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# History of the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club Inc.

From 1967 to 2016

This document contains:  
The Mountain District Radio Group (history)  
Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club (history)  
Founding dates  
Life members  
Club awards  
Office bearers / managers

This History was initially compiled in 2003 from available records plus members' memories thirty-six years after the inception of the Club. This second edition / update was created in a similar fashion in 2016, some thirteen years later.

It is inevitable, therefore, that there will be some omissions and mistakes.  
Apologies in advance!



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## The Mountain District Radio Club

Taken from the October 1967 Bulletin, the following describes the activities of EMDRC's predecessor, the Mountain District Radio Club:

This Group consists of a number of radio amateurs living in the eastern suburbs who are interested in assisting the community in such times as civil emergency, bush fires, flood or search and rescue.

The Group, whose lineage dates back to the bush fires of 1962, now operates from the QTH of VK3FE (John Beckett) at Olinda. The equipment has been developed over the years for several specific modes of operation not usually encountered in amateur stations. These modes include back-to-back operation of transceivers as repeaters, operation from remote locations via land lines and operation from a certain system through a VOX operated hybrid! Emergency power will be provided by a 3 phase 5 kW Metropolitan Vickers alternator donated to the Group by commercial radio 3UZ. (*The acquisition and transport of this machine is a story of its own*).

The Group would normally be called into action by the WICEN organization although on a couple of occasions in the past it has had to act independently. Last year for instance one of the members was out Sunday-driving when he spotted a deliberately lit bush fire threatening property in the Sassafras area. He radioed Olinda on 2 metres FM and his information was passed on to Upwey CFA control. Through a convenient marriage of amateur and commercial frequencies he led the brigade right to the fire and helped with liaison and transport during the afternoon.

The organisation of the Group is simple, autocratic and effective. The members are divided into three shifts of 8 hours and these shifts are permanent. Each shift is in the charge of a duty officer. Should an emergency occur the duty officer calls up as many of his shift as he estimates necessary and they go into action. At the end of the shift time and after briefing the incoming shift the first crew are relieved and are not required for 16 hours. Thus by virtue of a little planning the staff know their likely commitment well in advance. The membership was by invitation only and the Group has had to regretfully decline applications by many amateurs – after all how many people can you get into a small shack? Last year the Group sent out monthly broadsheets to its members as a training aid. In spite of offers of ridicule in some quarters these notes appeared to have the desired effect and the operating standard has been consistently good.

## Founding dates

1966 December	Original get-together of Founding group
1967 February 24	Inaugural Meeting - Foundation Committee elected
1967 March 31	First General Meeting - Foundation Office Bearers elected
1967 June	Affiliated with the WIA
1968 March 29	First AGM
1968 July	Club Callsign VK3ER was issued
2000	Thirty-two years after the formation of the Club, we at last found some Club Rooms!!!

## Life members

Members that have provided outstanding service to the club and to amateur radio in general may, at the discretion of the committee, be elected to life membership of the club. The current list of those members elected to life membership is shown below.

1969	Reg Durant VK3AJV SK
1972	The Rt. Hon. Lord Casey SK June 1976
1979	John Beckett VK3FE SK



1979	John Wilson VK3LM SK
1980	Tony King VK3IO
1981	Michael Owen VK3KI SK
1981	David Wardlaw VK3ADW
1985	Bob Duckworth VK3AIC
1991	Geoff Atkinson VK3YFA
1997	Bruce McCubbin VK3SO SK
1998	Len Vermeulen VK3COD SK
2002	Roger Baker VK3BKR
2002	Jack Bramham VK3WWW
2006	Carl Schlink VK3EMF
2008	Jonas Sadauskas VK3VF
2008	Gwen Tilson VK3DYL SK
2011	Robert Broomhead VK3DN
2011	Max Chadwick VK3WT
2011	John Longayroux VK3PZ
2012	Drew Diamond VK3XU
2014	Harry Kraehenbuehl VK3QY
2015	Damian Ayres VK3KQ

## Acknowledgements

The Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club would like to thank and acknowledge the following members for their help compiling the club history:

2003	Gwen Tilson VK3DYL
2016	Peter Hartfield VK3PH

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Club meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Willis rooms, Whitehorse Civic Centre (397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading), and on the third Friday at the McCubbin St club rooms.

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## History of the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club

The following is an extract from the President's Report presented at the first Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 29th March, 1968, and tells of the formation of the Club, the idea of which originated during a WICEN activation connected with the bushfires in the Dandenong's in late 1966:

During the Christmas period of 1966, a group of members from the Mountain and District Radio Group (a local civil defence amateur organization) decided that the Eastern area badly needed a local Amateur Radio Club to give an opportunity for amateurs and SWLs with a mutual interest in the art of radio to get together and have regular meetings.

Late in December 1966, a group consisting of John Beckett VK3FE, Ken McLachlan VK3ZDK (later VK3AH), Jack Gutcher VK3APU and John Wilson VK3LM, met and decided to search through the current Callbook and list the names and addresses of all licenced amateurs in the area bounded by Box Hill, Box Hill North, Lilydale and Ferntree Gully. A circular was then despatched to these amateurs (70 in all) inviting them to attend the first meeting.

Friday evening, February 24th, 1967, saw the inaugural meeting of an enthusiastic group who met in the school rooms at Mooroolbark Technical School. On that evening approximately 50 future members of the organization met and it was decided to name the group The Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club. It was also decided that the temporary Foundation Committee carry on in office until such time as the Constitution was drawn up and permanent office bearers elected. A Committee comprising Ken McLachlan, Jack Gutcher, Ken Constable, Reg Durrant, John Beckett and John Wilson was formed to accept the presented copy of the Moorabbin & District Radio Club's Constitution and alter it to apply to the EMDRC.

