NOT** effect Amateurs at all. – *From WIA News*

### EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: A PLASTIC BATTERY

Brown University engineers have created a new battery that uses plastic, not metal, to conduct electrical current. The hybrid device marries the power of a capacitor with the storage capacity of a battery. The National Science Foundation funded the work.

A description of the prototype is to be published in a journal called *Advanced Materials*. – *From WIA News*

### CLOSING THE LED GREEN GAP

A team of researchers from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has received \$1.8 million in federal funding to improve the energy efficiency of green light-emitting diodes.

As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Solid-State Lighting Program, the team aims to close the green gap in LED technology by doubling or tripling the power output of green LED's in three years.

This is billed as an advance that ultimately could lead to the replacement of incandescent and fluorescent lamps in general illumination applications.

(Science Daily via ARNewsLine) – *From WIA News*

## SECRETS SPILL FROM SECOND-HAND MOBILES

Second hand mobile phones purchased over the internet can surrender credit card numbers, banking passwords, business secrets and even evidence of adultery. One married man's girlfriend sent a text message to his mobile: His wife was getting suspicious. Perhaps they should cool it for a few days. "So," she wrote, "I'll talk to u next week." "You want a break from me? Then fine," he wrote back. Later, the married man bought a new phone. He sold his old one on eBay for \$US290.

The guys who bought it now know his secret.

The married man had followed the directions in his phone's manual to erase all his information, including lurid exchanges with his lover. But it wasn't enough.

Selling your old phone once you upgrade to a fancier model can be like handing over your diaries. All sorts of sensitive information pile up inside our mobile phones, and deleting it may be more difficult than you think. A popular practice among sellers, resetting the phone, often means sensitive information appears to have been erased. But it can be resurrected using specialized yet inexpensive software found on the internet.

A company, Trust Digital of McLean, Virginia, bought 10 phones on eBay this [northern] summer to test phone-security tools it sells for businesses. The phones all were fairly sophisticated models capable of working with corporate email systems.

Curious software experts at Trust Digital resurrected information on nearly all the used phones, including the racy exchanges between guarded lovers.

The other phones contained:

- \* One company's plans to win a multimillion-dollar federal transportation contract.

- \* E-mails about another firm's \$50,000 payment for a software license.

- \* Bank accounts and passwords.

- \* Details of prescriptions and receipts for one worker's utility payments.

The recovered information was equal to 27,000 pages a stack of printouts over two meters high.

"We found just a mountain of personal and corporate data," said Nick Magliato, Trust Digital's chief executive. Many of the phones were owned personally by the sellers but crammed with sensitive corporate information, underscoring the blurring of work and home. "They don't come with a warning label that says, 'Be careful.' The data on these phones is very important," Magliato said. One phone surrendered the secrets of a chief executive at a small technology company in Silicon Valley. It included details of a pending deal with Adobe Systems and email proposals from a potential Japanese partner: "If we want to be exclusive distributor in Japan, what kind of business terms you want?" asked the executive in Japan. Trust Digital surmised that the U.S. chief executive gave his old phone to a former roommate, who used it briefly then sold it for \$US400 on eBay. Researchers found emails covering different periods for both men, who used the same address until recently.

Experts said giving away an old phone is commonplace. Consumers upgrade their cell phones on average about every 18 months. "Most people toss their phones after they're done; a lot of them give their old phones to family members or friends," said Miro Kazakoff, a researcher at Compete Inc of Boston who follows mobile phone sales and trends. He said selling a used phone which sometimes can fetch hundreds of dollars is increasingly popular. The 10 phones Trust Digital studied represented popular models from leading manufacturers. All the phones stored information on flash memory chips, the same technology found in digital cameras and some music players.

Flash memory is inexpensive and durable. But it is slow to erase

information in ways that make it impossible to recover. So manufacturers compensate with methods that erase data less completely but don't make a phone seem sluggish.

Phone manufacturers usually provide instructions for safely deleting a customer's information, but it's not always convenient or easy to find. Research in Motion Ltd. has built into newer Blackberry phones an easy-to-use wipe program.

Palm Inc., which makes the popular Treo phones, puts directions deep within its website for what it calls a "zero out reset." It involves holding down three buttons simultaneously while pressing a fourth tiny button on the back of the phone.

