



**2014 Year
Annual General Meeting
Open Forum Reports**

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Spectrum Committee

**(Regulatory, ACMA, ITU, IARU, Repeaters & Beacons, Standards,
Interference & EME, Monitoring Service)**

Geoff VK3AFA, Phil VK2ASD (Director), Peter VK3MV, Roger VK2ZRH (Director),
Brian VK3MI, Dale VK1DSH, Peter VK3APO, Richard VK2AAH, Gilbert VK1GH,
Rob VK1KRM, Noel VK3NH, Doug VK3UM

Technical Advisory sub-Committee (Tech support, Band plans etc.)

Chairman

John Martin VK3KM

Technical Advisors

VHF/UHF

Walter Howse VK6KZ

Microwaves

Peter Freeman VK3KAI

Repeaters

Peter Mill VK3APO

Band Plans; Beacons

John Martin VK3KM

EME

Doug McArthur VK3UM

ATV

Peter Cossins VK3BFG

Satellites

Paul Paradigm VK2TXT

Digital DX Modes

Rex Moncur VK7MO

Packet Radio

Barry White VK2AAB

D-Star; APRS

Richard Hoskin VK3JFK

Regional Advisors

VK1

President, CRARC

VK2

Tim Mills VK2ZTM

VK3

Peter Mill VK3APO

VK4

Bill Sebbens VK4XZ

VK5/8

Paul Bell VK5BX

VK6

Eddie Saunders VK6ZSE

VK7

Rex Moncur VK7MO

Administrative Tasks

National Repeater Co-ordinator

Peter Mill VK3APO

Data Bases; VHF-UHF Records

John Martin VK3KM

TAC Email Admin

Robert Broomhead VK3DN



Wireless Institute of Australia

ITU Study Groups and related activities

There are three main Agenda Items for the upcoming 2015 World Radio Communication Conference (WRC-15) that are relevant to Australian amateurs and the WIA. These are AI 1.4 which proposes a new secondary amateur allocation around 5300 kHz, AI 1.12 which may affect the secondary amateur allocation at 3 cm and AI 1.18 which may affect the primary amateur allocation in the 77.5 – 78 GHz frequency band.

AI 1.4 is a difficult one for Australia as the band is heavily allocated to the primary land mobile and fixed services, as well as being used by the ‘over the horizon’ radar systems of the Australian Department of Defence. Efforts by the WIA to ensure an affirmative position on AI 1.4 are ongoing and it is hoped that Australia will soon confirm support for a small allocation around 5300 kHz. An important milestone in efforts towards this agenda item was the completion of a sharing and compatibility study by the radio sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-R) which will be released as Report ITU-R M.2335. This document provides a great deal of information that administrations can use in their consideration of the issues related to AI 1.4.

Based upon sharing and compatibility studies undertaken by ITU-R it appears that AI 1.12 and AI 1.18 pose no significant threats to the amateur service. Other agenda items are being monitored for any changes that may affect the amateur service and, given the increasing use of the electromagnetic spectrum for so many different purposes, the potential for loss of access to some frequency bands is always possible.

Activities undertaken since May 2014 in support of WIA and Australian objectives for WRC-15 are:

- Attend meetings of the ACMA Australian Radio Study Group 5 (ARSG-5) and ACMA WRC-15 Preparatory Group (WRC15-PG).
- Attend meetings of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity WRC-15 Preparatory Group (APG15) and ITU-R Working Party 5.
- Generate documents and reports to outline and support WIA objectives and views on WRC-15 agenda items that are relevant to the amateur service.
- Defend, discuss and develop these views and objectives which then become part of Australia’s position going into APG and ITU-R meetings.

As Chairman of ITU-R Working Party 5A-1 ‘Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services’:

- Facilitate completion of the required sharing and compatibility studies in support of a possible new secondary amateur allocation around 5300 kHz.
- Ongoing maintenance of ITU-R documents relevant to the amateur and amateur satellite services.

All work at these meetings is a collaborative effort between administrations, national delegates and sector members. The IARU, as a sector member, plays a significant role in



amateur issues at the international meetings. The following meetings have been attended as part of the above activities:

- ITU WP 5A: Geneva, 19 – 30 May 2014. Ongoing sharing and compatibility studies and WRC-15 Conference Preparatory Meeting text.
- APG15-3: Brisbane, 9 – 13 July 2014. Development of regional views on WRC-15 agenda items.
- ACMA ARSG-5: Canberra, 27 August 2014. Advance WIA views on relevant WRC-15 Agenda items.
- ITU WP 5A: Geneva, 27 October – 11 November 2014. Completion of sharing and compatibility studies, maintenance of other ITU-R texts related to the amateur service.
- ACMA WRC15-PG: Canberra, 19 November 2014: Further development of Australian positions on WRC-15 Agenda items taking into account WIA and other views.
- APG14-4: Bangkok, 9 – 14 February 2015. Further development of Asia-Pacific regional views on WRC-15 Agenda items.

I thank the WIA Board, WIA President and the IARU for their support and funding for the above activities. I also thank the ACMA for their excellent organization of meetings, arranging delegations to international meetings and general understanding of amateur issues.

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.

Submitted by Geoff Atkinson VK3TL, WIA IARU Liaison Officer and IARU Director Region 3 (retiring)

Geoff Atkinson has both acted as a Director of Region 3 and has also represented the WIA for many years. Geoff has now retired from that position and we will need to find a successor.

The WIA would like to sincerely thank Geoff for his expertise and his efforts over the years. Geoff will be sorely missed by both the WIA and the IARU.



ACMA liaison

The WIA has been very active this year in discussions with the ACMA and the department of Communications, in particular: the remake of the amateur LCD, the Spectrum Review process, the 2.3GHz and 3.5GHz band reviews, and the WIA's Repeater and Beacon Recommendation Service.

The WIA has developed major submissions concerning all those items, and has also attended workshops and meetings with ACMA and the Department during the year. We are expecting significant change to occur over the next few years as these reviews work through. Progress on issues can be tracked on the hot-issues section of the WIA website.

Standards Australia

The WIA continues to be an active member of Standards Australia on the following committee's:

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 and 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 again been a very active participant in these Standards committees. Ron Cook VK3AFW joined the TE003 committee towards the end of 2014 as a WIA representative. Ron brings a wealth of experience and has already made his mark, being an active participant at the several meetings he has attended so far. There is always a danger in Standards development that something creeps through unnoticed, and recently there has been a new initiative for some IARU countries to work



more closely together, very welcome considering the huge volume of material coming through and the short period for comment.

Submitted by Phil Wait VK2ASD and Ron Cook VK3AFW

RC006/RC004 Committees

Noel Higgins VK3NH is the WIA's representative on the RC004 and RC006 committees. Standards Australia RC006 (Land mobile and General) and RC004 (Marine) committees develop and maintain AS/NZS Radiocommunications standards. As these are 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. Standards Australia Radiocommunications committees RC006 and RC004 held back to back meetings on 19/20 February in Canberra, 25/26 June in Sydney and on 22/23 October in Melbourne.

The ACMA has revised the Radiocommunications labelling notice and dropped the compliance level for most level 3 products to level 2 removing the requirement to obtain NATA accredited reports as evidence in compliance folders to reduce the cost burden to industry.

The RC006 committee considered revision of five standards covering MF/HF land mobile, FM/AM paging and short range devices early last year as per an ACMA developed proposal. Due to policy changes on the use of ETSI standard intellectual property by Standards Australia, the updating process for MF/HF land mobile and FM and AM paging standards was considered too difficult with available resources so those projects lapsed, but the standards are still fit for purpose and will continue to be referenced by the ACMA standards. Resources were instead concentrated on a complete revision of the most widely used land mobile VHF/UHF FM standard AS/NZS4295 based on testing to ETSI 300-086 with changes to extend coverage to match AS/NZS band plans etc.

