



WIA AGM and OPEN FORUM

13th May 2023



WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13 May 2023 - AGENDA

Persons attending on the day are requested to arrive no later than 10.00am

The link for the On-Line participants will be emailed out about 1 hour prior to the commencement

The link for the internet stream broadcast will be posted onto the WIA Website on that morning

The meeting will commence at 10.30am (Australian Eastern Standard Time)

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Record of Directors Present
3. Record of Members present
4. Acceptance of Apologies
5. Recognition of Silent Keys
6. Registration of Proxies
7. Acceptance of Previous Minutes
8. Presidents Address
9. Financial Report (Including Directors and Audit Report)
10. Business on Notice
11. Election Declaration
12. Retuning Officer
13. Appointment of Auditor
14. WIA Merit Awards
15. WIA Publication Awards
16. Other Business
17. Vote of Thanks to Staff and Committees
18. Close of AGM

After a short break the WIA Open Forum will commence

WIA AGM and FORUM

RECORD of DIRECTORS PRESENT (in person or by electronic means)

Scott Williams	VK3KJ	President
Lee Moyle	VK3GK	Vice President
Greg Kelly	VK2GPK	Director
Peter Clee	VK8ZZ	Director
Peter Schrader	VK4EA	Director
Steven Green	VK2TSG	Director
Chris Dimitrijevic	VK3FY	Director

Peter Clee VK8ZZ is the nominated WIA Company Secretary

ACCEPTANCE of APOLOGIES

All members who lodged a proxy but did not register to attend will be noted as an apology.

Apologies have been received from:

Dale Hughes	VK1DSH
Colin Strong	VK3YCS
Jenny Wardrop	VK3WQ
Peter Wolfenden	VK3RV
Simon Kendall	VK3DWG
Michael Patterson	VK4MIK
Bruce Bathols	VK3UV

Additional apologies can be forwarded by email to secretary@wia.org.au

PROXIES

Proxy forms were accepted at the national office up to 24 hours prior to the commencement of the AGM in accordance with the Constitution. The company secretary can confirm that 6 valid proxies were received.

The following proxies were received

Member	Callsign	Proxy to:
Dale Hughes	VK1DSH	Chair
Colin Strong	VK3YCS	Chair
Jenny Wardrop	VK3WQ	Chair
Peter Wolfenden	VK3RV	Chair
Simon Kendall	VK3DWG	Chair
Michael Paterson	VK4MIK	Peter Clee VK8ZZ

WIA AGM and FORUM

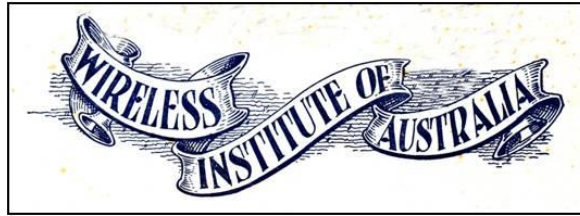
SILENT KEYS

The following members have been notified to the national office as having fallen Silent Keys:

Mike <u>Subocz</u>	VK3AGH	Ian Forster	VK3BMO
John Semple		David Harding	VK2AIF
David <u>Brownsey</u>		Glen Jennings	VK1GL
Harvey <u>Skegg</u>	VK7HK	John <u>Bazley</u>	VK4OQ
Donald Pollard	VK2ASW	Donald Lorimer	
John Jenner	VK5KJJ	Harold Kiernan	VK3DHL
Geoffrey Johns		Leon <u>Reichelt</u>	VK3KIT
Danny McManus	VK3NG	Jim Storch	
Neil <u>Connors</u>	VK8ZCU	Ken Taylor	VK3KAV
John Martin	VK3KM	Howard Stephenson	VK4HS
<u>Merv Deakin</u>	VK4DV	Max <u>Reiper</u>	
George Turner	VK4HGT	Donald Lorimer	
Ellis Pottage	VK3FG	M Campbell	VK3DG
Rodney Champness	VK3UG	Josephine Gleadhill	VK4HU

If you are aware of members that have fallen Silent Key, please advise by email at NationalOffice@wia.org.au

E & OE



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST 20 YEARS OF ORGANISED AMATEUR RADIO IN AUSTRALIA

The **Wireless Institute of Australia** grew from autonomous State groups. The name: "Wireless Institute of Australia" was not the original name used in all States of Australia; however, they all finally morphed into the one national organisation.

Wireless demonstrations were given in most Australian States between 1897 and 1900. Professor Threfall repeated Hertz's demonstrations at Sydney University as early as 1888 and Professor William Bragg gave the first recorded public demonstration of "*Telegraphy without wires*" in Australia at the University of Adelaide during September 1897. ^{(1), (2), (3), (4)}

H.W. Jenvey, Chief Postal Electrical Engineer for Victoria had been experimenting privately with wireless telegraphy from 1899 and on 6th of May 1901, at his own suggestion and with 'governmental blessing', he officially communicated with the escort ship, HMS St George which was in Victorian waters accompanying the Duke of York, the future King, bound for Melbourne and the Federation Celebrations. This was the first ship-to-shore wireless communication in the Antipodes and to the amazement of the Royal Navy, Jenvey was using his "home- made" equipment. Although Walter Jenvey was employed by the Post Office, almost all of his wireless work was conducted "after hours" and was not considered to be part of his employment. It was of an amateur or experimental nature. ^{(5), (6), (7), (8), (9)}

On 11th March 1910, the **Institute of Wireless Telegraphy of Australia** was established in Sydney and 'Telegraphy' was soon dropped from the name. The initial meeting was held at the Hotel Australia in Martin Place at the site of the current MLC Centre. Placing this date into context, it was about 13 years before regular broadcasting started in this country and was over a year before *The Marconigraph* journal was published by Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company. In a 1920s article about the early days of the Institute in Sydney, President Charles Maclurcan (A2CM) refers to the "*Wireless Institute of New South Wales as the first Technical Radio Association to be formed within the British Empire.*" ^{(10), (11), (12)}

By early 1910, besides a few government experimental stations and the odd specialised station for communicating with shipping, there were only about 10 authorised experimental stations in Australia. The Melbourne Herald of March 14th 1910 listed the licences issued since the implementation of Australia's 1905 Wireless Telegraphy Act of Parliament. ⁽¹³⁾

A similar organisation to the Institute of Wireless Telegraphy was formed in Melbourne the following year; the name adopted at the inaugural meeting was the **Amateur Wireless Society of Victoria**. Convened by well known city retailer P.H. McElroy of *Homecrafts* on November 30th 1911, it had 50

enthusiasts present at the Esperanto Hall where it was decided *"to form a Society so as to bring together all gentlemen who are interested in Wireless Telegraphy and by the exchange of views to encourage and assist experiment in this extremely interesting branch of science"*. On May 1st 1913, the society changed name to the **Wireless Institute of Victoria**, also destined to become **The Wireless Institute of Australia, Victorian Division**.^{(14), (15)}

Queensland followed on the 8th May 1912 when **The Wireless Institute of Queensland** was established.⁽¹⁶⁾

The **West Australian Radio Club** established in August 1913, changed name in June 1914 to **West Australian Institute of Radio and Scientific Experimenters**. On the 3rd of November 1919, the name: **W.I.A., Western Australia Section** was adopted.^{(17), (18)}

The experimenters in South Australia formed a branch of the W.I.A. in November 1919 known as the **South Australian Section of the W.I.A.**^{(19), (20)}

Although there was experimental activity in Hobart prior to 1901, the **Tasmanian Division of the W.I.A.** was not formed until June 1923 in Hobart.⁽²¹⁾

The amateurs had many problems to contend with as the use of the spectrum increased. In August 1913, an annual licence fee was re-introduced at £1/1/- (\$124 in 2018) in an apparent attempt to discourage the indiscriminate use of wireless telegraphy. The secretary of the central postal administration stated: *"... the system of issuing licences without cash payment was not satisfactory... Unless a person intended to go into the study of wireless telegraphy seriously, he was, after all, not worth encouraging."*⁽²²⁾

In the same month, Walter King Witt, Hon. Secretary of the Wireless Institute of Victoria had a lengthy letter to the editor, published in the Melbourne **Argus** of the 16th August 1913 in which he concluded *"...In fact we have received notification from the Postmaster-General's Department that, 'unless the situation [interference] has undergone a change within fourteen days from receipt of this circular, it will take steps to withdraw all licences.' The council would like it known that it is willing to give any assistance in its power to experimenters in radio-telegraphy, whether they be members of the institute or not."*

