

# VK3AWS



# WANSARC NEWS

## November 2007

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

Volume 38  
Number 11

November 2007



A WIA Affiliated club

**News and views from the Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club VK3AWS—NOVEMBER 2007**

## WANSARC MASCOT SHARED WITH OTHER “NOTABLE” GROUP



The kangaroo is readily recognisable around the world on civil and military aircraft as an Australian icon.

Although most readers would be familiar with the style of the kangaroo on QANTAS aircraft, here is a close up of the kangaroo insignia on a DeHavilland DHC-4 Caribou of No 38 Squadron RAAF. 38 Squadron are based at Amberley, with a “B” detachment of Caribou based at Townsville.

Since 1964 the Caribou has been a sturdy workhorse for troop transport and relief work within and outside of Australia. Likewise since 1969 WANSARC has been a sturdy group aimed at providing the community with an opportunity to experience the benefits of amateur radio.

Together we share the same sense of willingness to assist the community—and of course we share the same “mascot”.

### NEXT MEETING

Friday NOVEMBER 2, 2007

This is the last general club meeting for 2007, so come along and share in discussions, buy a pre-loved item or two and register your names for the CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Usual starting time of 1930 hours and debrief at the local Pizza Place, Tina's.

### Inside this issue:

Easy build 160 metre antenna for home/field—Bob VK3EL	2
JOTA 2007—John VK3FMPB	4
WANSARC – NERG night a success—Mark VK3PI	5
What about this? - contributions from members.	6

## AN EASY-BUILD 160 Meter ANTENNA FOR PORTABLE and HOME USE—Bob VK3EL



*Recently while browsing the internet I came across a design for a relatively small and compact 160 meter antenna that I thought might be worth investigating.*

*An article describing this antenna was published in the October issue of the WANSARC magazine and I felt it might be interesting for some to read a brief rundown of my experiences both building and testing it , firstly at home, and then portable at Bundoora Park .*

*Initially I have to say I was more interested in trying it out for portable use, and the idea of having an antenna for 160 that wasn't too big and bulky and could be quickly and easily assembled appealed to me .*

*If you read the previous article you may have noted there was a mention of using 1 1/4 inch fibre glass tubing. I used 40mm PVC water pipe as the former for the wire wound section of the antenna and a couple of PVC cap fittings for the ends so that I could attach terminals etc. The first 70 feet of insulated wire was obtained at Jaycar at \$4.50 for a 25mtr roll. The other 70 feet for the 'long wire' portion of the antenna was made up of some odd lengths of "Figure 8" wire (from my scrap box) which I split and joined to make up the length and a visit to the local DIY store to get some PVC tube and cap fittings completed the shopping list .*

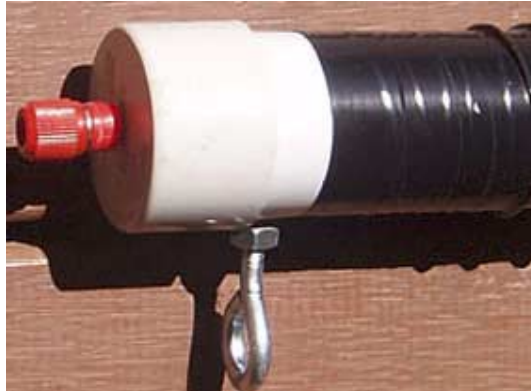
*I added a screw terminal to the top cap for the 'long wire' and another terminal near the bottom of the pipe to accept the earthing and radial connections, then mounted a SO-239 chassis socket to the bottom cap to accept the coax cable feed .*

*All that remained to do then was to wind and terminate the first 70 feet of wire on the PVC pipe. That part of the job was a bit tedious but is do-able with a bit of patience and the odd rude word used when trying to keep the .5 inch turns spacing even ! Now for the big test. Having what I thought was a "non-160m" friendly backyard, I set up the device on a small tripod and ran out the 'top' wire wherever I could find a spot in the clear, then laid out a counterpoise wire underneath the top wire as best as I could.*

*Very rough and ready, but amazingly the first test with the antenna coupling unit showed promise. Even more amazing when I switched out the coupler, the SWR was 1.5:1 . Surprised to say the least , I re-checked and the readings were the same.*