But it's so awkward to do that even Palm says it may take two people. A Palm executive, Joe Fabris, said the company made the process deliberately clumsy because it doesn't want customers accidentally erasing their information.

Trust Digital resurrected erased emails and other information from a used Treo phone provided by The Associated Press after it was reset and appeared empty. The AP ordinarily purges its phones the correct way, but for demonstration purposes turned over a reporter's phone that had been simply reset to see whether Trust Digital could recover the information. It did.

Once the AP phone was properly wiped using Palm's awkward zero-out technique, no information could be recovered.

"The tools are out there" for hackers and thieves to rummage through deleted data on used phones, Trust Digital's chief technology officer, Norm Laudermilch, said. "It definitely does not take a Ph.D."

Fabris, Palm's director of wireless solutions, said after AP's inquiries that the company may warn customers in an upcoming newsletter about the risks of selling their used phones. "It might behoove us to raise this issue," Fabris said.

Trust Digital found no evidence that thieves or corporate spies are routinely buying used phones to mine them for secrets, Magliato said. "I don't think the bad guys have figured this out yet."

President Bush's former cyber security adviser, Howard Schmidt, carried up to four phones and email devices and said he was always careful with them. To sanitize his older Blackberry devices, Schmidt would deliberately type his password incorrectly 11 times, which caused data on them to self-destruct.

"People are just not aware how much they're exposing themselves," Schmidt said. "This is more than something you pick up and talk on. This is your identity. There are people really looking to exploit this."

Executives at Trust Digital agreed to review with the AP the information extracted from the used phones on the condition the AP would not identify the sellers or their employers. They also showed the AP receipts from the Internet auctions in which they bought the 10 phones over the summer for \$US192 to \$US400 each. Trust Digital said it intends to return all the phones to their original owners and said it kept the recovered personal information on a single computer under lock and disconnected from its corporate network at its headquarters in northern Virginia. Peiter "Mudge" Zatko, a computer security expert, said phone owners should decide whether to auction their used equipment for a few hundred dollars and risk revealing their secrets or effectively toss their old phones under a large truck to dispose of them. What about a case like the Lothario whose affair Trust Digital discovered? "I'd run over the phone," Zatko said. "Maybe give it an acid bath." -AP; Herald Sun Media

### Term of the Month

**WORM** - Did you know that **WORM** is an acronym for "write once, read many"? A computer worm is a self-replicating computer program, similar to a computer virus. Unlike viruses, however, worms self-propagate and so do not require other programs or documents to spread. Worms typically spread through e-mail or other file transmission capabilities found on networked computers.

## JANICE VK3FIRE & MICHELLE VK3FAME INTERVIEW APRS



Along with Graeme **VK3FTTG**, the girls and your editor were interviewed by the local paper following a press release sent to all local papers across Melbourne by **Amateur Radio Victoria**.

Hams in each main area were asked to 'dob themselves in' for an interview to help promote the hobby and the new Foundation License. Graeme did **City of Hume** and we did **City of Darebin**. Our story featured in **Melbourne Northcote / Preston Leader**.

The club was given a copy, so ask to see it if you want to read it.

Radios being used are Icom **IC-7000** and all modes **IC-910H**.

Thanks to **Jim Linton, VK3PC**, of **Amateur Radio Victoria** for some good free publicity, both for the hobby and **WANSARC**.

Michael Boudreaux **VK3XZ** of Burnside on the western side of Melbourne has also had a write up in the **Brimbank Leader**. Others may follow in coming weeks.

- *Mick VK3CH*

### ANTENNA RATIONIZATION PROJECT

Summer is here, time think about starting (or finishing?) many projects around the shack.

After taking stock of the bands most used I have decided its time to sort out the Antenna farm on the roof. I'm sure there must be interaction between some of the verticals. As the months go by reductions will occur as some diplexers/triplexers are put into use. Anyone that is after **VHF** or **UHF** Vertical's, with masts and coax if you like, at a bargain token price – contact Mick **VK3CH**. Foundation stations, take note. Or get around here quick and 'try before you buy' with the actual chosen antenna 'on the air'.

