

# WANSARC NEWS



Wansarc is an affiliated club of the Wireless Institute of Australia

Volume 40 Issue 6— July 2009



Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club VK3AWS  
Incorporated in Victoria A7611S

## FIRST WANSARC FOXHUNT DAY A SUCCESS !!



*Dave, VK3DTS, shows his foxhunting technique to be the first ever winner of a WANSARC foxhunt! Congratulations to all club members for their enthusiasm in making this day a great success. Read more on this event in an excellent article by John VK3FMPB. (See Page 4)*

### Inside this issue:

President's message from Graeme VK3NE	2
WANSARC Coming attractions	2
Supporting your squid pole antenna—Bob VK3EL	3
The great WANSARC foxhunt 2009—John VK3FMPB	4
Bits and PI-eces—Mark VK3PI and Victori VK3DKM	6
DATV set top box information—AR Victoria	7
Go on—have a laugh—Dan VK3DWH and Bob VK3EL	7

### Calendar for JUNE 2009

- **Friday July 3 2009** — The WANSARC "CHRISTMAS IN JULY" night—see Page 2 for venue and details.
- **Tuesday July 7,14,21,28** - CLUB VHF NET 146.450MHz 1930 hours local time call Club station VK3AWS Net controller is Bob VK3EL. From time to time the net may also be heard on 28.470MHz USB on relay from Don VK3HDX. Callback on 10m when a relay is conducted.

## WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT, GRAEME VK3NE



June was an eventful month for WANSARC.

The Rotary raffle this year raised a significant amount of money. Well done everyone.

The fiver night was a success, lots of bits and pieces went to a new home and the club received several donations from happy sellers.

Our "special effort" prize was won by Jess, VK3FJPM. Jess is now the proud owner of a brand new, state of the art digital radio and is very pleased with its performance.

June 14<sup>th</sup> was the Great Foxhunt Day! Two great prizes were on offer.

Many hours of preparation went into the various pieces of apparatus used to sniff out the foxes). The day started with a briefing session and a practice hunt. It proved to be a good test run for competitors and equipment. This was followed by a magnificent lunch. Two hunts were conducted, each using two foxes. The winner of the first hunt was Dave, VK3DTS, in a very smart time of 15 minutes. Trevor, VK3FTDX, was the winner of the second event. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a very successful event.

The July general meeting is "**Christmas In July**". Please note that this is a **family** activity. Details of the time and location are on the web site ([www.wansarc.org.au](http://www.wansarc.org.au)) and in this newsletter.

Just a reminder to all members, if you see an unfamiliar "face" at the club house or at a club event, please introduce yourself to them and make them feel welcome. Remember, everybody was a new member once!

*73 de Graeme VK3NE, President, WANSARC*

## WANSARC COMING EVENTS

**FRIDAY JULY 3, 2009**— "**CHRISTMAS IN JULY**" family night. Yes, it's that time of the year where the days are short, the temperatures low and a need exists to get together in a warm location and drink and be merry. So pack up your car and family and head for the old "Tina's" haunt. You know where it is—just north of the corner of Plenty Road and Murray Road, Preston. (near Beauchamp Street) on the west side of Plenty Road. BT's pizza 445 Plenty Road Preston. Melway 18 J11—someone will be on 146.450MHz so call up if your GPS or map brain is not working!

## SOME THINGS THAT YOU REALLY SHOULD KNOW

So you want to do a bit of experimenting on microwave frequencies? Well, what is stopping you?

Geoff, VK3AVJ, a great friend to WANSARC, found this gem for our reading masses.

Go on, be the first in your street to have one of these on your tower.....then let me know how many complaints you get from your neighbours.

Then again you may get some people wanting to use it!!

