

QRM

**AUGUST
1986**



FOUNDED 1910

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Division
of the
Wireless Institute of Australia

(Insert in 'A.R.')

DIVISIONAL DIRECTORY.Postal Addresses:

Tasmanian Division: P.O.Box 1010, Launceston, 7250.
 Southern Branch: P.O.Box 123, Sandy Bay, 7005.
 Northern Branch: P.O.Box 275, Launceston, 7250.
 Northwest Branch: P.O.Box 194, Penguin, 7316.

Divisional Officers 1986/7:

President: Peter Frith, VK7PF.
 Secretary: Barry Riseley, VK7RS.
 Treasurer: Frank Beech, VK7BC.
 Asst. Sec.: Robin Harwood, VK7RH (Also Minuting Sec.).
 Federal Council: Joe Gelston, VK7JG.
 Council Member: Byron Dilworth, VK7BD.
 Vice- Pres. Arthur Tregaskis, VK7SE.
 Vice- Pres. Russ Pitman, VK7ZRP.

Branch Notices:

NORTHERN BRANCH MEETS AT 8 P.M. ON THE SECOND FRIDAY of each month (except January) in Room G25, Swanson Building, Australian Maritime College, Newnham, Launceston.
 Next two meetings: 8th. August. 12th. September.

NORTHWEST BRANCH MEETS AT 7.30 P.M. ON THE SECOND TUESDAY of each month at the Penguin High School.
 Next two meetings: 12th. August. 9th. September.

SOUTHERN BRANCH MEETS AT 8.15 P.M. ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month, at The Activity Centre, 105, Newtown Road, Hobart.
 Next two meetings: 6th. August. 3rd. September.

Broadcast Officers:

Divisional Co-ordinator: Arthur, VK7GH, 34, Ashbolt Crescent, Lutana, 7009.

Tel: (H) 002.284963. (B) 002.305600.

Northern Branch Officer: VK7AV Bill.
 Northwest Branch Officer: VK7ZFH Frank.
 Southern Branch Officer: VK7GH Arthur.

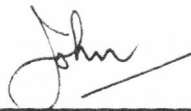
Broadcasts commence 09.00 every Sunday, normally originated on 2m., with relays on 80m., 40m., 144.1 MHz (SSB) and ATV.

R A D I O T O R I A L .

The deafening silence mentioned in July's notes from the Editor has been well and truly shattered this month! Strangely enough, it's not the technical discussion that causes the response - it's the question of W.I.A. subscriptions and membership. Experience of W.I.A. meetings leads us to think that we won't improve membership numbers at the younger end unless we can enliven the monthly meetings with talks, debates, videotapes, practical demonstrations, etc. There's nothing in it for those who join expecting to receive some training and extended know-how from those with greater experience.

Likewise, the "more mature" section of the Institute is now at the thick end of things, it appears. So, who would be left in this "oldest radio society in the world"? A too-narrow segment of the hobby's real potential, certainly not representative of the full range of activities available to amateur radio fans. And a lot of lively amateurs of long standing left on the outside. No-one would gain from that situation, and no organisation could continue to have an effective existence.

Read the letters in "QRM" this month and then TAKE ACTION!

 VK7JK.

To the Editor, "QRM".

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter, page 3, July "QRM", from the President, Mr. Frith of, I presume, the Tasmanian Division of the W.I.A.

It would appear to me that Mr. Frith does not wish to have pensioners as members of the Tasmanian Division of the W.I.A. This impression was confirmed per medium of a telephone call from the writer to Mr. Frith.

I am entitled to, and receive, a Service Pension, a fact for which I make no apologies whatsoever.

If the statement that the Pensioner/Student subscription is sufficient only to pay for the "A.R." magazine and Federal dues, then it is quite obvious that whoever set the said subscription rate did not do their homework. At the same time, it would be interesting to know how the \$7.00 per week from 275 members (\$1,925.00) was spent. Incidentally, that \$7.00 represents 13.46 cents per week. (Big deal).