The main standard 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. Work on revision of AS/NZS4268 for short range devices has been held off until the LIPD class licence is reissued after the current consultations and then changes will be incorporated.

Standards committee RC004, chaired by AMSA is developing a number of MSLS standards using different frequency band solutions to encompass and regulate various equipment from around the world. AS/NZS 4869.3 Maritime survivor locating systems (MSLS)Part 3: Maritime survivor locating devices (MSLD)—Operating on 156.575 MHz and/or 161.975 MHz/162.025 MHz (RTCM 11901.1:2012, MOD) is currently out for public comment. AMSA



is also working on a project to replace the aging VHF marine standards and this is a big task. International work is also being undertaken by AMSA to provide 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

It was pleasing to see in the Radcomms 2014 conference, and in submissions to the Department of Communications Spectrum Review, and workshops and discussions, a growing awareness of the importance protection from interference, especially to telecommunications systems.

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, LED lighting and solar inverter systems, as these can have a major impact on HF activity and beyond.

National Technical Advisory Subcommittee

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.

Data Bases

The repeater data base has been updated a number of times during the year, as usual. However the December and January updates have been the most extensive in some years. All of the repeater listings were cross-checked against the ACMA register, outdated entries were corrected or removed., and many new ones added. I gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Greg James VK2SM in this work.



This is a continuing process because the ACMA data base includes all licensed frequencies, even if they are not in current use. So the second phase of the update has been the removal of frequencies that are licensed by the ACMA but are not actually in use. In order to keep the listing up to date, it is important that licence holders pass on the latest details of their beacons or repeaters.

Band Plan Reviews

In July 2014 the WIA initiated a review process for the band plans. Up to the date of writing (mid March), there have been no outcomes because the time period for feedback has been repeatedly extended. For example, there has been no new feedback on the 630 metre band plan since last September, so the updating of this plan has so far taken six months longer than necessary.

Band plans need to be well publicised and it is essential that there be active consultation with amateurs. But on the other hand, if a process leads to long delays in implementing even minor changes, there is a need to reconsider the process.

Band plans will need revision from time to time as circumstances change and new operating habits come along. However, at most times, most band plans are stable and do not require major changes. For this reason, it is not the normal practice to call an across-the-board review of all band plans. The preferable approach is to review any issues as they arise.

As usual, I thank all members of the TAC advisory panels for their contributions.

Submitted by John Martin VK3KM

Repeater and Beacon Advisory Service

The role of the repeater and beacon coordinators changed somewhat, with a major review of the service taking place during 2014. Initiated by a complaint from an amateur, the ACMA undertook a legal review of the long-standing practices of the WIA service, with the outcome that the WIA's Repeater and Beacon advisory service is only permitted to make recommendations concerning the power and frequency allocation for amateur repeaters.

We were advised that the WIA cannot change a licence application in order to comply with its policy, or to reject an application, but must send any such application back to the licence applicant for them to make the change themselves. The ACMA would consult with the WIA if there was a conflict between a licence application and a WIA recommendation.

Richard Cerveny VK2AAH retired from the role of coordinator during 2014. The WIA would like to sincerely thank Richard for his efforts and expertise during 2013 and 2014.



WIA Monitoring System

The WIA Monitoring System is one of many radio societies reporting arrangements of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). The IARU Monitoring System provides reports of intruders into the “Primary” status Amateur Service high frequency bands to the relevant Regulatory Agencies in member countries.

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 Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) the Australian spectrum regulator. During 2014 the majority of the regular monthly reports have come from; John Kirk, VK4TJ and I wish to record my sincere thanks for his monthly reports. Other ad-hoc reports are sent in by individuals via the WIA website electronic lodgement system.

In the year 2014, WIA observers detected 5643 intruders, which contrasted with 6543 reports in 2013. The WIA continues to provide monthly monitoring reports to the ACMA of these intrusions. 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.

As reported last year with reasonable propagation conditions on the higher HF bands, there has been a multitude of Over-The-Horizon-Radar (OTHR) systems. There is still a large proliferation of Chinese, Turkish, Iranian and British OTHR systems along with CODAR systems (oceanographic radars) particularly on the 20 to 10 meter bands.

There is also increasing numbers of digital emissions where the use of Software Defined Receivers (SDR) has been useful in identifying non-amateur digital systems that are frequency hopping.

The WIA monthly monitoring reports, are placed on the “Members Section” of its website.



For the WIA monitoring system to continue to work volunteers are required - 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.

The Memnet system has now been running successfully for over twelve months and 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. It is most important that when trying to register that members enter their name and membership number exactly as it appears on the printed address label of your copy of their 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.

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 |



Wireless Institute of Australia

WIA Membership Statistics and New Licences

| The Wireless Institute of Australia | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Amateurs in Australia | 14,597 | 14,642 | 14,541 | 14,374 | 14,165 | 14,040 |
| WIA Membership | 4,541 | 4,578 | 4,575 | 4,562 | 4,538 | 4,465 |
| % WIA Members | 31% | 31% | 31% | 32% | 32% | 32% |
| New & Upgrade Licences Issued | | | | | | |
| Foundation | 541 | 480 | 411 | 360 | 414 | 382 |
| Standard | 170 | 137 | 121 | 100 | 118 | 104 |
| Advance | 102 | 85 | 96 | 86 | 93 | 104 |
| Total | 813 | 702 | 628 | 546 | 625 | 590 |
| % of Amateur Community | 5.6% | 4.8% | 4.3% | 3.8% | 4.4% | 4.2% |

Financial

The WIA's achieved a trading surplus of \$9,482 following a membership fee increase early in 2014. The full impact of the new membership fees will not become apparent in the WIA's trading position until 2015 and beyond due to the large number of 5-year pre-paid memberships.

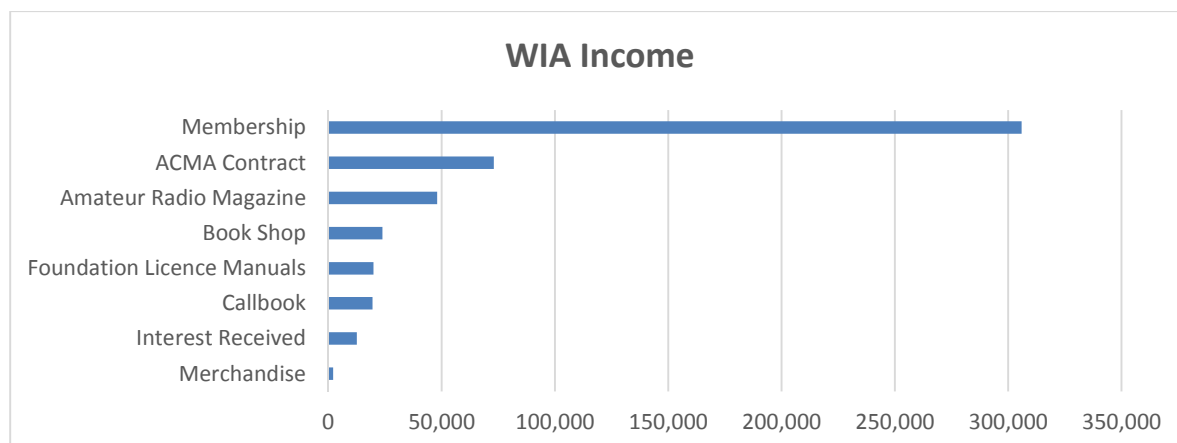
However, the WIA suffered a book-loss for the year of \$22,059 which was entirely due to a periodic revaluation of the Bayswater property, at a time when the Melbourne commercial property market is somewhat depressed. It is expected the property valuation will increase again as the Victorian economy improves.

