

AMATEUR "QRM" RADIO

Bulletin issued by the North, North West and Southern
Branches of the Wireless Institute of Australia,
Tasmanian Division.

P.O. Box 275,
LAUNCESTON,
Tas...7250

FEBRUARY 1981 VOLUME 10 No. 12

Meetings - South 4th, North West 10th, North 13th,
Council 21st N.B. club-rooms 1.00 p.m.

EDITORIAL

Apologies for the drop in standard, but as you can see, we are having printing problems.

Another year of QRM is about to conclude this Bulletin, has been, for the past ten volumes, the means by which VK7 Amateurs have been kept in touch with activities, firstly within this state, and secondly interstate and overseas. It has been also one of the Medium's available to Amateurs in this Division by which they could express their views on a wide range of topics, which, as I pointed out in my first editorial, was one of the major roles of QRM.

From its humble beginnings, QRM has been one of those magazines that has grown into what I consider, a first class publication. To list all of the people responsible for the production, supply of news and articles would be wrong as I may forget someone and that would be unforgivable, so all I will say, it to each and everyone of you, thank you, for it is you that has made QRM what it is today. While thanking people I should not forget those people who advertised in QRM, because those people allowed that standard to be reached to members, don't forget them.

Finally, the subject which we all have wanted put off "The Future of QRM" is now upon us. As some people, especially those concerned with the production, are aware QRM was printed at basically paper cost, plus stencils. This Avenue is now no longer available to us, and with it the means of being able to maintain the standard, that has been achieved: Rather than let this standard fall. There is a move to transfer QRM in the pages of A.R. while this move at the time of writing, is not definite, it would appear that all the indications are there. To help you understand the reasons for this move, I will list the facts good and bad for your consideration.

- 1) The cost of printing for a 6-page will be approximately one hundred dollars plus thirty two dollars for postage per month.
- 2) If we look at the duplicating method of printing we will not be able to carry technical articles except of the simplest kind, and technical articles belong in A.R. anyway.
- 3) Advertisers would not be able to achieve the same standard that is presently available to them.
- 4) News for inclusion in the QRM column will be read by not only VK7 Amateurs, but all VK Amateurs.
- 5) Members Ads, etc can still be accommodated in "Ham Ads" a service that is free to all members and can be forwarded to "A.R." with the monthly news.
- 6) As the deadline for A.R. copy is the first of the month, all news will be one month behind and therefore branches will have to plan at least two months ahead, which is not a bad thing anyway.
- 7) The title "QRM" will be retained as the column heading so people will still be able to realte QRM to VK7.
- 8) The dissemination of extra news, etc, can be VIA the regular Sunday morning broadcast and will give this medium of news, an uplift.
- 9) It is anticipated that the role of QRM editor will remain with the N.B. and will, as the name implies be just that, "An Editor".
- 10) AR printing and posting times are now, and have been, for some time, quite stable, so this is not an area for concern.
- 11) The cost of placing QRM into A.R. on a monthly basis is less than it presently costs us for postage. We could even go to 1½ columns for approximately the same as present postage. So these are the facts as they stand at present. QRM has grown, in effect, "TOO BIG".

As I said earlier, this move has not yet been finalised but it is the one, as present edition, that I will be proposing, considering the situation we now find ourselves in. I see this move as a means of promoting VK7 via the QRM column(s) over the entire commonwealth and at the same time help the cause of Amateur Radio.

73 Brian Yeoman
VK72BY
1980 QRM Editor

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner this year is to be held at the Kings Meadows Hotel on Saturday the 21st of March, 1981. The dinner will start at approximately 8.00 p.m. and will be preceded by pre-dinner drinks at 7.30 p.m.

The cost of this dinner is \$14.00 per head and will consist of a four course meal of your choice within the range of the menu. The Hotel has an excellent reputation and resident band (that's not too loud) so an enjoyable evening can be assumed. Accommodation can be arranged if required by indicating in the appropriate section of the registration form. If required, please return the registration form no later than February 20th or if attending the Dinner only no later than March 13th. It is requested that your remittance accompany your registration form so we can accurately predict numbers attending.