<b>President</b>	John Wilson VK3LM
<b>Vice President</b>	Vin Squires VK3AOV
<b>Secretary</b>	Ken McLachlan VK3ZDK (later VK3AH)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jack Gutcher VK3APU
<b>Publications &amp; Disposals</b>	John Beckett VK3FE

The following names were suggested for the Club:

- Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club
- Eastern District Radio Club
- Maroondah Radio Club
- Yarra Valley & District Radio Club

Voting showed a definite preference for the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club – later to become affectionately known as The Hillbillies.

It was decided that the Mooroolbark Technical School be adopted as the venue for all future meetings. The annual subscription was set at: Full, \$2 with 50 cents joining fee. Juniors, \$1 with 25 cents joining fee.

Each date below represents a financial year of the club with an extract of minutes etc. taken from AGM to AGM.

### 1967 / 1968

The first General Meeting of the EMDRC was held on Friday, 31st March 1967, when the Foundation Office Bearers were re-elected for the coming year. More positions were created and filled during the year. In June, 1967, the EMDRC was affiliated with the WIA and information was given to Amateur Radio for inclusion in the next Callbook.



Club letterheads were printed and it was decided to publish a magazine called The Newsletter. This name was later changed to The Radio Bulletin with John Beckett, VK3FE, as publisher. One dollar out of each member's annual subscription was to be set aside to cover the cost of printing 10 issues per year, and a second-hand Fordigraph Automatic Feed Spirit Duplicator was purchased.

The Committee contacted the Shires of Croydon & Lilydale to enquire if a block of land was available for lease on which a shack (approx. 20' x 12') could be erected. A favourable reaction was received from the Shire President of Croydon but he said it would probably be some four months before action could be taken due to a number of similar applications. It was decided to also send a formal letter to the Lilydale Shire Secretary pointing out advantages to the Shire in regard to help in bush fires and other emergencies. If suitable land was obtained, Ken, VK3ZDK, offered to supply bricks, timber and roofing material free of charge for a building.

A three-band beam project was undertaken and a simple VFO controlled transmitter for 80 metres CW / AM with an approx. output of 15-20 watts was constructed for Club use. It was suggested that junior members should spend part of each meeting in another room to operate this gear under supervision and that visits should be arranged to members' shacks by the younger and / or unlicensed members.

An 80 metre hook-up was established on 3600 kHz where members of the Club could converse with each other between meetings. Reg Durrant, VK3AJV, was elected Transmitting Officer and it was decided to apply to the PMG for a Club Callsign.

A QSL Bureau was established and some 700 cards were handled during the year.

During June the Club paid a visit to Channel 'O' at Nunawading where all received an inside view of the operation of TV from a commercial point of view.

In July four members were invited to lecture on the art of Amateur Radio to the Mooroolbark Technical School Parents, Teachers & Citizens Association. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, following which John, VK3FE, operated his Galaxy on HF.

Two social functions were held: a car trial and barbeque lunch in June, and a Christmas break-up and children's party at Healesville with the President playing the part of Father Christmas. An effort was made to form a Ladies' Auxiliary to deal with social functions but only 6 ladies volunteered. A plea was made for more help with next year's activities.

An offer of help to Tasmanian amateurs who lost equipment in the bush fires was accepted with thanks.

During the year a total of 103 members were admitted to the Club, 89 of whom were licensed. The profit for the first 12 months was \$124, plus assets of \$395. Disposals sales always aroused great interest and this section was making money for the Club. There was also a large turnover of technical books.

## 1968 / 1969

In July, 1968, the Club was issued with the call sign of VK3ER, exactly one year after the original application was made.

The Committee was informed that there was a good chance of getting land at Croydon. The President reported having seen a few blocks and having applied for one but it would only be on a temporary basis for storage and workshop only. Another suggestion was to lease rooms at the Croydon Youth Club but our lack of capital was a problem. Consideration was given to approaches to Knox Shire Council and the Heathmont Community Centre.

Car stickers were produced and put on sale at 10 cents each.

It was suggested that we foster the formation of Clubs in other areas, e.g. Northern and Western areas.



The Disposals Committee spent \$400 on various articles. All car phones were balloted and sold and a further supply was expected. Turnover of disposals for 5 months exceeded \$2,000.

Juniors were asked to make small projects – free transistors to be given as rewards for good work. A Technical Assistance Service to be organised – approx. 10 people offered to help.

Several members were on air for the Scout Jamboree.

The Christmas picnic was held at Healesville and a progressive dinner was planned but had to be postponed. It was suggested that an attempt be made to get a Ladies' Auxiliary formed.

Prizes were offered for the best articles written and published in the Bulletin. 45 letters were sent to new VK3 licensees inviting them to visit and join the Club. 8 polite refusals were received.

Work was proceeding on a prototype of a Wadley Receiver. All components for the prototype to be supplied by the Club to project builders. Prototype to eventually become part of Club RX.

The Club was happy to state that it was in a very good financial position, having some 200 members, all accounts had been paid and there was a credit of over \$500 in the bank.

## 1969 / 1970

The Club obtained its own Post Office Box – P.O. Box 87, Mitcham, 3132.

In December, 1969, Reg, VK3AJV, was formally elected an Honorary Life Member of the Club prior to moving to Sydney. He had been Secretary almost since its inception and had made a considerable contribution to its success.

\$100 was allocated to the purchase of library reference books.

The Christmas Party was held at Caribbean Gardens. With the wind blowing a gale and rain pouring down, some 30 families still had a most enjoyable time. The award for the best decorated cake went to the daughter of John Boyce, VK3AXF, and for the best piece of homebrew gear to a new member, Max Scott.