The Institute continues to enjoy a strong overall financial position with assets exceeding liabilities by \$541,321.

Please see the '*Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2014*' for full details.



The following graphs provide an overview of the composition of the income, expenditure the composition of expenditure on member's services.



WIA Office

The WIA office continues to operate with two full-time staff members and some regular and casual volunteers. 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.

The office IT systems were modernised during 2014 with new computers and other equipment purchased, replacing some very tired and ageing machinery. It is expected the office will undergo further changes during 2015.

Late news: *Dianne has recently informed the Board of her intention to retire in July this year. The WIA owes a great debt of gratitude to Dianne for her dedication to amateur radio over the years, and her happy voice on the end of the telephone will be sadly missed by everyone. We wish Dianne all the best for the future. The Directors are currently considering options for the WIA office.*

Affiliated Clubs Committee

Ted VK2ARA, Mal VK3FDSL (Office manager),
John VK3PZ (Treasurer), Phil VK2ASD (Director)

Affiliated Clubs

2014 has been a very stable year on the clubs scene. There has been very little visible change. As we approached the new-year a couple of specialist clubs found themselves unable to appoint new office bearers. Perhaps there is a message in this situation, which should encourage clubs to consider accommodating a broader range of interests, for the benefit of the special interest group and the club as a whole. There is absolutely no doubt that there is strength in numbers.

A comment worth making is to remind clubs to “Plan Ahead of Events”, if you propose a totally new activity, you need to consider who else is involved and how they may view your activity. I’m not saying not to do it, but I suggest you ask every possible negative question well before the event, so that you can be prepared.



WIA – Clubs Joint Liability Insurance Scheme

Since formation of the national WIA this has been an area of special interest for me. Based on some very productive negotiations undertaken by Chris Jones vk2zdd (SK) we were able to secure a beneficial rate for Liability insurance, AS LONG AS, the WIA did almost all of the administration of the policy renewals. I put my hand up to help whilst I was a member of the WIA Board. It has not been an easy task, but with appreciation outweighing criticism by about 10 to 1 it has been an exhausting but satisfying one, made even more satisfying by knowing that many thousands of dollars of club support has been delivered.

The down side of this is that 10 years have passed and I no longer believe that I have the energy to complete another renewal exercise. I'm happy to help and advise, but we need a new coordinator next year if the joint policy is to continue.

Areas Needing Attention

Each year we ask where do we need to try harder. For at least 10 years the answer has been the same. Communication, Communication, Communication, and this year is no different. I do not have a simple answer and I doubt that anyone else has either but here are a few focus points:

1. The WIA website provides a page for every affiliated club. How you use it is pretty much up to you, but we do ask a couple of things. That it is kept up to date. That it provides accurate information about access to your club. That it promotes Amateur Radio, and the WIA in your own way.
2. An issue in all of this is clubs like to have their own websites and mail servers. These work well for communication within the club, but Oh Dear! We forgot that the members only list protection, stops everybody else from communicating with us.
3. Being prepared for next year. If you are a newly elected club President or Secretary, you probably have little idea of how everything was done last year. I feel that I must suggest, remind, beg, all outgoing Committees to help your friends (or not so friends) to cope with what must be done. He/they may even say, Thank You.

All Those Other Items.

Reports are not the place to launch new ideas. That should be done when the idea strikes. It should be done through friends who have similar interests, and it works best if done well. Usually works better is you have sounded out a few people. Then if you want to go ahead, put your case, let people know how much work you have done, and ask for feedback. When you get feedback, work with the respondent to move your idea along. Please do not throw it up in the air and then complain that nobody caught it.



Clubs in 2015/16

We now have a Sub Committee who can share the work required to service the needs of clubs. You can send notes to me or Mal Brooks, or John Longaryoux, or Phil Wait. Please do not leave it a month and complain that you got no reply. Send it again and check that you are sending it correctly.

I am giving away my job of insuring clubs but not my job of looking after clubs. Your comments, enquiries and complaints are welcome, as long as you get me on a good day.

Communications, Marketing, Publications and AGM Committee

Robert VK3DN (Director), Phil VK2ASD (director), Jim VK3PC,
Graham VK4BB (Broadcast), Roger VK2ZRH (Director)

Publications sub-Committee (AR Magazine, Callbook etc):

Peter VK3PF (Editor AR), Peter VK3PH (Editor *Callbook*), John VK3PZ (Treasurer),
Ernie VK3FM, Peter VK3AZL, Evan VK3ANI, Ewan VK3OW, Bill VK3BR, Don VK3DBB

Publications Committee

The work of Publications Committee continues in a largely routine manner. The Committee meets quarterly in March, June, September and December, with most discussion centring around the production of the 11 issues each year of *Amateur Radio* magazine, with some time required (typically at the June and September meetings) around the production of the *Callbook*.

Several changes occurred in 2014:

- Following a request from the Board, we moved to production of a digital edition of *Amateur Radio* each month from the July 2014 issue, in addition to the print edition. Following further discussions later in the year, our production house *Fontana Design* also produced digital issues for the earlier months of the year. All 2014 issues are available for members to download after entering their MEMNET registration details. This process of parallel release of the printed copy and the digital edition now occurs routinely, with the digital edition available once the hard copy arrives in mail boxes in Melbourne.
- During the year, Bill Roper VK3BR formally resigned from Publications Committee, having served for some 60 years in various roles, including Editor, draftsman, photographic consultant preparing images for production and several other roles over a significant time span. A significant contribution over several years was Bill's work in turning sometimes



difficult to interpret technical drawings and circuit diagrams into clear and concise diagrams that helped to define the look and feel of *Amateur Radio*.

- Following the September meeting, Secretary Ernie Walls VK3FM resigned from that role and from the Committee. Ernie has served on the Committee for approximately 9 years and was Secretary from the second half of 2009. Ernie played a significant hand in refining our internal processes and the handling of articles. He always strove for all to improve their individual contributions and thereby help the Committee to perform at optimal levels, producing an improved product as time and finances allowed. Evan Jarman VK3ANI undertook to act as interim Secretary until a replacement was found.
- Kaye Wright VK3FKDW joined the Committee at its December meeting to take up the role of Secretary.

During 2014, the Board undertook a survey of members regarding several issues, including matters related to possible digital delivery. The analysis of the survey results continues. Your magazine makes a significant proportion of the membership fee that the WIA must charge, with those costs split between the cost of production of the content into a form ready for the printer, the printing costs and the distribution (postage and packaging) costs. A move away from having a printed magazine to digital only will only remove a proportion of the costs, plus the organisation needs to consider the loss of presence on newsstands – possibly a worthwhile awareness opportunity for the hobby. Throughout these considerations, Publications Committee has always been concerned that we do not disenfranchise any members. I am sure that both Publications Committee and the Board will continue to discuss issues around the production costs.

Peter Hartfield VK3PH continues to do a sterling job as *Callbook* Editor. There was minor issue with the production of the CD version this year, which meant that those purchasing the *Callbook* at the Ballarat Hamvention needed to wait for the CD to be posted to them after the final CDs were received from the printer. Peter also participates as one of the proofreading team.

Finally, I thank the members of Publications Committee and all the regular contributors to *Amateur Radio* for all their work. We can only produce a useful magazine if people continue to contribute material for publication. I firmly believe that we produce a very good product, especially considering the size of the amateur population that we serve.