I/we here-by register for the 1981 Annual Dinner on Saturday the 21st of March. Please find enclosed a cheque/money order for the amount required. \$.....

Name..... Call Sign

Address

Phone Number Number Attending

Accommodation required (please indicate)

Limited private accommodation may be available.

Single

Twin

The above form should be returned to the WIA Northern Branch, P.O. Box 275, Lamb Weston, 7250 and be marked "Attention Annual Dinner".

SOUTHERN BRANCH NOTES

Hope everyone has survived seeing the start of yet another year. An application has been sent in to D.O.C. asking permission for our club call-sign VK7SB to be licensed as permanently portable, so as to assist with WICEN exercised and to act as back-up to the Tasmanian Devil Nets. Hopefully, this permission will be granted.

Our President, Barry VK7NBA/ZBF has reluctantly been inactive on the "amateur radio" scene for some weeks now and he and his wife Mary are busily engaged in renovating their new QTH. I believe the kitchen has been completely demolished and rebuilt and the task of putting up a tower is further down the log.

After four months in our new QTH, our tower was raised with Ron 7RM, John 72JH and Anthony 72TA helping Peter, my O.M. alias 7NPR to achieve this. The windiest Saturday possible was chosen but with deft co-ordination of all involved it was finished and decorated with the TH3 Junior and 5 element 2m. been under the puzzled eyes of neighbours who watched with great interest. Now the Dowds can become involved in some honest DX.

Have heard on the grapevine that some owners of combined calls are delaying applying for a K call until attempting the CW exam in February! Good luck to all those who intend sitting this.

On February 4th at 8.00 p.m. our Annual General Meeting will take place and it is hoped to have a huge roll-up for the election of office bearers.

The Wags have organised a get-together for the second weekend in March and look forward to seeing faces from all round the state. Lake St. Claire has been chosen and the big hut, which consists of a huge living room and small rooms at each end with a total of 16 berths has been booked for Saturday 7th March through to Sunday 8th March. At this stage there are only 8 powered sites left and 14 minus power unbooked. There is a very new large amenities block so it will be convenient to bring along the whole family. Interested people can ring the Ranger on 891115 to book a site.

May 1981 bring you all good health and happiness.

73 - Helene
VK7HD

VK Electronics,
57 West Park Grove,
Burnie. 7320

Phone: 311708

Noel Stutterd
VK7ZNS/NNS

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

After the year as President of this Branch I have to report that we have had a moderately successful 12 months.

A large part of our activity has been the handling of the branch finances and its use in a way that would benefit all members. The treasurer will no doubt detail these measures in his report and I would like to say that due to some enterprises during the year and to money back from A.S.I. our finances are in a healthy conditions. The main thrust has been to make the branch more acceptable to more people and in this area the simpler monthly business part of meetings would be the most visible feature. We worked for more unity in the division as a whole and I hope in coming months we will see some of the fruits of this activity.

I have noticed a good attendance at each meeting during the year which has been encouraging with about 40 people as the average. Your executive has also discussed the possibility of our own club meeting place and I hope the work of future executives will result in a "Home of our own" with all its advantages.

One philosophical note if I may. Sometimes we may be in danger of taking ourselves too seriously. When we become involved in Amateur Radio initially it is because of a personal desire and interest but as we gain our licence and trade our name for a number there is a danger that we will forget that this is a hobby which is meant to be fun. I don't wish to downgrade the responsibility that goes with our licence and the opportunity for community service but hope that we will never over rate our importance. There are a lot of people who have never heard of Amateur Radio.

Before I end this report I would like to thank all the members of the executive who have worked responsibly and cheerfully for this branch. I value their experience their expertise and their integrity.

I would also like to thank members for electing me to this post and giving me the opportunity to find out some things about myself I never knew existed. I have found the year personally rewarding. I wish the incoming executive every success in handling your affairs.

Thank You,

BARRY FRASER.