Thankfully closure, due to "interference problems" did not eventuate (as it did in New Zealand) and there is little doubt that the concerted efforts by institute officers contributed greatly to the preservation of experimenter's privileges in this country.⁽²³⁾

1913 also saw the Wireless Institute of Victoria commence recording information about all known stations *"from official and other authentic sources"*. The resultant call book, printed in April 1914, included Commercial Land Stations, Ship Stations and Australian Experimenter's call signs. It included some 401 Experimental stations, 33 Land stations and 14 Australian Navy ships together with a listing of 293 other ships from Australia and around the world. The Wireless Institute of New South Wales held the call sign XADK and the Wireless Institute of Victoria, XPJ.⁽²⁴⁾

No sooner was the call book published, WWI was declared, causing the closure of all experimental stations in Australia from August 1914. The committee of the Wireless Institute of Victoria received from Mr. Balsillie, the Commonwealth Wireless Director, a request for competent operators *"to be called upon when required"*. All Australian experimenters received instructions from the Post Master General's Department to dismantle aerials, gear and appliances within 24 hours and to lodge their equipment at the local Post Office. The Navy resumed control of the spectrum. Many experimenters enlisted, and as a result "radio" clubs and societies either closed down or became moribund.⁽²⁵⁾

Following the War, the Navy, now the Royal Australian Navy, was again reluctant to relinquish control of the spectrum and amateur experimenters and commercial interests alike were frustrated by the prolonged delay.

By June 1920, the licencing situation was starting to move. The Navy From November 1919, commenced issuing temporary receive only licences. The Victorian Division contacted other states requesting them to agree to appoint proxies from within the Victorian Council (of the Institute) to represent them on a possible Federal Council which itself was to approach authorities to re-issue transmitting licences and obtain due recognition of a Federal W.I.A.

However, transmitting licences were not generally made available until late 1922. ^{(26), (27)}

In May 1924, a meeting of wireless experimenters took place at the Melbourne Town Hall. This was held in conjunction with a Wireless Exhibition. The Souvenir Program for the Exhibition contained details of the history of Australian experimenters and the W.I.A. and in which it was stated:

"It will come as a surprise to many people to learn that the Wireless Institute of Australia is a very old established organisation, and was formed in 1910."

And under "The Convention" heading:

"It has long been realised that the Federation of the various branches of the Institute and the formation of a Federal Executive would be a very desirable accomplishment. ... The convention to be held on Friday, however, promises an opportunity for the various States to meet on common ground and lay the foundation of an all Australian organisation" ^{(28), (29)}

For the next 15 years, Federal Conventions of the WIA were held in all Capital cities in rotation and experimenters had exciting, fruitful, together with exasperating times until World War Two broke out when once again they had to close down their stations for the duration of that war. ⁽³⁰⁾

As a "living organisation", the WIA in all of its manifestations over the years, has undergone many changes to reflect the issues of the times and interests of its members.

Representing all amateur experimenters to the authorities was one of the initial aims of our forebears and it is still the pinnacle issue for the WIA today. De-regulation has brought about additional responsibilities which our first office bearers, even in their wildest dreams, would never have thought of.

Over time, the emphasis of our hobby has undergone many changes together with everything else in society at both national and international levels - and that *is* healthy; but there is little doubt that the need for representation is just as important today as it was 100 years ago.

Today, Australian Radio Amateurs can rightly celebrate the establishment of the Wireless Institute of Australia, their representative organisation, 100 years ago - the oldest group of such ***like minded people*** in the world.

In the words of Leo Feenaghty VK4LJ, editor of QTC, the official journal of the WIA during 1930-31, *"The letters WIA in our mind stand not only for 'Wireless Institute of Australia' but also and essentially for 'Wholeheartedly and Intensely Amateur'."* ⁽³¹⁾

[Written for **100 Years of Organised Amateur Radio in Australia** in 2010 and based on the series of articles published in *Amateur Radio* magazine that year, entitled **An Arena of Wonder** – QSP by VK3RV]

References:

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- (15) **Amateur Wireless Society of Victoria and the Wireless Institute of Victoria**, *Minutes*, (1911-15),
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- (22) **Amateurs’ Complaints**, *Argus Newspaper*, Melbourne, August 5th 1913, p6.
- (23) **Australian Wireless**, *Argus Newspaper*, Melbourne, April 4th 1913, p15.
- (24) **Wireless in Australia**, (A Call-book), Wireless Institute of Victoria, 1914
- (25) **Minutes of the Amateur Wireless Society of Victoria and the Wireless Institute of Victoria (1911-15)**,
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- (26) **WIA Book Volume 1**, Wireless Institute of Australia, Melbourne, 1982, Chronological Table.
- (27) Austin, M, VK5QO, **The First Sixty Years of the WIA (S.A. Div) 1919-1980**, WIA- SA, 1984.
- (28) **Souvenir Program, Wireless and Electrical Exhibition and Convention**, Melbourne Town Hall,
May 14th to 19th, 1924, Wireless Institute of Australia, Victorian Division. 1924, WIA Archive
- (29) **Minutes of first Australian Convention**, *Radio Experimenter and Broadcaster Magazine*.
(Editor H.K. Love, A3BM. Assoc. Editor R.A. Hull A3JU), Melbourne, June 15th 1924, p15.
- (30) **WIA Book Volume 1**, Wireless Institute of Australia, Melbourne, 1982, Chronological Table.
- (31) Feenaughty, L, Maj., VK4LG, Final edition editorial *QTC*, *Official journal of the WIA*, November 1931



Members of this Committee or Group

- Angelo Giuffre VK2NWT Co-ordinator

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

- Audit WIA Affiliated Clubs WIA pages.
- Assist new clubs with questions related to WIA affiliation.
- Assist WIA Affiliated Clubs with the maintenance of their WIA webpage.
-

Achievements in 202022

- Continued to review and contact Clubs to maintain correct committee and contact details.
- Removed several clubs that were no longer active. The current club listing is accurate.
- Identified and contacted clubs that have fallen below required WIA membership numbers and requested attempts to increase membership where possible.
- Submitted two segments for Broadcasts requesting Clubs to update their WIA page and suggestions for Clubs to promote AR.

Proposals for 2023/24 and beyond

- Continue to maintain WIA affiliated Clubs pages.
- Revise presentation of the WIA Clubs page if possible.
- Establish some form of media and promotional resources for Clubs to utilise.

Efforts to increase group membership, diversity and succession plans

(past and forshadowed)

- Document the WIA Affiliated Clubs Coordinator Role for future volunteers.
- I think there is a definite need for more resources to be offered to WIA Affiliated clubs as it may well lead to increased WIA membership.
- Perhaps an expansion of the Clubs role may be considered if some additional responsibilities are added in the future. (See Other Comments or Remarks).

Other comments or remarks

- Although not in my work description, I'd like to make several suggestions based on feedback received from some of the Clubs I have spoken with.
- Review of the WIA Affiliated Clubs page. Although all basic Club information is there, it does look a little tired in 2023.

- I strongly believe that affiliated Clubs need some further offerings to what is currently available based on feedback from Clubs who suggest that they could increase WIA membership if there was more on the table.
- We still make mention of the WIA Club Grants Scheme on the WIA website; however, I think that it should be removed from the Clubs affiliation page if it continues to be withheld. This has been brought up with me on several occasions when communicating with clubs and I think its inclusion on the page is currently counterproductive.
- Greater use of social media by WIA to promote Clubs and AR on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram etc. We currently leave this up to Clubs to do for their own promotion with mixed results. Perhaps the WIA could consider doing some of its own promotion of Clubs on social media about AR in general and the existence of the many clubs across Australia.
- Some marketing resources are needed for some clubs as they either do not have resources or just don't know how to do it. Perhaps a return of the old WIA A1 Posters, fresh video footage of AR today, and other promotional material to use for field days, clubs' websites, social media pages etc would be worthwhile. Surely there must be some WIA members with video making/marketing skills that could volunteer some time and resources to produce some worthwhile video and images promoting AR today.
- Greater interaction with Clubs. I've been asked by several Clubs to join their meetings for a briefing about the WIA. I have not agreed to any meetings as it's not my charge, but I can see where it may be useful and seen as a proactive approach by the WIA. The common view expressed to me is that the WIA only seem to be contacting them for major items like PL or ACMA notices and little else.
- I enjoy this role and would be willing to assist with further activities related to Clubs. I believe there is some scope to add some responsibilities to the role in the future if the Board is considering further work with WIA Clubs.

