# 2013
# Annual General Meeting
# Open Forum Reports

# Contents

# THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA
### ABN 56 004 920 745

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting
### Tradewinds Hotel, Fremantle, WA,

### 9.10 am, Saturday 25 May 2013

**Present:** 68 members were present.

**Opening:** The Chairman Phil Wait VK2ASD declared the meeting open at 9.10 am, and welcomed all present.

**Apologies:** Peter Wolfenden VK3RV, Jenny Wardrop VK3WQ, David Wardlaw VK3ADW, Dale Hughes VK1DSH, David Box VK5DB, Meg Box VK5YG, Ken Fuller VK4KF, Glenn Woodrow VK4FARR, Michael Charteris VK4QS, Noel Ferguson VK3FI, Brian Farrar VK2AH, Jenny Adams VK3MDR, Keith Bainbridge VK6APK, Garry Bryant VK3KYF.

**Silent Keys:** The Chairman followed the previous practise and honoured Silent Keys.

At the request of the Chairman, the meeting stood in silence in memory of all the Silent Keys of amateur radio in Australia.

**Procedure:** The Chairman outlined the procedures of the meeting and the role of the following Open Forum in allowing a full discussion on issues of concern to members.

Proxies were called for – none were listed.

The Chairman then pointed out that every member was entitled to offer comment and ask questions during the formal statutory meeting.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were amended to correctly record the callsign of Colin Hirst VK5HI in the apologies and to correct the spelling of Eric van de Weyer VK2VE.

Moved Terry Ryeland VK2UX seconded Ross Masterson VK2VVV that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting having been distributed, and amended, be accepted as a true record.

Carried unanimously.

**Financial Statements:**

The Treasurer John Longayroux VK3PZ presented the Annual Financial Statements, Directors Report and Independent Audit Report for the year ended 31 December 2012.

Moved John Longayroux VK3PZ that the Annual Financial Statements, Directors Report and Independent Audit Report be received and adopted, seconded Bruce Bathols VK3UV.

Carried unanimously.

**Election of Directors**:

The Chairman announced the result of the election of directors as follows:

Robert Broomhead VK3DN - 860 votes
Ewan McLeod VK4ERM - 824 votes
Fred Swainston VK3DAC - 791 votes
Roger Harrison VK2ZRH - 772 votes
Stuart Fillmore VK5STU - 603 votes
John McRae VK5PO - 520 votes

Therefore the four positions will be filled by Robert Broomhead VK3DN, Ewan McLeod VK4ERM, Fred Swainston VK3DAC, Roger Harrison VK2ZRH.

The Chairman thanked Stuart Fillmore VK5STU and John McRae VK5PO for putting their names forward.

The Chairman thanked retiring Directors Philip Adams VK3JNI and Trent Sampson VK4TS for their service to members of the WIA.

**General Business**

The Chairman opened the floor to General Business.

Northern Tasmania Amateur Radio Club nominated Robin Harwood VK7RH for Life Membership of the WIA.

Carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.32 am.

Signed as a true record


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Phil Wait
Chairman

Date: ………………………………….

# THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA
**ABN 56 004 920 745**

## Open Forum Notes 2013
### Tradewinds Hotel, Fremantle, WA

### Saturday 25 May 2013

**Opening of the Forum**

The Forum opened at 9.35am immediately following the closing of the Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all present, explaining that the purpose of the Open Forum is to allow presentation of reports on activities during the past year and to allow questions from members that which will be addressed by the Board members present. Additionally, it allows the raising of any issue by any member present, without the formal restrictions of the statutory meeting.

<u>**President's Commendation Awards:**</u>

**Roger Harrison VK2ZRH** in recognition of his work on behalf of the WIA in the preparation of submissions to the state government regarding Amateur Radio Antenna Masts in NSW.

**Greg James VK2GRJ** for his contribution as Assistant Treasurer of the WIA in particular in relation to the MYOB function.

**Dianne Ashton VK3FDIZ** for her valuable ongoing contribution to the administration of the WIA, with particular regard to the Examinations Service and callsign recommendation process.

**Margaret Williams** in recognition of her years of service to the Wireless Institute of Austrlia.

**Denis Johnstone VK4AE** in recognition of his contribution over ten years as Contest Manager for the John Moyle Field Day.

**Alan Shannon VK4SN** in recognition of his contribution as Contest Manager for the Remembrance Day Contest.

**Bob Robinson VK3SX** for his ongoing contribution as Awards Manager, and in recognition of his contribution in the restructure of the Awards programme to a world class standard.

**Marc Hillman VK3OHM** for his contribution to the development of the WIA Awards programme by the creation of a new series of support tools.

**Deane Blackman VK3TX** for his creation of a Log checker for the Remembrance Day Contest.

The President reported on the passing of Michael Owen and how the transition has been managed and ongoing.

Treasurer John Longayroux reported on the progress of the MemNet membership system.

After morning tea, the President outlined plans to restructure the operation of the WIA, incorporating a committee structure.

The floor was the opened for questions.

**Phil Jamieson VK6IP** spoke about establishing a Rules page on the WIA website. Clubs also need to update their information on the website following their AGM.

**Bob Tait VK3XP** suggested the material presented by Phil Wait relating to the committee structure be incorporated into promotional material to assist clubs to lift membership.

**Ed Durrant VK2JI** suggested a "bare bones" type membership – no voting rights, no magazine, no discounts etc. The President responded, highlighting the costs of the WIA, specifically cautioning against linking *AR* magazine to membership.

**Kathi Suminer VK6KTS** asked how to respond to the question "What does the WIA do for members?". Downloadable brochure was suggested as an aid.

**Ron Cook VK3AFW** told of his club moving to an e-journal from a paper copy. He estimated that 15-20% of members have difficulty in receiving it for various reasons.

**Grahame O'Brien VK2FA** requested a pdf version of *AR* for people with disabilities. John Longayroux responded.

**Eric Van de Weyer VK2VE** asked why AMSTAT was removed from the committee structure. Phil Wait responded that it was at their request.

**Bruce Bathols VK3UV** suggested reducing *AR* to a bi-monthly publication to reduce cost. **Terry Ryeland VK2UX** spoke in opposition.

**David Carwana VK5DMC** commented regarding ATV. People don't have access anymore, and suggested WIA lobby for a section of spectrum for TV.

**Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI** urged people to engage local press to communicate to the public what it is we do. **Raffy Shammay VK2RF** and **Ross Masterson VK2VVV** each spoke in support, stressing that young people will only respond if we speak their language.

**Anthony Benbow VK6AXB** called for an expansion on the roles of Regional Committees. Phil Wait did so.

**Linda Luther VK7QP** spoke to the Historian's Report. She stated that this demonstrated the committee structure in action.