Bob Duckworth, VK3ZRO (later VK3AIC), was appointed to organise club participation in the February 1970 John Moyle Field Day, using the Club's Callsign of VK3ER from Bourke's Lookout near Channel 7 on Mt. Dandenong. Equipment used covered 2 metres AM, 2 metres FM, 6 metres AM, plus 20, 15 and 10 metres. The modest score of 130 contacts was considered very satisfactory as only one operator had previously taken part in the contest. Families and friends turned up and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Two club members established what was understood to be a new Australian record for 1296 MHz. Ron Wilkinson, VK3AKC, in Geelong made a CW contact with Wilf Emmett, VK7WF, in Launceston, 240 miles away. The following evening Kevin Bond, VK3ZKB, joined in on phone for an hour adding another few miles. The contacts were unusual in being shack to shack rather than from mountain tops.

John, VK3FE, conducted classes during the year. A special AOCPC exam class was arranged, designed primarily for members intending to sit for the August AOCPC examination. Experienced instructors gave candidates valuable insight into exam techniques and technical queries to be answered.

Ron VK3AKC, was made an Honorary Member.

The Club learned that a business takeover had occurred, namely the component sales activities were to be handled by the WIA. The advantage was that the WIA could purchase and resell at better prices but the Club would still get a small commission on components sold at meetings.



One meeting was to be turned into a test night when members could bring along pieces of gear, complete with power supplies where necessary, to see how their gear was actually performing but, on the night, home brewers were too shy or modest about putting their equipment on display so an alternative talk had to be arranged.

At the May Meeting approximately 65 members and friends listened attentively for nearly 3 hours as Les Jenkins, VK3ZBJ, described in practical terms recently introduced solid state components and how they can be used in amateur VHF and Microwave equipment.

Juniors were asked if they would like their own page in the Bulletin. Articles to be sent to Tony King, VK3IO.

A discussion and talk on the Wadley Receiver project was led by John, VK3AXF, at the September Meeting. Several versions of the Receiver were on view and also the complete Jenkins MK2 version. As a number of subscribers had completed all the published sections so far, plans were announced to accelerate the development work. Over 50 folders had been supplied and more could be obtained for \$2.

## 1970 / 1971

Considerable time was spent to overcome the problems with the Wadley Project, boards were redesigned and underwent thorough testing in a completed Receiver.

In April, the Club was represented at the Croydon Festival of Youth by a group of members headed by Kevin Bond, VK3ZKB, "Bluey" Clegg, John, VK3FE, and John Clark, VK3GF. The Callsign VK3ER was heard on both HF and VHF. The Club's stand was situated between rival choral societies which made plenty of local QRM but it was not all one way – our RF got into the public address system 59 plus! The HF antenna was also not well located, limiting effective HF operation to 10 metres. One contact of note was with WA6FQL and the steady stream of visitors found it hard to believe we were talking to North America. A lot of useful lessons were learnt from this experience which should help to make future occasions more successful.

The Club was given a mention in the civic affairs publication Civic Pride, thanks to Tony, VK3IO, who provided a photo and write-up at short notice. The Croydon community magazine Croydon's Pride published details of the Club's activities and objects, together with a photo of one of our junior members, Ken Palliser.

30 members and friends journeyed to Shepparton to join in a barbecue lunch with members of the Shepparton Club and then view the large HF transmitters of Radio Australia. A very pleasant day was enjoyed by all.

The July Bulletin summarised a talk given by Graham Crosier of the PMG Radio Branch on the development of radio in Australia from the first experiments in 1896. Graham said that in 1921 "there were 13 amateurs in Australia; their licences consisted of 6 foolscap pages and included greetings from the Minister, the whole Wireless Telegraphy Act and dire threats to transgressors of the said Act."

The first meeting of 1971 broke all records for attendance with over 100 members and visitors squeezed into the clubroom. The visitors included a good percentage of younger faces. Reg Durrant, a former Secretary of the Club, was welcomed back from VK2 – he is once again VK3AJV.

## 1971 / 1972

The new President, Ken, VK3ZDK commented that the Club had entered its fifth year and had grown to a membership of 236. He gave a brief outline of the Committee's policy, the salient points of which were: more social events; technical talks and instruction covering the needs of all members from beginner to the most advanced experimenter; investigation into reasonable designs and constructional projects; and an additional Disposals scheme.

Monthly Teach-ins were commenced at the new Ringwood Library for members studying for their AOCP.



Publicity was stepped up with all local papers printing information relating to the Club and its activities, resulting in many enquiries being made, particularly by juniors. The April meeting was well attended with just on 150 people present. As a result of the publicity, the Club was invited to participate in the City of Croydon's Proclamation proceedings and to hold Field Days and provide communications for charity organisations. Time on the weekly WIA Broadcast allowed listeners to keep abreast with the Club's activities.

The Committee co-opted the services of Jim Linton, a professional Radio Journalist, to assist and advise on aspects pertaining to his profession. Jim's voice would be familiar to the many who listen to the WIA Broadcast.

Congratulations went to Reg, VK3AJV, John Hutchinson, VK3AUJ (later VK3JH) and Gil Soanes, VK3AUI, on their election to the Victorian Council of the WIA.

A Club Award, to be known as The Southern Cross Award, was initiated, commencement date being 1st July, 1971. We have lost track of who received the No. 1 Award but think it was actually a Stateside station, with Gael Pye, ZL2SZ, being the first YL to obtain the Award. Members were advised that a good place to help the Award along was the Club Net on 7.120 MHz on Sunday mornings.