### WANSARC NEWS HISTORY REQUEST – PRE June 2002

Does anyone in the club have earlier issues of **WANSARC Newsletters** that were published **before June 2002**?

Electronic copies can be emailed to me at [vk3ch@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ch@wia.org.au)

Paper copies can scan into electronic copies.

If you have any or know someone likely to, contact Mick **VK3CH**

### SSTV ON A LIGHT BEAM

A 22km path from Mt Wellington to a hill near Sorrel in Tasmania has been used for what is believed to the first slow scan television transmission via modulated light.

Good analogue slow scan pictures were transferred one way and a recognisable Callsign was transferred the other with very poor quality. Among those involved were Chris Long **VK3AML**, Justin **VK7TW**, Rex **VK7MO**, Mike **VK7MJ** and several others.

The optical contact on **474 THz** enabling **SSTV** will certainly echo around the world and spark interest in this possibility among others who engage in modulated light experiments. There were a number of objectives set for those involved including voice contact with about seven people achieving a **QSO**. The outcome of a **JT65** digital contact between **VK7TW** and **VK7MO** is still to be determined with signals captured using wave files.

An optically repeated voice contact between Woodbridge, Mt Wellington and the Hill near Sorrel was not attempted due to equipment difficulties. - *Amateur Radio Victoria*.

This weekend will see stage one of the **APRS Frequency Change Project** in **VK3** begin. All **APRS** digipeaters and **IGates** in the Gippsland area will change frequency from **144.900MHz** to **145.175MHz**. The change means that anyone living in, or traveling to Gippsland (from Warragul eastwards) will have to change frequency to access the **APRS VHF RF network**.

- *Richard Hoskin VK3JFK*, for the Victorian APRS Group  
<http://www.vk3.aprs.net.au>

### WANSARC WEBSITE 'TRADING TABLE' DELETED

As advised, the "Trading Table" area on the club website was removed, due to little to no use. Members wishing to sell gear are advised to try **VK Ham** or **EBay** to trade their equipment.

I have also deleted the "Member Websites" sections as well as only **Chris VK3FY** was posted. Members can always post your own ham radio website to the **WIA** site, but **WIA** membership is required of course, but you are a member, aren't you?

- *Mick VK3CH Webmaster*

### TASMANIAN BPL TEST REVEALS POOR RF IMMUNITY

Power company Aurora Energy, which is conducting BPL consumer tests in Hobart, has so far not reacted to a finding that small levels of RF can result in severe disruption to the modems it is using. The Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania (REAST) has issued a detailed report on its investigations in relation to the BPL trial in the Mt Nelson area of Hobart. It found that with as little as 2.5 watts of RF on 14MHz nearby to a BPL modem had a dramatic impact on its functioning, causing it to go in to 'no signal, no link' mode timing out its internet connection.

The REAST test report refers to a mobile station with an effective radiated power of less than 1 watt at a distance of 60 to 80 meters from a BPL modem adversely affected it.

The impact seemingly would detrimental to real-time broadcast applications like VoIP (voice over internet protocol – phone service), internet web browsing or streaming video service.

If that proves to be the case, then the revelation is yet another nail in the BPL coffin. Several hundred homes in suburban Hobart and Burnie in Tasmania's northwest are believed to be involved in Aurora Energy's latest trialling of BPL technology.

The REAST said, "It would be very difficult for an active HF amateur radio operator in a BPL-enabled suburb to co-exist, without a range of issues relating to the level of emissions (from BPL) when receiving and RF susceptibility of the BPL system when transmitting.

"This report should flag to customers, carriers and to the regulator the risk to BPL service reliability from ingress.

"It would be prudent to put a comprehensive test program on their agenda to better understand the extent of the risk and mitigation measures."

Aurora Energy had been invited to take part in the REAST test. However its technical staff were not available.

The full "Tasmanian BPL Trial – RF Susceptibility Tests" report by Justin Giles-Clark **VK7TW** can be read at [http://reast.asn.au/2006/VK7\\_BPL\\_RF\\_Susceptibility\\_Tests.pdf](http://reast.asn.au/2006/VK7_BPL_RF_Susceptibility_Tests.pdf)

- *Amateur Radio Victoria*.