**Stuart Hopwood VK6VSH** spoke about the National Sound and Movement Museum.

**Ian Connell VK6ZIC** commented on the 'throwaway' society.

**Heath Walder VK6TWO** called for a focus on communication between all committees.

**David Carwana VK5DMC** spoke about communication with candidates.

**Terry Ryeland VK2UX** spoke of digital constraints on Foundation licensees.

**Kevin Johnston VK4UH** called for a return of the Ron Wilkinson Award to its original assessment criteria.

**Onno Benschop VK6FLAB** urged operators to engage new licencees on air.

**Raffy Shammay VK2RF** called for the computerisation of the assessment system.

**Kathi Suminer VK6KTS** agreed, but stated paper documentation must remain an option.

**Philip Adams VK3JNI** commented on scouts/young people are not continuing with the hobby and that this could be remedied by examining the digital options as mentioned earlier and for the amateur community to answer calls from Foundation operators.

**Onno Benschop VK6FLAB** spoke about the F-Troop system

**David Clegg VK5KC** suggested a free twelve month membership for new exam passes.

**Terry Ryeland VK2UX** suggested encouraging F-calls into antenna building as a way to encourage and engage them.

**Martin Luther VK7GN** noted that there's nothing new under the sun. When he was first licenced in the sixties he had trouble getting contacts, too.

**Sam Adcock VK6KSA** thanked all those who participated in JOTA.

**Ray Smith VK3HSR** suggested that the social side of the conference be included in reports.

**John Hassell VK6JAH**, **Terry Ryeland VK2UX** and **David Carwana VK5DMC** spoke of towers and the laws, from federal to state and local.

**Phil Wait VK2ASD** spoke about the Standards Committee and its work.

**Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI** expanded on his report.

**Phil Wait VK2ASD** asked for input regarding future Conferences. **Ray Smith VK3HSR** suggested alternating between country and city venues. Discussion ensued.

The meeting closed at 12.52pm.

# Open Forum Reports
# for calendar year 2013

## ITU-R Study Groups and related activities

This report covers my activities during the year since the last WIA AGM in May 2013. These activities have been to:

1. Represent the WIA views to the ACMA on a number of WRC-15 agenda items. This representation is via the WRC Preparatory Group and Australian Radio Study Group meetings.

2. To present the agreed Australian view on WRC-15 agenda items at the ITU and APG[1] meetings.

In May 2013 I assumed chairmanship of ITU Working Party 5A-1 'Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services'. WP5A-1 deals with all current and ongoing issues of relevance to the amateur service. While the main focus at present is on AI 1.4 there is input into other agenda items and ongoing revision of ITU texts of relevance to the amateur service. My attendance at the WP5A-1 meetings is funded 50-50% by the WIA and IARU.

There are three WRC-15 agenda items that are relevant to Australian amateur operators:

AI 1.4: A possible secondary allocation around 5300 kHz. This is a challenging issue for both the WIA and ACMA with much discussion taking place. The Australian Preliminary View is:

"Australia does not support a secondary allocation for the amateur service in ITU Region 3:

• in the 5 250-5 275 kHz band and recommends it be excluded from consideration given sharing with oceanographic radar is not feasible

• over the entire 5 275-5 450 kHz band

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[1] The APG meetings develop the regional responses to WRC agenda items and APG represents a regional block that has significant influence in WRC negotiations.

Australia will continue to monitor studies conducted under this Agenda item and will review possible alternative technical or regulatory options that may provide limited secondary access to the amateur service in the range 5 275-5 450 kHz."

This is a reasonable position at this time and leaves the way open for a small secondary amateur allocation subject to affirmative results from ITU sharing and compatibility studies.

AI 1.12: Possible extension of the Earth Exploration Satellite Service that may affect the secondary 3 cm amateur service allocation. The Australian Preliminary View is to support the agenda item and some transient interference to amateur operations in the 3 cm band may result depending upon the final selection of frequencies. Any interference will be brief and nearly always occur around dawn as the EESS satellites operate in a sun synchronous orbit. Due to these factors this agenda item is not seen as a significant threat.

AI 1.18: A possible co-primary allocation with the radio location service (short range automobile radar systems) in the 77.5 - 78 GHz frequency band which is a primary amateur allocation. These systems already exist in Australia and many other countries and the view is that amateur service can peacefully co-exist with the radio location service in this band due to the very different operational characteristics. In any case we have no chance of stopping the further implementation of these systems even if we wanted too.

Sharing and compatibility studies for these three agenda items are underway at the ITU in Geneva and the results of the studies will inform the discussions at the World Radio communications Conference which is expected to be held in November 2015.

For agenda items 1.4 and 1.18 I am the Australian coordinator and I liaise with the ACMA and other stakeholders in developing the Australian views that go forward to the ITU and APG.

**Meetings attended since May 2013:**

WP5A-1. Geneva, 20/5/2013 – 31/5/2013

APG-2. Bangkok, 1/7/2013 – 5/7/2013.

ACMA ARSG-5. Canberra, 23/8/2013.

ACMA WRC-15 Preparatory Group meeting. Canberra, 1/11/2013.

WP5A-1. Geneva, 10/11/13 – 29/11/2013.

ACMA ARSG-5. Canberra, 11/12/2013. Unable to attend, apologies & report submitted which was included in meeting minutes.

ACMA WRC-15 Preparatory Group meeting. Canberra, 1/4/2014.

**Upcoming meetings:**

WP5A-1. Geneva, 19/5/2014 – 30/5/2014., APG-3. Brisbane, 8/6/2014 – 13/6/2014, Any other meetings as required.

***Submitted by Dale Hughes VK1DSH***


## IARU Liaison

IARU and in our case Region 3, is responsible for representing the amateur service at WRC preparatory meetings of our regional telecommunications organisation, where the

administrations of the ITU's Region 3 attempt to agree a common position in respect of the various WRC agenda items.

The Region 3 Directors meet annually, and in June will meet in Brisbane as a number of Directors will be attending APG preparatory meetings there, as delegates of their home countries, and it made economic sense to all meet at this time. Dale Hughes VK1DSH will be present at the APG meeting.

IARU Region 3 has a continued relationship with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, the regional telecommunications organisation of administrations in Region 3, and of which the APG is a part.

The Chairman of IARU Region 3 Directors Gopal Madhavan has had a meeting with APT Secretary General Mr. Yamada to discuss the relationship between the two organizations. IARU Region 3 proposed a draft MoU and after the discussion they agreed to further consider the benefits of MoU.

R3 Chairman Gopal Madhavan and Director Geoff Atkinson VK3TL attended the IARU Region 2 conference and discussed and shared many common aspects of amateur radio with member societies in that region. The Directors meeting in Tokyo in August 2013 coincided with the Japan Hamfest, and an opportunity to discuss and share mutual concerns, bureaucratic constraints and forward discussions on new frequencies and modes to ensure future opportunities. There are 29 member Societies in Region 3.