VK7ZBF

1980 ANNUAL REPORT: WICEN

The past year has seen some growth in the WICEN area, but generally it has been a year of consolidation. Membership in the South has grown to 24, the North Western Branch have become affiliated with the State Emergency Service and have agreed to provide technical support to them, and there are opportunities for WICEN in the North to participate in Police - Bushwalking, Federation liaison meetings (Search and Rescue co-ordination). But the outstanding event of the year was the Training Course held in Hobart in September.

The training course was based on the syllabus prepared by the Federal WICEN Co-Ordinator, and was organised with copious assistance from officers of the State Emergency Service. Fifteen WICEN members were instructed in topics ranging from Voice Procedure, Message Writing, Message Handling and Map Reading. An exercise followed the course, and messages were passed between three field stations. Since the training course, it has been decided to use the monthly WICEN skeds to practice the message handling and voice procedures learned during the course.

Our representation on the State Disaster Communications Planning Committee continues, and regular meetings of the Police - Bushwalking Federation Liaison committee have also been attended, in the South only.

Several exercises have been conducted since the last report. These include:

- (i) Boy Scout Association Regatta at Snug, March 1-3. Provided communications between boats and shore, mainly VHF.
- (ii) National Park Picnic, April 20. Portable repeater carried to top of Mt. Manson, also MF RTTY link to Hobart. S.E.S. Observers.
- (iii) Leave exercise on May 4. Testing effectiveness of 1.8 MHz transceivers.
- (iv) Search and Rescue Symposium in Launceston, 6-8 June. Paper presented "Emergency Radio Communication's Using Amateur Radio. Also participated in cliff rescue exercise.
- (v) Cave S.A.R. Workshop, Mole Creek 20-21 September, Further testing of 1.8 MHz in caves.

One setback during the year was the inclusion in the new "Amateur Operators Handbook" of para 6.56, preventing the relaying of transmissions without prior approval. This has severely limited the type of facilities which WICEN can provide, unless they are on pre-arranged exercises or in actual emergency situations.

1980 ANNUAL REPORT: WICEN (con't)

The matter is to be discussed at the next Federal Convention.

The granting of third party privileges means that it is no longer necessary for a group such as WICEN to organise an exercise in order to provide communications for groups such as the Boy Scout Association. Consequently, a group of amateur operators will be assisting with the 1981 B.S.A. Regatta at St. Helens; the group will be mainly WICEN members, but it will not be an official WICEN exercise.

I would urge any operator, or group of operators, who see an opportunity to provide communications in circumstances, such as the Scout Regatta to make full use of the occasion. As well as being good public relations for A.R. such activities, provide an opportunity to test equipment in a portable situation, in circumstances not far different from what could be expected in emergency conditions.

Finally, thanks to all other WICEN Co-ordinators and members who have contributed during 1980. I will not be available as State WICEN Co-ordinator in 1981 and I hope that my successor received as much co-operation as I have had during my term.

Andrew Boon

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1 AC Power Supply and Speaker FP200
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NORTH WEST COAST BRANCH NOTES

I would like to extend to all Readers, both new and old members - the Compliments of the Season, and I hope 1981 works out just fine for you all.

Touching briefly on the last meeting for 1980 - Dec 9th - we had a good turn up of members, 29 in all.

The usual business was dispensed with and the evening finished up with a replay of the ever-popular "G6-CJ Aerial Circus". Many interesting comments were passed during supper, and Tony VK7AX, was thanked for running the tape.

Meeting for January 1981

We got off to a good start, the attendance being 28 including 3 visitors.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING read by the Secretary and adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE Several inwards and outwards letters were dealt with.

NEW MEMBER Peter Westerhof, 16 years, of Raymond Avenue, Devonport, was elected unanimously.

COUNCIL N.W. Branch Rep, Ivan VK7XL expressed disappointment at the turn-up at the last meeting, after having driven all the way from Ulverstone. In view of this, very little business was transacted.

BEACONS AND REPEATERS Progress was outlined by Tony VK7AX.

QSL BUREAU Thanks to Don VK7DP, is functioning smoothly.

GENERAL BUSINESS Nominations for Officers for the coming year are being accepted from members. Some "new blood" could be injected into the system.

(NOTE: It should be said that under the leadership of Peter VK7BR - our branch is really going places J.D.)