### BPL TRIAL IN VICTORIA

A six-month trial involving up to 170 homes and businesses in the alpine town of Mt Beauty in north-east Victoria, the first in that state, has been announced by power company, SP AusNet.

It says the chosen location of Mt Beauty is ideal as BPL will link the township to broadband channels to Melbourne via fibre-optic cable infrastructure. Being in a valley, Mt Beauty is also ideal, says SP AusNet, because it gives the company a clear test site for interference because there is very little background noise.

Obviously there are concerns about the interference potential with HF radio. SP AusNet says it expects the new technology will eventually offer significant benefits to communities, particularly those in rural or remote areas, where access to the internet cable or telephone line is either very slow or not available at all.

The Mt Beauty BPL trial is offering free high-speed broadband access with an upload/download limit of 2Gb, 100 local and national VoIP calls per month, free email address, free modem and free installation.

Sounds good – but if other BPL trials are any guide, it won't be free of high frequency radio interference.

SP AusNet says its Mt Beauty trial is about "testing the strength, capabilities and functions of broadband under normal household use, or more significant traffic demand, and during times of peak use. "That means participants are encouraged to actively use the Internet, including significant downloads of files so the capacity of the service to perform under peak demand can be tested."

SP AustNet, majority owned by Singapore Power has extensive electricity transmission and distribution networks, has formed a partnership with electrical systems specialist company, Schneider Electric, which is providing all the BPL components for the trial.

The rest of Australia's power companies are watching on with great interest as the Singapore majority owned SP AusNet, Victoria's biggest player in power transmission and delivery, continues with its BPL trial.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria*

### **INTER-CLUB BBQ A SUCCESS**

A social gathering of radio amateurs in central Victoria last Sunday as an enjoyable day that saw a possible future direction for the region put on the table for discussion.

The Central Goldfields, Ballarat and Midland clubs held a barbecue at Laanecoorie Hall, between Bendigo and Maryborough. It attracted 60 people, including four Councillors from Amateur Radio Victoria who had responded to an invitation by the three clubs to join the BBQ. A topic of discussion, initially among the club presidents, Peter Rafferty VK3CC (Goldfields), Bob Pitcher VK3NBV (BARG) and Mark Harris VK3EME (Midlands) was a possible joint Hamfest type activity in the region. This was formally raised by when those at the BBQ met for a brief meeting inside the Laanecoorie Hall.

After the meeting the club presidents found that there was much enthusiasm for the idea. They are to talk it over with their club committees with the aim of developing the possibility even further. -*Amateur Radio Victoria*

### **SOLAR CYCLE 24 TO ARRIVE IN 2007**

Researchers say that the next sunspot cycle is expected to begin in early 2007. This, after yet another backward sunspot: evidence continues to mount that the next solar cycle is beginning.

What is a backward sunspot you ask? According to Radio Bulgaria these occur when one solar cycle gives way to another. At that point in time the magnetic poles of sunspots reverse polarity. Now, for the second time in less than a month, such a backward sunspot has appeared on the sun's surface.

By way of record keeping, this is the 24th since cycle scientists have identified. This assumption is based on the fairly regular recurring pattern of peaks and valleys in solar activity, Historically, the first recorded observations of sunspots is in Chinese journals from about 800 B.C. The first telescopic solar observations not coming until 2,400 years later, in 1610.

- *From WIA News*

### **RADIO RAGE: CB'ER KILLS CB'ER IN CANADA**

Rage on the 11 meter Citizens Band has cost a Canadian CB operator his life. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details: A Vancouver, British Columbia CB operator died Saturday, September 30th. This, after he was shot in the parking lot of a

local mall following an argument that allegedly began over the radio. According to news reports, police responded around 1:30 a.m. to reports of multiple shots fired in the mall parking lot. Officers arrived to find 47 year old Keneth Eichhorn in his pickup truck with gunshot wounds. He died following surgery at a local hospital. A little while later police say, that 44 year old John Loveless called 911. He admitted being involved in a shooting. Authorities say that they then arrested Loveless, on suspicion of second-degree murder. According to investigators, the two men apparently did not know each other. They believe that they had gotten into an argument on the air which escalated and led to their fatal meeting in the mall.

Police say that both men were armed with handguns. Thankfully nobody else in the mall or the surrounding area was injured in this reported CB'er versus CB'er shoot-out.