History and Archive Committee - REPORT to the 2023 AGM

Members of this Committee or Group

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------------------|
| • Peter Wolfenden | VK3RV | Acting Committee Chair |
| • Linda Luther | VK7QP | |
| • Jenny Wardrop | VK3WQ | |
| • Will McGhie | VK6UU | |
| • Ian Morris | VK3IFM | |
| • Drew Diamond | VK3XU | |
| • David Wardlaw | VK3ADW | |
| • Terry Mowles | VK5TM | |

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

- Collect and conserve important records and objects associated with the history of the WIA.
- Collect photographs and other pictorial material relating to amateur radio in Australia.
- Build an historical resource for the WIA and its members.

Achievements for 2022

Archive Data Base Computer

Although many donations to the Archive have been made during the year, only limited additions have been made to the Archive's database, largely due to other commitments by those doing this work. (See later comments).

Archive Enquiries

Most enquiries of the Archive this year have been from family historians. Information has also been forwarded to researchers and authors of articles for **AR** magazine.

As well as providing information about individual amateurs, the Archive has also supplied material to radio clubs and other organisations such as ALARA. It was around this time 100 years ago that a number of radio clubs had their genesis, largely due to the introduction of speech (or "phone") transmissions – often made by amateurs, in the lead up to broadcasting in Australia.

Other Activities

Magazine Articles – A number of historical articles were researched and prepared during the year for **Amateur Radio**, including a number for **AR**'s 90th year of publication. Articles relating to earlier official WIA journals (Federal) before **AR** commenced. This in turn lead to additional research on Ross Hull (of Ross Hull Contest fame) and the "discovery" of a number of interesting and formidable contributions he made to amateur radio here, prior to his re-location to the ARRL.

So a "low key" request from the **AR** Editor, Roger Harrison, has not only provided some magazine material, but added further to the record of Australia's amateur radio history, post WWI and in particular, various aspects of Ross Hull's inputs.

History and Archive Committee - REPORT to the 2023 AGM

Updating Historical Listing of WIA Office Bearers - Following an enquiry some years ago about the listing published in 1982 in the WIA Book Volume 1, it was decided to attempt a major review of the list of Presidents (Federal/National) and Vice Presidents etc. and to bring it up to date.

This has been a complex project for such a long standing and volunteer based organisation as some details have been difficult to find and many were equally difficult to confirm. However, the project is now nearing completion.

Along the way a few errors were discovered and for clarity it was decided to add additional information including the names of Secretaries (important and frequently over-worked key volunteers) together with the names of those who actually chaired Federal Conventions (AGMs). Other relevant information has been included, together with the sources of information used.

Proposals for 2023 and beyond

AR Index investigation

Attempting to locate particular information from the pages of AR can be very frustrating unless you have a good idea of what you are looking for and even the year the article was published. Often an article's title is more of a "catch phrase" rather than being indicative of the subject matter. Terry Mowles VK5TM, has had involvement with the current **AR** indexing system, which as he points out, because of the way it has been constructed, is not easily updated or added to and then it only contains the basics of article title, Author, Callsign, Month, Year and Page.

To be more useful, the indexing system really needs to be in a searchable database format with additional fields for Article Summary, and Notes which can be easily added to as necessary. Terry recently stated that we really need somebody who is comfortable with databases that can either set one up, or provide guidance on getting the job done. Comments/offers appreciated.

Other comments or remarks

The History and Archive Committee is made up of individuals located in many parts of Australia, and who, in the main, look after specific areas of activity for which they are responsible.

COVID continued to disrupt work within the physical Archive in the past year. A few short visits were made to Bayswater to search for essential material. No formal committee meetings were held during the year, although a number of members were able to continue their Archive commitments and activities.

Finally, thank-you to all who have supported the Archive during the past twelve months.

Peter Wolfenden, VK3RV
Acting Chair,
WIA History and Archives Committee, 25-04-2022

Members of this Committee or Group

- Greg Kelly VK2GPK
- Peter Clee VK8ZZ
- Scott Williams VK3HK

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

- Financial Management of the Institute
- Control expenses and approve payments

Achievements in 2022

WIA is trading with a surplus and we have been able to make provisions for 2023.

Implement and maintain effective financial management practices that will sustain the WIA into the future.

Proposals for 2023 / 24 and beyond

2023 will see heavy commitments to International representation with the WIA attending WRC-23.

International representation will cost in the vicinity of \$60,000 for the year, a significant portion of our income.

Review the use of book keepers and auditors.

Efforts to increase group membership and diversity_(past and forshadowed)

Membership of this committee is always under review.

The committee has decided not to appoint a Treasurer, but rather to maintain a group focus on all financial aspects.

Other comments or remarks

The WIA will investigate additional insurance cover for members, beyond the Public liability Insurance that is currently offered to clubs.

Report to the Wireless Institute of Australia AGM

Foundation Licence Manual Working Group

After almost 20 years in publication, and following changes by the ACMA to the Foundation licence Conditions in 2019, a decision was made to comprehensively revise and update the contents of the Foundation Licence Manual (FLM).

An ad hoc working group was formed comprising:

Roger Harrison VK2ZRH

John Nunan VK5DM/VK3IC

Grant Willis VK5GR

Peter Wolfenden VK3RV

Phil Wait VK2ASD

The FLM has always had the dual purpose of being an educational tool to assist newcomers to gain an entry-level licence, and as a useful reference source. It goes much deeper into some topics than required with the intent of providing interesting and helpful background information, with the required knowledge for the licence assessment clearly marked.

One difficulty encountered this time was that the licence syllabus had not yet been updated to reflect the revised licence conditions, so the actual required content was a bit of a guess. It was fairly certain that resonance and some basic digital information would need to be included, so new sections covering basic AC theory, capacitance, inductance, resonance, digital techniques and modes, ADC's and DAC's, and software defined radios were added, and a page on decibels.

The page count increased from 104 plus covers to 120 plus covers. Production was again by Ivan Smith, Communique Graphics.

One thing I would have liked to change is the cover, but time and cost beat us, and (although the male model and the Nissan Patrol would now be looking considerably older) the manual does remain easily identifiable. Perhaps at the next revision, along with the recently revised syllabus.

Eagle eyes will have noticed a new line appeared on the cover 'Learn about wireless technology' with a line of target audiences underneath. It has always been my view that the FLM would have appeal outside the immediate amateur radio community. I've also thought that, perhaps, with the addition of unique regulations inserts, it could have relevance for other amateur societies, especially in Pacific nations. To explore these opportunities would require some intent, promotional effort, and expense.

I've thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Foundation Manual Working Group.

Phil Wait VK2ASD

WIA AGM 2023

WIA News Call-back Report

Hello to all the people attending this years AGM.

I will give a brief report on the WIA news call-backs for the last WIA year.

Members

- ▶ Gordon Taylor VK4VP
- ▶ Peter Fauth VK5DMR - backup

Functions and Responsibilities

The WIA Broadcast Call-back Co-ordinators summate all of the weekly call-back reports submitted from operators rebroadcasting the WIA news report each week. All reports are generally received by the following Saturday evening due to some broadcasts being quite late in the week and a summary report issued on the following Sunday morning.

Achievements

The report covers the period from 8th May 2022 up to the 26th March 2023 which is in-line with the WIA year. It should be noted that this report period covers 47 weeks.

Some interesting facts

- ▶ The largest number of RF call-backs was 1,001 on Sunday 19/02/2023;
- ▶ The smallest number of RF call-backs was 411 on Sunday 25/12/2022;
- ▶ The average number of RF call-backs was 890;
- ▶ Generally on a contest or event weekend numbers are down which is to be expected;
- ▶ Bevan VK5BD's YouTube adaption of the news averages 193 views per week;
- ▶ Audio downloads of the news from the WIA website averages 1,003 per week;
- ▶ Text downloads of the news from the WIA website averages 2,377 per week;
- ▶ VK2 and VK5 have impressive totals of over 11,000 and 14,500 respectively;
- ▶ VK4 and VK6 are close with numbers in the 6,000 vicinity.

