



2017 Year Annual General Meeting Open Forum Reports

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STRATEGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Brian Clarke VK2GCE (WIA Director)

David Ford VK4MZ (WIA Director)

Aidan Mountford VK4APM

Peter Schrader VK4EA

Introduction

Amateur radio has its roots in experimentation, discovery and self-education.

Amateur radio has been around for over 100 years, is the oldest radio service and predates the regulation of radiocommunications. Since WW1, regulation of amateur radio has been a Federal government football kicked around by several agencies - the Navy, Post and Telegraph, DoTC, ACA and now the ACMA; as well, the WIA needs to meet the requirements of such other regulatory bodies as APRA, ASIC, ATO ...

The past 15 years has seen the WIA, as Australian radio amateurs' representative body, evolve into a quasi-bureaucratic organisation where autocratic decision-making and elitism have caused the organisation to lose its connection to its members, the radio amateur community, and the wider community in which it operates.

The Strategy Advisory group (SA group) was formed to address this by advising the Board how to remove the barriers that prevent the WIA reconnecting with radio amateurs and the broader community in Australia and across the world.

1. Overview of SA group purpose and its Terms of Reference

The SA group was initiated at the first Board of Directors meeting of 2017 – 18. Its Terms of Reference (ToRs) were to:

- advise on Organisational structure
- discover what products and services Australian radio amateurs believed the WIA should provide
- identify what had drawn people to amateur radio
- advise on re-engagement processes between radio amateurs and the WIA
- latterly, advise on revitalisation of the AR mag.

This group would be different from all the other committees and groups carrying out the Operational tasks of the WIA; this new group was to be advisory. It would engage in developing policies and long-term projections, and avoid the do-it-yesterday impetus behind many of the existing committees.

2. SA group members and roles

The SA group comprises Brian Clarke, VK2GCE, Chairman, David Ford, VK4MZ, Aidan Mountford, VK4APM, the group's secretary, and Peter Schrader, VK4EA. This meets the requirement to have two Directors, but falls short of the requirement for seven members.

The roles of these group members are to gather data, analyse, scan relevant literature, and produce reports for the Board.

3. SA group meetings

The group has had three meetings since its inception. All members attended all meetings. These meetings were held by video-conference, running from 20:00 to 22:00 hours on 31st October, 12th December and 16th January.

Key agenda items were:

- organisational structure
- generation of enabling documents
- analysis of the first Product-Market survey
- member engagement
- rejuvenation of AR mag
- design of the next survey.

4. SA group achievements

4.1 Organisation structure

Perusal of previous organisational structures of the WIA showed a highly-centralised bunch of Operational committees, with no General Management body. A survey was sent to the Chairmen of all committees to discover:

- how often their group had met
- what their group's Terms of Reference were
- what Minutes or other records had been taken of their group's efforts
- what their group had achieved
- what projects or tasks were in the pipeline.

The results of this survey were disappointing. Some groups had not met for years, none had recognised ToRs, few kept records and the future was, by and large, indeterminate. A minority of groups were incredibly active, with well-tuned members producing world-recognised outcomes, eg, the Spectrum Strategy group, with Dale, VK1DSH an outstanding driver.

The SA group discussed at length various organisational forms that could be suitable for the WIA. Though the WIA is effectively an agent of government agencies carrying out their policies and following their guidelines, the present quasi-bureaucratic form was discarded. Without going into all the detailed analysis, Holacracy was chosen as a basis for future Organisational structure with various groups to be formed and empowered to perform tasks as per new ToRs that would define the resource domains each group controls and the outputs for which each would be accountable.

Templates were designed for ToRs and Position Descriptions (PDs), submitted to the Board and approved. For some groups, a priori ToRs were drawn up. Once a group gets underway, one of its earliest tasks will be to renegotiate its ToRs - so as to engender ownership and a sense of 'can-do'.

Having chosen an organisational form, it is then necessary to determine the overall guiding purpose of the WIA. On 13th February, Aidan, VK4APM took the Board through a long, instrumented session to discover what the present Directors see as the guiding purposes. These purposes will be incorporated as

items in the next survey in order to engage Australians interested in amateur radio in the process of determining what their representative body should do for them.

4.2 Enabling documents

The SA group has drawn on the skills and expertise of many Board members in co-generating sets of policies, ToRs and PDs.

For far too long, the short-term horizon of the Board has necessarily forced attention on accounting and bookkeeping, with almost complete disregard for longer-term Financing. This is one reason that the AR mag, the WIA's biggest spend, has gotten out of control. The SA group, in collaboration with the majority of the Board, produced ToRs for those involved in Finance and Accounting.

A spin-off from the AR mag rejuvenation project has seen production of a Policy on publishing contentious materials that applies to all forms of WIA publication: hard-copy, soft-copy and on-air, not just AR mag. This policy has been approved by the Board. ToRs and PDs have also been generated for those involved in the various facets of the WIA's publishing activities.

The group has worked with several Directors to co-generate a Volunteer Charter and Workplace Health and Safety Policy that is now a part of the training of all incoming volunteers.

Similar work is underway to produce a suite of documents related to IT and security.

4.3 Product-Market survey

The P-M survey was launched on 6 August 2017 via Survey Monkey. Within two months there had been over 1400 responses, including many from non-members of the WIA. This was considered a very gratifying response rate, from which predictions and prescriptions could be drawn with a high level of statistical confidence.

The results from analysis of the P-M survey have been submitted to the Board for approval and wider distribution.

4.4 Engagement with radio amateurs

A major initiative of the SA group has been to develop an Associates program. Joining the Associates program is free. Anyone with an interest in technical matters, particularly to do with electronic communication is welcome to become an associate. Associates would need to pay for AR mag separately, but access to the web page would, after registration, be free. A major advantage of this registration is to provide a conduit for targeted messages. Privacy legislation needs to be taken into account in designing the registration and communication processes. There may be click-links to pay-per-view or pay-per-download material, such as for a one-trip, uneditable copy of AR mag.

4.4 AR mag

Compared with like magazines in Australia and around the world where 35% to 50% of space is taken by advertising, the AR mag's 3.5% is extremely low. Yet, AR mag accounts for the main cash outflow of the WIA. Publishing policy has been to favour home-grown material. This might work if there were a larger population of WIA members willing and able to produce technical copy. There needs to be consideration of second-sourcing from such like-genre publishers as ARRL, the Chinese Institute of Sport, KIST, NZART, RSGB, and SARL.

The short-term solution to the cash runaway situation has been by Board direction of a reduced number of issues per year. In the longer term, better quality articles and editing, more advertising, more targeted articles for younger readers may help. But young people now look askance at print media and focus more on IT-based media. In the much longer term, there may be no demand for a hard-copy AR mag.

Consequently, the SA group is currently investigating the setting up of web-based, continuous release, internationally-recognised member / subscriber-driven product that appeals to people across a broad range of technical disciplines rather than to a segment that is driven from the top down within a tiny subsection of Australian society. It could be a repository for club news, longer technical articles, and discussion fora, with click-links to similar genre material, including direct access to Australian and overseas radio and maker clubs.

5. Near-term goals

5.1 Organisation structure

With so much work to be done to meet the WIA's present objectives in our lifetime, it was decided that new groups would be formed following the new organisational framework to undertake activities that are presently not being done. To populate the various new groups, all new sets of ToRs have a population clause that requires a professional selection process.

This was a deliberate policy to overcome the view that the previous WIA Board and Operational groups had previously failed to operate with transparency and good corporate governance. As a side benefit, the SA group has found a significant cross section of Australian adults who are prepared to contribute to Amateur Radio through volunteering, despite not being AR operators themselves. The SA group will produce new ToRs and PDs, volunteers will populate the various Operational groups required to maintain and grow the WIA.

5.2 Member engagement

A major problem the WIA faces is the wide range of interests and needs of its clientele, who include members and non-members. They often need to communicate with the WIA, for instance to:

- find out currency of their licences
- renew their membership
- seek delivery of new services or improvements to existing services
- register complaints about perceived errors or other shortcomings of the WIA.

As with many systems run by volunteers, the squeakiest wheel gets the most attention. This may not be the most economic or rational way to manage. So, the SA group, after investigating several ticketing systems, is now guiding the WIA Head Office staff in prototyping a Ticketing system. This system tracks correspondence, highlights 'Pareto' items for action and monitors performance.

5.3 Survey

There were shortcomings with the P-M survey. Future surveys being designed will attempt to deal with the validity threats, eg, to achieve better age and gender sampling by using targeted media. Subsequently, we learned that there had been previous WIA surveys where respondent tracking had been built in and there did not seem to have been a diminution of response rate. We will probably use simple tracking by a combination of callsign and WIA member number.

The next survey is under construction presently.

6. Long-term goals

6.1 Organisation structure

When the next survey's results have been analysed, and a clear set of 100-year, member-selected and driven purposes identified, the SA group will start in earnest to identify clusters of skills that need to be grouped to form new Operational groups, according to Holacratic principles. A priori ToRs and PDs will be drawn up. The group will use Seek Volunteer to find candidates to populate these groups.

There have been several ventures with Seek Volunteer, resulting in a gratifying response from highly-qualified and skilled people wanting to get involved. There are still several gaps that need filling, with many candidates waiting to be interviewed.

6.2 Expanding the SA group

The ToRs of the SA group say there should be seven members. Very recently, there has been a first cut of over 50 applicants for joining the SA group. Interviewing will commence shortly. As part of the short-listing, several potential candidates for other WIA groups have been identified, who will be pushed toward selectors for those groups.

6.3 Improving member services

Presently the new Ticketing system is undergoing pilot trials at the Melbourne Head Office. Once the bugs are ironed out, the Ticketing system will be introduced to other operational groups to assist them to manage their workloads.

6.4 Member engagement

The WIA administers the gateway that allows successful candidates to transmit on air. The present teacher / assessor-centric system derives from the Education Act (UK) of 1870. The three-tier licence system has been touted as an incentive system. Since 2004, the numbers leaving all grades of AOCF have exceeded 40%. The proportion of AOCF (Standard) upgrading to AOCF (Advanced) at 26% is about the same as the proportion of AOCF (Foundation) upgrading at 24%. So, the incentive to leave is greater than the incentive to upgrade. The three-tier system is based on an achievement-oriented educational milieu, where people are willing to work hard within the one linear system to get to the next level to gain more privileges. But today's young are of a different cut – they want it now.

In this day of proliferating modes of radio-based and digitally-based communications, the present monolithic system is a major barrier. The present curriculum is quite agnostic to modern digital trending, with its use of low power. It is also anathematic to younger people who want to experiment with the burgeoning technologies opening up almost every day, and who respond better to continuous assessment and self-choice.

Learning and Assessment ToRs have been submitted for Board approval. Learning is what learners do; so, this proposal is learner centric. Research from learning institutions that have used a peer assessment approach has found that the outcomes achieved are to higher standards than with teacher / assessor-centric methods.

Submitted by Brian Clarke VK2GCE

SPECTRUM STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Peter Young VK3MV - Regulatory Counsel

Dale Hughes VK1DSH

Phil Wait VK2ASD (WIA Director)

Roger Harrison VK2ZRH

Brian Miller VK3MI

Noel Higgins VK3NH

Grant Willis VK5GR

Justin Giles-Clark VK7TW (WIA Director)

A large portion of the Spectrum Strategy Committee activity over the past year has been in preparation for the introduction of the new Radiocommunications legislation, and the associated regulatory and administrative changes.

The development of the WIA's Licence Condition Determination (LCD) submission to the ACMA is an attempt to re-position the hobby for the future. The WIA embarked on a comprehensive series of research activities and member consultations in order to inform its views on the LCD suggestions, and to support the upcoming submission to ACMA.