As always, we look forward to contributions for the magazine and for the *Callbook*. Information on how to contribute can be found on the magazine portion of the WIA website.

Submitted by Peter Freeman VK3PF, Editor and Chair



PR4AR

The PR4AR event that is scheduled for April each year was held over as a result of the expected activity at approximately the same time period as the opening of the ANZAC commemorations. PR4AR is scheduled to occur in April 2016 where the opportunity will be to take Amateur Radio to the public and encourage new entrants into Amateur Radio

WIA National News Broadcast

Seems like only yesterday yours truly GraHam VK4BB commenced reading what was the VK4 Divisional News. As we now move into our 20th year of broadcasts I thought a quick look back in time was warranted.

In the state records for VK4, 1937 is the first mention we've come across relating to weekly broadcasts of information from the WIAQ ... A plea to restart the service, so it had to have had a news service say from 1931 or thereabouts.

In 1947 VK4HA Harry Angel commenced an unofficial news service from his station using call VK4WI. Harry's name lives on today with the 106 minute Sprint contest bearing his name. 106 relates to his age at time of passing.

In May of that year VK4FN Frank Nolan outlined to the WIAQ the official set up of VK4WI now operating between 10am and 11am simultaneously on 7.100mc/s and 14.116mc/s and Tuesday night's 8-9 with a Frequency Measuring Service. (Years before digital readouts) and later that year a third simultaneous. The Special frequency was added, 52.004mc/s.

Fast forward to 1995 and VK4 news was re-named to QNEWS, taking its name from the Q code and Q for Queensland, but the primary reason was to give a four letter name for ease in utilizing the packet radio system. In 2004 QNEWS morphed into the VK1WIA National News as the various state divisions became the single entity that is now our national WIA.

As QNEWS/VK1WIA News moves into its 20th year many of the original team are still behind the mikes and transmitters each and every week. This year, after all our shows had been recorded in the RadioTAB Australia studios, and with my retirement from Commercial Radio, we made a move. From early 2015 we have recorded from a new setup at "The Jimboomba Tea Rooms" an affiliate of the station known as 'The Rock Of JimBoomBa.' Interestingly with several mike setups and varying recording techniques only one set of 'Golden Ears' picked-up the change. Congratulations to Felix VK4FUQ!



Exciting news this year is since March (23rd) extracts of your WIA News Service are now broadcast across Europe using the 10 kilowatt output 49 metre broadcast transmitter owned and run by radio amateurs in Germany. Channel292 is on 6070 KHz. Read the broadcast schedule for channel292.de for times of the English amateur radio news program. This has been due to the hard work of Ed DD5LP near Munich. (Also many will know Ed as VK2JI.)

Arguably the item drawing the most attention and feedback was VK6FLAB Onno's "What Good Is An F Call" segment, particularly the anti-bullying pieces.

A "non item" drawing comment was that as a result of dialogue between the WIA and ACMA we have been super careful in trying to NOT to publicise Commercial Traders at Ham Fests – well, not in the audio anyway, but they still get their fair share of mentions in the text editions.

Last year 2013-14 we had a total of 126,548 reading and listening .

During 2014-15, tabulated at week 43, we have had:

- Total readers and listeners 102,651
- RF check-ins 32,190
- MP3 downloads from wia.org.au 32,850 (We do not have figures for the backup site on wiaq.org.au)

These figures will have grown by the time of the AGM:

And again this year we thank YOU for taking the time to read and listen to VK1WIA National News.

Submitted by GraHam VK4BB, WIA National News Producer and Broadcaster



Education Committee

Fred VK3DAC (Director), Owen VK2AEJ, Ron VK2DQ, Mal VK3FDSL (Office Manager)

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2014-2015

October 2015 is the 10th anniversary of the introduction of the current LCD, and although the assessment system had commenced before the LCD, it is an opportune year to celebrate 10 years of Foundation Licence and the new LCD. Our LCD has a 10 year sunset clause and this time will be up in October 2015.

ACMA and the WIA have commenced discussions on the remake of the LCD although in October 2015 the changes we will see are likely to be minimal. Discussion will continue post this date for the development of an LCD that allows for future technological developments to be included into Amateur Radio without the need for amendments to the LCD. The introduction of a new LCD will require an amended syllabus to be introduced which will have an impact on our resource material. As yet we do not have timelines for this to occur.

The Assessment Information System 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. I continue to make improvements wherever possible. Currently there are 200 assessors using the system.

There has been an 8% reduction in Assessor numbers over the past 12 months. Other than natural attrition, assessors inactive or non contactable have been removed from the system. Some of these assessors have not completed assessments over some months and the currency of competency issue will be continually addressed. The breakdown of assessors is as follows:

ACT 4: NSW 62: Victoria 52: Queensland 40: SA 20: WA 11: Tasmania 3: and NT 8.

There are currently 43 Learning Facilitators providing assistance to the assessors and 51 assessor/learning facilitator trainees:

ACT 1: NSW 11: Victoria 10: Queensland 14: SA 0: WA 2: Tasmania 3: and NT 2

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

ACT 1: NSW 5: Victoria 6: Queensland 6: SA 3: WA 1: Tasmania 1.

The 23 Nominated Assessors have conducted 212 audits over the past 12 months and as a result of these audits there were 30 non-conformances. The non-conformances were minor, where the assessor or learning facilitator had not conducted an assessment in the



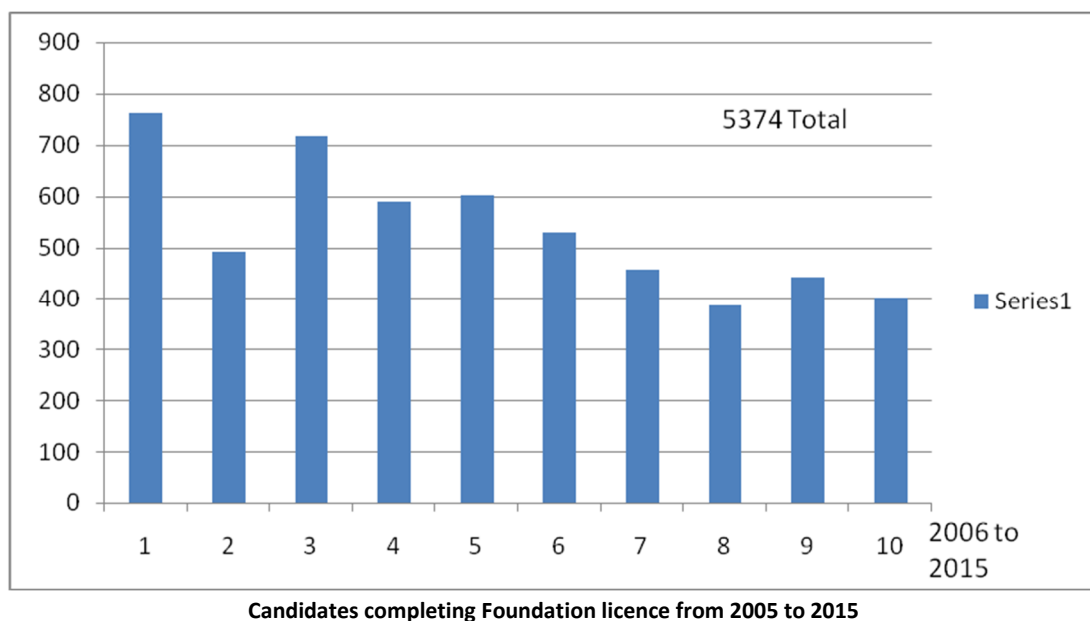
past 12 months. These are flagged as non conformances relating to currency of competency and are often assessors or learning facilitators who are in remote areas.