*I later found by varying the counterpoise position and length there were some variations in those readings and decided it would be better to conduct any further tests in an open area away from trees and buildings. Next morning it was off to Bundoora Park and set up the antenna and IC-703 and after laying out three 20 meter radials , a short earth stake attached to the tripod legs, and connecting the 70 foot 'top' wire, it was time to do some more measurements.*

*This time I was very surprised to find the SWR was down to 1.2:1 with the 'top' wire about 5 meters at its highest point and tethered to a friendly tree branch and NO antenna coupler. Tests are ongoing, but since conducting the first portable tests, I have been able to take part in a session of the 160m Morning Coffee group ( thanks Gentlemen ) on 1843 khz using 5 watts AM and managed some contacts around Melbourne, and on the day of the "Oceania" contest I was able to QSO using SSB with Ken VK3YXC down at Little River , and Laurie VK3AW and brother Colin VK3LO .*



*( Thanks Ken , Laurie & Colin ) - I think Laurie may still think I was using an amplifier at the time, as the 5x9 report he gave me seemed to be a lot more than the little Icom IC-703 deserved !*

*More to come later, as I have plans for a couple of mods to the existing antenna and also some ideas for another design using similar construction techniques but hopefully a little more efficient and still OK for portable or home use . I've taken some pics to show the fittings on each end of the antenna and a couple of others showing the test set-up in a suitable location at Bundoora Park .*



*Pictured top left and right, are the ends of the wound coil showing the antenna and earth terminals . Below them at Bundoora Park with the almost completed 160m antenna . I say almost complete , because I had to add a small eye bolt later for guying, to avoid the weight of 70 feet 'long wire' putting to much of a bend at the top of the PVC tubing . In the pic above right the 'long wire' went from the top of the coil, to the tree just left of centre in the picture and was attached to a branch about 5 or 6 meters up the tree .*

## IN BRIEF.....

So where has **Dan VK3DWH** been hiding.? Mark VK3PI conducted a "welfare check" recently, and back came an email reply - I am involved as crew member for a friend who races sprintcars with first race at Bacchus Marsh on Saturday night. Will be involved for most weekends during the summer months. I go straight from work to his place at Melton South every Tuesday night unfortunately to work on the car and it is usually close to midnight when I make the return trip. Also help on his son's car.

Good luck with it all, Dan. For the motor-heads in the club you can see more at [www.inchargeracing.com](http://www.inchargeracing.com)

It's amazing when you realize how many interesting pursuits our members have, other than radio!!

## REFLECTIONS ON J.O.T.A 2007—John VK3FMPB

Riddells Creek is about 20 or so kilometres North of Sunbury along the Calder Hwy. It's coordinates are 37o26'58.81"S 144o39'46.04"E (Thanks Google Earth)

Riddells Creek is a lovely small town where people still ride their horses up and down the streets. It has a railway station, Police and CFA. It has an elevation of 438m, good views of the terrain around it and it was great for radio reception. Most of the time.

The trip up was fine if I hadn't forgotten my bedding. So I had to drive home and pick it up then come back again. That was no problem though. I did feel a bit silly however.

I arrived at Treetops for the 2nd time at approx 1600hrs on Friday arvo. Ian, VK3JQ was already here and playing with his Uniden 2020 HF radio. I quickly set up my 706 and the antenna and started playing too. My first contact was Rod ex VK3FRMT now VK3MRT and his report was quite good for how far away we were, approx 40 or kilometres. Bob EL was next and he reported a drop in signal strength. Not surprising seeing that I am usually about 5 or 10km from him and was now 40 or more. I started scanning the repeaters and got a station in Launceston Tasmania on 147.000-146.400, also on their JOTA. He was VK7YBG and we made arrangements to contact at a later stage to help the scouts attain their radio badges. Ian and I played with the different bands and power levels for a while. Trevor VK3FTDX also called in, however his signals were a little lower than Rod and Bob.



The microphone seemed to have them a bit shy.

Thanks to the contact I made with VK7YBG on Scout Island in Tasmania, all of our scouts had a scout to talk to over there.

The scouts on the radio seemed to have fun while talking to other scouts but the conversations didn't seem to flow as a normal conversation would or should. They had a list of questions to start them off in conversation. Things like—what is your pet's name or favourite colour or what they do in school. It seemed as though they were reading the list rather than just yapping at times, though. Maybe that is one area we may have to look at in future which could help break down the barriers between people and ham radio. Perhaps we could have a list with hundreds of questions on it so the kids had to take their pick of which to ask. Maybe that would help the conversation flow a little more naturally?