The Spectrum Strategy Committee is in the final stages of preparing the submission documents, which will be forwarded to the Board for their review. The WIA's suggestions will be then released for comment prior to submission to the ACMA.

In particular, over the past year the Spectrum Strategy Committee has:

- Analysed the draft radiocommunications legislation released in May 2017.
- Embarked on a three-phase consultation with the amateur radio community in order to inform the WIA's proposals for revision of the amateur LCD - Phase 1 general principles, Phase 2 proposed changes to each licence grade, Phase 3 outstanding issues (May-July 2017).
- Consulted with the amateur radio community about changes to the 3575-3700 MHz band (June 2017) and drafted the WIA's response (August 2017).
- Attended a radiocommunications legislation consultation session (June 2017).
- Consulted with the amateur radio community on the ACMA Interference Management proposal (Aug 2017) and drafted and submitted a response to the ACMA (Sept 2017)
- Drafted and submitted a response paper using the consultation information on the radiocommunications legislation (August 2017)
- Attended and reported on the RadComm 2017 (Oct 2017)
- Workshopped with Board members on the LCD submission and drafted a response paper using the LCD consultation information (commenced Nov 2017)

Dale Hughes VK1DSH has continued to be very active in the ITU sphere, attending the following international meetings:

- ITU Working Party 5 meeting in Geneva in May 2017
- APG-2 Meeting in Indonesia in July 2017
- ITU Working Party 5 meeting in Geneva in November 2017

The WIA continues to benefit from Dale's enthusiasm and attendance at international forums in the lead-up to WRC-19.

The WIA maintains the Band Plan which is a voluntary agreement sponsored by the WIA for the benefit of all radio amateurs. The intention of the band plan is to give all amateurs a fair go and avoid cross-interference. The band plan also facilitates regional and international band and mode harmonisation (where possible).

Recently there have been incidences where the Band Plans have not been adhered to. Please remember that Band Plans are there to ensure everyone gets a fair go, and to avoid cross-interference between stations or between incompatible modes. Please also remember that nobody in the amateur service has a right to any frequency, and it is your obligation to avoid interference.

Submitted by Phil Wait VK2ASD

Regulatory Liaison Sub-committee

Peter Young VK3MV – Regulatory Counsel

Dale Hughes VK1DSH - ITU Specialist

Report to the 2018 WIA AGM on WRC-19 preparatory activities

There are a number of agenda items of concern to the amateur service at the next International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-19). It is important that the amateur service be represented in WRC-19 preparatory discussions at international, regional and Australian meetings.

In Australia, discussions between interested and concerned stakeholders are held in Australian Radio Study Groups (ARSG), Task Groups (TG) and at the WRC Preparatory Group (WRC19-PG) which operate under the auspices of the ACMA.

Regional work progresses at meetings of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Preparatory Group (APG) at various locations each year and international work is focused on the ITU in Geneva at meetings of Working Party 5A.

The main WRC-19 agenda items of concern to amateurs are:

1. Agenda item 1.1 seeks a new amateur allocation in the 50 – 54 MHz frequency band in ITU Region 1. While agenda item 1.1 is of direct concern to ITU Region 1 amateurs it is important for amateurs in ITU Regions 2 & 3 to support the work required to achieve a new Region 1 6 m allocation as it helps to reinforce the value of the 6 m band in the other two regions. Region 3, Australia in particular, has useful experience in band sharing between services and a contribution from Australia was provided to the November 2017 ITU-R Working Party 5A meeting outlining Australian sharing arrangements between the amateur and broadcasting services while analogue TV was operational.
2. Agenda item 1.13 seeks additional spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) in various bands above 24.25 GHz. This Agenda item is a potential threat to the 47 to 47.2 GHz frequency band, though at present, discussions in Australia do not cover this band. There is also concern about possible adjacent band interference to the 24 to 24.25 GHz amateur band.
3. Agenda item 1.16 seeks additional spectrum for Wireless Local Area Networks (WAS/RLAN) between 5.150 GHz and 5.925 GHz. This agenda item could affect the 5.65 – 5.85 GHz secondary amateur allocation.
4. Agenda item 9.1.6 seeks a new allocation for Wireless Power Transmission for Electric Vehicles (WPT-EV). This agenda item is of concern because of the very high power and possible widespread usage of such systems which could cause considerable interference to various amateur LF, MF and HF allocations. Significant work in WRC19-PG and ARSG-1 has been undertaken to ensure the interests of amateur service are represented in discussions covering WPT-EV. The preliminary Australian position supports protection of all incumbent radio services from possible interference from WPT-EV systems.

I represent the WIA at the meetings of ARSG-1 and I am Australian coordinator for agenda item 9.1.6. I also represent the WIA at meetings of ARSG-5, TG 5-1, WRC19-PG and I am Australian coordinator for agenda item 1.1. I am also the APG coordinator for agenda item 1.1 and have attended the regional APG

meetings covering Asia-Pacific regional discussions on all WRC-19 agenda items. I am the chairman of ITU Working Group 5A-1 (Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services) which is responsible for all amateur issues at the ITU. (Travel and attendance to ITU meetings is jointly funded by the IARU and the WIA).

Work on all WRC-19 agenda items is progressing and the concerns of the WIA and the amateur service are being heard in the Australian, regional and international meetings. Given the enormous pressure on spectrum usage, only time will tell how successful we will be in protecting the various amateur bands.

I thank the WIA President, the WIA board, the WIA Spectrum Strategy committee and the IARU for supporting the above work.

Submitted by Dale Hughes VK1DSH

Repeaters, Beacons & Frequency Coordination Sub-committee

Peter Mill VK3APO - Co-ordinator

Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) provides a recommendation service for those wishing to licence a beacon or repeater.

Individual radio amateurs and radio clubs are encouraged to discuss their applications for repeater or beacon licences, or a change of licence conditions for an existing service. The WIA does not charge for the service. The full policy URL is at the end of this report.

The amateur applications have been delayed during the year due to the ACMA Frequency Assigners commercial work load. A number of repeater groups have elected to utilise the services of private frequency assigners known as Accredited Persons (APs). The WIA also provides recommendations to the APs to assist with their allocations.

During 2017 there were 60 recommendations made for repeaters and 01 for beacons. There were also 33 recommendations for AP applications

The ACMA's new SPECTRA system software appears to have stabilised. The software friendly spreadsheet for amateur application developed between the ACMA and the WIA, in 2016, has resulted in the ACMA handling applications smoothly and no errors have occurred.

Applicants will have noticed that repeater licences have been issued in bursts during 2017, which is the result of the availability of the ACMA Assigners.

With the development of mixed mode repeaters there have been a number of groups wishing to multi list a frequency with a different emission. The ACMA indicated that this was unnecessary duplication in the data base and it was agreed that 2 emissions would fit most applications.

12.5 kHz allocation 11K3F9W

25 kHz Allocations 16K0F9W

WIA Repeater and Beacon Licence Recommendation Policy:

<http://www.wia.org.au/joinwia/wia/about/documents/WIA%20-%20Repeater%20and%20Beacon%20Licence%20Recommendation%20-Final%20-%20December%202014.pdf>

Submitted by Peter Mill VK3APO.

Standards, Interference & EMR Sub-committee

Phil Wait VK2ASD - Co-ordinator

Noel Higgins VK3NH

Ron Cook VK3AFW

RC006/RC004 standards development committees.

Noel Higgins VK3NH is the WIA's representative on these Standards Australia committees, which develop and maintain AS/NZS radio communications standards. As these are generally industry driven standards, the WIA generally participates in the capacity of a watching brief on spectrum issues which may affect the amateur service. RC006 and RC004 held back to back.

The RC006 (Land mobile and General) committee chaired by Noel (For ARCIA):-

Revised standard AS/NZS 4268 titled Radio equipment and systems - Short range devices - Limits and methods of measurement was published on 22 February. The project, sponsored by ACMA, encompasses changes made to the LIPD class licence and also moves the structure of the standard to one that will eventually update automatically by directly referencing requirements in a "re-vamped" LIPD class licence. The revision work turned out to be quite complicated because the standard references test methodology from both the FCC and ETSI test environments as products in the scope of this standard can come from many sources.

Submitted by Noel Higgins VK3NH

TE003/TE003-19 Standards Development

TE-003-19 is a sub-committee of TE-003 Electromagnetic Interference. These committees are concerned with electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), including the protection of radio reception, in the range 9 kHz to 400 GHz, from interference caused by operation of electrical or electronic appliances, and the setting of limits and test methods. The committee's liaise with the ACMA and with the following International Organizations in the preparation of Standards to protect the radio spectrum:

- CIGRE (International Council on Large Electric Systems)
- EBU (European Broadcasting Union)
- ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute)
- IARU (International Amateur Radio Union)
- ITU-R (International Telecommunications Union - Radio-communications Sector).

My interest is in ensuring that as far as possible the Standards provide protection to broadcast services and amateur radio and that the measurements have an assessment of the measurement uncertainties so passing and failing a device has a defensible basis.

Submitted by Ron Cook VK3AFW is the WIA Representative on the TE003 Committee's

IARU Liaison Sub-committee

Phil Wait VK2ASD - Co-ordinator

Jim Linton VK3PC (SK)

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is responsible for representing the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service at the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) and its preparatory meetings.

In our case, the IARU Region 3 is being represented at a series of Asia Pacific Group meetings for the WRC-19 cycle, where the administrations seek a common position on WRC agenda items. The WIA is supporting that activity and any other Member Society duty.

Jim Linton VK3PC (SK) was the WIA's representative to the IARU Region 3 until his passing early this year. The WIA owes a debt of gratitude for Jim's long years of service as a dedicated and passionate advocate of amateur radio. Jim is very sorely missed.

The WIA will be selecting a new IARU representative later this year.

Submitted by Phil Wait VK2ASD

IARU Monitoring Service Sub-committee

Peter Young VK3MV - Monitoring System Coordinator

The WIA Monitoring System is one of many radio societies reporting arrangements of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). The IARU Monitoring System provide reports of intruders into the "Primary" status Amateur Service high frequency bands to the relevant Regulatory Agencies in member countries.

Like many other areas of the WIA, the monitoring system relies upon volunteers for without their significant contribution each month the WIA could not provide its reports to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) the Australian spectrum regulator. The monthly monitoring reports are placed on the "Members Section" of the WIA website under IARU Monitoring System tab.

In the year 2017, WIA observers detected 4220 intruders, which contrasted with 5294 reports in 2016. This fall off in intruder numbers is mainly due to the retirement of John Kirk, VK4TJ, from this activity and I wish to acknowledge his tremendous efforts over many years. The other factor is the general decline in propagation activity particularly on the high HF bands.

During the year a number of articles on intruder watch activities has appear in the AR magazine and WIA broadcast items from WIA Directors seeking support from interested amateurs to provide intruder reports on a continuing basis, but the take up has been disappointing.

On the international scene, work is underway to build a real time, intruder report and identification internet platform that will supplement the current reporting systems that report after the event. This new development will draw together all monitoring activities across all IARU Regions. It is envisaged that reports can be made using a common internet address or by using a phone app that is being developed. Real time reports will be sent to registered users.

For the WIA monitoring system to continue to work volunteers are required - Can you help? Information can be found on the WIA website on how to become an observer and what's involved, or you can contact me via vk3mv@wia.org.au .