Chairman of the Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Jim Linton VK3PC has continued in an active role working with the Regions Emergency co-ordinators.

The spectrum is scarce and there is much commercial pressure to claim every last potential Hz of bandspace, including from the amateur service. We must be vigilant and good stewards of our allocations.

***Submitted by Geoff Atkinson VK3TL, WIA IARU Liaison Officer and IARU Director Region 3***

## ACMA liaison

The WIA has met with the ACMA on many occasions during the year, particularly in regard to the Higher Power Trial and the WIA assessment and licence activities it performs on behalf of the ACMA.

**High Power Trial**

The High Power Trial did not result in a permanent increased power limit for Advanced licensees, however the WIA does intend to revisit the issue in the future when it considers the conditions more favourable.

**EME Awareness**

In order raise awareness of EME issues amongst radio amateurs, and to improve the chances of obtaining a higher permitted power limit for advanced licensees, the WIA has embarked upon a series of WIA of EME awareness lectures in local clubs.

# Standards Australia

The WIA continues to be an active member of Standards Australia:

## TE003 and TE003/19 Committees

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 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).

The WIA has been a very active participant in these Standards committees, especially during the period of wide-area BPL/PLT field trials in Australia. More recently the WIA has submitted proposals for extending radiated emission testing to frequencies below 30 MHz, and is currently monitoring the interference and susceptibility potential of VDSL vectoring technologies, used to deliver very high speed broadband over twisted copper pairs.

***Submitted by Phil Wait VK2ASD***


## RC006/RC004 Committees

Standards Australia RC006 (Land mobile and General) and RC004 (Marine) committees develop and maintain AS/NZS Radiocommunications Standards. As these are generally industry driven Standards, the WIA generally participates on these committees in the capacity of a watching brief on spectrum issues which may affect the amateur service. The ACMA is currently preparing to revise legislation due to its age and consequently the standards picked up by that legislation are being reviewed and revised where necessary to make them fit for purpose. ACMA developed a two year time frame proposal to revise five standards covering FM and HF land mobile, FM/AM paging and short range devices early last year.

For information from the ACMA on "Sun setting and Stakeholder engagement" see http://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/About/Corporate/Responsibilities/sunsetting-and-acma-stakeholders. This also affects the EMC, EMR and Telecommunications regimes.

The main standard where affects are likely to impact on the amateur service is shared spectrum of the short range devices standard AS/NZS 4268 which parallels LIPD Class licence changes proposed by the ACMA. For more information refer to the ACMA website at http://www.acma.gov.au/Industry/Suppliers/A-Type-of-equipment/WirelessMicrophones/variations-to-the-lipd-class-licence

Apart from general work on a range of beacon and other standards issues on international committees, RC004 is currently preparing a project proposal to replace the aging VHF marine standards. AMSA, who chair the committee, are providing input to proposed channel plan changes in ITU Appendix 18, to allow development of VHF Data Exchange Systems. This service is additional to the Automatic Identification System (AIS anti-collision) channels already operating in the band.

*Submitted by Noel Higgins VK3NH*


## Standards Compliance, Interference & EMR

### Interference

Interference will continue to be a problem for amateur radio in the urban (and domestic) environment as more and more household devices contain electronic control systems that contribute to the "electronic smog" and ever increasing noise floor. This means that we need to be constantly vigilant of the commercial use and roll-out of COPL (communication over power line) devices as these can have a major impact on HF activity and beyond.

COPL is a very difficult area to police as there is no simple test to determine compliance. We can however determine where there is gross non-compliance.

### EMR/EMC Compliance

The committee has the capacity to test devices to assess EMR/EMC compliance with the relevant applicable standard. We do not have a NATA approved test facility but it is sufficiently accurate to enable us to determine whether the device is compliant, borderline or not.

Whilst we have not had any devices referred to us for testing throughout 2013, we did test a COPL data transceiver pair and the results were published in *AR* March 2013.

### The Future

The Standards Interference & EMR sub-committee acknowledges that there is has more work to do and will in the coming year:

- Encourage input from any amateur who has a device that they wish to have tested to determine compliance *(naturally, priority will be given to mass market consumer devices with a known potential for interference – Ed.)*;

- Encourage communication regarding QRM arising from non-compliant technology;

- Issue updates via AR on changes to standards or their application to amateur radio;

- Source and promulgate educational material to increase our knowledge and understanding of the relevant standards and their immediate application or implication to our hobby.

*Submitted by Gilbert Hughes VK1GH, and Rob Milliken VK1KRM*

# Technical Support

The Technical Advisory Committee continues to provide technical support for the various WIA functions and administration of the Band plans. The TAC provides valuable support to the WIA office, especially in answering technical member enquiries. The main areas of activity are described below.

**Band Plans**

The 40 metre digital modes segment has been extended upwards, as the first step of harmonisation of the band plan with the new Region I plan.

A proposal is being developed for possible DV (digital voice) calling frequencies to the added to the HF and VHF band plans.

A detailed plan is in preparation for changes to the 6 metre band plan now that the full 4 MHz of the band is available in all parts of the country. Two main areas of interest are in providing an expanded beacon segment, and making frequencies available for extra repeater channels.

**ATV**

Consideration is being given to revising the subdivision of the various band plan ATV segments, to cater for a wider range of different bandwidths that are possible using DVB-T digital transmission.

**Repeaters**

The revision plan for the 2 metre band has been on the table for more than two years now. No major problems have emerged and the way looks clear for the full implementation of the plan including the use of the new 12.5 kHz spaced repeater channels.

**Data Bases**

In the twelve months from April 2012 to April 2013, there were four updates to the beacon data base and ten updates to the repeater listing.

**Conclusion and recommendations:**

As usual, I thank all members of the TAC advisory panels for their contributions. I recommend that the appointment of these members be continued for the coming year.

*Submitted by John Martin VK3KM*


# National Repeater and Beacon Coordinator

The WIA Repeater and Beacon Coordinator is responsible for the processing of licence applications prior to submission to the Australian Communication and Media Authority, (AMCA). 44 Repeater and 2 Beacon Coordination's were handled in 2013.

Coordination by the WIA not only ensures compliance with the Band Plans, avoids inappropriate frequency allocation and interference, but also limits the ACMA administrative time that would otherwise come at a considerable additional cost.

The WIA continues to have a good relationship with ACMA technical staff, who are always most helpful. The ACMA's licensing section is responsible for coordination and licensing across the radio spectrum, not just the Amateur Service, and we continue to receive excellent service.

The pressure on 2 metre repeater allocations continues along the East Coast due to a shortage of available channels. To enable the most efficient use of the spectrum, each application is accessed against a set of guidelines before being recommended to the ACMA.

During the year a new source of 2 metre repeater interference emerged at a number of communications sites in Victoria. The interference was due to the use of an ACMA Trunk Radio Planning document called LM8 which, by including a set of channel tables, attempts to assist with the frequency allocation for trunked radio services.