The total number of listeners, viewers and readers totals over 203,000 for the last year which is a marked increase from previous years.

Proposals for 2023/24

The only area of improvement would be to ensure that call-back reports are consistently sent in. Some contributors are very regular while others can be somewhat late. If late submissions are received the numbers are backfilled into the report so they are always captured.

There are some contributors that are extremely consistent and always provide a report or a reason if there is no report such as faulty equipment etc.

Regards

Gordon Taylor VK4VP

WIA News Callback Co-ordinator.

2023 WIA AGM Report on Australian activities towards WRC-23

Introduction

This report covers the representative activities on behalf of the WIA undertaken by Dale Hughes VK1DSH and Peter Pokorny VK2EMR in support of the amateur service during 2022 and 2023.

Background

The framework (including band allocations) for all radiocommunication services are specified in the [Radio Regulations](#) which are maintained by the [International Telecommunication Union](#) (ITU). The Radio Regulations are revised every three or four years at [World Radiocommunication Conferences](#). The [Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan](#) and [Amateur Licence Conditions](#) flow from the ITU Radio Regulations and are revised after each WRC to reflect changes made to the Radio Regulations by the preceding WRC.

WRC-23 agenda items relevant to the amateur service

While there are no WRC-23 agenda items seeking new bands for the amateur service there are a number of WRC-23 agenda items that may impact existing amateur allocations. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) lists the [WRC-23 agenda items of concern to the amateur service](#) as:

	WRC-23 Agenda Item	Issue
1.2	To consider identification of the frequency bands 3 300 – 3 400 MHz, 3 600-3 800 MHz, 6 425 – 7 025 MHz, 7 025 – 7 125 MHz and 10.0–10.5 GHz for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT).	May affect amateur allocations around 3.5 GHz in ITU Regions 1 and 2 and 10.0 – 10.5 GHz in Region 2.
1.12	To conduct, and complete in time for WRC-23, studies for a possible new secondary allocation to the Earth exploration-satellite (active) service for spaceborne radar sounders within the range of frequencies around 45 MHz.	Interference to the 50 – 54 MHz amateur band, in particular 50.0 – 50.5 MHz.
1.14	To review and consider possible adjustments of the existing or possible new primary frequency allocations to EESS (passive) in the frequency range 231.5–252 GHz.	Possible constraints on 248-250 GHz primary allocation and the 241 – 248 GHz secondary allocations to the amateur and amateur-satellite services.
1.18	To consider studies relating to spectrum needs and potential new allocations to the mobile-satellite service for future development of narrowband mobile-satellite systems.	The amateur service has a secondary allocation in 3 300-3 400 MHz in Regions 2 and 3 (but only Region 2 is being considered by this agenda item)
9.1a	In accordance with Resolution 657 (Rev.WRC-19), review the results of studies relating to the technical and operational characteristics, spectrum requirements and appropriate radio service designations for space weather sensors with a view to describing appropriate recognition and protection in the Radio Regulations.	In considering potential new regulatory provisions for the recognition of space weather systems, additional constraints on the amateur and amateur-satellite services must be avoided.

9.1b	Review of the amateur service and the amateur-satellite service allocations in the frequency band 1 240-1 300 MHz to determine if additional measures are required to ensure protection of the radionavigation-satellite (space-to-Earth) service operating in the same band.	Interference from the secondary amateur services to the primary radionavigation-satellite service has occurred; restrictions on amateur activities in the band may be imposed.
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Noting that some of the agenda items do not impact Australia or other countries in Region 3, for Australian amateurs the most important agenda item is 9.1b because it may restrict our use of the 23 cm band. Amateurs share the 1240 – 1300 MHz frequency band with the radionavigation-satellite service (RNSS), the Earth exploration-satellite service, space research service, and the radiolocation service, all of which are the primary services in the band with the amateur service being secondary.

The origin of WRC-23 agenda item 9.1b is several reported cases of interference to Galileo RNSS receivers in Germany from an amateur analog ATV transmitter. As RNSS is the primary service and secondary services should not cause harmful interference to RNSS receivers, it is anticipated that various limitations on amateur usage of the band will be proposed during WRC-23 to reduce the possibility of interference to RNSS receivers. Work to date at ITU-R has focused on developing methods which will still allow meaningful use of the band by amateurs while still protecting RNSS receivers.

The [Preliminary Australian Positions on all WRC-23 agenda items](#) is publicly available and the position on issues relevant to the amateur service are acceptable for now. The [Asia-Pacific Telecommunity regional position](#) on WRC-23 agenda items is also publicly available.

The Process

In Australia, the process of developing views on all [WRC-23](#) agenda items includes stake-holders like the WIA and this work has continued by means of virtual, mixed mode and face-to-face meetings throughout the year. The meetings include various [Australian Radio Study Groups](#) (ARSGs) which are convened by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and the [WRC-23 Preparatory Group](#) (PG WRC-23) convened by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA). Outputs from these meetings determine the Australian inputs to meetings of the WRC Preparatory Group of the [Asia-Pacific Telecommunity](#) (APG23-4 and [APG23-5](#)) and relevant working parties of the [International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunications Sector](#) (ITU-R). ITU-R [Working Party 5A](#) (WP5A) deals with issues affecting the amateur service, with inputs from other ITU members and from other ITU-R working parties like [WP4C](#).

Meetings

In general, the meetings of ARSGs and ITU-R study technical aspects of the [WRC-23 Agenda Items](#) and the other groups determine national and regional positions on the agenda items. The [Australian](#) and [Asia-Pacific Telecommunity regional](#) views determine the negotiating positions at the WRC-23 meeting, noting that the current positions are draft and subject to change. The final Australian view will be based on the outcome of ITU-R Studies and the regional view and the final position will determine Australia's negotiating parameters at WRC-23.

Noting that because it is the final year of the WRC cycle there have been more meetings than usual, the WIA has had a presence (Dale Hughes VK1DSH & Peter Pokorny VK2EMR) at the following meetings (bracketed dates are for upcoming meetings):

Meeting	Dates	Purpose
ARSG-4	28/6/2022 16/8/2022 (Additional meetings will be scheduled as required)	Discussion of Australian contributions to WP4C meeting
ARSG-5	12/4/2022 6/10/2022 (Additional meetings will be scheduled as required)	Discussion of Australian contributions to WP5A meeting
PG-WRC-23	6/7/2022 7/12/2022 14/3/2023 (Additional meetings will be scheduled as required)	Determination of Australian Preliminary Views on WRC-23 agenda items
APG-23	15/8/2022 – 20/8/2022 (APG23-4) 20/2/2023 - 25/2/2023 (APG23-5) (14/8/2023 - 19/8/2023 (APG23-6) Final APG meeting this cycle)	Determination of Regional Preliminary Views on WRC-23 agenda items
ITU-R WP4C	4/5/2022 - 13/5/2022 7/9/2022 – 13/9/2022	Technical studies on Galileo – amateur 23 cm issues (AI9.1b) Satellite aspects
ITU-R WP5A	23/5/2022 – 3/6/2022 14/11/2022 – 25/11/2022 (9/5/2023 – 18/5/2023) (11/9/2023 – 22/9/2023)	Technical studies on Galileo – amateur 23 cm issues (AI9.1b) Amateur service aspects
CPM23-2	27/3/2023 – 7/4/2023	WRC-23 Conference Preparatory meeting
WRC-23	(20/11/2023 – 15/12/2023)	Conclusion of work for this WRC cycle

Summary and Conclusion

While the Australian Preliminary Views on WRC-23 agenda items relevant to the amateur service are acceptable at present, work on the development of the views will continue and it is important that the WIA maintains a presence in the discussions and negotiations which will draft the final Australian position on WRC agenda items, prior to WRC-23.

Attendance at the APG23-6 (Brisbane) is also important because that is the meeting where the Asia-Pacific regional views will be finalised prior to WRC-23. It is also important that the WIA has representation at WRC-23 (In Dubai, as members of the Australian delegation) to ensure that the views of Australian amateurs are adequately considered during the WRC negotiations.