Also, if, as stated, 275 members plus the 41 Pensioner/Student

members paid \$5.20 to Division expenses (or whatever), the amount realised would be \$1643.20, so once again there would appear to be something lacking with some person's homework, as such a sum would mean a loss of \$282.00.

As far as the penultimate sentence in Mr. Frith's letter is concerned, i.e. that we (the Wireless Institute of Australia - and so by inference, the Tasmanian Division) have nothing to lose, we must assume that the pensioner is classed as nothing. (Shades of George Orwell). I wonder if this is really the case. The pensioner can quite easily do without the W.I.A., but can the W.I.A. do without the pensioner, student or older amateur?

I have no doubt really, that the Federal body of the W.I.A. is quite happy to accept the older member or, for that matter, any member of whatever age, sex or financial standing. But then again, the Federal body appears to be quite a cohesive organisation, which is a bit different from the fragmented Tasmanian DIV-IS-ION of the W.I.A. One wonders what has happened to the membership of the Tasmanian Division, which at one time was over 90% of licensed amateurs, and now is a little over 53%. Could be that there is some truth in the old story that "Any fool can sail a boat; it takes 2 or 3 captains to wreck it".

In conclusion, I would suggest that Mr. Frith do his homework. If the Tasmanian Division of the W.I.A. needs more money, so be it. But please, Mr. Frith, kindly refrain from making smart **** remarks about pensioners. We are not, I repeat NOT, second-class citizens, or amateurs.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) K.MILLIN, VK7KA.

HOW TO GET HOLD OF THE EDITOR.

His name is John Rogers. His callsign is VK7JK. His telephone number is 002.293402. His address is:

No 1, Darville Court,
Blackman's Bay,
Hobart, 7152.

And when you lose your copy of "QRM", remember he's QTHR. When he is at home, the 2m rig is normally running and listening to Repeater 2.

THE EDITOR'S CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF "QRM" IS AUGUST 16th. SO DON'T BE LATE!!

AWARDS NEWS from VK7NAI, Bob.

ZL1AQ0, Ivan, who is net controller of the VK/ZL Oceania Net which operates on Saturday nights, 09.00Z, on 3590 KHz has given us news of another ZL Award. This time it is the MOERAKI 150th. Anniversary Award, and it will run from 1st. December 1986 to 31st. January 1987. VK stations are required to make one only contact to earn the award, with any of the following stations:

ZL4FI (custodian of the award)

ZL4CA

ZL4RU

VK4PX (who is a member of Moeraki Branch)

The usual conditions apply - any band, any mode. The cost of the award will be \$2.00, but a \$1.00 mint N.Z. note will be returned with the award if you signify, with your application, that you wish to be rewarded in this way.

The Awards Manager is M.G.Askin,

Moeraki, R.D. No. 2,

Palmerston, Otago, N.Z.

(N.B. The above information was obtained from Bob via a 2m/80m Link to Hobart from the north, courtesy VK7CI, Alan, during an experiment for the WICEN service on July 16th.)

F O R S A L E F O R S A L E F O R S A L E

GREG, VK7SH has up for sale an original condition FT7. Recently aligned. \$350.00. ALSO a SIEMENS 100 teleprinter with tape cutter and internal loop supply - offers wanted for this item. Greg is QTHR. Phone: 002.438613.

ALLEN, VK7AN is selling his Yaesu FT102, including AM/FM Board, CW filter, AM filter and narrow SSB filter. 230 watts PEP output. New in box. 3, Denman Road, Trevallyn, 7250. Phone: 003.317914.

DAVID, VK7ZOT wishes to sell an IC4E UHF Handheld, complete with leather case, two battery packs and charger. \$220.00 ALSO a Playmaster 25watt stereo amplifier (as in E.A.) \$80.00. David is QTHR. Phone: 002.438736.