- *From Amateur Radio Newline.*

### **1,000 SUCCESSFUL "F" CALL CANDIDATES**

On Wednesday 19 October 2005 the Determination made by the Australian Communications and Media Authority amending the Amateur License Conditions Determination became the law and from that moment the Foundation license existed in Australia.

On 29 September 2006, just 3 weeks short of a year from the coming into force of the new license structure, the WIA issued the 1,000th certification of qualification for an Amateur Operator Certificate of Proficiency (Foundation).

That figure of 1,000 qualifications broken down by states and territories is as follows: ACT – 38, NSW – 277, VIC – 353, QLD – 87, SA – 111, WA – 50, TAS – 74, N.T. - 10

A year ago, over 70 people had qualified as WIA Assessors. Today there are 141 WIA Assessors and 15 Nominated Assessors across the country. And so in the year the number of Assessors has doubled. The WIA has identified the 1,000th successful candidate, and will be contacting him in the next few days.

WIA President, Michael Owen VK3KI said today "I believe the Foundation license has been successful in Australia. It has increased, in a year, the total number of amateurs by around 1,000. It has introduced new people into amateur radio, and into the clubs and the WIA membership has grown significantly. And the fact that there are significant differences in the number of successful candidates in different states means that a real opportunity exists for us to attract a further 1,000 new "F" calls in the next year." – *From WIA News*

### **BEWARE OF BOGUS POWER POINTS**

Check the Fair Trading Website for details on unapproved power points that have appeared on the market.

The relevant link to the Fair Trading site is: - <http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/business/sellingsafeproducts/counterfeitpowerpoints.html>

The story is that somebody in China has counterfeited HPM brand double power points and these have been sold in Australia through various trade and hardware store outlets and, also directly to electrical contractors from about September last year. Apparently, there must be sufficiently big bucks in power point sales to make the exercise worthwhile: however, the bogus power points do not conform to Australian safety requirements. Be aware that the bogus power points could start to appear on the various flea-market stalls. Details on how to identify the bogus product are given on the Fair Trading site. Note also that many approved electrical wiring accessories are now manufactured in China (The bogus power points are branded "made in Australia").

- *From QUA News*



Don't forget the **WANSARC** club frequency of **146.450 MHz FM** (Often also on **28.470 MHz USB**) The weekly Tuesday night Net is on **2 meters** at **7.30 pm** local time, listen for club call

**VK3AWS**

## VK3FY/9 VISIT TO CHRISTMAS ISLAND



Christmas Island is a dot in the Indian Ocean, located 2600km north-west of Perth, Western Australia.

Even though it is an Australian Territory, its closest neighbor is Java, 360km away.

Christmas Island in area is about 135 square km, with a max 23.7km in length and a max 7km wide

As this was a work trip I decided to

bring along a very basic set-up. As I, was only on the Island only for three nights.

I chose a set up on the following criteria, ease of installation and light weight.

I settled on the following; iC-7000, Switch-Mode Power Supply, MFJ-989C Tuner and a Roll of enameled copper wire (end feed beverage)

I got up early on the 9th having packed the night before the work trip.

I boarded the 6:00am, 4 hour flight to Perth.

Once in Perth I was advised that I had to change to the International Terminal for the flight to Christmas Island.

This apparently as a precaution to ensure that Christmas Island remains as natural as can be, (Quarantine purposes). Though this makes it a destination where one can avail themselves of duty free....Yeppie cheap grog also what and unexpected bonus.

So at 11:30am AWST, I boarded the AVRO RJ70 jet aircraft for the 4.5 hour flight to Christmas Island Indian Ocean. The flight was pretty uneventful as we traveled up the West Coast of Western Australia. Re-fuelled in Learmonth and then it was 2.5 hours of open sea to cross before next sighting land.

Christmas Island appeared out of no where, clouds hanging low to signify that there was something out there other than the sea below us. Soon I caught sight of the island and also an Australian Navy Frigate patrolling off the coast.

First impressions as we flew closer.... This is no small island, I was expecting it to be small, but I was surprised at its size. One thing I noticed is that it had a rocky shoreline. Very few, if any, beaches. Though later I did encounter a couple of small beaches.