Submitted by Peter Young VK3MV

Technical Advisory Sub-committee

John Martin VK3KM - Co-ordinator

Rex Moncur VK7MO

Paul Bell VK5BX

Walter Howse VK6KZ

Barry White VK2AAB

Bill Sebbens VK4XZ

Peter Freeman VK3PF

Paul Paradigm VK2TXT

Peter Westerhof VK1NPW

John Woolner VK1ET

Peter Cossins VK3BFG

Eddie Saunders VK6ZSE

Peter Mill VK3APO

The past year has been another quiet one. The main activity has been the completion of the realignment of the HF band plans to bring their digital mode segments into line with the IARU band plans. This area will need to be revisited as new modes are developed, and the balance of spectrum use steadily shifts to the greater use of digital modes. The transition has already resulted in clashes on several bands (e.g. 160 metres and 6 metres) with digital activity moving into frequencies that have traditionally been the preserve of CW or SSB activity.

Apart from these issues, and the continuing tasks of data base and record keeping, the agenda of the TAC for the coming year will be determined by the issues or queries raised by amateurs or by the WIA itself.

I wish to thank the members of the technical advisory group for making their expertise available.

Membership List

Coordinator John Martin VK3KM

Technical Advisors

VHF/UHF	Walter Howse VK6KZ
Microwaves	Peter Freeman VK3KAI
Repeaters	Peter Mill VK3APO
Band Plans; Beacons	John Martin VK3KM
EME	Charlie Kahwagi VK3NX
ATV	Peter Cossins VK3BFG
Satellites	Paul Paradigm VK2TXT
Digital DX Modes	Rex Moncur VK7MO
Packet Radio	Barry White VK2AAB
D-Star; APRS	Richard Hoskin VK3JFK

Regional Advisors

President, CRARC, Tim Mills VK2ZTM, Peter Mill VK3APO, Paul Bell VK5BX, Eddie Saunders VK6ZSE, Rex Moncur VK7MO

Administrative Tasks

National Repeater Co-ordinator	Peter Mill VK3APO
Repeater Data Base	Steve Ireland VK2MD
Beacon Data Base;	
VHF-UHF Records	John Martin VK3KM
TAC Email Admin	Robert Broomhead VK3DN

Submitted by John Martin VK3KM

FINANCE WORKING GROUP

Greg Kelly VK2GPK (WIA Director)
David Ford VK4MZ (WIA Director)
Peter Clee VK8ZZ (WIA Director)
Justin Giles-Clark VK7TW (WIA Director)

Please see the Director's Report and Finance Report documents.

AFFILIATED CLUBS COMMITTEE

Ted Thrift VK2ARA

There has been very little coordination activity during 2017, largely due to my marginal health and a considerable workload with training and exams for new amateurs. I have made an attempt to keep up with the club events calendar using entries from AR magazine. I can say that there were no events submitted to me using the input sheet from the WIA website. A down side of handing the Liability insurance back to the WIA office has been a huge loss of contact with clubs.

For many years I have said in these reports that the relationship between the WIA and Affiliated clubs, is and should be a two way benefit. To simply ask ; What does the WIA do for this club, or What does that club do for the WIA, is a very short sighted approach and needs to be revisited.

The affiliated clubs are much closer to the individual amateurs than may I say, what appears to them to be, "the faceless WIA".

In day to day terms the WIA is faceless as most amateurs and very few clubs have any contact with the WIA on a regular basis. Listening to discussions in clubs and On Air, a lot of our amateurs have no idea of the role of the WIA and how it interacts with ACMA and international bodies. This apathy suggests that the present news and information distribution process is not achieving the effect that it should. In saying that I am not criticising the WIA National News effort at all, it is just that many amateurs do not find it important enough to PAY ATTENTION to !

A challenge for me and our new Board of Directors, to make it better so that comment is about how much is happening, not how much IS NOT being done.

I may have the wrong view of things but unless I am needed to support a Board initiative, I see the coordination role as being “responsive and helpful “ rather than “ proactive “and creating work.

In that theme I would like to ask all who read this to think about two of the WIA services to clubs and members.

The first is the **clubs Events calendar**, as mentioned above receives very little input. In the past I have discouraged publishing minor repetitive events, such as monthly meetings, which are largely internal to each club. I saw it as primarily a calendar for inter-club, Regional and National events. I may be wrong in this but it does need input or there will be nothing there and no value to anyone.

The second service is the **individual Club pages on the WIA website**. These were set up as a Nationally accessible source of information and promotion of activities for ALL clubs. A quick scan through the clubs pages will show that, while most keep the information up to date and relevant, there are a lot that have not updated within two years, and some no details at all. We have about 150 affiliated clubs and there are 73 on my list. What is that telling us ?

I have supplied a list of the clubs with stagnant information and it is up to the Board if it is to be available for the AGM Forum. My list does not say that the information is wrong but when it is two to five years old, it does not give a lot of confidence in its accuracy.

Goals for 2018:

Get the events calendar flowing and interesting.

Get the clubs info pages to let people know that our clubs are alive and worth supporting

With little more to add, I will simply paste in last year's final comments.

Contact and Follow up :

I have recently moved over to NBN and my email address has changed. It is now edwardthrift1@bigpond.com and I am happy to receive email from anyone.

My phone number is 0242 729 521 and I would very much prefer that this is used as a last resort.

I do have a mobile phone but it is a “telephone ONLY “I do not send or appreciate SMS messages or any form of text, and I do not support any form of on line media, so please do not offer.

I am the only active Learning Organiser on the East Coast between the South of Sydney and the Victorian border and this makes my time very precious. I cannot do justice to your enquiry if you call when I am doing training or conducting exam assessments.

If you use email I can give you 100% attention.

I so often hear people say, THE WIA did this, or THE WIA did not, please keep in mind, there is no “THE WIA “.

WE are the WIA!

Another useful quote:

“It was once heard that somebody should do something about this, are you not somebody?”

WIA Clubs Pages with outdated information.

No update in past 12 to 18 months.

AREA:	CLUB	Last updated.
National & VK1	Canberra	14 April 2015
	Amsat	28 April 2008
	Hellenic	2 Feb 2016
	Oceania	10 April 2011.
	Rotarians	10 July 2014.
	South Pacific	13 Aug 2013.
VK2:	Aust Air League	26 June 2016
	HADARC	9 Oct 2015
	Liverpool	14 Jan 2016 No Details.
	Great Lakes	29 July 2015
	Karuah	29 July 2015.
	VK2AWA Contest	21 Feb 2012.
	Urunga Conv	23 Mar 2016
	Batemans Bay	6 Aug 2015.
	Far South	26 June 2016
	Mens Shed LR	26 July 2016
	North West	4 Feb 2008.
	Tamworth	29 July 2015.
	Walcha	31 Oct 2008.
	Albury Wodonga	31 Dec 2016.
	Lake Hume	12 June 2014.
	Wagga Wagga	29 July 2015.
	Orange	22 June 2012.
VK3:	A.R.V.	28 Aug 2016.
	NERG	27 Oct 2015.
	Scout Radio	22 Oct 2016.
	Sherbrooke	14 May 2015.
	Vic ARDF	29 July 2015.
	WICEN Vic	2 April 2016.
	Murray Valley	7 Aug 2015.
	Shepparton	31 Dec 2015.
	East Gipps REC	17 June 2016 No Details.
	East Gipps RG	7 Aug 2015.
	Eastern Zone	10 Feb 2016.
	BARG	29 July 2015.
	HAM Radio events	7 Aug 2015.
	Wimmera	29 July 2015.
VK4:	Aussiewide Packet	No Information
	Caboolture Special School	6 Oct 2015.
	City of Brisbane	26 June 2016.

	Historical	7 August 2015.
	Logan West	No Information.
	R. E. S.	29 July 2015.
	SE Qld ATV	7 Aug 2015.
	South Coast ARG	29 July 2015.
	Southside	7 Aug 2015.
	Bundaberg	15 Sept 2016.
	Central Qld ARA	8 Dec 2016.
	Hervey Bay	19 July 2016.
	Mackay	29 July 2016.
	Maryborough	29 July 2016.
	Ipswich	28 Aug 2016.
	Lockyer Valley	7 Sept 2015 Club Closed.
VK5:		
	ACRM Gawler	29 July 2015.
	Airstream	25 May 2012
	NERC	19 April 2016.
	Port Adelaide	29 July 2015.
	SA TV Group	No Information.
	South Coast	4 May 2016.
	Barossa	7 Aug 2015.
	Encounter Coast	7 Aug 2015.
	Moonta Scout	1 Aug 2015.
	Naracoorte	1 Aug 2015.
	Lower Eyre	No Information.
VK6:		
	Geraldton	30 Oct 2015.
	Bunbury	12 April 2016.
	Scout Comms	30 Mar 2010.
	WA AR News	26 June 2016.
	WA VHF Group	11 Mar 2016.
	WICEN WA	7 August 2015.
VK7:		
	NTARC	18 Mar 2014.
	Cradle Coast	30 Dec 2016.
VK8:		
	WICEN NT	26 June 2016.

As in my report. This list does not imply that the information is incorrect, just that it has not been kept up to date. I really try to encourage all clubs to make the handover of this page a formal item at each AGM. Both outgoing and incoming Secretaries need to accept this responsibility.

Submitted by Ted Thrift VK2ARA

Club Grants Sub-Committee

Reg Emmett VK7KK - Committee leader

Peter Lowe VK3CKD

Bill Main VK4ZD

This committee has been inactive in 2017 as there was not a grant round offered in 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Robert Broomhead VK3DN - Committee leader

Roger Harrison VK2ZRH - Deputy leader

Phil Wait VK2ASD

No report from this committee.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Peter Freeman VK3PF (Chair & Editor)

Peter Gibson VK3AZL Chief Technical Editor

Peter Hartfield VK3PH

John Morrissey VK3ZRX (Technical Editor)

Ewen Templeton VK3OW (Technical Editor)

Jim Tregellas VK5JST (Technical Editor)

Kaye Wright VK3FKDW Secretary

Publications Committee Annual Report 2017

During 2017, the Publications Committee (PubCom) continued with the normal production processes for 11 issues of Amateur Radio magazine. During the year, the Article Register shows that 263 articles were received and processed. This number includes regular column and Club News contributions in addition to Technical and General articles.

During the 2017 year, the committee was made up of the following members:

Peter Freeman VK3PF (Chairman and Editor – AR magazine)

Kaye Wright VK3FKDW (Secretary – AR magazine)

Peter Hartfield VK3PH (Callbook Editor)

Ewen Templeton VK3OW

John Morrissey VK3ZRX

Peter Gibson VK3AZL (Technical Editor – AR magazine).

The Committee prepared a report in response to a Board request in mid-January to identify methods which allow magazine production costs to be reduced to achieve a 25% cost savings. As a first step, Peter VK3PF undertook an analysis of the publicly available information from the WIA Annual Financial Reports. At the time, the only figures available were for the years 2012 to 2015. The analysis showed that production and distribution costs had risen over that period, but at a rate less than the official ABS inflation figures. The analysis also showed the perceived “cost increase” relating to AR magazine were in fact due to a significant decline in income from advertising. Advertising sales are not a function of the Publications Committee, a fact which the report highlighted. The Committee also noted that there was no notional contribution from membership subscriptions towards the magazine and thus the Board was viewing the magazine only as a cost centre.

The Committee recommended that the most viable cost reduction method which it believed would be palatable to members would be to reduce the number of issues published in a year by changing from the current 11 issues per year to a bimonthly magazine with 6 issues per year.

At the September 2017 meeting of the Board, the Board resolved:

“That AR magazine publish 6 issues per annum instead of the current 11 starting no later than December-January as the first bi-monthly. The WIA provide a roadmap of the initiative within a budget of \$18,000 per issue.”