For D. Hughes, funding to attend the ITU-R Working Party 5A meetings is provided by the IARU International Secretariat and this is gratefully acknowledged.

Dale Hughes VK1DSH

23/3/2023

Email: dalevk1dsh@gmail.com

STANDARDS Sub-committee

RC-006 - Radiocommunications Equipment - General

RC-004 - Radiocommunications Equipment - Maritime & Safety of Life

REPORT to the AGM May 2023

Members of this Committee or Group

Noel Higgins	VK3NH	WIA representative and chair of RC006
Noel Higgins	VK3NH	WIA representative (until March 2023) now ARCIA chair of RC004.
Peter Pokorny	VK2EMR	WIA representative (from March 2023)

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

To provide input to Australian Standards development as required for the following committees:-

Committee RC-006 - Radiocommunications Equipment - General

Committee RC-004 - Radiocommunications Equipment - Maritime & Safety of Life

Achievements in 2020 to 2022

RC006 committee is dormant with no active project since the **failed project to revise AS/NZS 4268** due to changed Standards Australia policy not allowing changes in the manner proposed or even use the same standard format and wording. Noel provided input to the recent ACMA consultation on regulation which moved the content of 13 repealed ACMA standards into the equipment rules.

RC004 Noel Higgins took over as RC004 committee chair in April 2022 after Glenn Dunstan resigned.

- EPIRB standard revision completed - AS/NZS 4280.1 (IEC 61097.2:2021, (MOD)) published.
- PLB standard project AS/NZS 4280.2 (RTCM 11010.3, MOD) nearing completion with document about to go to committee vote. Class 2 personal locator beacons allowed if made buoyant.
- Various TC80 committee standards and drafts reviewed by committee.
- AS/NZS 4869.2:2010 Marine survivor locating system (MSLS) reconfirmed by committee.
- AS/NZS 4432.1:2011 (GMDSS), Part 1: Radar transponder - Marine search and rescue (SART) standard currently under committee vote and likely to be reconfirmed.

Proposals for 2023/24 and beyond

- Continue to respond to requests by Standards Australia to review aging standards and to provide comment on international and TC80 draft standards.
- Undertake projects as required to develop, amend or revise standards.

Efforts to increase group membership, diversity and succession plans

(past and forshadowed)

In March 2023 Noel Higgins moved to represent ARCIA on the committee in order for Peter Pokorny to join the committee as the WIA representative. Noel remains chair of RC004. Peter is active in international standards. He previously worked for AMSA and chaired the committee from 2010 to 2015 and thus brings a vast amount experience back to RC004.

Other comments or remarks

Members of this Committee or Group

Walter Howse	VK6KZ	(UHF-VHF)
Peter Freeman	VK3PF	(microwaves)
Peter Mill	VK3APO	(repeaters)
Grant Willis	VK5GR	(band plans)
Charlie Kahwagi	VK3NX	(EME)
Peter Cossins	VK3BFG	(ATV)
Rex Moncur	VK7MO	(Digital DX Modes)
Barry White	VK2AAB	(packet radio)
Richard Hoskin	VK3JFK	(APRS and D-Star)
Vacant		(satellites)
Vacant		(DMR)
Vacant		(C4FM)
Vacant		(P-25)

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

- To advise the Wireless Institute of Australia on technical matters associated with the operation of all amateur radio activities.

Achievements in 202022

- Amateur Television operators are a niche group within the amateur community, experimenting with the latest technologies available and in some cases implementing these before commercial stations.
- There is currently one High Definition Digital Repeater in VK2, two in VK3 and one in VK5. There should be a Repeater back in service in VK4 and a new Repeater at Anakie near Geelong in Victoria in 2023.

VK2RTS Lawson NSW	DVB-T
VK3RBO Bendigo Victoria	DVB-T
VK3RTV Mount View Melbourne	DVB-T2
VK5RDC Port Pirie	DVB-T

- VK7OTC Hobart has a Broadcast every Wednesday evening using DVB-T.
- VK2RTS, VK3RTV and VK5RDC are hosting weekly nets.
- Technologies in use include FM Analogue, DVB-S, DVB-S2, and DVB-T.
- All stations transmit high definition television.
- All Repeater downlinks conform to the current WIA Bandplan
- Experiments in narrow band DATV conducted.
- The weekly WIA Broadcast assembled by Bevan VK5BD on all Australian Repeaters
- Tony, VK7AX promoting amateur radio via streaming

Technical Advisory Sub Committee

Report on ATV

REPORT to the AGM May 2023

- All Repeaters linked to the British Amateur Television club.
- Repeater Nets simulcast on U Tube and the British Amateur Television Club Streamer.
- The biggest Amateur Television QSO Party held to date . All operators worked through their respective Repeaters with a local Anchor sending video directly to VK3RTV via SRT.
- Anchor/Co-Ordinators in Melbourne, Sydney, Whyalla, Columbus Ohio, Boulder Colorado and Los Angeles California.

Proposals for 2023/24 and beyond

- All Repeater uplinks are currently using the 23 cm band.
- It is recognised that this band now has a new satellite commercial use and this poses a threat to amateur operations.
- Most DATV stations use high gain point to point antennas and low power. This could mitigate the possibility of interference.
- Migration to higher frequencies to be investigated.
- Experiments with low bandwidth digital television on VHF.

Efforts to increase group membership, diversity and succession plans

(past and forshadowed)

- Continue making presentations at Amateur Radio Clubs.
- Promote participation in Field Days, formal and informal.
- Develop kits/technology that can be assembled using sub-systems such as Active Mixers, Local Oscillator Modules and Power Amplifiers.
- Document systems and find younger capable amateurs to be an understudy

Other comments or remarks

Historic QSL Collection

Generally, the Historic QSL Bureau is in good order and is progressively being developed in a structured manner by curating collections according to the original collection owner and the data entered into Excel spreadsheets. Most of these collections have been pre-WWII. Any photographs included with the collection are scanned. Copies of the spreadsheets and scanned photographs are sent to the WIA office for storage.

The entering of card data is a slow process, however card searches are much easier.

In 2023 some 1947 to early 1950's cards will be stored and their data included into the spreadsheets. These cards are now 75 years old or approaching 75 years old. It is expected that some of these collections of interest will result in AR short articles.

The collection has fewer pre-war cards; however, 1924 cards and some 1923 cards are approaching 100 years old. It is hoped that articles written in conjunction with Peter Wolfenden information, will make an interesting historic perspective, 100 years previous.

Increased membership and diversity of your committee.

Individuals who show an interest in the Historic QSL Bureau do so for a purpose. Usually seeking specific data. Once the data have been provided the individuals follow-up interest has reverted to their individual project.

I welcome any assistance from any individual or group to assist with data entry that is offered, however offers are few.

Peter Wolfenden and John Seaman have provided much appreciated assistance.

Fred Swainston VK3DAC
Historic QSL Bureau

Members of this Committee or Group

Team leader John Seamons VK3JLS - WIA National & Inwards QSL Manager

- Alex Efimov VK2ZM (VK2) - National Outwards QSL Manager
- John Clare VK1CJ (VK1)
- Rob Whitmore, VK3MQ, (VK3)
- Laurie Pritchard, VK4BLE (VK4)
- Grant Willis VK5GR (VK5)
- Alek Petkovic VK6AP (VK6)
- Herman Westerhof VK7HW (VK7)
- Philip Brennan VK8MC (VK8)

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

Incoming QSL cards.

Receipt of all incoming QSL cards from international destinations

Sorting and distribution of cards to State Co-ordinators

Sorting and distribution of State cards to State WIA Members

Outgoing QSL Cards

Sorting and distribution of outward bound QSL cards to overseas ITU QSL Bureaus

Other:

Sorting and determining fate of VK9, VK0 and Special Event QSL Cards

Achievements in 2019 - 2022

Total Cards handled by the Bureaus, year on year:-

2019 63,000

2020 42,000

2021 46300 (13,700 were held over in Q4 and not sent until early 2022)

2022 64,820

NOTE: 2020 and 2021 were quite disruptive for QSL Bureaus, as COVID concerns caused severe curtailment and closing of many QSL Bureaus around the world.

Proposals for 2023 and beyond

The quantity of QSL cards still being received does not indicate any abatement. To the end of March, the National Bureau had received over 10,000 cards, of which 7,000 have been sent to the State/Territory Bureaus.