However, while the use of these tables reduced interference within the trunk allocations, it is causing interference to 2 metre repeaters as the first and fifth frequencies in each group are 600 kHz apart. Representation to the ACMA in relation to the use of LM8 is on-going.

Thanks to John Martin VK3KM for his ongoing support and maintenance of the Band Plans. John's work has greatly assisted the efficient allocation of frequencies for amateur repeaters and beacons, which all rely on good band planning.

The evolution of digital mods for the Amateur Services continues with an increase in the use of P25 and DMR/Mototrbo along with the established D-Star mod.

It is recommended that those conducting licence training classes, and those giving talks at club meetings, continually reinforce that it is the primary responsibility of the individual radio amateur to operate within their Licence Condition Determination (the LCD), when operating through repeater systems.

Thanks to the WIA Office Staff for the administration and coordination of repeater and beacon licence applications, and the supply of updates to members and the NTAC committee.

***Submitted by Peter Mill VK3APO, and Richard Cerveny VK2AAH.***


## WIA Monitoring System

The WIA Monitoring System, formerly known as Intruder Watch (IW), is one of many radio societies reporting arrangements of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). The IARU is heavily reliant on volunteer observers who provide reports of intruders into the "Primary" status Amateur Service high frequency bands.

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 ACMA. The majority of the regular monthly reports have come from; John Kirk VK4TJ, I wish to record my sincere thanks for his monthly reports. In July Karl Henning VK6XW, who has provided monitoring reports for a number of decades retired and I thank him for his contribution over the years. The WIA is keen to have more members to provide regular monthly reports.

In the year 2013, WIA observers detected 6543 intruders, which contrasted with 5869 reports in 2012. Monthly monitoring reports were provided to the Australian spectrum regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). Due to the iterant nature of some intruders, the ACMA has difficulty in determining which ITU member administration is responsible, which draws out the process for their removal. There are, however, some Administrations that ignore requests for removal of services from our Primary status bands.

There has been some success in the removal of broadcast stations operating in the band 7100 to 7200 kHz. Some broadcasting services in Region 3 (the ITU Region that covers Australia) located in the segment 7100-7200 MHz of the 40 meter band have been authorised by Radio Administrations that have use the provisions of ITU Table Frequency Allocations by way of footnotes which allows operation in this segment. Australia is a participant in these arrangements, but to date has not made any assignments for the Broadcasting service.

With enhanced propagation conditions on the higher HF bands, there has been a multitude of OTHR systems. There is still a large proliferation of Chinese, Turkish and British OTHR system along with CODAR systems (oceanographic radars) particularly on 20 to 10 metre bands. The use of Software Defined Receivers (SDR) has been able to identify the extent of military like transmission systems called "HF Man Packs", which use Phase Shift Keying and frequency hopping techniques across the HF spectrum with short 6-8 audible pulses in length. These technology systems will only increase in the future putting more pressure on our spectrum allocations.

The WIA monthly monitoring reports, are placed on the "Members Section" of its website. 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, WIA Monitoring System Coordinator*

## Administrative Committee

John VK3PZ (Treasurer), Greg VK2GRJ (Assistant Treasurer), David VK3RU (Secretary), Mal VK3FDSL (Office Manager), Phil VK2ASD (President), Chris VK5CP (Vice President)

The Administrative Committee is concerned with the day-to-day running of the WIA, the efficient operation of the WIA Office, and the WIA's financial management.

During 2013 all membership records were transferred to the MemNet System. This system permits members to access their records on line, update details, obtain their membership status and pay their membership fees all through a single portal.

All members are encouraged to register through the WIA Web site Members area so that they can maintain their records. To date 25% of our members have registered. It is most

important that when trying to register that you enter your name and membership number exactly as it appears on the printed address label of your copy of your latest *AR*.

There is now a range of ways that membership fees can be paid such as BPay, by Direct Funds Transfer through your bank account, by Debit /Credit Card through the MemNet System or by cheque or Postal Order through the WIA Office by mail. Memberships may also be paid quarterly by a direct debit system.

The MemNet System has provided much better management of our membership records, mailing systems and financial management. As with all new systems MemNet has taken a short time to bed in but it is now functioning well.

The Administrative Committee continues to monitor all WIA income and expenditure and is constantly looking for opportunities to implement greater efficiencies and cost savings that will benefit members.

**Licence and WIA Membership Statistics**

**New licences issued:**

| Licence Type | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Foundation** | 541 | 480 | 411 | 360 | 414 |
| **Standard** | 170 | 137 | 121 | 100 | 118 |
| **Advanced** | 102 | 85 | 96 | 86 | 93 |
| **TOTAL** | **813** | **702** | **628** | **546** | **625** |

**Total number of amateurs**

The total number of amateurs in Australia is the ACMA total of Amateur Licences less Repeaters, Beacons and cancelled / expired licences. Where an amateur has more than one licence, only one licence is counted.

| Number of amateurs | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Foundation** | 1,979 | 2,151 | 2,204 | 2,248 | 2,304 |
| **Standard** | 1,997 | 2,013 | 2,033 | 2,005 | 2,012 |
| **Advanced** | 10,622 | 10,479 | 10,306 | 10,123 | 9,874 |
| **Total** | **14,598** | **14,643** | **14,543** | **14,376** | **14,190** |

**Number of WIA members:**

| Membership type | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Life | 35 | 36 | 34 | 32 | 32 |
| Full | 3,051 | 3,151 | 3,154 | 3,127 | 3,080 |
| Concessional | 1,107 | 1,108 | 1,129 | 1,125 | 1,128 |
| Family | 99 | 99 | 98 | 96 | 93 |
| Non-AR (no longer available) | 201 | 187 | 167 | 146 | 139 |
| Student | 15 | 16 | 20 | 26 | 27 |
| Overseas | 33 | 44 | 47 | 37 | 39 |
| TOTAL WIA MEMBERSHIP | 4,541 | 4,641 | 4,649 | 4,589 | 4,538 |
| As a % of Total Amateur Population | 31% | 32% | 32% | 32% | 32% |

## Financial

Please see the *'Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2013'*.

## WIA Office

The WIA office continues to operate with two full-time staff members and some regular and casual volunteers. During the year Margaret Williams retired, and with the introduction of MemNet (Membership management software) and more options for paying membership fees directly there has been a saving. The office provides most of the core WIA business functions such as accounts administration, membership management, education and assessment administration, callsign and certificate of proficiency administration and member telephone and Email enquiries.

It is expected that the office functions will change slightly as the MemNet system is fully introduced. Staff position descriptions, and key responsibilities and performance indicators are in the process of being developed.

## Affiliated Clubs

At this time the WIA has 155 Affiliated Clubs.