STUDENT/PENSIONER CONCESSIONS

When is a student not a student? When he/she is in receipt of a Student Identity Card.

What about pensioners without medical cards? Do we have a system so rigid that other forms of proof are unacceptable. What about superannuants? They have been prudent and saved for their old age, often with the assistance of their employers. Is there no flexibility in the system

for individual cases to be considered on their merit for subscription reductions.

We should not bow down to the rigidity and inflexibility of a national computerised system nor should we cease to encourage our young and elderly members to enjoy the benefits and fellowship of the WIA.

Organisations operate on the "Ratchet effect", fees go up but never backward. Is the proposal put forward by our Divisional President a ploy to mitigate future rises in membership fees?

If the Division or Branches cannot make ends meet with their existing fund distribution then they should consider local fund raising activities to top up the coffers; these activities may well be the catalyst to an expanded appeal to the Amateur fraternity, swell the numbers of active members and attract new members to the fold.

VK7GH

W.I.A. Broadcast Roster for 1986.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Branch responsible.</u>
3, 10, 17, 24 August	Southern.
31 August, 7, 14 September	Northern.
21, 28 September, 5, 12 October	Northwestern.
19, 26 October, 2, 9, 16 November	Southern.
23, 30 November, 7 December	Northern.
14, 21, 28 December, 4 January '87	Northwestern.

Broadcast Originating Stations, August, 1986.

3rd. August: VK7RF 10th. August: VK7VV
17th. August: To be announced.
24th. August: VK7AL.
All the above from the Southern Branch.
31st. August: Northern Branch Station.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the letter from our President in July "QRM" regarding concessional membership, I was greatly relieved to read that the matter was brought forward for comment only. Otherwise I would have said that Peter is so far off frequency that he is outside the amateur band even for a full call.

Surely even poor blind Nell can see that the primary concern of the Institute should be to increase membership and not to decrease it. The Federal Treasurer has stated recently that only about 50% of licensed amateurs are financial members of the W.I.A. I sincerely believe that Peter's proposition would result in an immediate reduction in membership and nothing else.. The 41 concessional members represent 13% of Tasmanian membership and I submit that we cannot afford to risk losing all or even part of these. I believe that all of us should be trying to increase membership, e.g. every Sunday broadcast should include a plug aimed at all listeners, and all Division sponsored activities should include some membership propoganda, pointing out what the W.I.A. does for all amateurs (and has done in the past). 73.

Bob, VK7NBF.

Dear Sir,

I refer to Peter Frith's letter in July "QRM" and would like to provide some of the comment he calls for. If there is a possibility of policy change, we should all know exactly what we are talking about. Peter repeats the oft expressed concern at the "increasing average age of amateur operators". He also identifies three areas from which we can draw new operators.

Let's examine first the "increasing age" aspect. An increasing average age would seem to indicate that the amateur is a dying breed, leading to an ever-decreasing number of users of those hard-won privileges we now enjoy. Why should that worry us? Surely a smaller number of operators would mean less overcrowding on the bands, something we constantly complain about. Ah, I hear you say, but with fewer operators, we will stand a greater chance of losing some of our bands to those who already cast envious eyes in that direction. So let's be quite honest - we are not worried so much by increasing age as by decreasing numbers. The two are NOT necessarily inter-dependent.

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Peter mentions three sources from which we can draw new members:

Group 1 - young people who Peter says are "generally too occupied" and would therefore be unlikely to provide much input.

Group 2 - the not-so-young folk who have "settled down".

Group 3 - the retired group, who will generally have plenty of time but perhaps limited finances. They can be a valuable asset to the hobby, EVEN if only to make up numbers; remember numbers are our main concern.

While we should do all we can to attract groups 1 and 2, let's not lose sight of group 3 and woo them just as actively.

