

## **IARU Liaison Report #1**

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### **WIA International Support**

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) involvement is part of the WIA's extensive advocacy role. It can be a difficult, time consuming, and expensive activity – that often goes unnoticed by WIA members.

The outcomes of this most important work benefits all radio amateurs. A small part of the WIA membership subscription goes towards international activities, to support the IARU.

The IARU was founded in 1925, and formally recognised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as the representative of Amateur Radio. It has more than 160 member-societies.

Each WIA member pays a small fee that goes to the IARU Region 3. All member societies in the region pay a similar per-member fee, under a budget set by their representatives every three years.

This funds the many activities of IARU Region 3 Directors, and in turn each of the three IARU Regions pay for, and contribute to, the IARU Administrative Council that sets the overall policy and management.

At the ITU World Radiocommunications Conference in Geneva last November, the IARU had team of 18 looking after the amateur service and amateur satellite service.

Some were within their country or industry groups, but through the IARU looked after our interests too.

Chairing the ITU Working Group 5 was WIA member Dale Hughes VK1DSH. His reports on the lead up meetings, progress and outcome of WRC-15 are well known.

If fact, the WIA was a founder of the IARU R3, and for many years has been seen as punching above its weight. This included the work of David Wardlaw VK3ADW, and Michael Owen VK3KI (sk) - both at different times holding the role of IARU Vice President.

The pair were among the IARU team that helped obtain the so-called WARC Bands at WARC-79. Later, Michael VK3KI did a lot of work for the IARU on the abolition of mandatory Morse code tests.

Carrying on that tradition, WIA representatives continue to play an active part in discussions at international levels to defend the bands we have, as well as advocate for them nationally through the ACMA.

Through the IARU at the WRC-07 it was decided that there be a world-wide secondary allocation at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, and through the work of the WIA it came into force on January 1, 2009.

The IARU was at the WRC-12 where 472 kHz to 479 kHz (630 Metres) was allocated, and the WIA representation saw it become a reality on from January 1, 2013.

Even if there are no apparent items of interest, the IARU needs to participate in regional meetings, to ensure awareness of what is happening with spectrum use.

When you pay your WIA subscription, please remember that part of it goes toward international activities, which can determine the future of all Amateur Radio activity.