SPECIAL EVENT CALLSIGNS

- We received almost 500 cards for Special Event stations during 2022, of which 395 ended up being binned. These Stations continue to create additional work within the Bureau, in that there are so many special event callsigns being allocated, of which we have no information. We are alerted to new events simply by the receipt of incoming cards, and monitoring of "Announced DX Operations". As an example, early this year we have VK9NT, VK9WX, VK9MTO, and VK9CVG DXpeditions, none of whom indicate they will receive Bureau cards, but the Inwards Bureau will still receive 100's of cards for those stations.
- A proposal will be put to the Board for possibly further restricting the use of the Outwards Bureau by contest, DXpedition and Special Event calls. If approved, advertising through the Broadcast and AR magazine will be undertaken.

Previous reports have highlighted the following, which I will repeat once again, and further education of these aspects will be provided throughout 2023:-

- There continues to be a problem with non-ITU standard sized cards; this includes "foldout" cards, which cost twice as much as a normal card in postage costs. These are noticeably used by DXpeditions, and any member undertaking a DXpedition is asked to limit QSL cards to a single page within the ITU size guidelines (140mm x 90mm).
- It is noted that some Radio Clubs aggregate member's cards before sending them to the Outwards Bureau. We continually find that there are a number of non-WIA member's cards in these groupings, which adds more work for the Bureau staff and delays the sending of member's cards.
- Continually we notice that there are members who do not sort their outwards cards into the preferred DXCC listing before sending them to the Outwards Bureau. If this continues to be a problem, cards from repeat offenders will no longer be sent.
- I ask all users of the QSL service to please check QRZ.com to determine if the end user accepts QSL cards. Continually we receive cards back at the Inwards Bureau stating "not a member of Radio Organisation", "Silent Key" or something similar.

A final issue is the amount of cards we receive that end up in the waste paper. Typically, somewhere between 600 and 1000 cards each year end up in the WPB, and we will continue to try to educate users of the QSL Bureau, both domestic and International, to utilise QRZ.com as much as possible to limit these cards.

Efforts to increase group membership and diversity

Currently, all State co-ordinators are operating effectively, in some cases with assistance from local Radio Clubs. At this stage, group membership increases are not envisaged.

Other comments, KPI or remarks

The rapid growth in digital mode QSOs, coupled with the (growing) automatic generation of QSLs, contributes heavily to the number of cards that continue to be received in the Inwards National QSL Bureau. As such, all our Bureaus continue to provide a sought-after service. The QSL bureau is one of the few direct services the WIA offers to its members and the cost of operation is still relatively low by comparison with other budget items.

The outwards QSL service also continues to provide a valuable, service to members through posting of their QSL cards to the overseas Bureaus.

The Westlakes Radio Club continues to provide the WIA's outwards QSL service, as well as the VK2 Inwards Bureau service. I would like to record a special thanks to the Westlakes Radio Club for this huge volunteering task that they undertake on behalf of all WIA members.

Finally, I would also like to personally thank all of the State and Territory QSL Bureau Managers and their helpers, each of whom is a WIA volunteer, for their assistance in not just sorting and despatching cards during the past year, but also for their working as a national cohesive team to improve the service provided by the QSL Bureaus to WIA members.

Submitted by John Seamons VK3JLS, Inwards and National QSL Manager

Report to the WIA

IARU Region 3 HF Band Plan Committee Chairman

Grant Willis VK5GR

Introduction

I was sponsored by WIA as a candidate and was appointed to the position of chairman of the IARU Region 3 HF Band Plan Committee in 2020 at the last IARU Region 3 conference. This followed a proposal from MARTS to split the band planning role into two – with separate VHF and HF working groups. As this was in the middle of the COVID pandemic many people's focus was directed elsewhere and little progress was made for the first 18 months. As a result, it has taken a far longer time than hoped to finally establish the new HF Region 3 Band Plan committee.

Current Status

After a direct meeting with the IARU Region 3 board in October 2022 where some operational issues were raised, several of the blockages were removed and progress was finally made forming the committee. Today the committee has representatives from Japan, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Australia, Fiji and USA (representing their Region 3 territories).

There are two items on the agenda, of which one is currently being actively worked upon.

- 1) 40m global band plan harmonisation – reconcile Region 3 against Region 1 and 2
- 2) Digital sub-band allocation and capacity

As much focus currently is directed within IARU at the upcoming World Radio Conference, the work is progressing slowly. However, we do now have plans for some Zoom based workshops with the committee to prepare some proposals for the member society consideration.

The first issue to be tackled is the 40 m band plan. We have been gathering data on the current state of the band plan within each member society and also giving consideration to the state of Region 1 and 2. This has allowed us to identify the constraints within which we are working. From this, two options are being debated currently to improve global alignment of the 40m band plan. Once the committee has completed its first phase of work, we will be able to release these for member society comment and feedback. This work, however, is going to take time. The level of engagement with IARU by many member societies is very low, which is making it very difficult to accelerate progress.

Recommendation

Noting the time scales involved, I wish to advise the WIA that I am prepared to be nominated for a second 3 year term as Region 3 HF Band Plan Committee Chairman should the WIA see fit to do so. My plans for our own member engagement will include a future article in AR magazine/online with an opportunity for members to provide feedback on the proposals. I would welcome the opportunity to continue the work and ultimately see it to its conclusion.

Members of this Committee or Group

- Peter Young VK3MV
- Dale Hughes VK1DSH
- Justin Giles-Clark VK7TW
- Grant Willis VK5GR
- Noel Higgins VK3NH
- Brian Miller VK3MI
- Phil Wait VK2ASD
- Roger Harrison VK2ZRH

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

Radiofrequency Spectrum management is not easy. Spectrum has and will continue to develop at an even faster pace, which places the Amateur Service under continual threat.

The Spectrum Strategy Committee is the principle group of the WIA Regulatory Liaison Group. Depending on the issue, Working Groups address the issue on an going basis or through ad-hoc meetings to deal with and issue. The work includes;

- Monitor Changes in Regulatory Arrangements that may affect the Amateur Service
- Prepare submissions in response to Consultation papers as necessary
- Attend meetings with ACMA staff
- Attend IARU Region 3 Triannual Conferences
- Attend Preparatory Meetings leading to ITU World Radio Conferences

Achievements in 2022

- In 2022 a Working Group spent considerable time analysing and preparing a response to the ACMA's discussion paper on the future licensing arrangement for the Amateur Service in Australia.

An exposure draft was prepared and released to the amateur community for comments. As part of the WIA consultation process a survey of members and non-members on the draft submission. A virtual seminar was also held to assist amateurs to understand the issues and focus suggestions for changes to the submission. A final submission was prepared taking in to account member comments. The submission was divided into to two parts: the proposed Class Licence (CL); and consideration for High Power (HP).

The submission was very detailed (over 92 pages) and sought to ensure that there would be not determent or loss of utility of the proposed CL for Australia and visiting amateurs. Special thanks goes to Grant VK5GR for coordinating the actual document, and Phil VK2ASD for doing all the editing with assistance from others.

- The WIA prepared a response to the ACMA's Five Year Spectrum Outlook (FYSO). This is the key document that guides the ACMA in it's work activities in the following years. This is the most important method for achieving changes to Licensing conditions or technical

frameworks that the amateur community is concerned about.

- Work commenced in developing a technical document for the frequency assignment of repeater and beacons. There has been a number of iterations and discussions with ACMA staff continues.
- A number of face to face (virtual) meetings took place with ACMA staff to discuss details of the submission and clarification for ACMA staff on amateur usage and nuisances associated with operational practices.
- WIA attended meetings of the ACMA Technical Liaison Groups with the purpose of ensuring the Amateur Service interests were considered as necessary.
- Three WIA members attended the ACMA's Radcoms 2022 Conference held in Melbourne in October. Attendance at this conference was very beneficial in establishing connections across industry sectors and meeting ACMA old and new staff members.

Proposals for 2023/24 and beyond

- Work will continue in monitoring the progress of the CL and HP
- Response to the next FYSO consultation paper.
- Working will continue on the technical frequency assignment documentation for beacon and repeaters.
- Monitoring ACMA consultation papers.