The July meeting opened with presentations of Youth Radio Scheme certificates to boys who had passed the final exams of the scheme. The presentations were made by His Worship the Mayor of Croydon, Cr. Frank Kennedy. Several of the boys came from St. Johns, Lilydale, and it was pleasing to note that some had reached the Honours Standard. It was deemed imperative that a YRCS section be commenced within the Club to cater for our junior members.

The following is an extract from the Lilydale Express – "The Centenary of local government in the Shire of Lilydale will be celebrated in 1972, and beginning in February a busy round of activities is being planned with the opening tentatively fixed for the 12th. Amongst the first to offer support was the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club which will establish radio communications throughout the world for the occasion." Our Club was represented on the organising committee and we were given permission to use the Shire's crest on our QSL cards.

Novice licensing came up for discussion and members were requested to express their opinions in writing to Tony King, VK3IO, to help the Club frame a policy on the subject.

A combined Christmas Party and Car Rally was held at the Yarra Glen Showgrounds, the winners of the latter being Bob, VK3ZRO, and XYL Heather. Prizes were presented by Michael Owen, VK3KI, (Federal President of the WIA) and his wife Jannette.

The PMG denied permission for us to operate a 432 MHz Repeater.

An application to the Croydon Branch of the Australian Postal Institute re availability of their Club rooms for our meetings was turned down because it would be impossible to seat in excess of 120 people maximum. Our application had stated that approx. 150 members attended our monthly meetings.

It was announced that at an extraordinary Committee meeting the decision to terminate the Wadley project was unanimously agreed upon and numerous reasons were given.

The Jan-Feb.1972 Bulletin contained a couple of interesting items: Extract from The Oakleigh Times: Illicit Radio Hams Fined: Two young men were each fined \$40 with \$22 costs for using radio transmitters without being licensed under the Wireless Telegraphy Act. One, from Glen Waverley, admitted to transmitting 5 times a night for 3 weeks using the call sign of XL4.

Extract from the Melbourne Herald: An American housewife pressed the button of her personal two-way radio transmitter in the kitchen of her Long Island home to remind her husband, Sam, 25 miles away in his Manhattan office, to bring home the supper. As she hit the button, 15 automatic garage doors in 3 blocks began shooting up and down – one unfortunate housewife, caught in the act of actually closing hers manually, zoomed into the air. Another door crashed down on top of a 1971 Buick parked half-way in and out of the garage. As the outraged housewives advanced on the poor lady, she wailed "It's these damned new electronics – all jammed up when I want my supper".



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## 1972 / 1973

General Club Meetings were altered to the last Friday of each month. The Bulletin assembly and wrapping to be held at the home of Tony, VK3IO.

A Slow Scan TV Group commenced meetings on the second Friday of each month at the Mooroolbark Technical School. A Construction and Natter Night was also held concurrent with the SSTV Group, meeting in the school's metalwork room where facilities for making chassis, cabinets etc. were available. This to act as a means of teaching junior members more about radio. Test equipment was also provided by Keith Purchase, VK3YCQ, where possible.

A new Club Project was started – a 6 m or 2 m preamplifier kit. A circuit board had been developed and was available to members at Club meetings. Bob, VK3ZRO, reported on the progress made in the construction of the Club's prototype SSTV monitor.

Extracts from copies of the Bulletin: "VK3ER is on 3.650 MHz + / - QRM, working stacks of DX every Monday night at 1000Z. Many stations are trying for our Award"; "The Club now has enough ZL members to make it possible to get the Southern Cross Award without working a single VK!" and "Bring your junk to our monthly White Elephant Sale – someone will be silly enough to buy it."

The WIA Vic. Div. formed a Consultative Committee to advise Council on various matters, this Committee to include representatives from the various clubs and other groups in the state. The Committee of EMDRC appointed Ken Beaver, the Assistant Secretary (later Secretary) to act as our delegate. Ken, together with John, VK3AXF, represented the EMDRC at the WIA meeting on 25th November, 1972, when much time was given to the discussion of ways in which the various groups can co-operate with the WIA to give effective representation of all Victorian amateurs and generally improve the image of amateur radio.

Designs for a suitable and distinctive Club tie were requested and the idea of Club name badges was raised.

Although the Club was without an actual library, a Librarian was appointed who was anxious to build up a stock of radio books and magazines.

Discussions were held regarding a Novice licence being introduced.

It was decided that proceeds from Disposal sales were to go to the Club Building Fund.

Following the decision, the previous year to terminate the Wadley Receiver project, it had come to the notice of the Committee that a South African firm was manufacturing a device using the Wadley loop. Arrangements were made to import some of the Barlow Wadley XCR30 receivers for Club members. The Secretary advised on prices by either sea or air freight.

Christmas outing – car rally plus barbeque at Tooroorong Reservoir, near Whittlesea.

The Club was allocated a phone number for the Publicity Officer, Alex Bell, so he could answer enquiries about the Club.

Total assets of Club at end of the financial year were \$1,968.71, with a membership of just over 300.

## 1973 / 1974

The President, John, VK3LM, commented that "a close look at recent AOCP & AOLCP exams reveals that about 400 plus sit each exam, there being 2 sittings per year for AOCP and 4 for CW".

The question was asked if wives of members would be interested in forming an EMDRC Ladies' Group. What was envisaged would be a group which could arrange dinners, outings and social gatherings for the wives of members. Quote "Women unite – don't let your husbands be the only ones to benefit from Club membership!" unquote.



EMDRC Incentive Award: Open to all junior or unlicensed members and to members licensed for less than 2 years. Contestants to submit item / s of home-constructed equipment. Won by John Lancaster, VK3ZCX, for a homemade digital demonstration unit.

