

From the WIA Board Table

Official News from the WIA Board of Directors.

Number 1

This Information is for Dissemination to all Radio Amateurs

January 2017

Editorial

The first Board meeting for 2017 was held on the 24th January. The Board has moved forward on a number of issues noted below. It will be an interesting year with our change program continuing to provide better services to members.

For more information on any of these issues check the WIA web site www.wia.org.au or email the WIA Office.

nationaloffice@wia.org.au

Phil Wait WIA President

1. ANZAC Publication

Our ANZAC publication "Wireless Men and Women at War" is in the final stages of completion and is ready for printing. There has been a delay in finalising the book, but it is an excellent publication. Pre-sales have been great with over 100 already sold. Orders can be placed via the WIA's on-line bookshop

2. WIA Archive Collection Policy

The archive policy has been reviewed and updated by our historians and has been approved by the Board. The updated version is on the WIA Web site.

3. Volunteer Charter

The volunteer charter has been updated to reflect comments received from committee members, and a final draft is now on the WIA web site for comment. The charter is an important step towards providing an appropriate environment in which our volunteers work as well as guidelines relating to responsibilities and authorities.

4. Membership

The WIA Board is concerned about dwindling membership, and has set about implementing processes to address this issue. This is a complex problem and the Board have received a paper on

possible ways to encourage new members, as well as encourage existing members, to renew their membership.

The office routine for issuing membership, reminder, and final reminder notices has been upgraded from being run monthly to two weekly. The first renewal notice is sent to members by email, and the following reminder notices sent via Australia Post. Please make sure that your email address is correct in Memnet or you will not receive the first renewal notice. We cannot guarantee timely Australia Post delivery since their services were reduced last year.

5. Coupon System for New Radio Amateurs

The new coupon system which provides three month trial access to the digital edition of AR is now in its implementation stage. This is another of the WIA's membership strategies. It offers new Radio Amateurs a three month trial of the online digital edition of AR magazine and is intended to encourage new entrants into the hobby to join the institute. Coupons are currently being printed.

6. Consultation Policy

A draft member consultation policy has been developed based on Federal and State Government best practice. This policy has been in draft form for some months and is now ready to go to members for comment. Watch the WIA website for information.

7. ACMA Issues

It is expected the new Radiocommunications Act will be released by ACMA for public comment in February. The final document will be tabled for debate during the spring session of Parliament. ACMA workshops will be held in capital cities of all States and Territories.

A new radiocommunications Spectrum Plan was released by the ACMA.

Discussions are continuing between the WIA and the ACMA in relation to suggested changes to the Amateur LCD, in order to allow operation on 60mx and other variations.

The Board has received queries relation to US reciprocal licensing. A draft Board issues paper has been developed which will form the basis of discussions with the ACMA

8. WIA Awards for 2016/7

The WIA is seeking nominations for the Merit Awards, to be presented at the WIA AGM in South Australia, May 2017. Nominations must be accompanied by a nomination form available from the WIA Office, or the WIA web site. Criteria for awards are also available on the WIA website. Nominations close on the 31st March 2017.

9. AGM Preparation

The AGM preparations are well underway and continuing. Bookings can be made on line via the WIA web site. It's looking to be a great weekend.

10. Club Insurance

The Club Insurance process has commenced. Clubs should have received an email from the WIA Office. If your club has not received this email please contact Bruce at the WIA Office. An important Email will be sent early February.

11. ACMA Reporting

The end of calendar year ACMA report has been completed, with the exception of financial information which is added after the Financial Audit. This is ahead of schedule