I would have thought that in these days of mobile phones and every bloke and his dog having one, most kids would be adept at talking to other people but it seems not. It could also be the style of talking you do on radio as opposed to which you do on the phone. The direct and precise exchange of information as opposed to waffling on a phone. Any comments on this one?

### Evening day 1

Not much happening in the way of scout activity. I took a wander down to the camping ground and spoke to a few of the scouts and a couple of parents. This is a huge parcel of land with heaps of kangaroos running around the place. How many people awaken to the sight of a pod of roos standing outside their back door?

It reminded me so much of high school band camps with the chopping of wood and games with kids running around all over the place. Even the rooms I stayed in were similar to the rooms I had stayed in at high school band camps.

### Day 2

Sunday is packing up and going home day. I woke at about 4 am and drove into Sunbury to get the paper. The paper shop wasn't even open yet and kids were still spilling onto the street from the night club atop the pub. Bad idea getting out of bed at 4am I think. Perhaps a situation I would rather not have been around. I just kept my head down, grabbed a couple of papers and left.



John VK3FMPB (left) and Ian VK3JQ (right) at JOTA 2007

After packing my bags and cleaning my room some people were getting up so I had someone to talk to at least. We had some more kids through the radio station, not too many this time. I believe they actually enjoyed talking to other scouts. By now we had a few extra people other than the Tasmanian group. Special thanks must go to **Rod, VK3MRT** for holding the fort for me and talking at length to kids at JOTA. Rod, while doing his own work, spent a good few hours talking to the scouts and keeping them entertained. **Thanks Rod.**

After lunch was general clean up time so it was time for me to head off and come back to my home QTH.

I waked in the door sat down on the couch turned the TV on and promptly fell asleep.

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 7, 2007 will be the WANSARC CHRISTMAS DINNER night.

This follows the success of the 2006 dinner with the venue to be the same, the NMIT Restaurant.

A three course meal will be available (actual items to be confirmed).

Cost will be \$20 per head/\$40 a double.

Could you please advise the Secretary, Mark VK3PI, of your intention to attend by contacting Mark via text or voice on 0400 44 32 18, or via email at vk3pi@optusnet.com.au.

**PAYMENTS due now—hand to Treasurer Gordon VK3YOD at our next meeting or post your cheque to WANSARC, PO Box 336 Reservoir 3073.**

### QSL CARDS AND PHOTO'S WANTED.....

In 2009 WANSARC will celebrate its 40th birthday and your Secretary Mark VK3PI is collating information to produce a history of WANSARC.

This history will focus on the people who have made WANSARC what it is. To assist in compiling this history 2 blank QSL cards would be appreciated (one spare in just in case).

So if you have a QSL card, please provide a couple to Mark VK3PI.

Similarly if you have any photo's from WANSARC of old, we would love to see them and scan these for the history.

Email Mark VK3PI at vk3pi@optusnet.com.au

Thanks to Alan VK3SM and Laurie VK3DPF for their contributions.

## WANSARC-NERG NIGHT A SUCCESS

The NERG meeting hall at Briar Hill was a'buzzing with excitement on Thursday, October 25, when NERG and WANSARC folk met to share a hot brew, drool over brand new radio equipment and swap/sell/scrounge some pre-loved equipment.

Around 30 amateurs milled around tables and shared war stories of past amateur conquests. WANSARC was well represented with Graeme VK3NE (President), Mark VK3PI (Secretary), Tony VK3BZT, Garry VK3FGAR, Rod VK3MRT, Johnno VK3FMPB, Mick VK3CH and Dave VK3FXDX.

It was great to catch up with some familiar and not-so-familiar NERG names. Congratulations to **Don VK3KDT** on his organization of the night. John VK3ZRV, Mark VK3BYY, Greg VK3VT and Ernie VK3FM were amongst the NERG folk. Russell VK3DRW of ATV Astronomy fame was also on hand and sends his best wishes to WANSARC members.



Graeme VK3NE (left) shakes hands with John VK3ZRV, while Mark VK3BYY holds the newly donated FM receiver. **BELOW** nothing like a good deal to attract bees to a honey pot—G & C Communications announce the range of goodies to some of the crowd.