Now let's examine Peter's thoughts on the financial implications of more and more retired (pensioner?) operators. I must admit I find this part of his letter rather confusing. Doing a few sums with his figures, we find that $275 @ \$7.00$ makes \$1925, whereas $(275+41) @ \$5.20 = \1643.20 . Sorry, can't follow that. Do we need more money or less?

As for Peter's personal solution, I'm sorry it's obvious to me. I think you are advocating doing away with the pensioner rebate. If this is so, then, with respect, I submit we DO have something to lose - numbers! We have a definition of "Pensioner", quoted by Peter - what's wrong with using it? I agree if a man can afford to pay the full rate, he should do so, but I can't agree that someone on a very restricted income should. Especially when it is in our interests that he pay anything at all - remember the numbers game. And before we have loud shouts of "why should they enjoy the facilities we pay for?", let me ask what are those facilities and who mainly uses them? I suggest the most expensive to the Division are the specialised repeaters such as Special Comms and the like. These are the most expensive modes to gear up for, and I would bet an 807 not too many real pensioners can afford to use them. I'm sure there is Latin for "he who uses pays".

Summarising, then:

1. our real concern is not increasing age, but decreasing numbers.
2. We need the retired person as much as he needs us. In fact, more so. He doesn't have to join the W.I.A. and won't if he thinks it more than he can afford!!
3. We should accept "user pays".

Before we have any broadsides fired in my direction, by any of our retired W.I.A. members, let me hasten to explain that I number as one of you, so the expression "even if only to make up numbers" is not intended as derogatory but was used deliberately to make a point. After all, we know our real worth is in keeping those youngsters like Peter on the straight and narrow.

Noel, VK7EG.

T A S D E V I L U P D A T E .

A continuing story by Ian, VK7IJ.

I now understand the meaning of the statement "We reserve the right to improve the design". Wishing to finalise the design I decided to add a few improvements and in so doing unearthed an unexpected barrel of worms. Having recovered from my red face, I will now share the knowledge. Two features were destined for improvement: To run IC2 from 12v. to overcome the low voltage problem associated with the muting of IC3. And to change VR1 and VR2 to provide better setting capability for the RIT circuit. So, here we go:

The lead supplying 5v. to IC2 was disconnected from IC1 and reconnected to the 12v. supply. The wipers of VR1 and VR2 were connected to the track ends of VR3 (the PC tracks need to be cut). The 5v. was applied to the track of both VR1 and VR2 and the other track end of VR2 was taken to earth. This arrangement allows a variable preset voltage to be applied to each end of VR3 thus allowing a far greater accuracy in the setting of the range of the RIT. SO, enter the red face:

The mods to IC2 which, I should add, included strapping pins 12 and 13 to pin 14, worked perfectly. However, the RIT did NOT! With PB1 pressed, 5v. was present across D1 instead of the 2v. as at the junction of R29/R21. The discovery:- Q7 and Q8 are wired as emitter followers, hence the voltage at the emitter equals the voltage on the base, (less 0.6v.). The base voltages had risen because of the 12v. supply to IC2, hence the emitters rose to some nominal value determined by the value of R18, R19 and the base currents of Q7 and Q8.

There is a happy ending to the story:- Q7 and Q8 were replaced with PNP 2N3905 devices, R18 was connected to the base of Q8, and R19 to the base of Q7. This modification has improved out-of-sight the frequency stability. The reason for this is that the bias on D1 was being determined by the base-emitter characteristics of Q7 and not by the voltage across R20 as was the intention of the design. These characteristics are very temperature dependant, hence the drift. The mod to VR1, VR2 and VR3 was very worth while as it is now possible to set the range, negative limit and positive limit of the RIT independently and still allow a null at the mid-mechanical position of VR3. The mod to the unused gate of IC2 is recommended as, apart from conforming to convention for CMOS devices, it prevents any possible random switching due to the gate not knowing if its input is low or high. As far as IC3 goes, the desired result was achieved, the gain increased by about 20dB with the supply of 12v. instead of 5v. It is necessary, however, to replace R22