**And the following from our President, Graeme, VK3NE:**

- **When one engine fails on a twin engine plane you always have enough power left to get to the scene of the crash;**
- **What's the similarity between Air Traffic Controllers and Pilots? If the Air Traffic Controller screws up, the pilot dies.....if the Pilot screws up, the pilot dies;**
- **You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal;**
- **Any ship can be a minesweeper—ONCE!**
- **The only time you ever have too much fuel is when you are on fire!!**



## SUPPORTING YOUR SQUID POLE ANTENNA—Bob VK3EL

So you've bought your new 6 Meter "Squid-Pole" from "WANSARC" and now you'd like to get it up and running with a dipole or perhaps a wire antenna experiment of your own design ? But before you get round to using it you might be wondering how to get the pole to stay Vertical while you're operating in the field ?

There are no doubt countless ways to do it, and you may have already thought of your own method, but the two gadgets shown above which are both available commercially from the large DIY hardware outlets, could be your quick and easy way of setting up your portable antenna system if you want to spend some money and boost our economy at the same time ? Both the stands, shown below, were originally marketed to support the popular "Market Umbrellas". The ***stand on the left*** is designed to screw into sand or soil with its large worm thread, but NOT and I repeat NOT to screw into land fill made of crushed rock or brick as I found out after 10 frustrating minutes trying to get the thread to start ! ( These retailed for about \$22 a few months ago. )



The ***stand on the right*** just sits on a reasonably flat surface and I've used some metal thread screws and wing nuts to attach a series of wire radials around the edge of the steel base plate and attached a suitably sized piece of PVC tubing using a couple of large worm-drive clamps to support the Squid-Pole. These stands are very expensive at \$70 and up, and come in both square & circular base designs. I was lucky and found my square version at one of the charity shops at \$10.

If you wanted to engineer the flat type yourself, you would need a square piece of flat steel plate approx: 41cm square and 5mm.thick and a 40cm length of galvanized pipe of a suitable diameter welded in the centre of the plate ( the pipe diameter of the commercially built one is approx.6cms.O.D ) then attach a 40cm.length of PVC pipe to accommodate your "Squid-Pole", with worm-drive clamps. You will probably need to "shim" the PVC pipe to keep your squid-pole firmly upright .(I used scrap PVC tubing cut to size for "shim" packing )

### **A Few Hints**

Both designs will comfortably support the longer 9 meter squid pole without guying, assuming you don't use wire which is too heavy. However I have found dropping the very thin top section of the "squid -pole" inside the second uppermost section will tend to stop excessive bending of the pole and possible future breakage.

I've also found the plastic covered steel clothesline wire is very good for radial wires as it doesn't tangle easily, however it is also quite dear to buy new. Keep an eye open for a cheap bulk buy source ?

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"Sky-Hooks" are NOT available at DIY stores ! Cheers, ***Bob VK3EL*** .

## THE GREAT WANSARC FOXHUNT 2009 By John VK3FMPB

Sunday the 14th of July 2009. Round one of the great annual, (hopefully) WANSARC Easter egg hunt. Oops I mean Fox hunt. This will be a fun day with a hint of competition. **There are foxes to be found today.**

The club rooms are a hive of activity. People testing and adjusting their equipment and repairing broken equipment, even some attempting to finish off building projects at this late juncture. The Gaffa is being used to its full advantage as are soldering irons and other tools.

The Fox is being placed at a strategic point around the club house somewhere. Which, given the expanse of our surroundings could be anywhere within a 1 or 2 or so kilometre radius of those club rooms. Wouldn't it be funny if some dear old lady out walking her poodle found it and said "Oh poodle this will make a lovely addition to the mantle piece"? Imagine the fun and games when five blokes with radios and beams in hand tracked it down to her place. All gesticulating that we wanted our fox back. Poor dear.

The possibility of winning the fox hunt no matter how enticing the thought of winning may be, should not allow us to degenerate into a rabble of hungry animals at feeding time.