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE

BROADCAST ROSTER are urgently needed. A small group of "old faithfuls" have been doing this job for many years. What about some of you new "Z" CALLS joining the Roster? It's not such a big job - once in a while - to gather some news and squirt a signal out on 2 metres. We have members who could do a relay on 40 and 80.

What about it fellas? Hand your names into Terry VK7TT, and tell him you are prepared to put something in to Amateur Radio, besides getting something out of it!

ACTIVITY Martin VK7MM, who is a senior engineer with the Department of Main Roads, gave an extremely interesting illustrated lecture on the construction and erection of various types of masts and towers. Details as to Load, Guying, Wind Velocity and other Technical details, were fully covered. Although at times, the mathematical formulae used was way "over the heads" of most members, the lecture was most impressive.

Martin was warmly thanked for his fine effort.

SUPPER, served by a team headed by David VK7MS, concluded a most successful evening.

Till next month,

73 Jim VK7NOW

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or

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002/641320

ITS A GIRL

Congratulations to Lyn and Ian Ellings VK7ZIE on the latest addition to the family.

Samanthen Erin on Wednesday the 21st January. Mother and daughter both doing fine but dad, well not to sure.

STATE NEWS

The January Council Meeting was held at the Home of VK7GD on January 10th. Present were VK7KK, GD, XL, PA and NPR and one visitor VK7ZTA.

Since correspondence was not available the closing date for Federal Councillor nominations were extended by one month. The next council meeting will be at the N.B. Clubrooms on the 21st February, at 100 p.m.

A Sub-Committee meeting consisting of two members of each Branch is currently considering requirements for changes in Council operations.

"SCENE AND HEARD" Notes for February, 1981. - Robin L. Harwood

Have you noticed an increase lately in deliberate interference or "jamming"? There are suspicions that there is a "Woodpecker" machine in Western Europe or the Middle East operated by a NATO Power. The object being to confuse the real "Woodpecker" in the Eastern Bloc. It is becoming rarer to find a clear frequency that is not affected by this Electronic Pollution. Even the Maritime Communication Bands no longer to be sacrosanct. The Spectrum Users are the losers in this Electronic "Cat and Mouse" game.

Scoop of the Month must be the logging of Interpol. They were heard with TFC on c/w at approx. 0700z. Some of it was in the clear but most was in cypher. I think the station was in Bangkok. Sorry, I do not think it is advisable to reveal the frequency here, suffice to say it was certainly an unusual one.

The 25 Mhz Band is continuing to give surprises. The U.S. Armed Forces Radio Network (AFRTS) is being heard here on 26000 khz from about 0600z. It is utilizing the VOA Relay Transmitters in the Philippines judging by the 3/4 second delay between AFRTS outlets in the States and the observed signal.

A recent international Poll of listeners voted the BBC as the Top SW Station in 1980. This survey conducted by a West German Audience research organisation, also reveals that Radio Nederland in Hilversum who were top in 1979 were runners up in 1980. Radio Moscow's World Service was fifth while Radio France International was sixth. It is interesting to note that this organisation solely broadcasts in French. Radio Australia did not figure in the top ten despite that it was consistently in the high ratings from the Fifties through the early Seventies. Budget Cutbacks over the year have reduced the station's effectiveness. Its programme content no longer attracts the listeners. The indifference of the programme makers is all too apparent in its output.

There have been rumours going around of at least one Sydney media outlet has put out feelers for a Commercial Short-Wave Broadcast licence. There is also a very strong rumour going around that Channel Ø in Sydney will have its Power output increased to 100 KW ERP to bring it into line with the existing outlets ERP. This after numerous complaints of weak signals. Apparently nobody bothers about Channel 28 or maybe they do not have UHR tuners out yet. Anyhow my source also says that the Special Broadcasting Service will be going into Adelaide some time possibly on Channel Ø/28. Who said six meters was safe after ATVØ went QRT!

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to Editor Brian for giving up his spare time to put QRM together each month. A job well done, Brian! Until next month, the best of DX and 73's.....Robin L. Harwood

DRAFT AUSTRALIA FREQUENCY TABLE

On the 22nd December, 1980, the Minister for Communications, Mr. Sinclair released the draft Australian Frequency Table. The following are the main points of that table. For your information and comment.