The Committee decided to hold an Essay Competition in order to increase communication between the younger members of the Club and the Committee, the topic for the essay being "What do I expect from the Club?" The winners were Noel Rickards, VK3CNR, and Paul Walton, VK3AVD, (later VK3PW) both their essays containing worthwhile opinions and suggestions on Club Policy.

AOCP and AOLCP classes for 1974 to be held at the Collingwood Technical College on Thursday evenings for Theory and CW.

After careful consideration the PMG introduced the Novice Licence using the letter "N" after the state identification numeral in the Callsign to identify transmissions by Novice licencees. They also stated that where a Limited licencee is granted a Novice licence also, two licences will be issued with a separate fee for each.

It was announced that the Club was feeling the pinch financially and was operating with its head just above the waterline. The September Balance Sheet showed the Club had so far that year run at a loss of \$72.26. Subscriptions to be raised the following year. The Bulletin was costing about \$900 per year to produce and publish, and the number of pages had been reduced from 40-50 to about 30. A second duplicator had been bought cheaply to ease pressure on the printing staff and to try to avoid last minute rushes.

In June more than 60 members attended an outing to the Bureau of Meteorology radio workshops at Abbotsford and were shown how weather maps were compiled.

Club membership reached 400. Average Meeting attendance: 110. Members were reminded that Minutes of Committee Meetings were available for perusal and that any member may attend any Committee Meeting with the President's approval.

On 1st August the Committee decided, in line with their normal progressive policy, to form a RTTY group with the aim of fostering interest in this specialised mode of transmission. Amongst other things, it was hoped to start and keep an up-to-date Call Book of all Australian amateurs on RTTY. Tony, VK3IO, consented to fill the position of Chairman of this group.

Members were asked to contribute suggestions on locations suitable for the Club to have its own clubrooms.

It was suggested that the Club run a Hamfest the following year along the lines of the successful conventions held in Geelong and Mt. Gambier. Members were asked to "dob themselves in" to form a sub-committee.

Components were provided at a low cost by Disposals Sales leader, Geoff Atkinson, VK3YFA, whilst sales from the WIA were handled by Gil, VK3AUI. Theo Van Staveren, VK3AMA provided members with log sheets, books, magazines, car stickers, etc.

During the year the Club held excursions, lectures, white elephant nights, a beginners' night, natter nights and demonstration nights. The alternative meeting nights were lectures on SSTV, ATV, mechanical TV, commercial equipment and a home built fast scan camera.

An Editorial Report for the year 1973-74 stated that the year had been, in general, a difficult one for the Bulletin with some problems being due to lack of assistance and others being technical ones associated with the printing. Per usual a constant worry was the lack of articles submitted by members, representing a general apathy which is especially serious considering the Club's large membership. Printing problems were partly overcome with the purchase of the new Gestetner – prior to that, paper wastage was costing the Club about \$200 per year. Postal costs had increased and advertising becoming difficult to obtain.

On the credit side, problems of manpower for printing were overcome with Fred Elliott and his 3 assistants taking over the task. Assistant Editor, Tony, VK3IO, provided paper,



ink and colour printing drums, as well as making his shack available for the collating every month – no better form of exercise has ever been invented than walking around the room picking up papers, putting them in covers, pile-bumping, stapling, gluing and rolling wrappers!

## 1974 / 1975

The Club had to increase its annual subscription rates to keep abreast of rising costs – Full member \$6. Junior or Pensioner \$2.50. No Joining Fee.

The Committee adopted a proposal to run a series of lectures aimed at preparing members for the August 1974 AOCF exam. This crash course, conducted by a panel of senior Club members, to run for 11 weeks. No charge for lectures but all attending must be members of the EMDRC, the initial course to be followed by a much more basic one. 30 people attended and a number of members were successful.

The Editor advised that, although we now have enough money to buy paper but hardly any articles to print on it, we are faced with the necessity of cut-backs in the size of the Bulletin due to the difficulty of obtaining duplicating paper to print it on! He also asked for more articles from members and commented in the Bulletin “Just think of the good feeling you get from helping your fellow amateur by giving him the benefit of your knowledge or experience.” Who could resist an extortion like that?

“The great Flea Market to end all Flea Markets” was held at the May meeting, whilst Ray Fisher, VK3ACY, was busy building up stocks of disposal goodies for the new Club year.

Concern was expressed about the doubling of amateur station licence fees from \$6 to \$12 and a letter was sent from the Club to the Postmaster-General. The reply explained the reasons for the increase and regret was expressed that the fees could not be reduced.

VK3ER was operated portable by Harry Jupp, VK3AJU, at the Dandenong Agricultural Show. 80 metres and 2 metres FM were used and quite a number of contacts were made. The public was able to view an assortment of typical amateur gear.

The resignation of Fred Elliott as head printer was recorded and Murray Robinson, VK3YDO, was appointed his successor. John, VK3LM, resigned as Editor at the end of 1974, and Ken Beaver took over the position.

The AOCF class held an open day at the Apex Club rooms, Nunawading. A large number of people attended the display of equipment covering all bands. This also gave new licence holders a chance to receive instruction in the use of HF equipment.

Jack Gutcher, VK3APU, was welcomed back in February after an absence due to health problems. He will be able to resume the Club Net and Southern Cross Award though unable to continue some of his duties as a Committee member.

A successful Christmas Party BBQ was held at Healesville when twice as many people as had given notice turned up. Luckily the supplies were just enough for everyone and a good time was had by all though only a small number of children were present.