We landed around 3:15pm Xmas Island Time. That's, 6:45pm Melbourne time. Yep my trip had taken 12 hours & 15 mins from the time we had left the gate at Melbourne Airport. I was tired but excited to be visiting a new location for the first time.

Picked up the hire car....now here is a story for another time, but lets say you get what you pay for. Cheap not necessarily nasty but comes with preloved damage just for good measure.

Anyway from there I decided to go and look for my host, as she was supposed to meet me at the Airport. Unknown to me we had arrived unexpectedly early due to favorable tail winds. I got lost, not easy to do on this island, but managed to.

I decided to stop and ask for directions at a business. No one was home; they all had gone to the airport on Plane Day.... (Mondays & Thursdays).

Just about to leave and try to locate someone to ask for directions, when along comes Angela, host for Sunset Accommodation, where I was to spend the next couple of days.

After following her down to the hotel, I was soon unpacking and looking to see where I could string up the long wire for the HF antenna. It did not take me long to have the whole system up and functioning and ready to begin some contacts from Xmas Island.

At around 10:27UTC **VK3FY/9** was on air and I had my first contacts on **40m**. The first contacts were into **VK6**.

I decided that at least I was up and on the air.

With that in mind I went to the nearest refreshment house, that's the Pub and downed a few ales and a hamburger.

Then after a meal and few amber fluid refreshments I headed back to get back on air. I made a few contacts that night up until 2 am local time, as I needed to get up early to do my work the next morning.

After completing the necessary work survey in the morning, I decided to see a bit of the Island, before concentrating on working some DX.

From then on I was concentrating as **VK3FY/9**. Over the next few days I managed to work some **400 plus QSO's** on both **CW & Phone**.

To those that made it through the pile-ups congratulations. I must also apologize to those that did not make it through as my CW was a bit rusty. 20WPM was probably my average receiving speed and I hope that on my next trip that my speed will have increased.

The QSL card is being designed and is off to the printers next week.

So for those looking for the new one to confirm you won't have to wait long.

73 Chris de **VK3FY**



# The Standard License

## Your second step into Amateur Radio

When we say "Amateur Radio" many people instantly think of the old Morse code. They think that to get involved in amateur radio you have to learn Morse code, it is not necessary to learn or have knowledge of Morse code to obtain a standard or any other grade of amateur license.

Learning some pretty heavy electronics theory and put in many months of study to pass a pretty difficult exam. Well that's the way it used to be, but not any more. October 2005 saw the introduction of the new standard grade syllabus and it is easier than the old novice license. It is now in line with the world standard for the middle grade license and you can use your standard grade license in many counties that have reciprocal licensing with Australia. A current list of counties with reciprocal licensing agreements with Australia can be found on the ACMA website.

Just complete a training course with as little as 20 hours training and at the end of the course a 50 question multiple choice examination, a multiple choice regulations examination and if you do not hold a foundation license, practical test and a few days later your on the air with your new standard grade license.

The Standard License provides a great opportunity for young people to expand an interest in communications technology and can be a solid launching base to a rewarding career in science, electronics, and communications.

But most importantly standard license will expand your horizons if you are upgrading from a foundation license. It provides an opportunity to communicate with people all over the world as it allows for the use of more bands and higher power than the foundation license. You will also be able to make and or modify your own equipment, as a foundation licensee must only use standard, unmodified commercial amateur radio equipment. The standard grade licensee can use the 20-meter band and can therefore join one of the several very popular maritime nets.

The standard License makes an amateur radio License upgrade from the foundation license very achievable with around 20 hours study.

### Things you will need to know

You will need to be able to correctly answer correctly 35 of 50 multiple-choice questions based on the standard syllabus, a copy of the syllabus can be downloaded from the link on the right hand menu bar of this page and a similar regulations assessment based on the LCD (License conditions determination), a copy of which can be also downloaded from the link on the right hand menu bar of this page.

Alternatively if you already hold qualifications, which would allow you exemptions in training, then you can apply for recognition of prior learning from ACMA.