Frequencies below 30 MHz

No changes are proposed on the 80, 20, 15 & 10 metre bands. The only comment the WIA would suggest is that a small segment around 3.8 MHz could be desirable and may be practical. Changes are proposed to the 160 meter band. At present the band 1.8 to 1.86 MHz is allocated to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis. There is a proposal that the band 1.8 to 1.825 MHz be allocated exclusively to Amateurs in Australia, and that the band 1.825 to 1.875 MHz be, allocated to Amateurs on a secondary basis. The present allocation at 40 meters remains but with an increase from 7.150 to 7.300 MHz with the latter segment being on the basis of non-interference. The new bands at 10.1 to 10.150, 18.068 to 18.168, & 24.890 to 24.990 MHz are provided for in the proposed table, but the draft does not state when these frequencies will be available to Australian Amateurs. The WIA would like to see these bands available for use by 1st January, 1982. The WIA also would like to see the proposed foot note should be recast to provide, firstly, that NO further assignments to the fixed service should be made in these bands and secondly that existing assignments should be relocated as quickly as possible, it is suggested, by not later than the 1st July, 1984.

Bands Below 960 MHz

A significant proposal to the 6 meter band is included in the draft table. It is proposed that the band 50 - 52 MHz be allocated primary to broadcasting and secondary to Amateur. With the band 52 to 54 MHz remaining exclusive Amateur the WIA does not believe that the present allocation to TV Channel 0 is not sensible frequency management. No changes are proposed in Australia to the 2 meter and 70 cm Amateur bands. It has been noted that the temporary use of the band 576 MHz is not included in the draft and this point will be followed up.

Bands above 960 MHz

In conforming with the outcome of W.A.R.C. the band will become 1240 to 1300 MHz. Above this band no changes are made affecting the Amateur Service except in three respects. Fixed and Mobiles are added to the already shared band at 2300 to 2450 MHz. The WIA would like to see at least in the new Amateur Satellite band from 2400 to 2450 MHz. Fixed and mobile should be deleted. The draft table includes all the Amateur bands above 40 GHz allocated by the W.A.R.C. The draft also includes all the new Amateur Satellite bands allocated by the W.A.R.C. overall the WIA welcomes the new trade.

Bands above 960 MHZ (con't)

It is hoped that Amateurs will generally respond to the invitation to comment on the draft table. The WIA believes that it is important that the Amateur position is seen to have general support.

As was said on the tape "To a large extent it is now over to each of us to support and or comment on this draft." The deadline date for comment is the 16th February, 1981.

Submissions should be forwarded to:-

The Department of Communications,
G.P.O. Box 5412CC,
MELBOURNE. Vic. 3000

and marked - To the Attention of the Chairman, Australia
Table of Frequency allocation Committee.

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FEDERAL EMC CO-ORDINATOR

"VK3QQ has recently taken up the pst as, 'WIA FEDERAL EMC CO-ORDINATOR' -

"Anyone with interference problems; TVI, AFI, PLI etc etc, is advised to make contact for some useful information"

Tony Tregale VK3QQ
38 Wattle Drive,
WATSONIA. Vic. 3087

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IC22S \$299.00

IC25I \$877.00

IC55I \$599.00

IC720 \$1379.00 approx. 2 months delivery "order now"

V.H.F. Notes

Once again our predictions of outstanding DX during December did not eventuate. All was not lost with several good Sparodic E openings.

On 29th December, 1980 a vast opening provided contacts with all states except VK8 in about two hours.

Again on the 10th January, 1981 all 2L call areas were worked. Many times during the past month 2L TV has been watchable with no QSO's taking place.

H44DX was worked by VK7DA Daniel

VK9 by VK7ZTA Anthony

On 15th January, 1980 the MUF was above 75Mhz despite many calls on 2M no contacts were made.

There have been good inversions to VK3 providing 2M activity mainly on Repeater channels but apart from this there is nothing of significance to report.