## 1975 / 1976

May, 1975, saw the inaugural meeting of the Nunawading Branch of the Club with 80 members attending. President, Geoff, VK3YFA, welcomed members and Mr. Bob Deany, Acting Superintendent Radio Branch, who spoke to the meeting on “Interference and the Amateur”. At the end of his talk, Bob presented Geoff with the Nunawading Branch station licence, VK3BNW. The Mayor of Nunawading, Cr. Peter James, arrived later and in his opening remarks made the point that the general lack of knowledge about amateurs and amateur radio in the community was largely our own fault and if we were to gain the co-operation and support of Local Government, we must be seen to be active in the community. Peter also said that the Nunawading Council, in its long-range plans, was making provision for permanent facilities for the Club in the form of a transmission room for our exclusive use plus general and group meeting rooms on a shared basis as part of



a community centre project. However, plans at this stage were not due for completion for another five to ten years. Max Dawkins, VK3TR, elaborated on ways the Club and Branch could help other groups in the community. Future meetings to be held in the Coffee Shop of the Nunawading Civic Centre on the last Friday of each month with Mike Thorne, VK3ZVN, (later VK3BKK) as Branch Committee Chairman.

At the second meeting of the Branch held in June, several special interest groups were formed, the convenors of which volunteered with very little arm twisting. There was the Propagation Group, the Amateur Test Equipment and Theory Application Group, the Basic Transistors Group and the Logic Group.

The third series of AOCPC Classes was held in the Nunawading Apex Club Rooms with all places filled and a further series commencing in September for the AOCPC exams in February, 1976.

The first examination for the Novice Licence was held on 24th June, 1975. The examination syllabus consisted of:

Morse code sending and receiving at 5 wpm – receiving test of 5 minutes with a maximum of 10 errors permitted. Sending test 2-1 / 2 minutes with a maximum of 4 uncorrected errors.

Regulations: ½ hr. exam of the same standard as the Full and Limited exams. A written paper - pass mark 70%.

Theory: A written paper with 50 multiple choice type questions, duration 1 hour – pass mark 70%.

In June, the Club contacted the Postmaster General on behalf of members who had sat the AOCPC exam in February, 1975, and who had been advised verbally that results would not be available before Christmas. Reasons given by PMG were staff shortages due to leave and furlough, also introduction of the new Novice exam. The Club advised that this was unacceptable which brought an immediate reply that the matter was being examined urgently. Results of the February examination were released the following month. The Club also contacted the WIA (both Victorian and Federal Divisions), the PMG, the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, Post Master General and various Local Members in protest of cancellation of exams. Whilst not resulting in immediate reinstatement of exams, our efforts did not go un-noticed.

July 1975 saw the first issue of the new offset production of the Bulletin after years of Gestetner printing. This new process will enable photographs to be published. Les White, VK3BEN, was thanked for offering his business facilities to enable this change of format to be made. Tribute was paid to the efforts of all those who in the past had laboured for so many frustrating hours in typing stencils, printing with machines that should have been in the Applied Science Museum or run themselves ragged collating 300 copies of the Bulletin. Late in the year new arrangements for the Bulletin printing were made – to be produced in future by Geoff, VK3YFA.

Preliminary planning was undertaken for a 10-day tour in June, 1976, to include the NZART Golden Jubilee Conference in New Zealand and a sightseeing tour of Fiji for approximately 30 to 40 persons. Applications were invited.

A paragraph about LARA (Ladies Amateur Radio Association) appeared in the Bulletin: "LARA has been formed to promote amateur radio amongst the ladies. It is open to all members of the fair sex, licensed, SWLs, XYLs, the lot. Here's your chance girls, beat the OM at his own game!" The Editor commented that he had been very firmly told that LARA is NOT a branch of Women's Lib – the organisers are interested only in promoting amateur radio amongst members of their own sex, and he wished them good luck.

A considerable amount of ex-commercial equipment had been made available to members through the Disposals channels. A selection of pre-loved VHF and UHF antennas was available but only at Meetings as they were unsuitable for mailing! Kits for 6 m, 2 m and 70 cm converters were offered to Club members as well as many other goodies.



The September General Meeting was asked if members wished to move to the Willis Room in the Nunawading Civic Centre. The result was overwhelmingly in favour of the move which resulted in an increase in attendance due to the meeting venue being more centrally located.

Club members participated in JOTA, staged displays at the Dandenong Agricultural Show and the Noble Park Youth Expo., as well as giving instruction in electronics to the Salvation Army Boys Home at The Basin by Mal Rivenell, VK3BEX. Through John, VK3LM, the Club had its name continually associated with SSTV. A SSB seminar was held by John, VK3JH, at Nunawading – the 3 meetings in the series were well attended and voted a success.

EMDRC was instrumental in organising an evening when members of Moorabbin, Frankston, Western Suburbs and LARA were able to discuss topics of mutual interest including the WIA, Vic. Div.

Fred Hattam, VK3BAL, became a Silent Key in January, 1976. He bequeathed a Yaesu FT200 and AC power supply to the Club, and a small plaque was to be engraved and attached to the equipment so that members using it would know of Fred's generosity.

Another Silent Key during the year was Ron Wilkinson, VK3AKC, who at one time was given Honorary Membership of the Club. Ron was particularly known for his work on EME transmissions on 432 and 1296 MHz.

The Club at the February extra-ordinary General Meeting adopted a new Constitution.

## 1976 / 1977

It was with deep regret that the Club recorded the passing of our Patron, Lord Casey of Berwick, on 17th June, 1976. The plans which had been made for him to visit us were being discussed but regrettably had to be terminated.

General meetings were changed to the first Friday of the month in the Willis Room, Nunawading and Branch meetings to the last Friday of each month in the Coffee Shop.

Members were invited to submit their design and / or comments for a Club emblem or badge which could be used on our letterhead, as a lapel badge or a sign for publicity use. A design was chosen and manufacturing of a lapel badge begun.

