

IARU Liaison Report #2

Jim Linton VK3PC

iaru@wia.org.au

This is an update of what the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) does for you, the radio amateur, through membership of the IARU member society, the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA).

The IARU is a federation of national associations of radio amateurs, representing over 150 countries around the world.

The IARU is organised in three regions, to broadly mirror the structure of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and its related regional telecommunications organisations.

The WIA belongs to IARU Region 3 which covers the Asia-Pacific, with R2 for the Americas, and R1 Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Northern Asia.

Each region has a triennial conference. R3 was in Bali last year, R2 is in Chile in October 2016, and in R1 will hold its conference in Germany in 2017. Each region examines the agenda and resolutions made by the other two regions, and have a representative at those regional meetings.

What has IARU done for radio amateurs?

The IARU represents the interests of the Amateur Radio Service worldwide to relevant international organisations, promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and seeking to protect and enhance its spectrum privileges.

Over the years, the IARU has worked hard on achieving new bands as well as access to new regional allocations on - 136 kHz; 475 kHz; 5 MHz; 10 MHz; 18 MHz; 24 MHz; 50 MHz and 70 MHz.

Individual administrations, like the Australian Communications and Media Authority, are very mindful of the IARU advocacy and work at the ITU World Radio Conferences, the last being WRC2015 in November 2015.

The IARU wants harmonised allocations at 50 MHz, 1.8 MHz, and 3.4 GHz - for all three regions.

Australia through the WIA is yet to obtain access at 5 MHz and 70 MHz, full unfettered access at 50 MHz, and an expansion at 1.8 MHz now allocated for another use. The ACMA is fully aware of the IARU stand.

The WIA did achieve access to 136 kHz and 475 kHz, has long had the full 300 kHz of 40 metres (7.000 – 7300 MHz), a band not yet allocated in some areas, and long access to the so-called WARC bands of 10 MHz, 18 MHz, and 24 MHz.

IARU works for us

There has been extensive improvements to our international roaming and licence recognition by radio amateurs, but this is an area that takes time to overcome outdated thinking of a few local administrations.

The IARU is seeking further harmonisation of licence qualifications and a mutual understanding on the issue.

At the same time the IARU seeks sensible emission standards for PLT or BPL systems, which involves a lot of work at regional and international standards forums.

The IARU seeks to protect against unwanted interference that may be experienced by licensed users of the spectrum.

Many member societies continue taking local advocacy action on the topic, like the WIA advocacy to the ACMA and through its membership the Standards Australia Committee and the Radiocommunications Consultative Council.