Joe Gelston 73
VK7JG

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of WIA Tasmanian Division will be held on Saturday the 21st March, 1981, at the Northern Branch club rooms, 34 Bourke Street, Launceston starting at 1.00 p.m.

All notices of motion for this meeting must reach the Secretary, WIA, Tasmanian Division:

Mr. B. Morgan, 10 Boa Vista Road, New Town 7008.
No later than the 21st February, 1981.

The Athol Johnson Contest

This contest is held each year to honour the Memory of the late Athol Johnson VK7AJ who did so much towards encouraging VHF Activity in VK7.

Rules:

- (A) Duration 1200-2000 local sun, Feb 22nd 1981
- (B) Contacts may take place on all VHF Amateur bands and can take place every hour.
- (C) All Modes are allowed, including cross mode but cross band contacts are not allowed (satellites excepted).
- (D) Contacts shall consist of a signal report plus a running serial number 000 - 999.
- (E) Points Score: 1 point per contact via Repeaters
2 points per contact for other modes
- (F) A perpetual trophy is presented to the winner.
- (G) There is only one section - TX open.
- (H) All logs shall be sent to:-

The W.I.A.,
Tasmanian Division,
P.O. Box 1010,
LAUNCESTON. Tas. 7250

and marked Attention "VHF Officer", no later than March 21st, 1981.

- (H) All logs shall be accompanied by a cover sheet showing the following details:-

- 1) Call Sign
- 2) Name and Address
- 3) Details of Equipment used
- 4) Points claimed
- 5) A signed declaration stating that you have followed all the rules and regulations of the contest have been observed.

VK7 QSL BUREAU - Annual Report

The Bureau has had another busy year with the number of cards handled showing a small increase. Comparative figures for the past three years are:

	<u>Outwards</u>	<u>Inwards</u>	<u>Total</u>
1978	15,133	14,021	29,154
1979	24,002	23,357	47,358
1980	24,102	24,960	49,062

Mainly as a result of increased postal charges average postage per card jumped from 1.20c to 1.43c. This will further increase as the number of cards fall over the next few years until the sunspot minimum when past experience has been that the total handled is only about 25% of a peak year.

The Bureau continues in a sound financial position and the reserve being built up will carry us over the slack years.

The co-operation of all in sorting their cards before sending them to the Bureau would be appreciated. I am now handling an average of 940 a week and anything which cuts down the work is most welcome.

VK7 QSL BUREAU - Annual Report (con't)

My thanks to the Branch QSL Officers, Col. Wright, Don Purton and Bill Reid for their help during the year.

Chas. Harrisson VK7CH
QSL Manager

PORTABLE REPEATERS

The Department is prepared to authorise "portable repeater" stations to be operated by the Wireless Institute of Australia, Civil Emergency Network within the frequency bands 144-148 and 420-450Mhz; under the following conditions.

1. Prior approval is not required where an approved portable repeater is to be put into operation as part of a declared Civil Emergency which is under control of the controlling Authority for the emergency at the time. Notifications of the use of the portable repeater and its location should be given to the Department at the earliest opportunity.
2. The portable repeater shall operate on a nominated pair of frequencies selected by the WIA and acceptable to the Department.
3. The portable repeater shall not, unless special circumstances exist, be used to provide fixed linking to other established repeater stations. If it is used for this purpose, the Department should be informed of the circumstances at the earliest opportunity.
4. Prior approval is required where the portable repeater is to be used in WICEN exercises in accordance with the general provisions of the Amateur Operators Handbook (Dec. 78), Paragraphs 6.28 to 6.33 inclusive. Advice of preferred repeater sites should be given to the Department to enable preliminary calculations of interference to be made and their suitability to be assessed in association with the proposed frequency of operation.
5. The WIA State Division accept full responsibility for the proper operation of the portable repeater.

It is appreciated that it would be difficult to fully comply with the technical provisions of the Handbook in respect to a portable repeater. It would be expected however, that the technical provisions of Paragraph 5.11 (a) (b) (c) (e) (j) and (M) be complied.

In order that this matter may be finalised comments from the Wireless Institute and members are invited.

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