In the spirit of co-operation between the two clubs, **WANSARC President Graeme VK3NE** presented a new FM receiver to **NERG representative John VK3ZRV**. The TOA FM Diversity receiver is able to amplify FM signals from an FM microphone, and is ideal for presentations. NERG will certainly put the FM receiver to good use.

G & C Communications had a mountain of new equipment for perusal and offered members of both clubs a very reasonable special price for equipment purchases on the night. It is amazing as to how much can now fit in the one box!!

The depth and breadth of pre-loved equipment varied and it must be said that WANSARC had prime position in front of the hall heater.

It is pleasing to report that just over \$50 was made on the night through donations to WANSARC for disposals equipment. Thanks to Gary VK3FGAR for donating an SWR bridge for sale and David VK3FXDX for purchasing some of the WANSARC disposals. There is more where that came from Dave, so continue to bring your loose change to the club!!

With the success of this night it is only fitting that WANSARC hold a similar night next year. Negotiations are continuing with Darebin Council on occupying the former WANSARC hall near Edwardes Park Lake, Reservoir. With any degree of luck the next WANSARC-NERG night will be held there!

Thanks again to NERG for their kind invitation and to Don VK3KDT, a driving force within NERG, for his foresight in getting the idea of the ground. **De Mark VK3PI**

## STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE?

Members will recall that when Mick VK3CH was forced, reluctantly, to relinquish his role as Magazine Producer, I offered to step into the breach once again on a "short term" basis.

This "short term" period has nearly expired and I now ask that members of the club put their best foot (or antenna) forward to take over the stewardship of the magazine.

Ample assistance will be given to an incumbent to settle in.

See me at the next club meeting for advice.

73 de Mark  
VK3PI



**WELL  
DONE!!**

*It seems that **Rod VK3MRT** has been praised in a number of circles for his work with JOTA this year—well done Rod! A number of amateurs were heard on air passing compliments.*

***Frank VK3ZO** is back in his house after major renovations. Seems Frank has a new telescope and has threatened to point it in all directions to see heavenly bodies.*

Your magazine contributors this month include—  
**Bob VK3EL,**  
**John VK3FMPB,**  
**Mark VK3PI,**  
**Don VK3KDT,**  
**Graeme VK3PGK.**

Thanks folks!

**WHAT ABOUT THIS ? Contributions from members**

***Cleaning made easier***

**From Bob  
VK3EL**

Found an old radio or electronic treasure that was full of dust and dead or alive insects ? Maybe filled your cheeks with air and tried to blow out all the gunk and had most of it bounce back in your face , down your throat or up your nose ? Grab one of these car tyre pumps either new or used, and avoid the discomfort .



Most radio “shacks” now have a 12vdc supply, and while these little compressors are a little noisy they’ll do quite a good job of getting into places your lungs just won’t reach, and are relatively cheap new & even cheaper at flea markets or garage sales .

**Happy Dusting! Bob, VK3EL.**



**(Left) I said park it NEAR the fence, not on it!!**

**From Gra-  
ham  
VK3PGK**



**(Above) We fix trucks, standing on our head!!**

“Oh darling—did you happen to bring the washing in because I think it’s going to rain.....and honey, is there any reason why your Diamond HGT-67/5/543 high gain, VHF/UHF combined 12.6 metre vertical just went past me at 300 kilometres an hour? It just speared next doors dog!!



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



Thanks to **Graham Page** for identifying the man in glasses as Neil VK3BCU. Coincidentally I caught up with Russell (far right) VK3DRW last week—he is still the same 30 years on. Now who is the gentleman on the far left?? Anyone have any ideas? Have a think and let me know—then we can test everyone’s mind with another photograph!!



**November 2007 meeting is the last chance to snap up bargains with our “DISPOSALS”. Why not purchase a ground independent base for your vehicle? Only \$5 donation to WANSARC.....**

# WANSARC VK3AWS

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

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

All correspondence to be addressed to the **SECRETARY: PO Box 336**

**RESERVOIR 3073**

## WANSARC CLUB PROFILE

### History

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

### Meetings

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. Also monitor 28.470MHz on 10 metres USB.

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

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

## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2007

## GENERAL MEETING NIGHT.



If not delivered within 7 days please return to

WANSARC PO Box 336 Reservoir 3073