2 special and 8 remote assessments have been carried out by the Nominated Assessors. There have been 4 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. Three of the four Form 11's were generated as a result of old exam papers still in circulation. One form 11 required a change to adjust an ambiguous distracter in a question.

There have been 5 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 5 applicants, 4 received recognition for advanced theory and practical, 1 received recognition for standard theory.

Since 2005 over 5000 Foundation examinations have been 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 and accessing like radio interested groups this trend can be turned around. It is up to Radio Amateurs to encourage new entrants into AR.



In the 2014 calendar year 75 Foundation licensees qualified to Standard compared with 80 in the 2013 calendar year, and 32 Foundation licensees qualified directly to Advanced compared with 41 the year before. 42 Standard licensees qualified to Advanced compared with 41 the year before. In the same period 21 people qualified directly to Standard compared with 32 the year before and 35 qualified directly to Advanced as against 24 the year before.

We continue to see a general upward trend in licence level upgrades.

The 10 year Anniversary since the introduction of the Foundation Licence, the WIA Board congratulate all those involved and invite all to celebrate this milestone that has made Australian Amateur Radio grow.

The WIA Training Organisation wishes to thank all Nominated Assessors, Assessors, Learning Facilitators, Learning Organisers and AR trainers for their co-operation and assistance in encouraging new entrants into Amateur Radio.

Submitted by Fred Swainston VK3DAC, WIA Training Organisation



Radio Activities Committee

Chris VK5CP (Director), Geoff VK3TL

Contests sub-Committee:

Alan VK4SN, Denis VK4AE/3ZUX, John VK3KM, Tony VK3TZ,
Kevin VK4UH, Colin VK5DK, James Fleming

Awards sub-Committee:

Bob VK3SX, Marc VK3OHM, Laurie VK7ZE, Alan VK2CA,
Alek VK6APK, David VK3EW, Paul VK5PAS

ARDF sub-Committee: Jack VK3WWW

ARISS sub-Committee: Tony VK5ZAI

QSL Card sub-Committee:

Geoff VK3TL, Alex VK2ZM, John VK1CJ, Max VK3WT,
Ray VK4NH, Stephan VK5RZ, Steve VK6IR, John VK7RT, Craig VK8AS

John Moyle Memorial National Field Day 2014

This year's entries came from every Australian mainland call area and several from New Zealand, but only one from Tasmania. The total number of logs submitted was 177. This was a significant increase (59.6%) from the 111 logs received last year. Well done to all who took part and took the effort to submit a log.

I have included in the results, all of the logs that I received and if any are missing, they are completely lost. I can only offer my apologies to anyone so affected. If your log is missing, it did not get it to me, despite my most careful procedures and cross checking.

Based upon submitted logs, there were some 23,686 contacts, (a 31.2% increase from 2013) accumulating some 73,829 points claimed, (a 20.6% increase from 2013). This was successful contesting for an Australian field day contest, and with the 5 contact rule change it resulted in 177 logs being received. More than 1,100 Australian individual call signs were logged during the contest.

Activity was carried out on all bands permitted under the rules. There was an increase in activity on HF, and there was a little more activity on the higher HF frequencies as would be expected by the increasing sunspot cycle. This sunspot cycle is at the top at the moment and conditions on some bands did appear to improve. Activity on 40m showed a great increase. The other lower bands seemed largely unchanged.



In the higher UHF and Microwave bands there was an increase in activity; since it obviously follows a weather cycle, rather than the solar cycle? Maybe it only takes a couple of club stations to not operate to make the difference and the weather in VK2/3/5 was quite windy, wet and with some thunder storms so activity was reduced.

The scoring in the VHF range was about the same as for last year. Though the scoring as a ratio of contacts per station is substantially lower than for 2013. The absence of around 15 to 20 club stations, because of the miserable weather in some parts of VK certainly reduced activity, with many portable stations making such comments.

The other major change noticed this year was the increase in both Portable and Home Station operation was seen by the submitted logs. Clearly the new rule requiring all stations who contacted any station more than 5 times, should submit a log has made a positive impact. There were however reports of stations, who when contacted later by a portable station, simply refusing the contact for then they would have to submit a log. This type of activity was most unsporting and not in line with the spirit of the contest. This activity did make a very significant decrease in the number of contacts made and points earned per station. This was the real downside of the 5 contact rule.

The '5 Contact Rule' was devised to facilitate the checking and verifying of submitted logs. It was not devised to irritate and anger people who chose, for whatever reason, not to submit a log, but it was designed to encourage those who in the past did not see the need to submit their log – 'as they were not going to win anything'. Submitting their log is really is to help others as well as themselves.

The participation across the various call areas was patchy. There was an increase in Portable stations in most areas with only VK2 & VK8 showing a decrease. Home Station logs were greatly increased from last year in most call areas.

All of the portable stations that went to the effort to send in a log will get a certificate. The WIA believes that those who make the effort to set up and operate a portable station should be acknowledged. In line with previous years, the Foundation License logs who did not achieve a placing were instead awarded a Participation Certificate for encouragement.

There were Seventeen Foundation Licensed operators who submitted a log. (Five from VK2, Six from VK3, Two were from VK4, none from VK5 and four from VK6.) There were many more foundation call stations operating than these, who were logged during the contest, but they chose not to submit a log. All logs submitted by foundation operators were awarded a certificate. Logs from club stations did show that a few 'F' Calls also took part as part of the club station effort, well done.



All logs submitted in an electronic form this year, were usually fully readable, but a few stations had to resubmit their log in an acceptable format. I thank them for their cooperation.

There were still only 93% of logs submitted electronically this year, again up from last year. This has been due largely to the excellent work by Mike Subocz (VK3AVV) and his worthy program VKCL (VK Contest Log). Those that submitted a log in the VKCL export format were as usual very easy to work with. Those that simply forwarded the text output file of VKCL were also rather simpler to work with than any form of posted paper log or a log completed by hand.

Paper logs may also be used. A small log from an individual operator is, and will remain, completely acceptable. Large paper logs can require a very considerable manual work on the part the contest manager to input the data into the contest database and are no longer permitted. It is so much better to forward the computer files used to print the paper log, as part of an e-mail, for the data can then be easily extracted and used for checking purposes.

A note for all HF Stations; - All HF contacts are valid HF scoring contacts, whether they are from VK ZL or P2 stations or stations from overseas. Overseas stations cannot submit a log to the contest, but can exchange numbers with stations participating in the Field Day Contest. They are to be scored as a Portable station contact.

Submitted by Denis Johnstone (VK4AE/VK3ZUX), Contest Manager, JMMFD 2014

VHF-UHF Field Days

In early 2014, the WIA Board decided to trial two alternative sets of scoring rules for the three forthcoming VHF-UHF Field Days, being Winter and Spring 2014 and Summer 2015, then to review the participation and consider the rules for future contests. The 'traditional' VHF-UHF Field Day grid square-based scoring system was retained (called Division 1) and a distance-based scoring system introduced (called Division 2). The underlying idea behind this move was to "let the 'market' decide". Contestants could enter logs in either or both Divisions. Well, it seems that the 'market' decided to pretty much have an each-way bet! Who'd have thought it?

John Martin VK3KM decided to withdraw as VHF-UHF Field Day Manager following the Winter 2014 event. The Board thanked John for his long service in managing, promoting and developing the Field Days over some two decades. Colin Hutchesson VK5DK took on the role of Division 2 Contest Manager with the Winter 2014 event. WIA Director Roger Harrison VK2ZRH took on the role of interim VHF-UHF Field Day manager. In the latter half of the year, Michael Binz VK3ALZ volunteered to take on the role of Division 1 Contest Manager.



