

W.A.R.C. QRM MAGAZINE

Vice-President: Alan VK2KAW
Secretary: John VK2YW
PO Box 294 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Meetings at Small St Clubrooms
Last Friday of each month

Callsign: VK2WG – VK2RWG – VK2RTW
Nets: 146.750 / 3605Mhz Tuesdays 2030hrs
7.165Mhz Sundays 1200hrs EST
IRLP Node - 6260
Editor: John VK2YW Patron: Rivtron

May 2004 Issue

Next Meeting – Friday 28 May

Secretary's Words

We are now just one meeting away from our AGM. I hope you are giving some thought as to what our new executive will look like for next year. I was only commenting the other day about the fact that once we had lots of members, very little money and no clubrooms. We now have a reasonable income, few members and clubrooms. I think our direction for next year is to increase our membership and help revive the interest of our existing members.

On another note, you may remember that we were going to have a horse endurance event over Easter this year and for those of you not interested in endures, it didn't happen. But on a more positive note, I hope to hear something about the Enduro around September.

You may remember a month or so back Geoff VK2XJG and wife Anna VK2TAG came down for the weekend and yes, more work was done to the node at Alan VK2KAW's place. Part of that work was to add Echolink to the system. Other than Alan, I bet no-one else has used it to make a call... well I haven't at any rate but I did answer an Echolink call this morning. It was Warwick VK4NW. Warwick has moved into the new QTH at Coolum Beach but could no longer access Dennis VK4SX's node at Bundaberg, so he has done the next best thing and installed Echolink on a dialup internet connection. Now some would say it's not radio, but let me tell you the contact with me on my way to work was every bit radio as far as I was concerned. So, let's use this resource more as there will be amateurs out there who for them, this will be the only way they can operate.

Elswhere in QRM is a report on what is probably the most historic event to occur to the WIA. Read and see what is happening to our WIA.

Well that's it for me this month. See you at the meeting. 73 VK2YW

Snippets

*** Birthdays this month include KAW's good wife Ruth and Jeff 2AQ. Happy Birthday. Last month... Wayne PDW, Doug ZMP... and me... happy birthday us!

*** Warwick 3WBP has bought one of those DC to daylight radios made by Yaesu. Those that know Warwick and his schoolteacher voice will appreciate that he has had lots of difficulty with the microphone compression on the rig. After the problem was identified and the compression adjusted, he's back to normal sounding.

*** And whilst on the subject of Warwick, he has been given a clean bill of health following a cancer scare and is off to the warmer regions this week. But the week hasn't been all beer and skittles... well a "hypo" and he rolled the 4wd tractor. But good news, he is fine and he and Hilary will be passing thru town on Friday 21st May.

*** Many will remember Dennis VK4SX from contacts on IRLP and HF. Well, no more IRLP for Dennis. Sadly no-one was using his Bundaberg system so he has sold it.

*** Alan KAW and Ruth have been swanning around in the caravan over the past month. Just back from Mudgee with the steam engine. Seems he entered a contest and just missed out on winning. Apparently it was a very stunning shunt!

*** Rodney VK2MKV and YL Sharnie are about to head off on a whirlwind around the world trip. Spending time in Europe and the UK before heading home after 5 weeks. Sharnie has rels OS (overseas) and both are looking forward to it. Enjoy!

*** Pat VK2GRQ spent the week in hospital following a heart attack. Despite this he turned up at the clubrooms on Saturday morning ready to make the usual cuppa. Keep well Pat and we all hope you continue on the road to recovery.

*** Also in hospital (but now probably out by the time you read this is Miffy, XYL of Neil VK2KNR. We also hope this finds you well on the road to recovery.

*** At the working bee on Saturday morning power for lighting to the toilet was run. This involved trenching across tot the block from the power pole. The majority of this work has been carried out by John VK2TH. John has spent a few hours every day last week digging and watering, digging and watering (ground very dry and hard). The trench was finished off by John, Des VK2TIW, Greg VK2KGO and Alan VK2KAW. Well done guys. (Harley, Pat and I watched. ☺) Also got another coat of gloss on the back door architrave and step which should help it to weather better over winter.

