



THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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EDITOR'S REPORT

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Editor Amateur Radio

Colwyn VK5UE was Editor of AR up to and including the December 2005 issue. During November 2005, I was approached to take on this task. I initially declined the request. Following further approaches, and being included in most of the email traffic relating to the assembly of the December issue, I accepted the position following a meeting with the Secretary and Minutes Secretary of the Publications Committee. The January/February issue effectively marks the commencement my role.

It has been a steep learning curve. I must thank Colwyn for his work over the past years, and for his assistance in the transition to the new arrangements. I also greatly appreciate the tolerance shown to me by the Publications Committee, the staff at Newsletters Unlimited, and Board members Michael VK3KI and Ted VK2ARA. I must also acknowledge the invitation, which I was pleased to accept, to meet the Board in Sydney at its February meeting and to join them the following day at Wyong. This enabled all of us to meet face to face and to exchange ideas.

An early action following my appointment was to arrange email addresses for the Editor and the Secretary of the Publications Committee using the wia.org.au domain. This was a simple short term measure to avoid publication of private &/or business email address. It will however make any future transitions easier for the general membership of the organisation, as these addresses simply redirect to actual email addresses that fit with the ISP of the individual office bearer.

Several other issues have been under discussion.

Following many emails and much discussion, the Publications Committee has adopted a statement concerning expectations of authors regarding permission to publish. The statement was drafted by Michael VK3KI, adopted at the April meeting of the Publications Committee and will be published in May issue of AR.

It has become apparent that many members do not understand that our organisation is run largely by volunteers. Some seem to expect immediate responses to enquiries. Others expect that articles submitted for publication will appear almost immediately, as they are not aware of the review process that we have in place. I see this as another challenge for the organisation – the members must become aware that we really have only a skeletal staff of paid employees, and that much of the work of the organisation is done by individuals in their

spare time. If we had a larger proportion of licensed amateurs as paid up members, we might be in a position to give better service – yet another challenge for us all.

Contributions of articles for the magazine continue to trickle in. We seem to be receiving more “general” than “technical” articles. This makes it difficult to maintain a reasonable balance of technical content. Of course, I must thank our regular column contributors for their continued input – this makes my task somewhat easier. Some discussions on Internet for a show that some members of sister societies do not appreciate changes in the direction that have appeared in their society’s journals.

The May 2006 issue will 2 significant changes to AR magazine. It will be interesting see how (if) these will be perceived by the membership. One change is the inclusion of several pages of 4-colour content within the body of the journal. This is happening as a trial, as a result of changes in plant at the printer. It represents an exploration of what might be possible in terms of production quality and costs using the current production techniques. Both the Board and the Publications Committee will be examining the outcomes carefully.

I am certain that other issues will arise. I will continue to work to resolve these issues, together with the Publications Committee and the Board, to maintain, and hopefully improve, our journal.

Peter Freeman