Sunday the 19th of April. 1000 Hrs. Planning stage alpha. NE, PI, EL and a few of our club's committee and other hierarchy assemble at Fox hunt HQ for a meeting to discuss what we will do and how we will do it. Teams, times, locations, sniffers, beams, food, are all discussed at length. How will we run the day, what equipment do we need, will we have a construction day to make what we need? How do I win this thing, I bet I am not the only one having these thoughts either.

It is morning, execution stage Alpha. 1000 Hrs on Sunday the 14/6/09 at WANSARC mission control, HQ or club rooms. The day has arrived at last. Some have been here already for a while. The early morning mist is just clearing and the Fox is (almost)? in place.

Hams/hounds are assembled waiting for the all clear to go on the hunt. Each Man, Woman or Child thinking they will be the victor today. Better ask Victor if he minds that first though. It will be down to the skill level of each Fox hunter and how they read their equipment which decides who takes the cake today.



We are all assembled now waiting hungrily for the word from our ring master, VK3NE the leader of the day's activities to usher us forth on our search. Legs primed, Radios, beams a-waving with hams attached await with baited breath. Much effort has gone into preparing equipment for the first great annual WANSARC Fox hunt and it is obvious. We have people with backpacks, portable radios, antennae on poles, maps and compass at the ready, and you thought we wouldn't take the day seriously. Silly you.

You can almost taste the tension in the air. It is palpable. You could almost cut it with a knife. Enough palaver for one day, we have a purpose. We may be a club and all love all others but when it comes to competition, it's each man, woman or child for themselves.

The whistle, bell or command is given to commence the practice Fox hunt. What happens now is anybody's guess. Some stop and take bearings, others run off Helter Skelter into the park to take their bearings while others stand motionless adopting the 'stunned Mullet' pose, not really knowing which way to turn or head off in.

This is going to be a fun day I bet. Some run like the wind into the distance, some carefully plan their attack on the course. A few of our competing WANSARCians are actually taking the day seriously. They plot directions and bearings on maps, reading meters on radios while waving sniffer antennae around like swords of victory.

## THE GREAT WANSARC FOXHUNT 2009 (continued)

A few people seem to know what they are doing and the run off in search of foxes. Up hill and down dale we walk hastily, a ban on running has been imposed by the organisers in the name of safety and fairness to some of the older members of the club. It is not a case of win at all costs and hang the safety at Wansarc.

A trend seems to appear fairly quickly and some people just follow the crowd. Whatever happened to the ban on running?

People scurrying over hill and dale in search of the last fox which proves to be somewhat elusive. It turned out to a very well hidden little critter too. Down a hill, near a muddy and somewhat treacherous bank. If you were a little infirm on your feet or had balance problems I didn't like your chances of reaching it.

Back to fox hunt HQ for a debrief and a talk on the real fox hunt which is to be held after lunch. Lunch. The sweetest time of day. Leg of Lamb, Pork Roast, Spuds, Vegies, numerous types of Salads and great company to boot. Trevor, our resident kitchen dweller (Chef) ably assisted by Don get straight to work to please the masses with this lovely repast

Wansarc, educational, informative and diet conscious all at the same time. Not bad eye?  
The lovely meal being donated by a kind and benevolent benefactor of the club.

Lunch is shoved down fairly quickly, except for those of us who have seconds and even thirds. "Fox hunt. What Fox hunt? I'm here for lunch" is heard from one member's mouth.

People are still working on their sniffers, tweaking and polishing. This is a fairly competitive bunch we have here.

All is in readiness now. Lunch is over, repairs, tweaks are done. Now for the great annual Wansarc Fox hunt. Hounds, hams, Men, Women and children, assemble in front of club-rooms. Smart people are watching others looking for clues or hints. The whistle goes and they're off. No running, remember.

The first 'fox' is found, I won't mention by whom for fear of being accused of blatant self promotion. It was in a fairly treacherous position, near water over muddy ground. We strike out to find the second one.



