

QRM News



Newsletter of the Wagga Amateur Radio Club (WARC)

August 2010

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Secretary: Jorgen VK2KJJ
PO Box 294 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Meetings at Small St Clubrooms
Last Friday of each month

Callsign: VK2WG – VK2RWG – VK2RTW
Nets: 7.165Mhz Sundays 1200hrs EST
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IRLP Node - 6260
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President's Report



Members,

Welcome to the August edition of QRM. With the depths of winter and a wet one at that upon us, few want to venture out, instead seeking the warmth of the house or if lucky enough – the shack. This past month has seen a few activities. These have included a very small working bee, the RD contest and the Club Annual Dinner. Of all these events the Dinner was very successful with about 25 of us sitting down for dinner at the Lum Inn. With any luck, Jorgen's photos are elsewhere in this edition.

The very small working bee only had two of us painting the back verandah shed. Still needs to have the flashing fitted plus completing the painting but that might now have to wait until spring.

The RD contest sort of snuck up on us and so it didn't get a mention until the Saturday morning. I was out on the Saturday evening but Jorgen VK2KJJ fired the station up for some contacts. I too entered again and as I was batching I managed to run up in excess of 100 contacts. It really deserves its name as the friendly contest because almost everyone I spoke to was on for a chat. Anyway – good fun and we must make a note to

organize something a little earlier next year.

The junk stripping still continues and if people are free over the next couple of Tuesday evenings we should be able to knock the rest of it over. Bring along some tools such as pliers, shifters, cutters, an assortment of screwdrivers and your sense of humour and come along for a fun evening.

And whilst on the subject of club activities, don't forget the Education nights being run by Andrew Cole on Monday evenings. At the moment a small but dedicated group is gaining some valuable insight into the world of electronics. Thanks Andrew – keep up the good work.

If you are driving down Morgan St, check out VK2TH's new tower. Hopefully there are some photos from the erection in this edition. The tower weighs in at a hefty 400 plus kilos and had to be erected by crane. With the very extensive slab of concrete underneath it, this tower should outlast us all. Well done John.

I had email contact during the week with Helen Bull, daughter of the late Alan VK4FBB, who was a foundation member of the club. I had previously contacted her for information on Alan's date of death for the Silent Key board. She would be very interested in coming down to see it when it goes up. We might look at holding an unveiling ceremony for it when it is completed. So watch this space.

And speaking of elderly people. I notice that Pearce Healey VK2APQ turns 99 this month. Pearce was an old friend of the late Sid VK2SW and other club members and often came down to our Riverina Field Days. What a great anniversary.

The latest on Mt Bethungra is that it is virtually ready to go. All we are waiting for now is a break in the weather. Rod VK2TRB will let us know when the working bee will be, but it probably will now be in September.

That's enough for this month – I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

John VK2YW

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Proposed "Linked" Repeaters, their Call Signs and Frequencies:

Bethungra	VK2RBE	146.775
MIA	VK2RGF	146.850
Galore	VK2RGA	146.875
Tumut	VK2RTD	146.800
Wagga	VK2RWG	146.750

It is expected that all of the systems will be operational by the end of the year. Each links back to VK2RWG via a UHF link.



ON THIS DAY - 27 AUGUST _____

- 1601** Olivier van Noort completes 1st Dutch exploration of new world
- 1776** British defeat Americans in Battle of Long Island
- 1783** 1st hydrogen balloon flight (unmanned); reaches 900 m altitude
- 1813** Battle of Dresden-Napoleon defeats Austrians
- 1881** Hurricane hits Florida & Carolinas; about 700 die
- 1883** Krakatoa, west of Java, explodes with a force of 1,300 megatons
- 1916** Romania declares war on Austria-Hungary
- 1928** 16 die in NYC subway's 2nd worst accident
- 1932** 200,000 English textile workers strike
- 1945** US troops land in Japan after Japanese surrender
- 1955** "Guinness Book of World Records" 1st published
- 1957** Bernhard Langer, golfer, born
- 1958** USSR launches Sputnik 3 with 2 dogs aboard
- 1965** Beatles spend an evening with Elvis Presley
- 1979** 18 British militia die in ambush/bomb attack in Northern Ireland
- 1985** 20th Space Shuttle Mission (51-L)-Discovery 6-launched
- 1995** 95th US Golf Amateur Championship won by Tiger Woods
- 2008** Mark Priestley, Australian actor (b.1976), dies.