It further resolved:

“The future of AR magazine be referred to the Strategic Advisory Committee.”

During the 2017 year, the Board conducted several surveys via the WIA website which included questions relating to AR magazine. PubCom was not consulted regarding the questions asked and has not yet received any information regarding the feedback provided via the surveys, other than public pronouncements made via News Releases on the WIA and announcements made in the WIA News broadcasts. PubCom is disappointed that it was not consulted prior to the pronouncements being made public. PubCom is keen to be involved in future changes to the magazine. Its members look forward to active participation in consultation regarding any future changes.

The Callbook was again produced in late 2017, with Peter VK3PF undertaking the role of Callbook Editor due to Peter Hartfield being unavailable during the key production period. Some delays in production were experienced whilst awaiting decisions by the Board. The final copies were delivered to the WIA Office in early November, with a small number of copies sold at the Rosebud RadioFest. As advised earlier in the year, the Board decided that CDs would not be produced and that an on-line version would not be made available.

The early part of the year also saw the final stages of preparation of the significant one-off book “Wireless Men and Women at War”. This publication was collated from many articles published in AR magazine over the previous years relating to amateur involvement in radio communications. Several additional articles were added to the collection, significantly enhancing the final publication. A large credit must go to WIA Historian Peter Wolfenden VK3RV who collated the collection. Acknowledgement is also made to the efforts of Peter Freeman VK3PF who acted as Editor of the publication. Thanks are also given to Fontana Design for the layout and design work. The 2016/2017 Board decided to use a Print On Demand service for the printing of the book in an effort to reduce up-front costs.

Following some informal discussions at the WIA 2017 AGM weekend, Jim Tregellas VK5JST/VK5TR joined PubCom as a member of the Technical Editor team at its September meeting.

Following the December 2017 meeting of PubCom, Peter Gibson VK3AZL tendered his resignation as Lead Technical Editor, as foreshadowed in September 2016. Peter has served on PubCom for some 35 years. He is first acknowledged as a member of the Technical Editor team in the November 1985 issue of Amateur Radio. In the July 1988 issue of AR, Peter was listed as “Technical Editoring Co-ordinator”. As a result, PubCom will appoint a new Lead Technical Editor at its first meeting in 2018. We shall also be alert to any opportunity to add additional members with the appropriate mix of skills to PubCom.

In December 2017, PubCom resolved to change from quarterly meetings to bimonthly meetings. We recognise that we will need to consider changes to the magazine content and to possibly expand its on-line presence.

The Board has advised that the 2017 surveys indicate that members who responded wish to see more technical articles published. Whilst we may occasionally publish articles from the magazines of sister societies, PubCom is of the view that we need to maintain a strong Australian identity. That means that we continue to need contributions from WIA members. PubCom can offer potential authors assistance in the preparation of their article. All members need to maintain awareness of any new projects being developed by their colleagues and remember to strongly suggest that the amateur write up the project for the magazine.

PubCom anticipates positive engagement with the Strategy Advisory Committee and the Board as we move forward.

Submitted by Peter Freeman VK3PF

AR Advertising Sales Sub-committee

TBA

This position has been vacant for 2017 and therefore there is no report.

Website and Social Media Sub-committee

Roger Harrison VK2ZRH- Social media

Robert Broomhead VK3DN - Webmaster

Marcus Berglund VK5WTF (WIA Director)

David Ford VK4MZ (WIA Director)

Justin Giles-Clark (WIA Director)

Please see the [IT Services](#) section for report.

AGM Sub-committee

Hahndorf 2017 Organising Committee:

Robert Broomhead VK3DN (WIA Representative)

2017 saw the WIA and the Radio Clubs of Adelaide combined to hold the WIA AGM & Convention in Hahndorf, South Australia. The idea to bring it to VK5 was first suggested 18 months ago by a group of Amateur Radio clubs based in Adelaide. This culminated in contributions from the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society, Amateur Radio Experimenters Group, Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club, North East Radio Club and South Coast Amateur Radio Club, who collectively represent over 400 amateur radio operators in South Australia.

The theme the committee based the event on was "Inspiring Leadership: the Future of Amateur Radio". We wanted to bring together the most interesting and innovative activities being undertaken from across the hobby and inspire our hobby's leadership to help drive Amateur Radio forward into the future.

Along the way, we wanted to rekindle the enthusiasm and excitement we all felt when each of us started out in this hobby. We chose the message "Radio is Magic!" to carry that though.

The organising committee worked with the WIA and many clubs and individuals across the state to deliver the theme and make the event memorable for all the right reasons. There was a total of 254 registrations, not quite an all time record but close. By all observations, every single person left with a smile on their face and their enthusiasm for Amateur Radio fired up and alive.

The event itself started with a social evening at the conference venue on the Friday night, which was hugely successful – almost too much so, triggering a last minute venue change as numbers continued to grow.

Saturday morning saw the AGM business meeting conducted successfully and the new board members greeted by the membership. Saturday afternoon was the "Radio is Magic" showcase where the diversity and daring of the hobby was put on show (including a live cross via digital 1.2GHz ATV to Mt Lofty for a live 47GHz microwave demonstration). An enormous thank you must be passed on to all of the presenters who took many weeks to prepare their material and delivered it in a very professional manner.

Meanwhile the two partners tours of the region were well attended. A big thank you must be given to Joy and Shirley VK5YL for their work on the planning and execution of these events.

Saturday evening was the AGM Convention Dinner again held at the Hahndorf Convention Centre. A special thank you must also be passed on to our guest speakers Sue VK5AYL and to our keynote speaker Craig VK5CE, who entertained everyone with his tales about placing Islands on the Air (IOTA).

The finale was the Amateur Radio "Come and Try" day held at the Hahndorf Oval. Live demonstrations of a wide range of amateur activities were carried out by operators both from VK5 and interstate, with highlights including a live Schools Amateur Radio Club demonstration with children from Hahndorf Primary School organised by Joe VK3YSP and Julie VK3FOWL plus a Project Horus balloon launch conducted by the team from the Amateur Radio Experimenters Group. Over 20 different aspects of Amateur Radio were on display, many actively transmitting across the oval from DC (well 630m at least) to (literally) daylight (thanks to Tim VK5ZT's optical communications hear).

In parallel the event also had two special event call signs, VK5WOW and VI5WOW which raised significantly the profile of the event for amateurs around Australia. The regular use of the WIA broadcast in promoting the activities as well as Amateur Radio Magazine and Social media was seen as a key

element of the success in getting so many people to make the trip to South Australia for the event. Something future conference need to keep in mind.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the radio clubs of South Australia. In particular, we wish to thank the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society, Hahndorf Football Club and the Lions Club who sponsored and provided the BBQ on Sunday night, the North East Radio Club who organised the VK5WOW/VI5WOW special event call signs, the Amateur Radio Experimenters Group who organised special permission to fly a balloon from Hahndorf Oval for the event, the South Coast Amateur Radio Club who sponsored the gifts for the presenters and the Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club for the fantastic work of the microwave team and their input into the organising committee.

We also must thank all of the volunteers who contributed in ways both big and small. In particular, we must thank the WIA board and Robert VK3DN for his contribution again to the running of the event. It is only through the partnership between the WIA and the regional radio clubs that events of this magnitude can be successfully staged, and so to everyone involved, we say thank you!

Acknowledgements and Thanks.

- WIA Board – for staging the event
- ALARA. Donation towards the cost of Lavender Farm entry.
- NERC. Application for special call signs & management of the roster for VK5WOW and VI5WOW.
- AREG. Balloon launch.
- SCARC & WIA – Thankyou gifts for the presenters
- John VK5DM and Peter VK3RV, History booklets.
- AHARS. Sponsor of the Sunday night BBQ.
- The willing team of volunteers who helped make this possible.
- The Saturday afternoon and evening showcase presenters
- Craig Edwards VK5CE – Saturday Keynote Speaker
- The Sunday Come and Try Day Presenters

Special thanks to the SA AGM Organising Committee:

David Clegg VK5KC, John Dawes VK5BJE, Jim Tregellas VK5TR, Shirley Tregellas VK5YL, Stuart Fillmore VK5STU, Roy Gabriel VK5NRG, Grant Willis VK5GR, Matthew Cook VK5ZM, David Minchin VK5KK, Iain Crawford VK5ZD, Joy Robins, Dan Flakelar VK5DF, Paul Simmonds VK5PAS

WIA WEEKLY NEWS BROADCAST TEAM

Team Leader

TBA

Anchors

Graham Kemp VK4BB

John Williams VK4JJW

Robert Broomhead VK3DN

Editors

Kerrie Taylor VK2FKND

Kimberley Olsen VK2KMI

Lewis Blume VK2FLJB

Peter Dowde VK7PD

Regular Contributors

Geoff Emery VK4ZPP

Kimberley Olsen VK2KMI

Presenters

Jason Daniels VK2LAW

Col Herbert VK3LED

Felix Scerri VK4FUQ

Brett Marley VK7FTAS

John Williams VK4JJW

Bruce Lees VK3FFF

Callback Compiling

Email Address callbacks@wia.org.au

Gordon Taylor VK4VP

Peter Fauth VK4NBL

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these courageous couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" and was said about 2500 years ago by the Greek historian, Herodotus. He said this adage during the war between the Greeks and Persians about 500 B.C. in reference to the Persian mounted postal couriers whom he observed and held in high esteem.

Much the same can be said of the Wireless Institute of Australia's National News Service which has been nonstop and will continue nonstop bringing information to the Amateur Radio Operators of VK, in fact the world each week in both text and audio.

As long time broadcast editor and presenter, I, VK4BB need to thank a lot of folk again this year.

VK4AA Samantha Scafe who for many many years has provided 'free of charge' web space for the backup versions of the National News (as well as hosting QNEWS the VK4 area weekly news.

VK3DN and VK3GR Robert Broomhead and Bryan Pliatsios who until stepping down 'officially' at the end of 2017 were both the broadcast back up editors and weekly presenters of our Special Interest Group segments since QNEWS morphed into the true National Service.

VK2LAW Jason and VK4FUQ Felix who continue year in year out as presenters of the International segment and Operational news.

VK7TW Justin (WIA President) stepped as my (VK4BB) backup when I took 10 weeks leave at the start of 2018 as a result of the death of my Wife. Thanks especially Justin, but also all the others who in turn helped VK7TW by providing items for broadcast.

We have a couple of new editors this year with Kerrie VK2FKND, Kimberley VK2KMI, Lewis VK2FLJB and Peter VK7PD. Thanks for your work editing and submitting copy.

We have a couple of new segment readers this year, Col VK3LED, Brett VK7FTAS and VK3FFF Bruce. Thanks for your weekly recordings!

Finally, what I call housework, like in a contest where we say the jobs not finished until the paper works done!

When you send an item for inclusion in the news it will only be read once, if you want additional 'plugs' then write different slants so that the item remains fresh on the air.

Write it as you'd expect to hear it being read back. However an audio version from you is preferred.

Now and again some items or parts of an item are not broadcast. As editor (and some 53 years in commercial radio stations) I am only too well aware of defamatory and libellous material. Truth is not an excepted form of negating any defamatory material. In fact an item may still be deemed defamatory even if true.

The WIA news service is just that, a service bringing information on WIA activity and activity of interest to the majority of operators.

Again, thanks for allowing us into your shack each and every Sunday morning.

Walk softly

Submitted by Graham Kemp VK4BB

WIA National News Callback and Download Statistics

Up to 6 May 2018 Broadcast there were:

Count	WIA National News Type
39,210	RF Checkins
51,917	Audio downloads
30,138	Text downloads
121,265	Total for the year to date

A huge thank you to all who rebroadcast on a Sunday morning and undertake many rebroadcasts during the week and report callbacks to the callbacks@wia.org.au address. Without you the WIA National News would not go to air, thank you.