Efforts to increase group membership, diversity and succession plans

(past and forshadowed)

- The Spectrum Strategy Committee and its Working Groups are always looking for members with radiocommunications engineering or regulatory experience dealing with Government.

Other comments or remarks

I would like to thank the support of the WIA Board and members of the Spectrum Strategy Committee who gave freely of their time. Remember we are all volunteers.

Peter Young, VK3MV

WIA Regulatory Counsel

Members of this Committee or Group

WIA Awards Manager: **Graham Alston VK3GA**

WIA Awards Committee: **Alek Petkovic VK6APK, David McAulay VK3EW, Brian Cleland VK5BC, Grant Willis VK5GR, Graeme Dowse VK4CAG**

WIA Awards Technical Engineer: **Marc Hillman VK3OHM**

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

To provide an online facility to allow users to apply for a range of operating awards offered by the WIA.

Achievements in 2022

In 2022 we continued to improve the system and this delivered increased numbers of participants, in particular overseas DX'ers.

We introduced a new award, the "Fifty on 50" awards for users who have 50 or more DXCC confirmed on 50MHz (6m band).

We received continued sponsorship from DX Radio Systems who provided plaques and medals to winners of the annual Leaderboard competitions.

Below is a detailed list of all changes to the DX Awards system for the 2022 calendar year. The changes are a mixture of ongoing maintenance, and new features.

	VK Only - Leaderboard DX Champion
2022-12-07	<p>From this year the Committee has decided to declare a DX Champion. The DX Champion is the All Grades score winner based on the existing Score calculation.</p> <p>DX Champion will receive as separate plaque in addition to their Category plaque, courtesy of our plaque sponsor, Future Systems P/L.</p> <p>We have also decided to remove the OPEN category.</p>
2022-10-11	<p>VK Members Only</p> <p>This is a reminder regarding the rules around the CLUB type group in the Group Leaderboards competition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A CLUB group is only available to WIA Affiliated clubs.- You can only be a member of one CLUB group at a time.- To participate in a CLUB group, you must be a current financial member of the club in question. If you are not a financial member of a CLUB group you have joined, the Committee may find it necessary to disqualify the CLUB from the VK Club Competition.

2022-08-27	<p>The WIA DX Awards Program is pleased to announce a new award, the "Fifty on 50 Award".</p> <p>This award recognises 50MHz (6m) contacts from VK and its territories with Amateur Radio stations from at least 50 DXCC Entities around the world.</p> <p>Confirming 50 DXCC entities on VHF is extremely difficult. This award recognises those elite operators who have invested considerable time and expertise, as well as knowledge of 6m propagation, on both terrestrial and space paths.</p> <p>This award is only available for Australian members of the Awards program.</p> <p>Further details can be found at https://www.wia.org.au/members/wiadxawards/FiftyOn50/</p>
2022-04-26	<p>In a world first, our Awards program can now detect and highlight QSO's you made with FT8/FT4 robots. When you select ?Robot list?, a current list of robots is displayed, as well as any QSO's you made with them. We do not take any action, rather this is for your information only. It is up to you to decide whether you wish to remove these QSO's. The robot list is updated daily.</p>
2022-01-30	<p>There is a new function "Badges" on the "My Awards" menu. This will produce a page full of badges for all awards you hold. Badges are a small graphic that contains the details of your awards. These are useful for pasting into your QRZ or personal web page if you don't want to post the whole certificate. They are in Scaled Vector Graphics (SVG) format so will still display clearly at any zoom level.</p>
2022-01-25	<p>VK Club Members Only: In 2022 we invite WIA-affiliated Clubs to compete in the 'VK Club Competition' Group Leaderboard.</p> <p>Over 12 months, as group members verify their QSO's, each new slot is added to their Club score. The winner is the Club with the highest total slots.</p> <p>Participants can join this group via their Profile, selecting the Club they are currently members of. The winning Club will receive a crystal plaque kindly sponsored by DX Radio Systems.</p>

2022-01-13	<p>The Awards Committee is aware of users who are using auto-bot software to initiate QSO's across digital modes. This is expressly forbidden under Rule 6(d) as follows:</p> <p>6(d). Each QSO claimed for credit must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the QSO. Initiation of a QSO may be locally or by remote. The intent of this rule is to prohibit credit for QSO's that involve automated 'robots'. The following exception applies: QSO's not initiated by a 'robot' are exempt. (Effective from 1-Jan-2020)</p> <p>The Committee is taking this problem very seriously. If you believe you know the identity of someone who is flouting this rule, you can report this activity by a) contacting any of the Committee members, or b) reporting the user by filling out the Report Abuse form now available on the awards website, which includes guidelines on its use. This can be done anonymously. Please provide as much supporting evidence as possible.</p>
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Proposals for 2023 and beyond

We intend to introduce DXCC for the 6M band, and also incorporate this into a 10-band DXCC award.

We will look to create an archive function that will enable users to save their awards into a downloadable archive file.

Efforts to increase group membership and diversity_(past and forshadowed)

The current committee size is about right for the amount of work required.

We continue to receive strong membership applications, in particular from overseas DX'ers.

Other comments, KPI or remarks

Below are some detailed statistics for calendar year 2022.

Metric	Value		
Active users in system	150		
QSO added in year	389291		
QSO held by end of year	4793395		
QSO breakdown by mode	FT8	266332	68.4%
	SSB	82093	21.1%
	CW	23306	6.0%
	MFSK	13475	3.5%
	RTTY	3018	0.8%
	FM	724	0.2%
	MSK144	161	0.0%
	DIGITALVOICE	56	0.0%
	AM	52	0.0%
	SSTV	35	0.0%
	PSK	20	0.0%
	JT65	6	0.0%
	PKT	5	0.0%
	DOMINO	3	0.0%
	THRB	2	0.0%
	CONTESTI	1	0.0%
	OLIVIA	1	0.0%
	WSPR	1	0.0%
QSO breakdown by band	20m	98471	25.3%
	10m	71865	18.5%
	40m	58269	15.0%
	15m	50815	13.1%
	30m	27542	7.1%
	17m	25350	6.5%
	12m	21919	5.6%
	6m	14333	3.7%
	80m	13376	3.4%
	160m	4018	1.0%
	2m	2018	0.5%
	70cm	793	0.2%
	23cm	256	0.1%
	13cm	243	0.1%
	6cm	8	0.0%
	1.25cm	7	0.0%
	3cm	6	0.0%
	9cm	2	0.0%

New certificates issued	550
DXCC Single-band	222
Grid Square	84
DXer of the Year	45
DXCC Multi-band (3)	29
DXCC Multi-band (7)	23
DXCC Multi-mode (Open)	20
DXCC Multi-mode (Digital)	20
Worked All VK Call Areas HF	19
DXCC Multi-band (8)	16
DXCC Multi-band (5)	16
Oceania	15
VHF Century Club	11
Antarctic	5
DXCC Multi-mode (Triple Play)	5
IARU Worked All Continents (Basic)	4
DXCC Multi-mode (Phone)	4
Worked All States VHF	4
Fifty On 50	2
DXCC Multi-band (9)	2
Islands of Australia	2
DXCC 5-band Elite	1
DXCC Multi-mode (CW)	1
DXCC Updates/Upgrades	8181
DXCC Single-band	2931
Grid Square	1579
DXCC Multi-band (7)	770
DXCC Multi-band (5)	751
DXCC Multi-band (3)	704
DXCC Multi-band (8)	622
DXCC Multi-mode (Digital)	231
DXCC Multi-mode (Open)	167
DXCC Multi-mode (Triple Play)	120
DXCC Multi-band (9)	114
DXCC Multi-mode (Phone)	84
DXCC Multi-mode (CW)	81
Oceania	20
DXCC 5-band Elite	6
Islands of Australia	1



WIA Education Committee Report

29th March 2023

I am pleased to report that following the receipt of the WIA boards. Terms of reference, the committee has held three online meetings. Our first task has been to review the Foundation level licence syllabus.

Considerable time has been spent discussing the impact of the ACMA proposed class licence changes and referencing the Australian Governments Training standard documents regarding Amateur Radio.

(Assessment requirements for UEEC004 operate and maintain amateur radio communication stations and UEEC004 operate and maintain amateur radio communication standards)

We now have a proposed syllabus that is in the process of being edited and reviewed by committee members. On completion this should also serve as the first block to enable reviews of the Standard and Advance syllabi.