*** I am pleased to report that Judy VK2VJO is continuing to progress well following her illness and subsequent treatment. We wish her well.

*** If you were used to seeing Jeff VK2FBK driving around in the Patrol, you now have to get used to him driving around in a brand new Pajero. Not sure whether he has fitted it out for radio yet but I am sure it won't be long and it will be bristling with a couple of antennas at least.

A National WIA comes with the adoption of a new Constitution

Sunday, 16 May 2004 (*reprinted from an email received during the week*)

The WIA Federal Council met today by teleconference to resume its consideration of a Special Resolution to adopt a new Constitution. This meeting was the resumed Annual General Meeting which had been adjourned from its earlier meeting in Brisbane to allow all WIA Divisions to fully evaluate the new Constitution.

At today's meeting the WIA Federal Council voted to adopt the new Constitution which effectively creates a single national organisation for the WIA. This means that

instead of seven individual state-based organisations co-ordinated in relation to particular matters through a Federal body, the WIA will be a single body and all amateurs can now belong that single organisation, rather than being a member of a state or territory division that is in turn a member of a federal body.

The new structure will result in greater operational efficiency through a single national board of Directors who are directly responsible to WIA members. It will enable policies to be more effectively managed and enable members to have a more direct voice in WIA affairs. Existing state-based services can now be integrated into a single coherent nation-wide service. Many other benefits will unfold as the new national body gradually settles into its eventual shape. This will take time however. There are many challenges ahead for the WIA and it should not be expected that the transition can occur overnight. But the path is now clear for the first time in many decades for the WIA to be truly representative of the amateur radio service in Australia.

At the resumed AGM the Federal Council in adopting the new Constitution also appointed seven directors to serve the WIA through its transition period. Those chosen have talents and experience that are needed to guide the WIA for the next two years.

These are:

- a.. Michael Owen VK3KI, who will also be the new WIA President,
- b.. Ernie Hocking VK1LK, vice President,
- c.. Glenn Dunstan VK4DU
- d.. Trevor Quick VK5ATQ
- e.. Ewan Mcleod VK4ERM
- f.. Ted Thrift VK2ARA, and
- g.. Phil Waite VK2DKN.

In accepting his new role Michael Owen said he was conscious of the great responsibility that he and his fellow Directors had taken on. The task of transforming the WIA to meet the challenges facing the amateur radio service in this new century was never going to be easy but with the adoption of a national WIA it will certainly be made possible.

Later, Michael also said that the immediate future would be a period of transition, and that he hoped members and others would be patient as the Institute began to establish new roles and procedures.

During the next few weeks there will be further announcements concerning the WIA's changes. In the meantime services will continue and new members will be encouraged to join and former members to rejoin.

Editors Note: On Sunday morning's WIA broadcast, the Company Secretary Michael VK2YC came on to say that despite the above the NSW WIA still exists and it will require a democratic meeting of the members to change anything. He urges members to renew memberships to the Division itself and not to WIA Federal and to contact the Division on 1800 817644 (free call) or to contact Michael himself at VK2YC@bigpond.com for more info. On the callbacks the NSW WIA President demanded that Michael's tape be not replayed on the Sunday evening broadcast. Stay tuned as the thick plottens!

The LITTLE things.

After Sept. 11th, one company invited the remaining members of other companies who had been decimated by the attack on the Twin Towers to share their available office

space. At a morning meeting, the head of security told stories of why these people were alive..... and all the stories were just: the little things.

“As you might know, the head of the company got in late that day because his son started kindergarten. Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts. One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off in time. One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike because of an auto accident. One of them missed his bus. One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change. One's car wouldn't start. One went back to answer the telephone. One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have. One could not get a taxi.”

“The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. That is why he is alive today. Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone .. all the little things that annoy me. I think to myself, this is exactly where I am to be at this very moment.”

Next time your morning seems to be going wrong, the children are slow getting dressed, you can't seem to find the car keys, you hit every traffic light, don't get mad or frustrated: you are being watched over. May you continue to be blessed with all those annoying little things, and may you remember their possible purpose.



Left – John VK2TH & Des VK2TIW hard at work while Phil Ogden supervises
Right – John VK2TH in an action shot shovelling dirt like a pro