During the year it was determined that a couple of clubs could not meet the constitutional requirements for WIA affiliation, and their affiliation was withdrawn.

## Club Grants

Club grants were not offered this year due to the financial circumstances of the WIA. It is hoped a revised grants scheme can be initiated in the next year or so.

## WIA Insurance

This year the WIA negotiated a new insurance policy with Miramar Insurance. The WIA is not a licensed financial or insurance advisor and must not give advice regarding this policy. Clubs must review the insurance policy themselves to determine its suitability.

## Issues Requiring Attention

1. Clubs need to keep their clubs page on the WIA web site up to date. Many clubs information is out of date, office holders have not been updated, and contact information is incorrect.

2. Clubs need to promote an awareness of being part of the WIA, and actively promote membership. There is still the feeling that I joined the club, so why should I join the WIA, aren't they the same?

3. Correspondence with clubs indicates that there is an expectation for the WIA to respond rapidly to any enquiry or request. Being aware of how much of the WIA workload is done by volunteers and making an effort to receive and respond to correspondence From the WIA would relieve this problem. When asking something, an explanation of the need and urgency always helps.

*Submitted by Ted Thrift VK2ARA*

The Communications, Marketing, Publications and AGM Committee was involved in a number of initiatives over the past year.

The greatest effort has involved helping the WIA promote the hobby of amateur radio, including involvement, late in 2013, in the do-it-yourself "Maker" shows at North Melbourne and Sydney's Powerhouse Museum.

For the last 6 months the committee has generated material for the PR4Amateur Radio event.

The committee has received a large number of requests for the "Calling CQ" brochures and posters used by clubs for general amateur radio publicity. "Calling CQ" brochures are also sent in response to public enquiries received via the WIA office and the website.

The first face to face meeting of the marketing committee is due to take place following the AGM. *Submitted by Robert Broomhead VK3DN*

## Publications Committee

At the end of 2012, the Publications Committee (PubCom) resolved to meet quarterly in March, June, September and December. If needed, additional meetings could be called and/or items of business could be discussed via email.

This approach worked well during 2013, and continues. PubCom now has a set of processes that work well for the receipt and processing of contributions to the magazine, with perhaps only one item receiving occasional comment from contributors – sometimes concerning the long delay between an article being submitted and its appearance in the magazine.

Given that all of the pre-production processing of articles is done by volunteers, such delays will always be present. When we have a large stock of articles on hand, publication delays will be longer – as Editor, I need to try to have a reasonable balance of content in each magazine, plus we have a defined space available in each issue.

The previous Editor of the *Callbook* indicated that he wished to resign from the position after completion of the 2013 edition. As a result, late in 2012, expressions of interest were sought via *Amateur Radio* (*AR*). Two potential candidates were identified by December 2012, and Peter Hartfield VK3PH was appointed Editor *Callbook* at the March 2013 meeting

of PubCom. I am happy to report that Peter was able to deliver the 2014 *Callbook* by the planned production date.

Members and readers are indicating to PubCom members that the current format and style of the magazine is well received. We are essentially at the limits of the printing system currently used, and further improvements in printed quality would require a change of print process, which would incur significant cost increases, costs that are well beyond our budget.

During the 2013 year, PubCom had further discussions regarding provision of a digital issue. Members will be aware that we are planning to introduce a digital version of *AR* from the July 2014 issue, (such discussion really belongs in the 2015 report).

As always, PubCom encourages amateurs to submit articles and high quality photos for publication. There will usually be a delay between submission and publication of material, but we always endeavour to publish material as soon as we can, but not without having reviewed the material. Guidelines for contributors can be found on the *AR* magazine pages of the WIA website.

***Submitted by Peter Freeman VK3PF, Editor Amateur Radio and Chair of Publications Committee***


## WIA Broadcast

A blanket "thank you" for the behind the Editor help I have received for some probably 10 plus years:-

Felix VK4FUQ and Jason VK2LAW who have never let me down as readers of Operational and International news each week. Robert VK3DN and Bryan VK3GR for not only reading Special Interest group news most weeks but always able to step in and handle news when I am away. And of late Jim VK3PC who each week sends "read ready" news stories we can bring you.

On the local VK4 scene we could never forget Geoff VK4ZPP who keeps supplying his discussion point even whilst undergoing intrusive medical procedures! And Alan VK4FABR for handing QNEWS when I am absent.

The results were tabulated at week 44 so these figures will be a little less by the time the AGM is on:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total readers and listeners | 113,700 |
| RF checkins | 34,800 |
| MP3 and streaming downloads | 41,400 |

And thank YOU for taking the time to read and listen to VK1WIA National News.

***Submitted by GraHam VK4BB***

The assessment system and process continues to work well. The on-line component is providing the information required by assessors and over the past 12 months there have been no issues with the Assessment Information System. The on-line Assessor and Learning Facilitator training information has been completely reviewed and updated to be consistent with current practice and somewhat simplified based on feedback from those completing the program. This training program is now such that it is in a position to be converted to fully on-line with no paper based responses and this should occur 2014/2015.

The process to convert all assessment documentation to on-line forms has commenced and this work will continue during 2014/2015. Some forms have already been converted and are currently under test. There are discussions taking place with ACMA to ensure that the WIA and the WIA Nominated Training Organisation have authority to modify their forms to an on-line version.

Currently there are 217 assessors operating using the system. Some of these assessors have not completed assessments over some months and the currency of competency issue will be continually addressed.

There are currently 45 Learning Facilitators providing assistance to the assessors and 51 Assessor/Learning Facilitator trainees.

Currently there are 23 Nominated Assessors covering all States and Territories.

Breakdown of assessors and learning facilitators:

| State | ACT | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nominated Assessors | 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Assessors | 3 | 63 | 53 | 45 | 23 | 11 | 3 | 7 |
| Learning Facilitators | 1 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 |

The 23 Nominated Assessors have conducted 232 audits over the past 12 months and as the result of these audits there were 16 non-conformances. The non-conformances were of a minor nature where the majority were the assessor or learning facilitator had not conducted an assessment in the past 12 months.