### Radio bands you can use

80, 40, 20, 15,10,6 & 2 meters and 70, 23, 13 & 6cm

**Note: These are general band ranges provided as a guide only; please ensure you consult the ACMA LCD for specific frequency ranges, power limits and any special conditions.**

### Training for your licence

There are several radio clubs around Australia offering training for the standard license and the charges can vary from club to club from as little as \$10.00. You will also need to purchase some support technical reference information such as the ARRL handbook or the Radio Theory handbook. These publications plus many others related publications can be purchased via the WIA bookshop.

Besides providing training the clubs are the ideal places to learn all about amateur radio. You can meet other hams, attend interesting lectures, and find out lots of information. If you decide to take up amateur radio as a hobby you will soon learn there are hundreds of different facets to the hobby.

The standard time for training is around 20 to 30 hours. Some clubs will conduct training over several nights and some over a weekend.

The 50 question multiple choice written assessment and the regulations assessment takes around 1.5 hour.

Any charges associated with standard license training are up to the radio clubs conducting the training. You will need to check with your local club to find out what their charges are.

The WIA WebPages list most of the clubs that are offering training and assessment. If you have trouble finding a club then send us an email to [nationaloffice@wia.org.au](mailto:nationaloffice@wia.org.au) and we will assist you.

You can also study via the Radio & Electronics School in the comfort of your own home. The school, which is located on the Gold Coast, offers training with the use of a CD and additional support assistance via email. The price of the CD and the training support is \$25.00 <http://www.radioelectronicschool.net>

### Assessments

You will also need to complete an assessment as soon as you feel you have completed the training. The price for the standard assessment is \$25.00, the regulations is \$20.00 and if you this license is your entry point into amateur radio you will need to complete a practical assessment which costs \$20.00 A full list of assessors can be found on the WIA webpage. The Standard amateur radio license is issued by ACMA and the license cost is currently \$58.00 per year.

The WIA WebPages list assessors who can provide you with your Standard license assessment. If you have trouble finding an assessor then send us an email to [nationaloffice@wia.org.au](mailto:nationaloffice@wia.org.au) and we will assist you.

### Remote Assessments

The WIA has made provision to conduct remote assessments for those people who live a long distance from a radio club or an assessor. A specially trained assessor will be able to conduct the assessment (via the phone) the candidate will need to be in the presence of a person, such as a local policeman or school headmaster. If you are one of these people and you would like more information you should contact the WIA. Remote assessments are available for all three-license grades.

### Services the WIA provides

The WIA is the body representing amateur radio to ACMA, the government instrumentality who administers the radio spectrum; it also represents Australian amateurs internationally. The WIA also produces a monthly magazine set to members, weekly broadcasts, provides a bookshop with a discount for members, works closely with the 120 affiliated radio clubs, provides the amateur examination service and helps members with the many questions and information they need to make the hobby more enjoyable.

### Further information

The Internet is a great source of information on amateur radio; the WIA website has a lot of information including links to club websites and a link to the WIA broadcast pages. You can down load last weeks or up to two year of broadcast and listen to the on MP3 files. The WIA website is [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au) Other sites are the New Zealand Society of Radio Transmitters or NZART at <http://www.nzart.org.nz>, The American Radio Relay League at <http://www.arrl.org> the Radio Society of Great Britain or RSGB at <http://www.rsgb.org.uk> Radio Amateurs of Canada at <http://www.rac.ca/> If you search the web you will find thousands of site world wide that have been set up by radio clubs and individual amateurs, after all there are around three million of us.

### Who to contact

The WIA does not have the resources to answer a large number of telephone enquiries All questions should be directed to you nearest club as listed in the club section of the WIA website or e-mail us with you question at [nationaloffice@wia.org.au](mailto:nationaloffice@wia.org.au)

-complete article sourced and taken from the WIA Website

# 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 plus an informative monthly newsletter for members to post articles, news, classifieds for all radio, test equipment, etc, featuring Amateur Radio news from WANSARC, WIA, ACMA, Melbourne Clubs, VK and Worldwide.

### Club Nets

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

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

### More Information

**Website:** [www.wansarc.org.au](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, times and locations given for upcoming events should always be checked with a reliable source closer to the event – coming up on the **WANSARC Tuesday evening NET on 146.450 MHz starting at 07:30 pm AEST** is recommended to discuss and confirm information and any dates.

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

**“WANSARC NEWS”**

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**Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club**