Amanda Hawes
VK1WX.
Chair.
Secretary.

Members of this Committee or Group

Amateur Radio magazine Publications Committee

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------------------|
| • Roger Harrison | VK2ZRH | Editor in Chief |
| • Lee Moyle | VK3GK | WIA Vice President |
| • Bruce Kendall | VK3WL | Editor |
| • Ewan Templeton | VK3OW | Editor |
| • Eric Van De Weyer | VK2VE | Editor |
| • Simon Rumble | VK2VSR | Secretary |
| • Dr. Brian Clarke | VK2GCE | Production Editor |
| • Phil Fitzherbert | VK3FF | Technical Editor |
| • Dr. Alan McPhail | VK2AMC | Technical Editor |
| • Jules Perrin | VK3JFP | Technical Editor |

Two committee members resigned during the year for personal reasons.

Functions and Responsibilities of the Group

- Plan and produce six issues of Amateur Radio magazine each year.
- Receive article submissions from authors, review and prepare them for publication.
- Liaise with authors on proposed or submitted articles.
- Liaise with the graphic arts producer, Sergio Fontana VK3SO, on magazine production.
- As necessary, liaise with the printer and distributors.
- Maintain communications with the WIA Board through the Vice President or other appointed Board member.
- Promote the magazine to the radio amateur community and other target audiences.

Achievements in 2022

- Six issues completed on-time and on-budget.
- Successful update and re-design of the cover banner, adding related taglines (maker, electronics, wireless etc), in conjunction with updated cover layout practices and appearance.
- Successful re-design of page appearance throughout the magazine, with new typefaces and layout practices.
- Attracted new authors to submit articles of value and topicality.
- Feedback from readers has been positive, ranging from conservative 'approval' through to enthusiastic support.
- Maintained successful relationships with the major advertisers, who continue to support AR.
- Successful change to newsagency distribution of AR, so it's for sale at newsagents in postcodes where amateurs are known to live (based on the ACMA's register).
- Introduced a new cover price of \$14.50. Notably, newsagent sales have held up despite the three significant changes – banner, distribution and price.
- Succeeded in continuing supply of the 2021 paper stock.
- A 'testing of the market' for printing AR confirmed the WIA was continuing to get the best value for money – and by a large margin.

Proposals for 2023/24 and beyond

- 1) Recruit more committee members.
- 2) Plan for and develop production of 'one-shot' books based on salient articles from the magazine, similar to that done by the ARRL and RSGB and other publishing companies.
- 3) Produce and introduce training aids for present and future committee members.

Efforts to increase group membership, diversity and succession plans

(past and foreshadowed)

- The committee has discussed recruiting more members.
- The committee has advertised for a News Editor on the VK1WIA broadcast.
- Plans are afoot to develop and place recruitment advertisements on VK1WIA and in the magazine.
- Editor-in-Chief has discussed recruitment with other colleagues. Past experience with online job recruiters for volunteers' roles, such as Seek-dot-com, has proved unproductive.

Other comments or remarks

- The topicality and quality of articles now being offered by new and existing authors is notable.
- Prospective new advertisers are being approached.
- The committee notes the continued absence of communications from the WIA Board for the Board Comment column and website blog. Notably, a significant opportunity for the WIA Board to communicate with WIA members and the radio amateur community is being lost.

WIA VHF – UHF Records (Annual report - April 2023)

The Wireless Institute of Australia has maintained an historic archive of confirmed distance records in Australia, on all VHF -UHF and Microwave bands, dating back to 1947. This includes records made on frequency bands no longer available in this region.

Separate records are maintained for each amateur band allocation above 50MHz, across a number of categories including Home/Portable, Mobile, ATV, Digital, EME and Digital EME and at both a National and a State/Territory basis.

The purpose of the Record Archive is to maintain an accurate, historical data-base of achievements across time, to recognise and promote further development in equipment and operating techniques and to encourage a sense of “competition” in this field.

As in other parallel areas of human endeavour “The function of a record is as a target to be beaten”

Historical archives and current records have also been made available via the VHF – UHF Records pages on the WIA website, for the convenience of members.

Prior to his sad passing in July 2022, the record archives were meticulously maintained by John Martin VK3KM (SK) as one of his many responsibilities as Chairman of the WIA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Following his becoming a silent key, the decision by the board was for the responsibility for the VHF-UHF Record archive to be devolved from TAC and that a separate manager position be created for this purpose. The author was humbled to be considered for this position. In accepting this appointment, the author was very mindful of the large shoes to be filled and the required standards to be maintained.

The process of transition presented a number of hurdles to be overcome. The repository of the original record data was not immediately available to the incoming manager. Likewise, the process of producing the Certificates of Achievement, for new record holders, was not apparent. Many months of effort by WIA volunteers and staff has since located copies of the original data and certificate templates. All however were in a format that has made updating the records and templates problematic. A final solution is now however very near.

During this transition phase the WIA board also approved a recommendation that claims for new digital records on frequencies above 144MHz, previously only held at National level, be accepted for confirmed contacts occurring after 30 October 2022 at both National and State/Territory level. This policy has been implemented and a number of inaugural State Digital records have been confirmed.

Also during this period, a new web address was created for the submission of VHF -UHF record claims

Amended advice and instructions for new claims were added to the WIA website

Advice to members regarding new approved records were regularly provide on that website

During the last 12 months a total of eleven new records have been approved and recorded: -

122GHz VK5 State record.

VK5KK/p - VK5ZD/p 16/2/23 (CW) 28 April 2023

QRB 63.3km. Extending existing record by 31.6km

134GHz NATIONAL and inaugural VK5 State record

VK5KK/p - VK5ZD/p 16 Feb 2023

QRB 63.3km. Extending existing record by 44.3km

6m SP NATIONAL digital record approved.

VK6OX - TG9AJR 6/12/22 (FT8) 30 December 2022

QRB 16,734km extending existing record by 994km

47GHz VK7 I VK7 STATE record

VK5KK/P7 - VK5ZD/P7 31 Sept 2022

QRB 11.1km inaugural VK7 record

122GHz VK7 STATE record

VK5KK/P7 - VK5ZD/P7 1 November 2022

QRB 11.1km inaugural VK7 record

76GHz VK7 STATE record

VK5KK/P7 - VK5ZD/P7 1 November 2022

QRB 11.1km inaugural VK7 record

134 GHz VK7 STATE record

VK5KK/P7 - VK5ZD/P7 1 November 2022

QRB 11.1km inaugural VK7 record

134GHz NATIONAL Record

VK5ZD - VK5KK 2 Sept 2022

QRB 32km extending existing record by 19km

23cms VK8 STATE record

VKK8RR - VK8JM 26 March 2022

QRB 186.3km extending existing record by 97.4km

1296MHz (23cms) National Digital Record

VK3ZAZ - VK6CPU/p 18 Feb 2022

QRB - 2168.7km

3.4GHz (9cms) National Digital Record

VK4UH/p - VK4AFL 27 May 2022

QRB - 524km

All of the above records have been included in the current archive and certificates of achievement will shortly be provided to the new record holders.


Proposed aims for the VHF-UHF Record Managers role:-

Short term.

1. To continue to receive, process and acknowledge all future record claims
2. Provide Certificates of Achievement for all new approved record holders.
It is anticipated that this will occur in a “more timely” fashion once a final production process is finalised and the backlog cleared.
3. Review and update the existing record data files held on the WIA VHF – UHF Records page of the WIA website.
It is anticipated that this too will occur in a “more timely” fashion, here forwards, but may require a change of file format to make this possible

Long Term

4. Review and recommend changes to the records archive to stay in-line with developing technology and evolving operating practices.
5. Review and recommend changes to the record claims process and application documentation. Development of an entirely on-line record claims process in the future.
6. Recommend a secure and contemporaneous copy of the VHF – UHF record archive be created and maintained and held at WIA Headquarters, for the future
7. Adopt measures to increase awareness and participation in the records programme to increase participation in VHF – UHF - Microwave activities and recognise future achievements, in this field of activity
8. **Recommend the establishment of a new, annual, WIA Award for “Outstanding Achievement in the area of VHF – Microwave activity”.**



Dr Kevin Johnston VK4UH
WIA VHF – UHF Records Manager
April 2023