9 special and 11 remote assessments have been carried out by the nominated assessors.
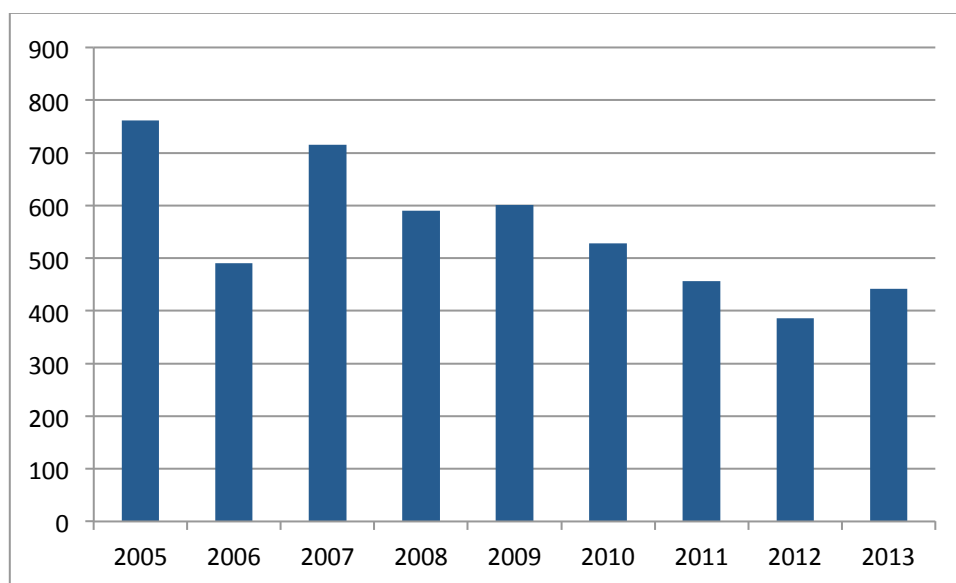
There have been 9 Form 11 exam queries generated over the past 12 months. These have all had a response. Currently there are no incorrect answers in the question banks however

some older exam papers will still have incorrect answers, and all Form 11s were generated as a result of old exam papers still in use.

There have been 9 requests for recognition of prior learning for theory examinations. In every case these requests require the applicant to complete a Regulations examination. The standard of applicants has been extremely high with the majority coming from an electrical/electronics radio background. Of the 9 applicants, 8 received recognition for advanced theory and practical, 1 received recognition for standard theory.

Since 2009 when approximately 750 Foundation examinations were conducted we have seen a general decline in the number of persons seeking to sit for the Foundation Licence. With consistent effort with the PR4AR activity this trend can be turned around. It is up to radio amateurs to encourage new entrants into amateur radio.



**Candidates completing Foundation licence from 2005 to 2013**

October 2015 is the 10 year anniversary of the introduction of the Foundation licence and the WIA Board are planning an event to celebrate this milestone.

The WIA Training Organisation wishes to thank all nominated assessors, assessors, learning facilitators and learning organisers along with those who provide training for their co-operation and assistance in encouraging new entrants into Amateur Radio.

***Submitted by Fred Swainston VK3DAC, WIA Training Organisation***

## Contests

**VHF-UHF Field Days**

The main issue in the past year has been continued pressure for a change to distance based scoring, which I have not supported.

During 2013, proposals for a change to the scoring system were put to the WIA Board on three occasions. Each time the issue was referred to the Contest Committee, in accordance with the WIA's agreed processes. But then in early 2014 the issue came up yet again, and the Board decided that the contest should be run for a trial period with two sets of rules running in parallel.

Having a single contest with two different sets of rules is a most unusual situation. It will be confusing for the participants, and some onlookers may be quite amazed. Hopefully the issue will be settled - and stay settled - by this time next year.

**Ross Hull Memorial VHF-UHF Contest**

The rules were modified this year to exclude EME contacts from the contest. The main reason is to move the contest back towards its roots as a predominantly "tropo" contest, in honour of the late Ross A. Hull and his discovery of tropospheric propagation.

This change also encourages amateurs who do not have EME capable stations to spend more time on the air over the summer DX season, and hopefully to raise the general level of activity.

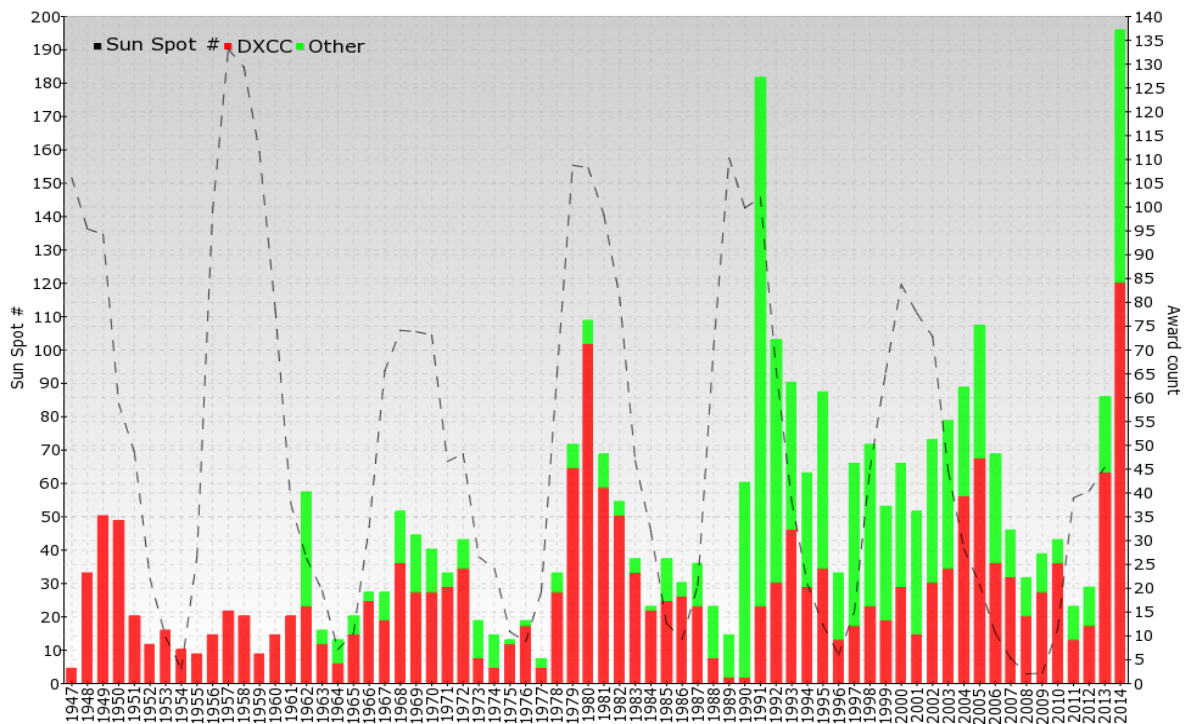***Submitted by John Martin VK3KM, Contest Manager***

# WIA Awards

The last year has seen great innovation within the awards system. The chart below demonstrates the dramatic effect that firstly, the introduction of the ADIF import to spreadsheet facility and, secondly, the introduction of the online system has had over the last 12 months.

Introduced in Feb 2013, the ADIF file import to the Excel awards application form resulted in a significant increase in awards in 2013 to 60, compared with 20 the previous year.

In Dec 2013 a new online award system was introduced which has dramatically improved the accessibility and accuracy of the awards system, and by March 2014 awards have already reached 140. It's hard to predict the final figure for the 2014 calendar year.