As Division 2 was new, it was expected that initial log submissions might be lower than for Division 1, which it was, but not by a great amount (readily seen in the published results posted on the WIA website). Many stations in each of the three contests submitted logs for both Divisions. Curiously, the number of operators submitting logs *only* for Division 2 remained pretty constant – 10 for Winter 2014, nine for Spring 2014 and 10, again, for Summer 2015. In all, over the three contests, 23 operators submitted logs for Division 2 alone; only John VK2YW entered all three. Go figure.

Principles behind distance-based scoring

The general principles behind the introduction of the distance-based scoring system were to:

- (a) educate newcomers to the VHF-UHF bands in the capabilities that the bands afford beyond the myth of “line-of-sight” propagation,
- (b) encourage self-education in VHF-UHF operation by contest participation, and
- (c) to continue the tradition of so many VHF-UHF pioneers who sought to establish ‘what could be done’ on the bands above 30 MHz.

Innovations

As the majority of entrants submit electronic logs, a facility to upload them to the website was introduced in 2014. This proved quite popular and all but a few logs were received via this facility. This facility will be continued through 2015.

Some minor development of the VHF-UHF Field Days website was done during 2014.

A milestone reached, variations observed

According to a reckoning by John Martin VK3KM, the Spring 2014 contest was the 50th WIA-sponsored VHF-UHF Field Day since the first in 1989. Quite a milestone!

In all, 54 contestants submitted logs for the Spring 2014 contest. Some 159 stations participated, of which 35 had made at least 10 contacts, but more than 100 participants did not submit logs. Some work will have to be done to encourage a greater number of participants to submit logs.

A total of 45 logs were submitted for Division 1 – the same as for the Winter Field Day – while 35 logs were submitted for Division 2, down eight on the Winter Field Day results. I note 26 operators submitted logs for both Divisions, while 19 operators submitted logs only for Division 1, and nine operators submitted only for Division 2. Even so, some stalwarts of the VHF-UHF Field Days submitted to both Divisions for the first time.

The number of VK1 contestants quadrupled in the Spring contest compared to Winter! Again, five VK2s entered logs in both Winter and Spring contests, but only one entered both contests. More VK3s ventured out for the Spring contest – 23 – compared to 19 for Winter. Perhaps the Sun brings them out. In Winter, 14 VK4s entered logs, but only eight in Spring. Perhaps some wild weather at the time dissuaded a few and ‘other priorities’ accounted for the rest. In contrast to the VK3s, VK5



entrants dropped to 13 for Spring, against 17 for Winter. Looking back over previous years, this level of variability is not unusual, hence no significance can be read into it.

Credit where it's due

Thanks to Michael Binz VK3ALZ, the Division 1 Contest Manager-in-training, and Colin Hutchesson VK5DK, who stepped up as Division 2 Contest Manager. In addition, particular recognition goes to Mike Subocz VK3AVV for developing log-checking and ranking software that made production of results so efficient.

Challenge of the future

Whatever transpires in 2015, a primary objective should be to attract more operators to participate in the Field Days, and to encourage more participants to submit logs. Aside from new approaches to publicising upcoming VHF-UHF Field Days and the results of those held, it would be worth considering ways and means of reducing the barriers to entering the Field Days and making it easier for contestants to submit logs – there's a few challenges!

Submitted by Roger Harrison VK2ZRH, Director, interim VHF-UHF Field Day manager.

Amateur Radio Direction Finding -ARDF

ARDF in VK3 is very solid. But, getting groups in other states organised is very difficult. Here in VK3 we are fortunate to have a very good relationship with many orienteering clubs associated with the Victorian Orienteering Association. This access allows access to many of the Orienteering maps here in VK3. Our association has been built up over some time and a good example of the bond between Amateur Radio and Orienteering is obvious when we have had many volunteers from Orienteering Clubs assisting with the last 2 region 3 ARDF Championships hosted by the WIA. Another good part of the association is that we do get some Orienteers becoming licensed hams. ARDF style events do exist in VK5 but only during the Australian Fox Hunting Championships hosted by the SERG club in Mount Gambier. As ARDF Coordinator my dream is to see ARDF flourish in all states not just VK3. For this to happen there needs to be a dedicated group to get the sport off the ground. Other than having an interested group the next big hurdle is the ARDF transmitters and receivers. For a full transmitter kit for classic ARDF you would require 6X80m Transmitters and 6X2m Transmitters. Low cost basic 80m receivers can be purchased off the internet. But, ideal 2m receivers are a lot more expensive. Come and try ARDF events in each state would be a good start but I would need to build up a travelling kit of transmitters and receivers first and then there would be the cost of transportation.

In September 2014, 5 Melbourne Amateurs travelled to Burabay Kazakhstan for the 17th World ARDF Championships. Having attended 4 Region 3 ARDF Championships this was my first time attending a World Championship. ARDF in Europe is very strong and it was great to



see so many people who were very into ARDF. In Europe they also have a youth championship something we could only dream about here. In 2016 the next World ARDF Championships will be in Bulgaria, at this stage I am not sure if any WIA members are planning to attend. Important for us though, is that the IARU ARDF Committee have stated the 2018 World ARDF Championships must be in Region 3 and Australia is being looked at as the main country to host the 2018 event. Hosting a World Championships will be a lot harder than hosting a Regional Event and a lot of support both financially and volunteer would need to be promised before WIA put up there hand to host the event. An event like this is really self funded but you really need some capital up front until registration fees and event fees start to start to flow in.

Later in 2015 (September) the 10th region 3 ARDF Championships will be held in Shibukawa-shi Japan. At this stage WIA will have a small team attending.

Submitted by Jack Bramham VK3WWW, WIA ARDF Coordinator.

WIA Awards Committee Report

2014 has been a spectacularly successful year for the awards system. The system went fully online at the beginning of the year, and there were 300+ new awards issued. There were also the same number of upgrades to existing awards. Excel spreadsheets are no longer accepted.

Currently, there are 200 users and 1,000,000 QSO in the system.

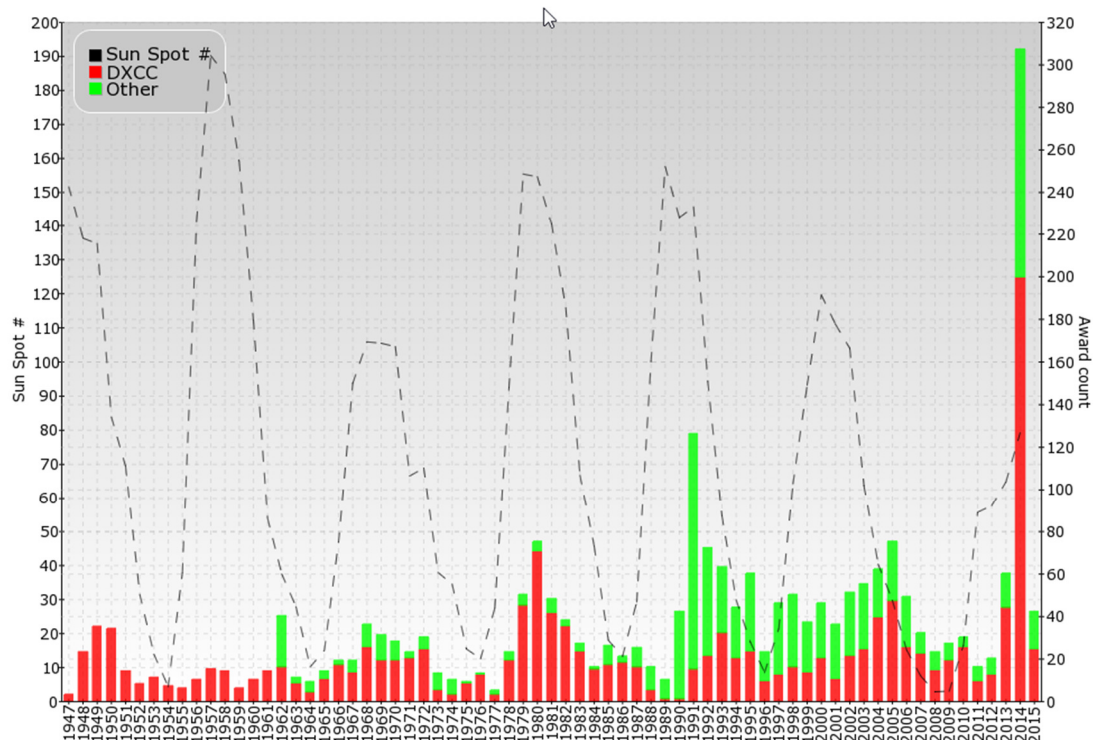
In October, the system was also opened to DX users. Uptake has been relatively slow, as news of it has spread by word of mouth, but it seems to have been embraced by the Indonesians.

