



## THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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### REPORT ON CONTESTS

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**National Contests Coordinator**

I am pleased to report that there has been a noticeable increase in interest and participation amongst Australian Amateurs in our local Contests. This has been especially evident this year, 2006, with the John Moyle Field Day and Harry Angel Sprint in March and April.

It has been most pleasing to hear newer F-calls taking part, even if they admit that they are not sure how things should be done.

To this end an effort has been made to use the Contest Column of "Amateur Radio" to present a series of articles designed to encourage less-experienced people into the ranks of contesting.

The use of VHF frequencies seems to be in decline, after being the mainstay of Amateur communications for many years. This means that HF is undergoing a new lease of life. To a large extent terrain of some capital cities is responsible for this.

Also, it is pleasing to report that this year there has been interest in using computer logging for our contests, resulting in some people either using existing logging programs, or designing their own. The RD Contest 2005 was the real start for this and now there are some good programs designed specifically for Australian conditions. Our thanks should go to the authors of those programs, not only for their creation, but for the incentive that they bring to use modern technology for local situations.

On the negative side, I am sorry to refer to the fact that the results of the 2005 Remembrance Day Contest still have not been published. Apparently the Manager had severe computer problems soon after receiving logs, but subsequent discussions seem not to have elicited any progress. This gives the WIA a negative image in the eyes of some Amateurs, to the point where some have already said that they will not take part in future.

So whilst the attitude to Contesting is not yet ideal, nevertheless it looks positive.

Ian Godsil