Award count by Year

The streamlining of the awards system has allowed the previously discarded 3-band and 7-band awards to be reintroduced, and a single band award has been created and is proving popular. The popularity of the IARU WAC award has increased dramatically as many people were unaware they qualified.

The system will also allow the reintroduction of the DXer of the Year awards in the near future. Costs to the WIA have been reduced by the fact that submitters now print their own awards, and the checking load on the awards committee has been reduced to negligible levels. Approval of awards has been reduced from months to days, and the system has received many positive comments from users.

One of the cornerstones of the new system is the DXCC checking provided by Clublog.org. The availability of highly accurate callsign to DXCC mapping has raised the integrity of the

awards system to a new level. There can be little doubt that the WIA system has the highest integrity of any award system at present. ClubLog is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on donations to survive. In recognition of the invaluable service that ClubLog provides, the awards committee would like the WIA Board to approve a donation to ClubLog of €1,000 for their invaluable assistance to the amateur radio community. The data they provide is crucial to the operation of the system, and it would be severely compromised without it. We need to do what we can to ensure they continue to remain viable.

The Excel spreadsheet application system is being phased out as quickly as possible. No applications will be accepted in Excel after Dec 2014, and all new applicants are being encouraged to use the online system.

The committee also had some changes in membership. Paul VK5PAS joined early 2014.

*Submitted by Awards Manager Bob VK3SX and Awards Technical Engineer Marc VK3OHM*

## QSL Inwards Bureau

We've had another very busy year at the Inwards Bureau. Parcels don't arrive from overseas in a steady manner and often it's a number of boxes in one day and then nothing for a week or two. The team sorts all the incoming cards to State level and then packs and distributes them to the State QSL Managers.

This past 11 months we recorded some statistics for your information. We measured every shipment of cards and consolidated the results.

| State | Number of Cards | Pile of Cards – Height (m) |
|-------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| VK1 | 1950 | 0.433 |
| VK2 | 20880 | 4.64 |
| VK3 | 11060 | 2.457 |
| VK4 | 22790 | 5.064 |
| VK5 | 7290 | 1.62 |
| VK6 | 12700 | 2.822 |
| VK7 | 6900 | 1.533 |
| VK8 | 3570 | 0.793 |

A little trivia in a sense, but an indication of another part of the hobby that is not generally seen, but happens as a member benefit: If all the cards were stacked side by side the length would be approximately 19.36 metres, representing approximately 87,000 cards handled for the States and a weight of nearly 90 kg.

The Outwards Bureau posted 26,800 cards to other Bureaus. Sorted 20,550* cards for VK2 inwards and handled a total of 47,350 cards.

A special thanks to Ray Crawford, the VK4 Bureau Manager who has advised of his retirement plans and the insufficient room in his caravan for the cards! Safe travels Ray. To Steve Chamberlain VK6IR who has tendered his resignation because of work pressures. You have both served the AR community well, and we thank you.

All Bureau Managers and assistants give freely of their time, so if you know any of these folk, please acknowledge them and their work.

With the introduction of MemNet database, the Bureaus are able to receive up to date member details to assist in handling of cards, in particular the annual post out of cards.

Finally, if you are having cards printed, please follow the guidelines as displayed on the WIA web pages. Conformity of size and paper makes the job of the sorters and packers, just that much easier if it is all uniform.

\* Dates of Outwards data vary slightly with Inwards data, hence variation in numbers recorded.

***Submitted by Geoff Atkinson VK3TL***

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## Historical and Archive Committee

Peter VK3RV, WIA Historian, (Leader), Drew VK3XU, Linda VK7QP,
Martin VK7GN, Ian VK3IFM, Will VK6UU, David VK3ADW,
Jennifer VK3WQ/VK5ANW, Roger VK2ZRH (Director)

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The Committee and its members have had a very busy but rewarding year.

The Committee largely operates as a collection of individuals who look after a particular area of activity. Members live in a number of States and communication is generally via emails, with all members of the committee copied in. The opportunity to have a face to face meeting with some members has occurred occasionally.

## Collection Policy in action!

During the year, the Board adopted the WIA's *Collection Policy* which provides guidelines for the archival activities. In addition, the *Donation Form* was adopted which will help WIA office staff and also help clarify to a donor, the resultant activities associated with any donation made. I would like to acknowledge again the guidance provided in this area by Linda VK7QP.

## Donation of funds

During the past year, the opportunity presented itself to briefly address the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society about the activities within the WIA Archive. Following this, that club offered to finance a glazed cabinet so as to provide a separate space for a major valuable book collection donated to the Archive.

The cabinet has been purchased with funds supplied by AHARS and it was assembled by Drew VK3XU at the Archive. Following this, a long standing member of AHARS (who does not want to be named), donated a complete second-hand desktop computer to the Archive.

These donations have helped us considerably and perhaps some of the other larger clubs might see their way to help provide much needed facilities for some of the other activity centres within the WIA. Thank you again Adelaide Hills!

## History on the WIA Website

We are well on our way to having some history pages on our website. With the help of webmaster Robert VK3DN, a number of pages have been prepared dealing with historical matters. Most material on the website is based on documents held within the WIA Archive.

We do not intend to have many links to other sites as the history pages should tell how amateur radio (and associated subjects) developed within Australia. This will be an on-going project as there are many aspects to the history of amateur radio in Australia and the WIA over the past 100+ years which should be available to members and the public.

## Reference Library

As reported last year, combining the Archive's activities together with that of the Library under the WIA's committee restructure is logical as there are a number of "cross-overs" between the relevant activities. Drew Diamond, VK3XU continues to oversee the establishment of the library; however, a major stumbling block has arisen with regard to physical access to the library collection, currently located at Bayswater. The issue is under consideration.

## Document Donations and Membership Communications

During the year, a number of worthwhile donations have been received by the Archive. These have included reference books, photographs, copies of official communications with respect to licences and licence conditions variations and QSL cards. QSL cards have been handed on to the WIA QSL Card Collection.

Some very interesting and previously unseen PMG documents from the mid-1930s, relating to "amateur broadcasters" were donated from a deceased estate. One of these has been placed onto the website under "Amateur Broadcasting". In addition, a number of historical enquiries have been serviced for family historians and article and book authors.

## Raising the Profile of Our Radio History and Amateur Radio

It is important to keep before the amateur population, our desire to preserve Australian amateur radio history. Hamads in *AR* has provided an important link between the Archive, institute members and the general public. Now that we have our web pages "ready to go", I am anticipating further positive results and "spin-offs".

The Archive holds a deal of interesting and unique material (some of which has been already scanned) and it would not take too much effort to make sections of it available in the form

of laminated, scanned posters or power-point presentations (complete with notes) for loan to clubs and other interested groups.