A DX Leader board specifically for Foundation licences has been introduced, but at this stage there are no submitters meeting the minimum requirement of 25 DXCC.

Competition for the All grades Leader board has been fierce, but the winners won't be known until just before the AGM.



Award count by Year



There have been no personnel changes in the awards committee in 2014, and the award process is running very smoothly with little effort required of the committee. I cannot thank Marc VK3OHM awards engineer enough for his dedicated work over the past year it is an absolute pleasure to work with him. He has spent many long hours improving this World Class System. 2015 promises to be another big year for awards as, 6 weeks in, we have already issued 40+ awards.

Our aim is to be better and the cutting edge of all awards programmes in the world.

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 12 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 | 1984 | 0.496 |
| VK2 | 21240 | 5.31 |
| VK3 | 17640 | 4.41 |
| VK4 | 20080 | 5.02 |
| VK5 | 8920 | 2.23 |
| VK6 | 12360 | 3.09 |
| VK7 | 7680 | 1.92 |
| VK8 | 2600 | 0.65 |

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 23.13 metres, representing approximately 92,500 cards handled for the States. Inwards cards weighed in at 265kg from 35 countries with Japan alone sending 120kg.

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.

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***



Outwards QSL's

The outwards QSL service continues to provide a valuable service to members as seen by the following statistics for the year 2014:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| QSL CARDS POSTED TO OTHER BUREAUS | 69,800 |
| QSL CARDS RECEIVED FROM WIA INWARDS BUREAU | 23,720 |
| QSL CARDS POSTED TO VK2 MEMBERS | 7,790 |
| QSL CARDS HANDED AT WYONG FIELD DAY | 13,911 |
| TOTAL | 115,221 |

There is a continuing problem with non-ITU standard card sizes and at this time the bureau is holding over 3000 member's cards which cannot be sent through the normal channels. This is disappointing as information about card sizes have been available on the WIA website for several years and has also been publicised in AR Magazine

Submitted by Alex VK2ZM, Westlakes RC Liaison Officer

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)

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. This year, an Archive Activities Report has been circulated amongst members each six months in an additional attempt to keep all abreast of developments during the year.

OUR HISTORY ON THE INTERNET

Following last year's AGM and with the assistance of Robert, VK3DN, a number of historical pages about the development of amateur radio in Australia and the WIA were added to the website. This has been quite worth while with a number of people making contact with the Archive as a result of finding the pages there. (Go to Members > History)

So far, the comments received have been very favorable, however little additional work has been done in this area for most of the year due to other matters taking precedence.



ANZAC -100 & STORIES OF AUSTRALIAN AMATEURS AT WAR

Most activities within the H&AC this year surround the Board's request for stories about Amateur involvement during wartime. Initially, I commenced researching and drafting a number of short articles in early 2014 - "to get the ball rolling". As the year progressed and following a "call for articles" by WIA President, Phil. Wait, another six authors came forward with articles, or information for possible articles, resulting in some 20 major and a total of 35 articles now in the hands of the Publications Committee to choose from. A few additional articles are known to be in the course of preparation.

The Archive has been able to assist in the drafting of many of these articles by supplying information or appropriate photographs to the authors. This has been made possible with the dedicated help of Jenny VK3WQ and Will VK6UU who have both made my job much easier by sourcing information for forwarding on to others.

Some very interesting material has resulted from spending time researching our resources and I'm certain further (non-war) stories for **AR** will be the result of this rather intensive activity!

LIBRARY SHELVING

An offer of commercial steel library shelving by the Prahran Mechanics' Institute was taken up. These are suitable for installation in the Library and Archive areas. The strength of the current shelving has caused some concern over the past couple of years. At very short notice and with the help of John VK3IC, the bays of shelving were disassembled at the PMI library and transported by tandem trailer to Bayswater a couple of days before the Christmas closure. A bonus was the inclusion of a small lockable glass display case which should come in handy for general WIA exhibition purposes.

AR SCANNING PROJECT "MILE-POST"

Will has continued scanning back issues of AR with over 16,000 pages now scanned! This has been a mammoth effort now nearing completion. It remains to decide how these should be stored and made easily available to members and researchers. A good job, well done Will!

DONATIONS

We continue to receive donations (or promises of donations). Some of the material is exactly what we need, other items have been returned or disposed of. David Wardlaw has just donated a large quantity of papers relating to various ITU/WARC Conferences and he will be sorting through them to identify which should be kept that relate specifically to the development of amateur radio in Australia.

GENERAL

Although we still have a long way to go with properly setting up our Archive system, what is there is at least working! It is so much better than the situation which existed when I started researching for the WIA Centenary Celebrations and AR articles in 2009. It has helped immensely in identifying and



supplying material to many researchers/writers. Here I should mention that material has not only been supplied to amateurs, but this year, a couple of book authors have had contact with the Archive and we have been able to provide some help.

The digitisation of Callbooks has also helped immensely, not only with enquiries from others but importantly, preparing the "ANZAC" material.

Thank you to all committee members for their work and interest in this WIA activity.

Submitted by Peter Wolfenden VK3RV, WIA Historian, on behalf of the History and Archive Committee

Scanning of AR magazine

By the time of the WIA convention, historical *Amateur Radio Magazine* will have been scanned, computer enhanced and uploaded onto the Internet, from edition 1, October 1933 to 1980. Scanning is continuing. The total number of pages scanned is in excess of 16,000.

The magazines can be read from the link.... armag.vk6uu.id.au In the longer term the historical magazines would be better housed on the WIA web site.

The magazines are in jpg format for a number of reasons. Most of the pages required considerable computer enhancement. Being of the age many are, often the text had faded or was not of good contrast as it was printed. Also some had physical damage, which was replaced or corrected. Some had to have more than one page to reconstruct the end result. Photographs also had to be processed separately to the text by removing the photographs on the computer scanned image and adjusting the grey scale so that black was black and white was white. Often the photograph looked better than the original in the magazine. Why not use pdf as the file format....?

The magazines would have been in effect jpg, as the photographs in a pdf are jpg anyway. Also the text searchable advantage of pdf will not work due to the number of pages to search, it would take too long if it would work at all. Also it has to be considered that more and more Internet viewing is done on tablets or smart phones. Using an image file as each page, produced a good easy to view page on tablets and smart phones. Also as presented the pages load quicker than if they were in pdf format.