Discussions were held regarding the enormous publicity being given to obtaining a Citizens band in Australia. To encourage activity on the 11 m band, an informal net was started at noon on Sundays on 27.125 MHz, using the Club call of VK3BNW, and this proved very popular.

The subject of the next WARC Conference (World Administrative Radio Conference of the International Telecommunications Union) to be held in Geneva in 1979, came up for discussion. David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, Convenor of the Amateur Committee, was notified that the EMDRC wished to present material for consideration, our submission being prepared by Tony, VK3IO, who asked for input from Club members.

The WIA VHF group, in conjunction with the EMDRC, organized a "Free for All" at Churchill Park with activities including 2 m, 11 m, and 80 m. Foxhunts, hidden transmitters, scrambles including an all-band scramble, and sniffer hunts, HF & VHF triangulation exercises.

The Club provided a static display in the Nunawading Library for National Library Week. A portable station was also operated.

In the Sept / Oct. issue of the Bulletin a column, DX Notes, was introduced by Dusty Miller, VK3AYO ex. ZL2AQK (later ZL2VS).

In the current series of AOCB classes, a change to the format will be the inclusion of a Morse practice session each class night. There will also be a Novice class.

Max, VK3TR, Mike Thorne, VK3ZVN (later VK3BKK) Dusty, VK3AVO, and other members of the Club assisted with the radio activities at the 11th Australian Scout Jamboree at Rossmoyne Park. They operated VK3BSA / P 24 hours a day for 10 days,



keeping many skeds arranged by interstate and overseas scouts, working 72 countries and clocking up approx. 1500 contacts. Bob, VK3AIC, headed the Scoutronic Workshop activity which proved enormously popular with the boys.

The Editor was so browned off at the negative reaction to his pleas for articles and comments for the Bulletin that he gave notice of motion in accordance with Article 16 of the Constitution "that Article 18 of the Constitution be deleted". Article 18 requires the Bulletin to be published at least quarterly. Discussion on the motion to be held at the April Meeting.

## 1977 / 1978

The average attendance at General Meetings during the year was 130. Membership fees were set at the same rate as the previous year - \$7.50 Full, \$4 Junior, Student and Pensioners.

A display was put on in the Nunawading Library during Library Week. It was suggested that the Library be asked to hold copies of the Bulletin.

At the first AOC class for 1978, approximately 40 students were in attendance, their ages ranging from 15 years thru to 50 plus. The class also included 2 ladies and a few students from the previous year's class who were successful in the Novice exam.

The RTTY group was re-activated and the SSTV disposals group wound up.

With regard to the forthcoming WARC Conference, Dave Garrett, VK3BDG, gave valuable advice on arguments which could be put forward to support the request for increased frequency allocations for the amateur service. It was decided that the Club would make an independent submission to the Dept. of P & T in support of the frequency allocations requested by the WIA.

An Inter-Club Liaison Group was proposed at a meeting held on 21st May, 1977, in the Coffee Shop. Clubs represented were: EMDRC, Disabled Radio Amateurs Club, Moorabbin, Gippsland Gate, Western Suburbs and LARA. Subjects discussed included WARC 79, submissions to the P & T Department and Classes.

It was suggested that Dusty, VK3AYO, be asked to make a list of equipment required for Field Days & Demonstrations. It was later decided that the Department of Youth Sport and Recreation be approached for the funding of these items – 2 x 30 ft. telescopic masts, TH3 antenna, rotator and VHF beams.

The Building Fund account to be consolidated with General Account.

Maurie Ward, VK3ZT, offered to open his garage one night per week to sell components to Club members.

Tony, VK3IO, suggested that the Club start up a CB section to encourage those CB operators who are interested in radio as a hobby to progress into amateur radio.

Keith Haslam, VK3NAH (later VK3ACE), reported to the Committee on a meeting he had attended with the Radio Frequency Management Division of the Postal & Telecommunications Dept. Various proposals and questions were put by both sides regarding the manner of issuing licences, the style of Morse being used, allocation of bands for Novices, style of exams and legalising CB.

Max, VK3TR, requested that the Club ask for P & T assistance to keep the 2 m band clear of pirates. It was suggested that an anti-pirate committee be formed.

The Committee discussed the idea of not renewing membership of the WIA Victoria Division. This was to be put to a General Meeting.

Max, VK3TR, was invited by the Scout Association to fill the position of Assistant Headquarters Commissioner, Radio Activities. Max was also congratulated on being the recipient of the 1977 Amateur Radio Shaw Smith Award made each year for journalistic ability. Max's article was on the Jamboree amateur radio station.



Daurel Coolidge VK3NCS (later KC7TE), became the first licensed YL member of the Club. She obtained her Callsign so that she and her OM, Art, VK3AOK, could communicate while he was stationed on Macquarie Island.

The Club ended the financial year with a balance of \$3,796.86.

## 1978 / 1979

Graeme Hattwell, VK3NGH, agreed to take over as Editor as well as Printer of the Bulletin.

It was announced by the WIA that in reply to their submission to the P & T Department, Novices can now use VFOs instead of being crystal locked.

The Club renewed its subscription with WIA Vic. Div. Club members who were also WIA members were urged to attend the WIA election meeting in May, where a relatively large number of candidates had nominated, and thus exercise their right to vote for whom they wanted to represent them on the Divisional Council.

It was decided to establish an Outward QSL Bureau for members of the EMDRC and Gippsland Gate Radio Club who are not WIA members, the surface postage costs being covered by a grant from both Clubs. Posting to be handled by our QSL Manager, Lionel Curling, VK3NM.