Submitted by Gordon Taylor VK4VP and Peter Fauth VK4NBL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Fred Swainston VK3DAC - Co-Leader

Owen Holmwood VK2AEJ - Co-leader

Ron Bertrand VK2DQ

Peter Young VK3MV

Dale Hughes VK1DSH

Robert Broomhead VK3DN

October 2017 was the 12th anniversary of the introduction of the current LCD. ACMA and the WIA have commenced discussions on the remake of the LCD.

The Assessment Information System continues to work well. The on-line component is providing the information required by assessors. Since the last AGM report there have been no issues with the Assessment Information System. There have been several programming updates to assist the WIA Exam Service in day to day operations. Currently the Issuing of Assessor and Learning Facilitator Certificates is being reviewed and updated to save cost and simplify the process.

The Assessor Information System will be moving to new servers with the same provider shortly and this will most likely have occurred by the AGM.

On line trial exams have been introduced as a “proof of concept” in preparation for the introduction of on line exams. On line exams will be introduced as soon as the process has been proved and is considered sufficiently robust. Several on line remote examinations have taken place to further test the concept. These have proved to be highly successful and have reduced the time and cost between when the exam was conducted and the candidate receiving their licence.

The on-line trial exams have been left accessible due to the many requests made by those entering Amateur Radio and those upgrading. There are currently 367 persons who are using the system. The trial exams were never designed to be a learning tool and therefore have some inadequacies. These issues will be addressed when time allows, and the trial exams made available as a learning tool.

Currently there are 223 assessors using the system. Assessor numbers have increased by 11 over the past 12 months.

Some assessors have not completed assessments for more than a year and the currency of competency issue is continually monitored. The audits conducted of assessors indicate that generally these assessors are in remote areas or areas where there are few assessments requested.

The breakdown of assessors is as follows:

ACT 5: NSW 74: Victoria 60: Queensland 43: SA 19: WA 9: Tasmania 7: and NT 6.

There are currently 49 Learning Facilitators aiding the assessors and 51 assessor/learning facilitator trainees.

There are 25 Nominated Assessors covering all States and Territories. 1 additional Nominated Assessor.
ACT 1: NSW 5: Victoria 6: Queensland 6: SA 3: WA 2: Tasmania 2.

The 25 Nominated Assessors have conducted 320 audits at the time of this report, there were 61 non-conformances. The non-conformances were minor, where the assessor or learning facilitator had not conducted an assessment in the past 12 months. These are flagged as non-conformances relating to currency of competency and are often assessors or learning facilitators who are in remote areas.

1 special and 12 remote assessments have been carried out by the Nominated Assessors. There have been 11, Form 11 exam queries generated since the last AGM report. These have all had a response.

Currently there are no incorrect answers in the question banks; however, some older exam papers in circulation will not be updated with additional information.

There have been 9 requests for recognition of prior learning for theory examinations since the last AGM report. In every case these requests require the applicant to complete a Regulations examination. The standard of RPL applicants has been extremely high with the majority coming from an electrical/electronics radio background. Of the 9 applicants, 7 received recognition for advanced theory and practical, 1 received recognition for standard theory and 1 declined due to insufficient evidence for Standard or Advanced theory.

There has been a general declining trend in the number of persons seeking to sit for the Foundation Licence, with a decrease in 2017 to 363 assessments, from 392 in 2016.

In the 2017 calendar year 71 Foundation licensees qualified to Standard compared with 90 in 2016 calendar year, and 29 Foundation licensees qualified directly to Advanced compared with 30 the year before. We continue to see a general upward trend in licence level upgrades. In 2017 Direct to Standard was 40 – compared to 14 in 2016. 2017 Direct to Advanced 22 - compared to 13 in 2016. This change is significant and may indicate a trend toward potential candidates moving directly to the upper levels of amateur radio licence. This may be as a result of the on-line trial exams providing candidate confidence to take the bigger step.

The WIA Training Organisation wishes to thank all Nominated Assessors, Assessors, Learning Facilitators, Learning Organisers and AR trainers for their co-operation and assistance in encouraging new entrants into Amateur Radio.

Submitted by Fred Swainston, TrainSafe Australia, WIA Nominated Training Organisation

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Bob Bristow VK6POP - Committee leader

Fred Swainston VK3DAC

Greg James VK2SM

Ewan McLeod VK4ERM

Paul Hoffmann VK5PH

No report from this committee.

RADIO ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Committee Leader (Vacant)

Contests Sub-Committee

Alan Shannon VK4SN

Denis Johnstone VK4AE

John Martin VK3KM

Tony Burt VK3TZ

Kevin Johnston VK4UH

Colin Hutchesson VK5DK

Remembrance Day Contest Report

The Remembrance Day contest has seen steady participation over the last 6 years. Submission of paper logs range between 9 and 14, with 14 being part of the 2017 submissions. An average of 215 logs have been submitted, although 198 logs for 2017 and 2016 are the lowest seen yet. Approximately 21 percent of total participants submit their log.

Interesting trends to note is the increase in the CW to SSB contacts ratio. The ratio has risen from 1:31 in 2012 to a staggering 1:9 in 2017. That is good news for CW users and also reflects in the SO Mixed category entries rising from 17 to 28 over time. It is good to see RTTY starting to get some use also. Prior to 2016 the loggers showed RTTY as CW in the mode column, but was rectified for 2017 once the issue was noted. The following two tables give a good overview of the contest.

RD NUMBER OF LOGS RECEIVED PER STATE						
STATE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
VK 1	9	6	6	3	6	3
VK 2	32	51	40	41	48	44
VK 3	33	30	31	40	35	36
VK 4	41	34	23	16	17	15
VK 5	41	38	37	30	26	24
VK 6	46	59	56	58	46	36
VK 7	17	20	16	19	18	38
VK 8	1	2	2	0	0	0
ZL	4	3	0	0	2	2
P2	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	224	243	211	207	198	198

RD NUMBER OF LOGS RECEIVED PER CATEGORY						
Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
SO PH	163	169	135	124	141	131
SO CW	7	18	20	19	11	13
SO MXD	17	18	20	27	16	28
QRP PH	8	10	13	10	11	9
QRP CW	4	6	3	7	2	2
QRP MXD	3	3	1	3	2	2
MS	10	10	8	8	11	8
MM	12	9	11	9	4	5
TOTAL	224	243	211	207	198	198

Full statistics are contained in the 2017 results at:

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest/documents/RD2017FullResults.pdf>

It takes about 2 weeks of work to gather logs, score, check, and produce results and statistics. MS Web Design and Alan Shannon Computers & Cabling have worked together over the last year and now have a fully working log submission website. At present it caters for the Remembrance Day, Trans-Tasman, and the Harry Angel contests. Participants can upload or paste their logs on the website. From here they are automatically checked for dupes, crossed checked against other submissions and categorised. Once the cut off date for the logs expires, the site then shows the category winners. Users will receive an acknowledgement on the submission. If an error occurs during submission, it means that the log is not in the correct format or the original format has been changed in some way.

If the email field is completed in the Cabrillo 3 format when the log is submitted, the final idea is to send PDF certificates to the winners. The advantage here is that certificates will cost nothing to produce and participation certificates will fulfil those past requests. An Admin login will allow managers to view logs and make any changes as necessary, including setting up the next years contest. If other managers wish to

have other contests added please feel free to contact us. An email of notification has already been sent to respective parties.

Have a look at: <https://contester.azurewebsites.net/>

Submitted by Alan Shannon VK4SN



Harry Angel Memorial 80m Sprint 2018

Saturday May 5th 2017. 1000 UTC - 1146 UTC

The Harry Angel Sprint is an annual 80m contest event, first established in 1999, to commemorate the life of Harry Angel VK4HA who, at the time of his death at the age of 106, was the oldest licensed amateur in Australia. The duration of the contest is 106 minutes in commemoration of Harry's age, one minute for each year of his life.

The "HA" is held on or around the first Saturday in May each year. The contest is open to all grades of license holder and is structured specifically to suit both seasoned contesters and operators new to contesting. The rules for this year's event are essentially unchanged from 2017. Place winners in the Harry Angel Contest are also eligible to claim points for the WIA Contest Champion (Peter Brown) Trophy.

"Harry Angel" Rules

The contest is open to all amateurs, who are licensed to use 80m, including individual operators and those entering on behalf of a licensed club or society. The aim of the competition is to make as many contacts as possible in the allotted time. Each station may be worked on one occasion only per mode.

This year there will be four sections PHONE, CW, MIXED and SWL (Short Wave Listener - receive only).

Entries may only be made in one section.

Frequencies:- CW 3500 - 3535 kHz. Phone 3535 - 3665 kHz

Exchange:- RS(T) and serial number commencing at 001

Scoring:- 2 points per CW QSO, 1 point per Phone QSO, 1 point per station logged SWL

Log:-

- Transmitting logs must show Time UTC, Callsign of stations worked, mode, RS(T) sent and received and a serial number commencing at 001.
- SWL logs. Listener entries must include Callsign of station heard, callsign of station being worked and the report being given to station being worked, listeners RS(T) and a listener's serial

number commencing at 001. Listeners may only log stations actually heard but need not have reception of both stations in order to claim points.

Each entry shall be accompanied by a statement to the effect that "Operation was conducted within the rules and spirit of the competition" – this occurs automatically with entries from the VKCL logging software.

Entries: VK Contest Logger (VKCL) is the recommended logging software

Logs may be submitted via e-mail in electronic format, the preferred method, or by post.

To ensure all electronic logs are captured all e-mailed entries must contain the following string in the subject line:-

“Harry Angel Log (CONTEST STATION CALLSIGN)” eg. Harry Angel Log (VK4UH)

Entrants are specifically requested not to send more than one e-mailed log file

Postal entries must be clearly legible and by preference printed in the above VKCL format.

The contest managers request that all logs clearly indicate the callsign of the contest station itself – not the callsign of the operator of person filing the log where this is different.

Hand written and typed entries will still be accepted provided that they are clear and legible and in the same basic format as VKCL

Entries must be received by last post on Monday 21st May 2018

Electronic submission to:- harryangel@redclifferadioclub.org.au

To ensure all electronic logs are captured all e-mailed entries must contain the following string in the subject line:-

“Harry Angel Log (CONTEST STATION CALLSIGN)” eg Harry Angel Log (VK4UH)

Postal submissions to:-

Harry Angel Sprint manager

Redcliffe and District Radio Club

PO Box 20, Woody Point. Qld 4019

All entries must include a return postal address and a current e-mail address. Receipt of all logs will be confirmed by e-mail within two working days.

The managers would also welcome a short note with entries indicating some brief details of the station and antenna used and any comments regarding operating conditions occurring during the contest. (suitable for printing please)

Results:- Results will be announced first on the WIA Sunday Morning News Broadcast and then published within 28 days of the closing date on:-

- WIA Contest website,
- Redcliffe and Districts Radio Club website
- Contest Column of Amateur Radio Magazine

Award:- Certificates will be awarded at the discretion of the contest manager for the top three entries in each of the transmitting sections and for the top entry in the SWL section..

The Harry Angel Sprint 2018 is being coordinated on behalf of the Radcliffe and Districts Radio Club and the WIA by Contest Managers Kevin Johnston VK4UH and Charlie Strong VK4YZ, who this year will be the lead manager.