**Graeme VK3NE congratulates Dave VK3DTS 1st hunt and Trevor VK3FTDX 2nd hunt winners of the first every WANSARC foxhunting day.**

No running, remember? Some people go the wrong way due to the nature of reflected radio signals and the topography of the lake and its surrounds. That ended our chance at victory.

This takes lots of walking and some stamina I hope we all had a big lunch.

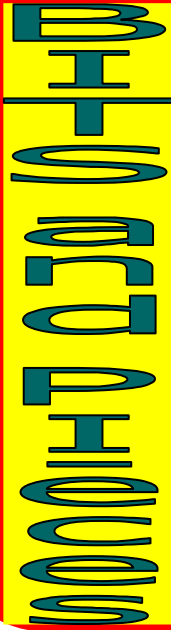
The second fox is found and now we have to walk all the way back to our H.Q. Who would have known we could walk so far away in such a short time?

Back to Fox hunt HQ for back-slapping and prize awarding to the lucky, or skilful winners of the day. VK3DTS and VK3FTDX are club

champions this year and deservedly so. With their skill, patience and a portion of luck they beat the troops to the fox and the prize.

More back-slapping and lots of talking, that's what hams do. Then finishing off the rest of the food and it's over. The Great annual Wansarc Fox hunt has been run and won. It was a great day, a fun day for some and a tiring day for most.

*Congratulations John, VK3FMPB, on a great article—Mark VK3PI, Producer, WANSARC news*



**What a fantastic year** it has been to now! Winners of the 6 hour section of the John Moyle Field Day again, for the third consecutive year! Fantastic foxhunting day and great support from the club for the first foxhunting effort. Excellent prizes and a great effort by one of our newer members to pull the day together.....**YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE** so well done and thanks from all members. **Jesse VK3FJPM was the** lucky winner of one of our special WANSARC efforts. Jesse is absolutely rapt and sent me a note—"Just want to thank the club for the prize, the radio works well and it thumps and is very clear!". Well done Jesse and it sounds like you are going to have many hours of digital listening enjoyment. **Congratulations to those members** participating in the Mid-Winter VHF/UHF Field Day. Wayne VK3VCL, John VK3FMPB and Victor VK3DKM operated under the club call of VK3AWS just west of Bacchus Marsh at a "covert" site. Trevor VK3FTDX and Rod VK3MRT were heard operating north of Melbourne near Craigeburn. Your scribe/magazine producer gave a few numbers out and had a bit of fun as well. **Incidentally the bands were alive** and well, particularly 40 metres, during the Shires contest some weeks ago. Many stations on air and a great initiative! **And welcome to two new members**, Craig VK3XOR and Frank VK3OP. It has taken some time to take Craig's money, but great to hear you have joined our friendly group. And Frank has been putting out a beautiful signal to all of our members across Melbourne. Welcome Frank! 73 de Mark



## HELP WANTED—Victor VK3DKM

I have an Alinco DJ-596 VHF/UHF dual band HT which has been **locked/programmed to only operate at 10 UHF channels (from 419-428MHz)**.

The most simple solution is to find another DJ-596 that is working properly and clone the setting across via the "clone-cable" to my radio. The cable is simply a straight through cable with 3.5mm stereo plugs at both ends and I do have such a cable in my junk box. May be one of the club member own or have access to a DJ-596 and I can bring my unit to the next club meeting to do the cloning.

Alternative, Alinco (and third parties) sell a software called "SW-596" and with a "programming cable" either the ERW-4C/OPC-478 (serial) or ERW-7 (usb) both available on ebay and a PC, one can re-programme the radio at will. So if any member happen to own (or gain access to) the software and the programming cables they may re-programme my radio back to it's full glory.

Apparently, the same "programming cable" and software do work with the following models; DJ-196T, DJ-296T, DJ-496T, DJ-C6T, DJ-C7T, DJ-V5T, DJ-V17T, DJ-V27T, DJ-V47T, DJ-596T, DJ-X3T, DJ-X7T, DJ-X2000T.