Text searchable of the entire editions of the magazine would be a most useful addition. Some amateurs have indicated it may be possible with particular software but as of yet no results. A process similar to Google, where a master index is produced that is searched for a



particular page is needed. However what is important now is the scanning and computer enhancement.

A point for the WIA to consider....It is easy to put all the magazines on a DVD or thumb drive and view them off line, but looking just the same as if you are viewing them online. The same point and click index structure of each year and then each month being easy to navigate. The viewing is done by opening your Internet browser and then selecting from its menu file, open index.html from the thumb drive. The end result is many times faster than the Internet and of course can be read anywhere, on a plane, in locations where there is no Internet, or by amateurs or others who have a slow Internet connection. The WIA could market the thumb drive etc for a modest profit.

A special thanks to those amateurs who have provided copies of AR magazine, that have in part been missing from the WIA collection or damaged.

Submitted by Will McGhie VK6UU, WIA scanner extraordinaire



IT Services

Robert VK3DN (Director), Tim VK3KTB

Welcome to the WIA 2015 open forum and the annual IT and Website report. As usual our report contains a large number of website statistics which we report on each year, plus updates on new technology and features deployed. The statistics are useful for gauging the level of interest and activity on the website. Four areas with significant interest and usage are the online available callsign lookup facility, the new AR Digital edition facility, the weekly WIA news broadcast in MP3 and text formats and callsign@wia.org.au email facility.

Some stats for the period April 1st 2014 through to April 1st 2015.

- During the last 12 months the WIA website has received just over 12.5 million hits, an increase in the number of hits since this time last year.
- In the last 12 month period the WIA has served out over 1348 gigs of data to members. This figure is made up of web page traffic from our website, an average 1300 weekly downloads of the WIA news broadcast (representing just over a terabyte of data) plus downloads of the new AR digital edition for members.
- In the last twelve months there have been 72,645 downloads of the weekly news broadcast, which is a consistent number compared to the previous 12 months. In addition to members clicking and downloading the news directly from the WIA website news page, many have chosen to subscribe to the news as a podcast. The news broadcast with the highest number of downloads in the last 12 months was Sunday August the third where we saw 2,439 downloads. We continue to receive a healthy amount of interest from people browsing and listening to early archived broadcasts. One popular broadcast we check each year is the Centenary broadcast which was recorded live from the Rydges Hotel during the Centenary Weekend in Canberra, at the time of writing this report the broadcast MP3 file has had a further 37 downloads compared to this time last year.
- 756 people have used the websites “contact the WIA email form” in the 2014-2015 period a slight decline of roughly 13% compared to 869 people who used the form in the previous 12 months.
The breakdown of people using the WIA email contact form were:
 - 561 people sent an email to the National WIA Office
 - 96 people sent an email to the WIA President
 - 74 people sent an email to the WIA Webmaster
- In the last 12 month period 296 people have completed the “Join The WIA Online” web page on the WIA website to either become new members or as past members



who are rejoining the WIA.

- There were 733 transactions conducted using the WIA Ecommerce system these included online merchandise sales and other sundry items, these included:
 - 322 copies of the Foundation Manual
 - 61 copies of the Radio Theory Handbook
 - 150 copies of the WIA Call book
 - 5 WIA shirts
 - 17 WIA Caps
- In the last 12 months there have been 65,925 lookups of callsigns on the online available callsign database page this figure compares to the 57,906 lookups in the previous 12 month period an increase of around 14%
- Currently 2,236 members have taken advantage of the WIA email address forwarding service providing them with their WIA email address in the format callsign@wia.org.au forwarding email to an email account of their choice, this is an increase of 234 new callsign@wia.org.au email addresses within the last 12 months. Members with WIA email addresses also receive periodical WIA's news bulletins and news alerts sent to their WIA email address.

The website also provides a public enquiry form completed by anyone seeking further information on how to get into the hobby of Amateur Radio. In the last 12 months 168 people have completed that form. The WIA office staff follow up each enquiry mailing out information packs on amateur radio, included in the packs are a personalised letter, 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 they fall into, the results are of particular interest. Listed below are the age breakdown for inquiries both the current 12 month period and the previous 12 month period, they are as follows...

- 6% were in the age bracket 10 – 19 (in the previous 12 months was 3%)
- 15% were in the age bracket 20 – 29 (in the previous 12 months was 12%)
- 20% were in the age bracket 30 – 39 (in the previous 12 months was 22%)
- 26% were in the age bracket 40 – 49 (in the previous 12 months was 20%)
- 21% were in the age bracket 50 – 59 (in the previous 12 months was 20%)
- 10% were in the age bracket 60 -69 (in the previous 12 months was 16%)
- 2% were in the age bracket e 70 + (in the previous 12 months was 6%)

In late June 2014 we launched a new Members Only feature on the website, Digital AR download. This has proved very popular with WIA members having made 6,049 downloads to date of the following nine editions online.



- 675 downloads of AR July 2014
- 555 downloads of AR August 2014
- 487 downloads of AR September 2014
- 937 downloads of AR October 2014
- 851 downloads of AR November 2014
- 580 downloads of AR December 2014
- 735 downloads of AR February 2015
- 586 downloads of AR March 2015
- 643 downloads of AR April 2015

Please note; this report was written 2nd April 2015 with the April 2015 edition of AR only being online for one week, further downloads expected during the remainder of the month.

Another project completed in 2015 was the upgrading of the WIA Office file server and computer workstations. Brand new Dell hardware with updated server and workstation software have been purchased and installed. These have brought about enormous improvements in productivity and efficiency for our WIA office staff.

Thanks again for taking time to read this report, as always your feedback and suggestions for improvements and enhancements are most welcome.

Submitted by WIA Webmasters : Rob Broomhead VK3DN & Tim Broomhead VK3KTB

New Initiatives

[A place for everything else that's new](#)

Make a Space

The factory space at the WIA offices has been tidied up and made serviceable. The WIA Board are considering the option to make this space available to "Make A Space" groups. These groups are involved in a very wide range of activities from robots to space exploration. Many of these people have an associated interest in radio. The WIA is looking to encourage these persons into Amateur Radio as an adjunct to their make a space operations. The concept will be further developed over the next 12 months.

ANZAC Commemoration

By the time the open forum papers are published the ANZAC commemorations will have commenced. It has been difficult to accommodate all of the many very good proposals. Most of the participants have been accommodating by changing dates to fit the schedules.



The ANZAC main event commenced on the weekend of the 25th April 2015 and is planned to conclude on the 20th December 2015. The 20th December is when the last ANZAC troops were withdrawn for Gallipoli. Some events in the following years are planned and these will continue to be supported by the WIA.

Jim Linton and Robert Broomhead have been instrumental in assisting in planning and delivery of this event and deserve a vote of thanks, along with Trent Sampson whose expertise in QSL and logging has been vital to the event. The co-operation between the ACMA and the WIA has greatly assisted the acquisition of licensing and callsigns.

WIA Board Newsletter

The WIA Board has initiated a post Board Meeting newsletter that is sent to all club Presidents and Secretaries via the Memnet system. This has proved popular with clubs as it keeps them up to date on a monthly basis with the issues that the WIA Board are addressing.

WIA Historic QSL Collection

The extensive WIA Historic QSL collection has been put into order and some cards have been added to the collection. This collection, reported to be the second largest of historic QSL cards in the world eclipsed only by the Documentary Archive Radio Communications organisation DokuFunk in Austria, who hold a significant historic radio collection including QSL Cards. The WIA has forged new links with this organisation to ensure that VK history is preserved and maintained for future generations of radio amateurs and the broader community.

Submitted by Fred Swainston VK3DAC