Full information regarding the contest is available on the WIA Contest website
<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/harryangel/index.php>

and R&DRC website:- <http://www.redclifferadioclub.org.au>

Harry Angel 2017 Results and Certificate winners (*)

CW Section.

STEVE SALVIA	VK7CW	48 *
SKIP HODGSON	VK2ALR	42 *
KUND OLESEN-JENSEN	VK2KJJ	38*
GAVIN BRAIN	VK3HY	34
PATRICK NOVAK	VK2PN	34
HILARY BRIDEL	VK2IUW	34
GEORGE DOWN	VK4XY	30
MIKE DOWER	VK2IG	30
CHRIS THOMPSON	VK1CT	30
GRANT LA DELLE	VK2GEL	8

MIXED Section

WIA AGM station	VK5WOW	105*
LAWRIE MEW	VK5LJ	78*
ALAN SHANNON	VK4SN	75*
PETER MUTCH	VK4LAT	71
JOHN EYLES	VK2YW	61
LAURIE GORDON	VK2GZ	51
MARK RUTHERFORD	VK4FMAX	31
BILL COUSINS	ZL3VZ	29
Hills ARG	VK6AHR	26

PHONE Section

CHRIS CARROLL	VK2SR	79*
CHRIS PLATT	VK5CP	74*
ROB McKNIGHT	VK2MT	72*
ROGER CROFTS	VK4QD	69
CHARLIE STRONG	VK4YZ	67
PAUL SIMMONDS	VK5PAS	63
LES SIDEBOTTOM	VK2CPC	62
DOUG HUNTER	VK4ADC	59
PETER PRATT	VK2TTP	53
TED POWEL DX CLUB	VK2AU	51
PAUL MAINEY	VK2YX	49
RIK THIEL	VK5MU	41
JOHN WATT	VK2QN	38

NORTHERN CORRIDOR group	VK6NC	38
DAVID ROLFE	VK3JL	34
GARRY DUENCE	VK7JGD	32
DAVE JOYCE	VK5FFAU	32
RHODERICK ROWE	VK2TTL	31
PETER MURPHY	VK5KX	30
DERRICK HARCOURT	VK2DEK	29
EPOCH XENOMANIA	VK3FVKI	29
JOHN BENNETT	VK3BSE	24
DARREN JURY	VK5DT	24
GORDON GAM	VK2MTM	23
DOUG McDONALD	VK4KET	22
ALAN WILLS	VK4NA	20
ROB HEYER	VK2XIC	19
GERARD VIAL	VK6QM	17
KEITH WOODLEY	VK6WK	11
CHRIS HENDRY	VK3PAT	10
CLIVE WALLIS	VK6CSW	9
WESLEY PURDY	VK4HWP	7
JOHN KESBY	VK4FKES	6
ROBERT HUDSON	VK2AOR	3

SWL Section.

MARCUS BERGLUND	61*
JOHN RAMSEY	27*

Congratulations to all stations participating

Submitted by Dr. Kevin Johnston VK4UH

Awards Sub-Committee

Marc Hillman VK3OHM

Bob Robinson VK3SX - Coordinator/National Awards Manager

Alek Petkovic VK6APK

David Mcauley VK3EW

Paul Simmonds VK5PAS

John Seamons VK3JLS

Graham Alston VK3GA

No report from this committee.

ARDF Sub-committee

Jack Bramham VK3WWW - Co-ordinator

Been quite an active year for me as ARDF goes. In mid 2017 the Victorian ARDF group made a bulk kit purchase of 80m ARDF Receivers designed by Nicholas Roethe DF1FO. 24 kits in all were purchased with the bulk going to local VK3 and VK2 ARDF enthusiasts and the remaining 5 units set aside for assembling and loaning out at local ARDF events. As I had already assembled 4 units previously I offered to assemble the 5 club units plus 2 more for members not equipped to attempt such a build. Also I would like to thank Bryan Ackerly VK3YNG for his generous offer to load one of his pick and place machines with the project, reflow solder, program and test each of the 24 units. This really made the final assembly of the kit a lot easier.

During the months of July and August 2017 WIA had an ARDF team head to the USA followed by a trip to Mongolia and Lithuania. Reports re our performance at these events appeared in AR.

Between September 2nd and 8th 2018 WIA will be represented at the 19th World IARU ARDF Championships, location for the championships will be South Korea in the Ganwon Province (same location as the 2018 Winter Olympics but without the snow!) So far I have received interest from 5 VK hams interested in attending. Unfortunately I will need to confirm the WIA team early March 2018 but if some more WIA members are also interested in attending I may be able to arrange with KARL (Korean Amateur Radio League) to let one or more into the WIA team. Pricing and location are listed in Bulletin 1 which can be found here: <http://www.ardf2018.kr>

With KARL hosting the World Championships MRSF and JARL recently hosting events it only leaves CRSA and WIA who are next in line to host the 2019 IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships. CRSA have offered to host 2019 but they cannot confirm it until April/May 2018. If CRSA are not able to host 2019 On behalf of the WIA I have offered to be the backup country. Hopefully CRSA are ok to host and we will not be required until 2021.

I am still waiting to receive some 80m and 2m transmitters. I have pretty much all of the equipment required to take ARDF around the country but that can't happen until I receive the 6, 80/2m Foxor transmitters. Once I have the transmitters I will let everyone know and I can then start to plan my trip to take the "Come and try ARDF events" on the road.

Submitted by Jack Bramham VK3WWW

ARISS Sub-Committee

Shane Lynd VK4KHZ - Co-ordinator

Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI – Telebridge

ARISS events completed 2017

- 81 Successful ARISS contacts completed worldwide during 2017 calendar year comprising 52 Direct contacts and 29 Telebridge contacts.
- Three Australian events completed –
 - Australian Air League, South Australia via Telebridge station W6SRJ. This event was mentored by Tony VK5ZAI
 - Beenleigh State High School, Beenleigh Queensland via Telebridge station K6DUE. This event was mentored by Shane VK4KHZ
 - Beaconsfield State School, Mackay Queensland via Telebridge station IK1SLD. This event was mentored by Shane VK4KHZ.
- During 2017 a total of 2 ARISS events were facilitated through our Australian ground station Telebridge network. Contacts comprised 1 x Canadian and 1 x Italian “group contact” which involved three (3) Italian schools and the use for the first time of the recently formed chain of Australian HAMTV ground stations in VK6MJ, VK5ZAI, VK5EI and VK4KHZ which provided over 10 minutes of live and HAMTV in conjunction with voice.

Australian Telebridge Station Status

- VK5ZAI – Tony Hutchison (Active) – HAMTV Equipped
- VK4KHZ – Shane Lynd (Active) – HAMTV Equipped
- VK6MJ – Martin Diggins (Active) – HAMTV Equipped

- Martin has recently changed his status from “Inactive” to “Active”. This change occurred during the second half of 2017 and ARISS welcomes Martin’s return and support.
- In addition to the three active Telebridge stations, Joe Piera VK5EI has joined the group as a HAMTV support ground station. Joe’s support is greatly appreciated as he continues to further develop his HAMTV receive capability.

2017 Highlights

On Friday 11th November 2017 an historical event took place when stations VK6MJ, VK5EI, VK5ZAI and VK4KHZ conducted a successful ARISS experiment by forming a “chained” S Band DATV receive downlink from the ISS as part of a scheduled ARISS School contact between two Italian schools, one in Rutigliano, Italy, and the other in Terlizzi, Italy and ESA astronaut Paolo Nespoli IZØJPA on-board the International Space Station. The school contact was a scheduled Telebridge contact with the usual VHF FM voice on 145.80 MHz downlink via VK4KHZ located at Glenden, Queensland, Australia. However, for this contact, Paolo Nespoli had powered up the ARISS S-Band HAMTV transmitter on the ISS for the express purpose of testing the VK HAMTV space to ground network capability utilising the four VK

stations. This event was highly successful and will hopefully pave the way for the first Australian ARISS school contact utilising the HAMTV network.

Australian ARISS applications

- We currently have Five (5) Australian schools that have been approved and are currently waiting to be scheduled, which is very encouraging, however we will always welcome and support further ARISS applications.

Submitted by Shane Lynd VK4KHZ

QSL CARD COMMITTEE

Team leader John Seamons VK3JLS - WIA National & Inwards QSL Manager

Alex Efimov VK2ZM (VK2) - National Outwards QSL Manager

John Clare VK1CJ (VK1)

Max Chadwick VK3WT (VK3)

June Sim VK4SJ (VK4)

Chris Platt VK5CP (VK5)

Alex Petkovic VK6AP (VK6)

Herman Westerhof VK7HW (VK7)

Greg Winterflood VK8NRX (VK8)

Mike Adams VK3KMA QSL Inwards Operations Manager

Inwards QSL's

The last few months of 2017 saw a number of changes introduced into the WIA QSL Bureau services.

In October, I was appointed into the new role of WIA National and Inwards QSL Manager position, and Mick Adams was appointed into the role of Inwards QSL Operations Manager. After 8 years of volunteer service, the VK8 Bureau Manager, (Craig Edwards VK5CE) asked to be relieved of his duties and steps are almost finalised in filling that position. I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to Craig for his efforts during those past 8 years, and my thanks also to Greg Winterflood VK8KMD, for filling in the VK8 role on a temporary basis since Craig's departure.

During October, the QSL Card Committee was re-invigorated and took on the immediate task of preparing a QSL Bureau Policy paper for the WIA Board. This paper was completed during November and submitted to the Board where it was approved at the December Board Meeting. A copy of that policy can be viewed on the WIA website. During this same period, the QSL Bureau description on the WIA Website, and in the 2018 Callbook, was updated.

By the end of 2017 the Inwards QSL had received, sorted and despatched to the State and Territory QSL Managers over 20,000 QSL cards. At the end of 2017 the Bureau was up to date with the distribution of incoming QSL cards to the State and Territory Bureaus. Of concern, however, is the number of cards being received for DXpeditions to VK9/VK0 and special event call signs, where the call sign owner or QSL Manager is in another country, as well as cards being incorrectly received (eg, VE, VU, VP, etc.). This leads to redirecting a large number of cards to the Outwards Bureau, thereby incurring additional

postage costs twice over. This aspect is now receiving special attention which should see a reduction in costs for the special callsigns in particular.

The cost of sending out QSL cards to the State and Territory Bureaus continues to increase each year. While we attempt to minimise these costs through the use of 3kg and 5kg satchels, the trade-off is that it may take a longer time for the smaller States to reach even a 500g size; under our new policy, we will now be sending cards to each State and Territory bureau no later than every 3 months.

The IARU has recommended to all member societies that every effort be made to deliver all QSL cards received, including to non-WIA members. The Bureaus are looking at how this can be achieved, particularly noting that there may need to be a level of cost recovery from such non-members.

During 2008, the QSL Card Committee are planning to prepare and distribute education packages to Clubs, in an effort to educate WIA Members, and non-Members, regarding the new QSL Bureau policy.

The QSL bureau is one of the few direct services the WIA offers to its members and the cost of operation is still relatively low by comparison with other budget items.

Outwards QSL's

As has been the case for a significant period of time, the Westlakes Radio Club provided the WIA's outwards QSL service during 2017

The outwards QSL service continues to provide a valuable, service to members as seen by the following statistics for the last 3 years:

	2015	2016	2017
QSL CARDS POSTED TO OTHER BUREAUS	26000	22800	16400
QSL CARDS RECEIVED FROM WIA INWARDS BUREAU	12890	18165	15443
QSL CARDS POSTED TO VK2 MEMBERS	9450	5381	2854
QSL CARDS HANDED AT WYONG FIELD DAY	12016	2530	2118
TOTAL	60356	48876	36815

While it looks like the use of the Outwards Bureau is diminishing, these statistics do not tell the full story, as there is currently a backlog in the Outwards bureau of 35Kg of cards (approx. 10,000 cards) that are still to be processed.