## Summary

The main areas of activity for the year by Committee members include:

- Finalising and the adoption of the Collection Policy and Donation Form, (Overseen by Linda VK7QP).
- Further scanning of Amateur Radio magazines. (Will VK6UU, who is up to the 1967)
- Indexing of donated publications, especially a major collection made by Graeme Zimmer, (Mainly done by Jennifer VK3WQ).
- Groundwork for database computer system, (Ian VK3IFM providing the technical advice).
- Presentation to AHARS and donation by them to the Archive, of a bookcase to house the Zimmer collection.
- Development of draft history pages for the WIA website which is now in a position where it can "go live".
- Processing of numerous donations to the Archive and responses to enquiries.

## Recommendation

That the AGM discuss and consider the desirability of making copies of some of our historical material available for use at Clubs, Hamfests etc.

***Peter Wolfenden, VK3RV, WIA Historian, On behalf of the History and Archive Committee***

## IT Services

Robert VK3DU (Director), Tim VK3KTB

The IT services committee has had another busy year, firstly with the integration of MemNet into the WIA website and the development and testing of an API that allows the continuation of members only features available on the WIA website, that now utilise the membership database records held in the MemNet.

The second major effort has been the introduction of the WIA awards system, Marc Hillman VK3OHM is thanked for enormous amount of time and effort he has invested in getting the project off the ground.

### 2014 WIA WEBMASTER REPORT

**Webmasters: Rob Broomhead VK3DN & Tim Broomhead VK3KTB**

Thanks for talking a moment to read our report on the WIA website. As usual, the report consists of many statistics that we report on each year. It's a great for gauging the level of interest and activity on the website. Our WIA website utilisation or "hits" to our website has

continued to grow year on year. Two areas of particular note are the continued and steady uptake of the callsign@wia.org.au email address facility and increase in the weekly downloads of the WIA news broadcast.

**This year's stats for the period April 9th 2013 through to April 9th 2014.**

- The WIA website has received just on 11.5 million hits in the last 12 months.

- During the last 12 month period we have served out 284 gigs of website data, this figure does not include the data associated with the email system and the many hundreds of gigs of email associated with member's callsign@wia.org.au email addresses, Both the number of hits and amount of data served represent an increase from last year.

- In the last twelve months the website has serviced 73,639 downloads of the weekly news broadcast, which is an increase from 68,773 downloads recorded in the previous 12 months. Many people subscribe to the podcast version of the news broadcast which is incrementally and dramatically adding to the number of downloads, we believe the significant jump in downloads is a result of podcast or auto download subscriptions. A feature of our website is that all weekly broadcasts produced since May 2009 are archived and remain available for download. We see a surprising number of people browsing and listening to archived broadcasts.

- 869 people have used the websites "contact the WIA email form" during the 2013-2014 period compared to 675 people who completed the form in the previous 12 months an increase of approximately 28%.The breakdown of these contacts using the contact the WIA form are:

    o 651 selected to send an email to the National WIA Office
    o 82 selected to send an email to the WIA President
    o 94 selected to send an email to the WIA Webmaster

- In the last 12 month period 299 people chose to join and become members of the WIA as new members by way of the "Join The WIA Online" web page in 2013 we had 253 new members through the website, so we have had an increase of approximately 17%.

- 490 members have renewed their membership through the online membership renewal web page between April 2013 and January 2014. As of February 2014 online renewals are now handled by the MemNet membership management system.

- There were 744 transactions made throughout the WIA online Ecommerce system, an increase of about 7% from 2013. These transactions included bookshop books, merchandise sales and other sundry items, items sold online included:

    o 314 copies of the Foundation Manual
    o 60 copies of the Radio Theory Handbook
    o 160 copies of the WIA Callbook

- In the last 12 months there have been 57,906 lookups of callsigns on the online available callsign database page this compared to 54,998 lookups that occurred during the previous 12 month period, representing a 5% increase in callsign lookups.

- Currently 2,002 members have taken advantage of the WIA callsign@wia.org.au email address forwarding service forwarding email to an ISP email account of their choice; this is an increase of approximately 10% since this time last year. Members with WIA email addresses also receive periodical WIA's news bulletins and news alerts which are sent to the WIA email address.

The website also provides a public enquiry form that can be completed by anyone seeking further information on how to get into the hobby of Amateur Radio. In the last 12 months 191 people have completed the form in the previous 12 months 183 so an increase of around 5%. The WIA office staff follow up each and every enquiry mailing out information packs on amateur radio, included are a personalised letter and 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 into which they fall, the results are always of interest. Listed below are both the current 12 month period and the previous 12 month period, they are as follows:

- 3% are in the age bracket 10 – 19       (in the previous 12 months was 6%)
- 12% are in the age bracket 20 – 29      (in the previous 12 months was 16%)
- 22% are in the age bracket 30 – 39      (in the previous 12 months was 21%)
- 20% are in the age bracket 40 – 49      (in the previous 12 months was 23%)
- 20% are in the age bracket 50 – 59      (in the previous 12 months was 16%)
- 16% are in the age bracket 60 -69       (in the previous 12 months was 12%)
- 6% are in the age bracket e 70 +        (in the previous 12 months was 6%)

The IT services committee has had another busy year, firstly with the integration of MemNet into the WIA website and the development and testing of an API that allows the continuation of members only features available on the WIA website, that now utilise the membership database records held in the MemNet.

The second major effort has been the introduction of the WIA awards system, Marc Hillman VK3OHM is thanked for enormous amount of time and effort he has invested in getting the project off the ground.

*Submitted by Robert VK3DN and Tim Broomhead VK3KTB, WIA Webmasters*

## Community Service Committee

Fred VK3DAC (Director), Greg VK2GRJ (Assistant Treasurer),
Ewan VK4ERM (Director), Paul VK5PH

**Community Service Committee**

The Community Service Committee, Education Committee and the PR Committee have worked closely to introduce the Public Relations for Amateur Radio (PR4AR) event in April this year. The response has been ok but we need more radio amateurs to be involved in this activity.

It is a great opportunity to encourage new entrants into the world of amateur radio and also an opportunity to showcase amateur radio to the public. Going public can be a daunting activity, to accommodate this event, the PR committee have provided excellent promotional material.

The PR and Community Service Committees are working together with the Historical Group to provide a significant AR event in 2015 to commemorate the 100 years since the landing of ANZAC forces at Gallipoli. The event during 2015 includes special callsigns, significant day events along with a range of other commemorative activities.

These events are still being planned and the activities will be published in AR and on the WIA web site during this year. The ANZAC events will commence on the weekend of the 25th April 2015 and are planned to conclude on the 20th December 2015. The 20th December is when the last ANZAC troops were withdrawn for Gallipoli.

*Submitted by Fred Swainston VK3DAC*

## New Initiatives

Phil VK2ASD (Director), Robert VK3DN (Director),
Roger VK2ZRH (Director), David VK3RU (Company Secretary)

This committee has not yet been activated, though I think you could say that a lot has happened in the past year.