Lum Inn



Last Friday, 20th August, 2010, the Wagga Amateur Radio Club held its **Annual Club Dinner** at the Lum Inn Restaurant.

The evening was very successful, with approximately 25 members and guests enjoying a great meal and even better company.



"Gee, I'm glad the Club's not paying for this"



"Thought you'd sneak up on me, didn't ya?"



“Say it again..... just one more time!”



“Chinese meals... they go right through you, don’t they?”

Echolink



EchoLink is a computer based Amateur Radio system that allows radio amateurs to communicate with one another using Voice over IP (VoIP) technology on the Internet for at least part of the path between them. It was designed by Jonathan Taylor, a radio amateur with call sign K1RFD.

The system allows reliable worldwide connections to be made between radio amateurs, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. In essence it is the same as other VoIP applications (such as Skype), but with the unique addition of the ability to link to an amateur radio station's transceiver.

Before using the system it is necessary for a prospective user's call sign to be validated. The EchoLink system requires that each new user provide positive proof of license and identity before his or her call sign is added to the list of validated users.

The software is written to run on 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Microsoft Windows. Another edition of the software runs on Apple mobile devices (iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad), and is available from the Apple App Store.

Radio amateurs using the EchoLink software can operate it in one of two modes:

- **Single User Mode.** If they have an Internet-connected computer, they can use the computer's microphone and speakers to connect to (or through - see below) other EchoLink-enabled computers over the Internet and talk to the amateur at the other end.
- **Sysop Mode.** This entails connecting their own VHF or UHF transceiver to their Internet-connected PC with a specially-designed hardware interface. Doing this enables another radio amateur with their own transceiver, who is within radio range of this station, to communicate with (or through) any other EchoLink-equipped station anywhere in the world. This is the unique feature of EchoLink.

Radio amateurs without the EchoLink software or a computer connected to the Internet can take advantage of the EchoLink network if they are within radio range of a sysop mode EchoLink station. It is also possible to link a sysop mode EchoLink station to a local repeater, further enhancing the communication possibilities.

Headline in an American Newspaper

Man Found Dead in Lake was a Lonely Drifter



Overheard at the Lum Inn:

“If you’re going to the Hamfest, will you need directions?”

“No. I’m all set. I have the address, a GPS, and a GPS override”.

“What’s a GPS override?”

“The Missus”.



Imbedded in over 5 tons of concrete and weighing in at approximately 400 kilograms, this structure in meant to last a lifetime.....

THE MORGAN STREET TOWER

In a series of photographs, watch with amazement the rebirth of John Gerard’s (VK2TH’s) towering antenna. Today WAGGA WAGGA ... Tomorrow THE WORLD.

WIA Centenary Award

A limited issue amateur radio operating award is available to celebrate the 100th year of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA), the world’s oldest national radio society.

To qualify for an award certificate contact is required with the Centenary of Organised Amateur Radio in Australia special event station VK100WIA.

From 1 May to 31 May 2010, the special call sign VK100WIA will be activated by the WIA and from 1 June to 31 October 2010 the special call sign VK100WIA will be activated by its affiliated clubs throughout Australia.

The award will be issued to radio amateurs in Australia who accumulate 100 points and amateurs outside Australia who accumulate 50 points. A contact with VK100WIA operated by the WIA or operated by a Club is worth 10 points



The first of our members to receive the WIA Award is the WARC Club Secretary, Jorgen VK2KJJ. Jorgen has been very active in contacting the VK100WIA call sign over the past few months (and has done so in a number of modes). Jorgen is shown here proudly displaying his well deserved WIA Award.....**Well Done Jorgen!!!**

In our NEXT edition of QRM

Don’t Miss It!



SEE YOU DOWN AT THE CLUB

Other people’s tattoos are like other people’s children:
Only you can see how bad they are.