As in previous years, there is a continuing problem with non-ITU standard sized cards which cannot be sent through the normal channels. This includes "foldout" cards, which cost twice as much as a normal card in postage costs.

It is noted that some Radio Clubs aggregate member's cards before sending them to the Outwards Bureau. It is found that there are a number of non-WIA member's cards in these groupings, which adds more work for the Bureau staff and delays the sending of member's cards.

The new QSL policy is more restrictive on members who do not sort their outwards cards into the preferred DXCC listing before sending them to the Outwards Bureau. If this continues to be a problem, cards from repeat offenders will no longer be sent.

I would like to personally thank all of the QSL Bureau Managers and their helpers, each of whom is a WIA volunteer, for their assistance in not just sorting and despatching cards during the past year, but their

working as a national cohesive team to improve the service to members that is provided by the QSL Bureaus.

Submitted by John Seamons VK3JLS

Historical QSL Card Collection

Fred Swainston VK3DAC/ VK4FE

The Historic QSL Bureau collection continues to be maintained and is growing thanks to the contributions of the many radio amateurs or their families who donate their cards. The collection is the second largest in the world and houses some of the rarest QSL cards.

Interest in the historical aspects of Amateur Radio is growing for the purposes of developing family histories and providing details of early radio and scientific endeavours.

We continue to maintain WIA contact with Wolf Harranth OE1WHC in Vienna who maintains the world's largest QSL collection including domestic and commercial and other historic radio memorabilia. The WIA Board have an agreement with Doku Funk in Vienna that the WIA continue to preserve their 50,000 card donation.

Over 2017/18 we have had generous donations from family of SK's and others, who have been added to the collection. These are being kept as collections under the name of the original Amateur. Our pre-war collection has increased by several 100 cards which are now filed, based on the collection callsign.

During 2017/8 the QSL collection was used on 9 occasions for major research purposes, where the bureau was able to aid in a variety of areas. The research assistance included:

Copies of individual cards sent to 5 amateurs who were seeking information on the previous or original recipient of their current callsign

- A copy of a card sent to the Tasman Light Historical Group confirming a contact with the Tasman light in 1929.
- Copies of Canal Zone cards sent to the US Radio amateurs who provide an on-line service for these callsigns
- A copy of a card was donated to the Tasmanian Museum for Grote Reber. This card was also provided to and subject of discussions with the Southern Peninsula Astronomical Society and the Astronomical Society of Victoria.
- Doku Funk in Vienna requested and were provided with copies of over 40 Broadcast Station QSL cards. These filled some gaps in the Vienna collection.

Several individual requests were also serviced.

The WIA is acknowledged as the provider of information and scanned cards, for all requests.

Thirty-six individual pre-WWII collections have been curated, sorted and logged into Excel during this year. This cataloguing activity will continue.

A pre-WWII photo collection has been established and is in the WIA Office. This photo collection comprises of scanned copies of any photos identified in the collection. Many of these photos 70 years old and some older and their preservation is a major part of Amateur Radio History.

As the Historic QSL bureau is now able to identify many individual cards or collections, requests can be made for copies of these cards via the WIA National Office.

Submitted by Fred Swainston VK3DAC/VK4FE

HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Peter Wolfenden VK3RV - Committee Leader

Roger Harrison VK2ZRH - Deputy Leader

Linda Luther VK7QP

Martin Luther VK7GN

Jenny Wardrop VK3WQ

Will McGhie VK6UU

Ian Morris VK3IFM

Drew Diamond VK3XU

David Wardlaw VK3ADW

Terry Mowles VK5TM

The History and Archive Committee is responsible for the acquisition and archiving of historical documents relating to the WIA and amateur radio in Australia. Where possible, it provides information about the activities of amateurs and the Institute, to those seeking it.

There are seven major areas of activity.

1. Collecting and selecting documents for archiving.
2. Establishing an electronic Data Base of material held, with the final aim of making this available to members and the public, finally on line.
3. Scanning of all *Amateur Radio* magazines.
4. Converting *Amateur Radio* magazine scans to a searchable PDF format, together with indexing.
5. Operating a Reference Library. (Still being established).
6. Scanning all Australian Call sign listings and Call books.
7. Preparing historical material (or assisting others) for *Amateur Radio* magazine.

Committee

The current Committee consists of:

Drew Diamond VK3XU (Librarian), Linda Luther VK7QP (Library and Archiving advice), Martin Luther VK7GN (Team and Management Advice), Ian Morris VK3IFM (Call Book Scanning and Computer advice), Will McGhie VK6UU (AR Scanning), Terry Mowles VK5TM (AR PDF work and Indexing), David Wardlaw VK3ADW (IARU and WIA activities over the years), Jennifer Wardrop VK3WQ/VK5ANW (Data input and Collection Management), Peter Wolfenden VK3RV, WIA Historian, (Leader, Co-ordinator).

In addition, this year, Brad Crowe VK2CEC has helped by doing some additional experimental Call book scanning work with the 1960-61 call book.

Archive Software - Inmagic Data-Base

Development of the *InMagic* data base software has progressed slowly this year due to a number of personal commitments by those involved. However of recent months, Ian and Linda have been working on the DB structure and a deal of clarification of direction has been achieved including the commencement by Ian, of the DB documentation. In late 2017, Linda participated in an archiving workshop in Hobart and I'm sure that this will be of great assistance to the overall management of this very important activity.

Meanwhile, Jenny and I were able to add a limited amount of information to the existing Excel spread sheet records which will be transferred to the new DB system in the future.

(*InMagic* is a software database used by many historical societies and similar organisations)

AR Magazine Scanning Project.

The actual scanning of *Amateur Radio* magazines is well progressed with all issues from 1933 to 2004, now scanned. This has been a mammoth project executed by previous WIA Historian, Will VK6UU.

The project is now largely in the 'conversion to searchable PDF' phase and this work is being done by Terry VK5TM. Some of Terry's work can be seen on Will's website. Another aspect which Terry has been addressing is the generation of a searchable index for the **AR** issues. All of this is 'heavy work' by both Will and Terry and will be of immense long term value to the amateur radio fraternity, the Archive and the WIA.

Call Book Scanning Project.

Not all call books have been scanned so far. Guidelines for this sort of archival work, to be done by volunteers, has been a 'work in progress' for some time. However finalisation is in sight. The overall project has been 'on pause' while the copyright situation is sorted out with ACMA which is necessary before we can proceed to place call books on the web.

The existing scanned call books are eminently suitable for basic researching, but not all are successfully searchable electronically. In addition, many of these are very large files (mainly PDF) and because of their size, are unsuitable for placing directly onto the website. More to be done in this area.

Some other archive activities during the year.

- Needless to say, many requests from historians and researchers for information about amateurs, their call signs etc. were received and processed during the year. This is an area which is normally reasonably quickly handled by reference to the scanned call sign listings, but it will be a workload largely eliminated once we get call books onto the WIA website.
- Just over 50 years ago (June, 1967), Australia's first 'home grown' satellite, 'Australis Oscar 5', was shipped to America for launching into space. Unfortunately, this did not take place until January 1970 and was 'overtaken' by 'WRESAT', a government satellite launched from Woomera by the Weapons Research Establishment on 29th November 1967.
- An activity in September 2017, which commenced as an invitation to a book launch, about AO-5, morphed into a detailed research project and sound archiving activity. The WIA was involved with the AO5 project and the book launch enabled re-connection with the University of Melbourne AO5 team together with some very worthwhile archival activity.

- On a number of occasions we have been asked where historical wireless/radio communications equipment can be seen and/or photographed. Some years ago, a simple list was established of likely museums. This has now been expanded and we are seeking further information from amateurs associated with, or local to museums which hold significant equipment, which is accessible. It is not in the Archive's 'charter' to collect equipment, but by finally having a comprehensive listing readily available and a few photographs, it will be possible for enquirers to more readily locate where they can view and photograph this sort of equipment.

In Summary.

The strategy of the History and Archive Committee can be summarised as follows:

Purpose. To secure documented history about amateur radio in Australia.

Goals. To make the archived material readily available to those seeking it, whether they be amateurs or researchers generally.

Current Priorities. To continue 'rescuing' (by scanning), early fragile material, together with more current relevant documents.

To develop a searchable, retrievable Data Base of the archive holdings.

(To this end, funding for a computer and an A3 scanner has been requested.)

To make archived material available on the WIA website.

Submitted by Peter Wolfenden VK3RV

RISK & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Brian Clarke VK2GCE (WIA Director and Chair)

David Ford VK4MZ (WIA Director)

Phil Wait VK2ASD (WIA Director)

Marcus Berglund VK5WTF (WIA Director)

This committee was established by the Board in late 2017 and therefore has not met in the 2017 reporting year.

IT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Robert Broomhead VK3DN - Committee leader & Webmaster

Marc Hillman VK3OHM - Assistant Webmaster Programmer

Tim Broomhead VK3KTB

Roger Harrison VK2ZRH - Website Content reviewer

David Ford VK4MZ (WIA Director)

Marcus Berglund VK5WTF (WIA Director)

Aidan Mountford VK4APM

Introduction

We are pleased to provide you with a copy of the annual IT and Website report. As usual our report contains website data and statistics which we reported on each year, as well as a statistical analysis of the ACMA licence database data. With the statistics providing a valuable insight into the use of the website and with amateur licencing in Australia.

The website's available callsign lookup facility, the AR Digital edition download, the weekly MP3 WIA news broadcast, the WIA callsign@wia.org.au email facility, the websites wide range of promotional and reference pages, support for the competitive and for the operational aspects of our hobby all continue to be responsible for contributing to the high level of traffic to our site.

Stats for the period April 15th 2017 through to April 15th 2018.

Website Hits

Over the last 12 months the WIA website has received just over 17.6 million hits, a slight increase in the number of hits since this time last year. The website averages 2050 visitors per day (note ..a website visitor clocks up many hits during their visit to the website particularly if the person is doing a repetitive task such as looking for a callsign utilising the online available callsign register). We are also aware that quite a number of members have the WIA website as the home page on their web browser, each time the members web browser is opened and WIA home page displayed will be recorded as another visit to the WIA website.

Data Served

Over the last 12 months the WIA has served out in excess of one terabyte of data. This is made up of around 350 gig of web page traffic from our main web pages, over 800 gigs of the WIA news broadcast traffic from our broadcast mp3 download service (working out on average to 1079 downloads per week) and over 90 gigs of traffic from 9500 member downloads of the digital edition of AR magazine. In addition, traffic is utilised by the mail system forwarding members callsign@wia.org.au email addresses to their personal email accounts. The WIA utilises a number of different hosting services to ensure that the overall cost for the provision of this amount of data is minimised.

News Broadcast

Over the last 12 months there have been 57,233 downloads of the weekly news broadcast representing an increase of 17% over the previous 12 months. Many members have chosen to subscribe and download the

broadcast using our RSS feed subscribing to the news broadcast as what is commonly known as a Podcast or Netcast. The broadcast with the highest number of downloads over the last 12 months is Sunday 7th of January 2018 with 1,420 downloads.

Contact the WIA Website Email Form

450 people have used the websites “contact the WIA email form” in the 2017-2018 year. The breakdown of people using the WIA email contact form were:

- 368 people sent an email to the National WIA Office
- 31 people sent an email to the WIA President
- 51 people sent an email to the WIA Webmaster

Available Callsign Lookups

Over the last 12 months there have been 59,830 lookups of available callsigns using the WIA website available callsign database.