So owner of above mentioned units and is in possession of the software may also help!

If you are able to assist with help please contact Victor VK3DKM at [victormong@gmail.com](mailto:victormong@gmail.com) or on the mobile at 0411 788 138.

## 2009 ROTARY RAFFLE RESULTS

The 2009 Reservoir Rotary Raffle was extremely well supported by club members, their families and friends.

The raffle raised over \$40,000 for community groups and of course WANSARC is one of those groups.

This year WANSARC has benefited by **\$443.70**—one of the best results for many years. So thanks to one and all for your excellent support.

Unfortunately WANSARC had no winners—J.Matear won 1st prize (Ticket 47283), P.Breen won 2nd (27279 and 3rd was J.Bannon (19944). Better luck to us all next year but again, WANSARC was a winner from all of our efforts—**Mark VK3PI**



## DATV SET TOP BOXES

**Peter VK3BFG and Phil VK3GMZ recently conducted Digital ATV tests and the results have been outstanding. If you are wishing to receive Digital ATV, the following list of set top box makes and models is provided for amateurs , as automatic and factory default set top box models are unsuitable as VK3RTV does not use a standard Digital TV Channel.**

1. Teac SDB451
2. Compro Videomate PCI TV Tuner Card DVB-T300
3. RCA TRC 501AU
4. Humax DV-1000T
5. Tevion TV-1202 Product No 8436
6. Strong SRT 5006
7. Twinhan DTV Alpha - USB used by Joe Martinez VK3TMS - spec says it does not tune but Joe successful
8. SKU HVBT 2000B
9. DVX555U Cheap PVR (Set Freq manually as a Channel No 446500)
10. Yess DVBT288U USB (Unconfirmed but specs look OK)

**Listen and chat to the ATV gang on 147.400 FM Simplex.**

## Proof that old men are not silly from Dan VK3DWH

An elderly man in Queensland had owned a large property for several years.

He had a dam in one of the lower paddocks where he had planted mango and avocado trees.

The dam had been fixed up for swimming when it was built and he also had some picnic tables placed there in the shade of the fruit trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the dam to look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a ten litre bucket to bring back some fruit.

As he neared the dam, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his dam. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted to him, 'We're not coming out until you leave!' The old man said 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the dam naked.'

Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the crocodile.'

**Moral: Old men may walk slow, but they can still think fast.**

## Topical shot from Bob VK3EL



WHAT  
SWINE  
THOUGHT  
THIS UP?

## 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.

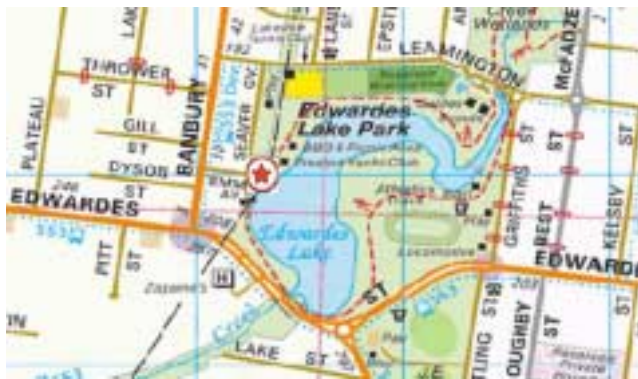
### Meetings

FIRST Friday of each month except January at the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, SEAVER GROVE, RESERVOIR. See map). 7.30pm local time start.

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)



**Don't forget the "club" meets on air regularly on 146.450MHz FM. And now rebroadcast on 28.470MHz USB.**

**Next meeting 7.30pm local Friday July 3 , 2009 CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT BT's PIZZA 445 Plenty Road PRESTON Talk in 146450MHz FM.**

**If not delivered within 7 days, please return to WANSARC, PO Box 336, Reservoir, 3073**

**Australia Post stamp here**