AR Magazine Digital Edition

In late June 2014 we launched the Members Only providing the download of Digital Edition of AR magazine. This has proved very popular with members with 33,718 downloads of AR magazine since it was launched. The following are the monthly download statistics for the last 12 months.

277 downloads April 2107 digital edition AR
867 downloads May 2107 digital edition AR
759 downloads June 2107 digital edition AR
790 downloads July 2107 digital edition AR
782 downloads August 2107 digital edition AR
755 downloads September 2107 digital edition AR
803 downloads October 2107 digital edition AR
887 downloads November 2107 digital edition AR
304 downloads December 2107 digital edition AR
881 downloads January/February 2018 digital edition AR
567 downloads March/April 2018 digital edition AR

AR Hardcopy Suspension

Currently 254 members have decided to suspend receipt of their hardcopy AR magazine choosing to access the digital edition alone, this is an increase of 42 members than this time last year. Members can elect to suspend receipt of their hardcopy AR magazine via their Member Profile management page accessible via logging into Memnet.

WIA callsign@wia.org.au Email Address

Currently 2,484 members have taken advantage of the WIA email address forwarding service providing them with their WIA email address in the format callsign@wia.org.au forwarding email to their personal email account.

Public Enquiry Form

The website also provides a public enquiry form completed by anyone seeking further information on how to get into the hobby of Amateur Radio. In the last 12 months 126 people have completed that form. The WIA office staff follow up each enquiry mailing out information packs on amateur radio, included in the packs are a personalised letter, some promotional literature including a Calling CQ brochure and a sample back issue of AR magazine. The public enquiry form also asks people to identify the age bracket they fall into, the results are of particular interest. Listed below are the age breakdown the current 12 month period, they are as follows...

1. 7 were in the age bracket 10 -19 years
2. 11 were in the age bracket 20 - 29 years
3. 24 were in the age bracket 30 - 39 years
4. 23 were in the age bracket 40 - 49 years
5. 44 were in the age bracket 50 - 59 years
6. 12 were in the age bracket 60 - 69 years
7. 5 were in the age bracket 70 years and over

Statistical Analysis of Amateur licence data

This document has been generated in response to a Terms of Reference document created in Jan 2016 which called for an investigation of what analysis could be performed on WIA held data. Initially, this will focus on the RADCOM data provided by the ACMA.

Data Included

Between the years 2005 and 2014, the WIA has been provided with the RADCOM data by the ACMA of CD-ROM. In 2015 there was a transition to the new SPECTRA system, with a significant change of database format. This data includes details of all licences and licence holders. Some years have a complete set of 12 monthly disks, whilst some years only have about 3 disks. The last available disk from each year has been selected. These have been imported into an MS-Access database for further analysis. Only Year, Callsign, client ID and licence grade have been extracted from the licsing.csv file.

Year	Month
2005	Nov
2006	Nov
2007	Sep
2008	Oct
2009	Dec
2010	Dec
2011	Dec
2012	Dec
2013	Dec
2014	Dec
2015	Jan 2016
2016	Dec
2017	Dec

Table 1 - Month of data snapshot

Data Extracted

Licence Category by Year

The table below describes the number of licences, by grade, by year. The analysis ignores the fact that some people could have multiple callsigns, and possibly at multiple grades. So, it counts the number of callsigns, not amateurs.

Year	Category	Count
2005	Advanced	11901
	Foundation	8
	Standard	1858
2006	Advanced	11621
	Foundation	937
	Standard	1894
2007	Advanced	11539
	Foundation	1441
	Standard	1928
2008	Advanced	11313
	Foundation	1728
	Standard	1984
2009	Advanced	11154
	Foundation	1989
	Standard	2047
2010	Advanced	11038
	Foundation	2149
	Standard	2070
2011	Advanced	10911
	Foundation	2251
	Standard	2101
2012	Advanced	10763
	Foundation	2278
	Standard	2064
2013	Advanced	10504
	Foundation	2341
	Standard	2069
2014	Advanced	10321
	Foundation	2375
	Standard	2029
2015	Advanced	10184
	Foundation	2458
	Standard	2079
2016	Advanced	10045
	Foundation	2476
	Standard	2098
2017	Advanced	9930
	Foundation	2572
	Standard	2134

Table 2 – Category count by year

Year	Totals
2005	13767

2006	14452
2007	14908
2008	15025
2009	15190
2010	15257
2011	15263
2012	15105
2013	14914
2014	14725
2015	14721
2016	14619
2017	14636

Table 3 – Totals by year

Year	Category	Total
2005	Amateur Beacon	28
	Amateur Repeater	345
2006	Amateur Beacon	28
	Amateur Repeater	349
2007	Amateur Beacon	28
	Amateur Repeater	367
2008	Amateur Beacon	29
	Amateur Repeater	390
2009	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	403
2010	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	418
2011	Amateur Beacon	32
	Amateur Repeater	423
2012	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	438
2013	Amateur Beacon	35
	Amateur Repeater	435
2014	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	451
2015	Amateur Beacon	36
	Amateur Repeater	442
2016	Amateur Beacon	35
	Amateur Repeater	441
2017	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	463

Table 4 – Beacons & Repeaters by year

Joiners, Leavers & Upgraders

An analysis has been performed to determine the number of Joiners, Leavers & Upgraders. For the first year, everyone is a 'joiner', i.e. it establishes the baseline.

The numbers in this table may be slightly less than those in the previous section as multiple callsigns are ignored, and Amateur Beacons and Repeaters have been excluded.

Joiners are those ACMA clients who did not exist in the previous year.

Leavers are those who disappeared from the RADCOM data for that year.

Upgraders are those whose grade changed that year. 3 types of upgrade are possible:

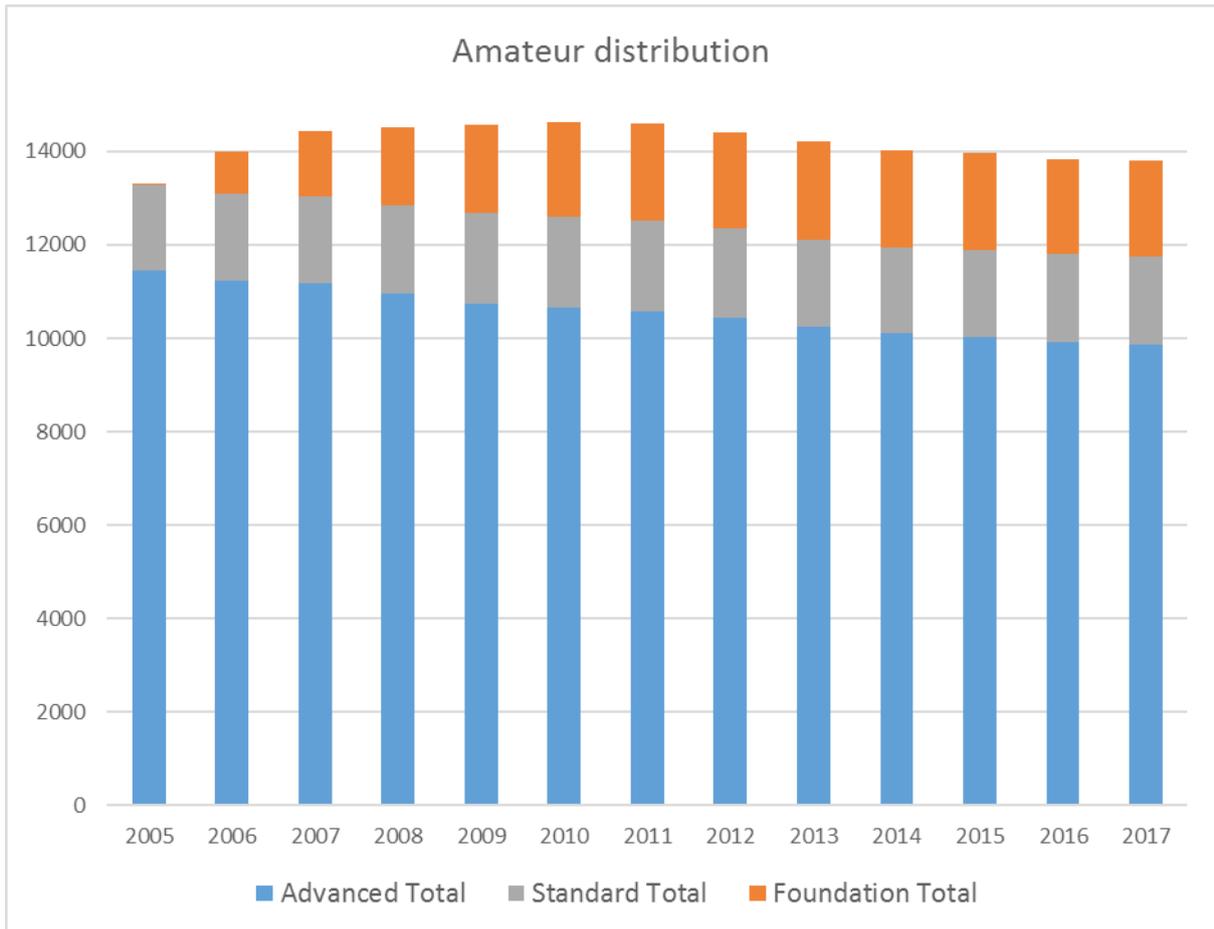
- Foundation to Standard (F->S)
- Foundation to Advanced (F->A)
- Standard to Advanced (S->A)

There are instances where a licence lapsed, and the amateur rejoined later. These rejoins are counted as a Leave, followed by a Join.

Also shown are the number of Foundation (F never) and Standard (S never) licence holders that have never upgraded.

Year	Join/ Foundation	Join/ Standard	Join/ Advanced	Join/ Total	Leave/ Foundation	Leave/ Standard	Leave/ Advanced	Leave/ Total	Upgrade/ F->S	Upgrade/ F->A	Upgrade/ S->A	Amateurs Total	Foundation Total	Standard Total	Advanced Total
2005	8	1832	11461	13301	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13301	8	1832	11461
2006	916	168	320	1404	0	117	586	703	1	1	41	14002	922	1843	11237
2007	622	92	296	1010	56	99	421	576	70	16	49	14436	1402	1857	11177
2008	579	134	268	981	180	128	603	911	100	46	65	14506	1655	1898	10953
2009	557	121	290	968	178	111	615	904	106	43	71	14570	1885	1943	10742
2010	474	100	245	819	229	114	430	773	88	35	69	14616	2007	1948	10661
2011	416	95	237	748	226	93	453	772	82	42	75	14592	2073	1957	10562
2012	353	68	210	631	248	113	456	817	63	51	79	14406	2064	1896	10446
2013	386	88	204	678	254	114	514	882	78	35	70	14202	2083	1878	10241
2014	390	60	214	664	268	113	450	831	74	42	72	14035	2089	1827	10119
2015	399	115	250	764	239	115	468	822	94	53	71	13977	2102	1850	10025
2016	233	71	181	485	171	87	370	628	99	28	66	13834	2037	1867	9930
2017	505	151	344	1000	308	151	572	1031	106	75	92	13803	2053	1881	9869
Totals	5838	3095	14520	23453	2357	1355	5938	9650	961	467	820				
F never	2010														
S never	1004														

Table 5 - Joiners & Leavers



Observations

This analysis provides some data that allows some trends within the amateur population to be observed (and there are some interesting trends). Not unexpectedly, this data raises more questions than it answers. It provides insight into WHAT is happening. Because correlation does not equal causation, it is difficult, if not impossible to determine WHY. We can really only speculate.

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