The 80 m net was changed from Monday to Wednesday nights and moved to the Novice end of 80 m. Another net was started on 10 m on a Sunday morning with John, VK3JH, acting as Net Controller using the Club Callsign of VK3BNW.

In April, a Field Day was held in the Apex Club Room at Nunawading for AOC class members, many of whom availed themselves of the opportunity to dispel the fears and nerves which can render one speechless the first time an answer comes back to a very hesitant CQ DX call! Many bands were worked on equipment on loan from and under the supervision of John, VK3JH, Ken, VK3GJ, Gil, VK3AUI, Mike, VK3ZVN, Errol, VK3NGE, and Graeme, VK3NGH. For many who attended, it was the first time they had seen an amateur station in operation, not to mention running the station themselves, and no doubt they had their appetites whetted to obtain that legal document for themselves from P & T as soon as possible.

Also in April, a trial Novice exam was organised by the YRCS (Youth Radio Club Scheme). In excess of 100 potential novice candidates attended the Melbourne University venue where all but 2 of the supervisors were volunteers from EMDRC.

It was with great regret that members learned that on 9th June Jack Gutcher, VK3AUP, became a Silent Key at the age of 60. Jack was a Foundation Member of the Mountain and District Radio Group as well as its successor the EMDRC where he was Foundation Treasurer. During his years with our Club he held many other positions on the active committee as well as being the Club Transmitting Officer.

EMDRC goes EDP with membership records transferred onto a computer utilising the 7" floppy disk system and which answers to the name of "HAL".

The Committee started to consider building a Voice Repeater.

Jack O'Shannassy, VK3SP, prepared an excellent article for the Bulletin on the Special Preparatory Meeting (SPM) of WARC 1979 which was held over 4 weeks in Geneva. The 15-man Australian delegation was led by Mr. Jim Wilkinson of the P & T Department and included for the first time an Amateur as a full-time Delegate. Due to trying to carry on their normal occupations, this position was shared by David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, and Michael Owen, VK3KI, both members of EMDRC. The fact that the SPM Report contained almost all of the views which Australian amateurs considered important is a tribute to the preparatory work in Melbourne and the work in Geneva of our joint Delegates.

A cheque for \$100 was presented to David, VK3ADW, towards the WARC 1979 Conference expenses. \$50 worth of books was presented to the Nunawading Library where the Club held a static display during National Library Week to show some of the



activities of radio amateurs. Due to the excellent state of the Club's finances, the Committee approved a proposal by Leo Lloyd, VK3ALU, that tea and coffee be put on the "free" list this year. It was noted later that the resultant increased consumption was about 150%.

Social activities included the Antonio Park outing, the National Field Day and a Christmas BBQ where the ladies' Radio Throwing contest had to be postponed when it was discovered that the radio to be thrown just needed a few tweaks and twiddles to restore it to full working order.

Bi-annual meetings of VICAR (the Victorian Combined Amateur Radio Societies) have continued with enormous benefit to all clubs concerned – exchange of lecturers for meetings, suggestions for outings, cross reprinting rights of magazine articles etc.

Daurel, VK3NCS, was the first YL to earn The Southern Cross Award endorsed "all CW".

The Club received a letter from Ken Bennett, VK3VKB, thanking Club members who devoted so much time and energy to Scouts and Guides during the 21st Jamboree-On-The-Air. Their patience and understanding was much appreciated in the face of rigs blowing up or Scouts not turning up.

## 1979 / 1980

Annual subscriptions for the year were decreased to \$6 for full members and \$3 for retired, full-time students and junior members.

Two donations were made, one of \$100 to the WIA Vic. Div. Repeater Committee for the restoration and maintenance of the Mt. Dandenong and Mt. Macedon Repeaters. The other of \$50 was to the Geelong Repeater Committee. This latter was made as a tangible expression of our appreciation for the use of the Geelong Repeater while VK3RML was out of service.

A special visitor to the June meeting was Jack Hum, G5UM, "Uncle Mike" as he is known on VHF in England. He was able to speak to the Club about the pioneer days on VHF / UHF in the UK as well as the contemporary scene with its proliferating repeaters. On his return home, he wrote to the Club saying that he was honoured to have been made a member and thanking us for all the hospitality extended to him and his wife. He found the bonhomie at EMDRC really marvellous.

Geoff, VK3YFA, was appointed Club and Zone Co-ordinator by Vic. Div. Council and, later, Secretary of the Council. Four of the Vic. Div. Council are members of EMDRC – Geoff Atkinson, VK3YFA, Alan Noble, VK3BBM, Eric Buggee, VK3ZZN, and Robbie Wilkins, VK3AUR.

Tony King, VK3IO, John Wilson, VK3LM, and John Becket, VK3FE, were elected to Life Membership of the Club and were presented with their distinctive gold badges.

It was hoped to once again try to feature the Ladies Radio Throwing Contest at the Christmas BBQ in December, this time with an obsolete radio.

"HAL" underwent major brain surgery to upgrade him to a 6809. With extreme fortitude and showing great devotion to duty, HAL continued to perform his administrative tasks for the Club during that harrowing period. The result will mean that he can do much more, much quicker.

The P & T approved of a weekly RTTY broadcast from VK3ER / P. The proposed RTTY Repeater is getting closer with the RF side up and running.

Ken, VK3GJ, advised that after 6 years of continuous instruction, the Club will not be conducting any more NAOCP or AOCPP classes. However, the classes committee will organise short courses and seminars on practical and advanced topics.

Dusty, VK3AYO, and family returned to New Zealand. The Club will sorely miss Dusty's great input and promised "to keep a seat warm and a glass cold" for him. However, before he left for home, he had a great result in his first time entry in the 1978 VK / ZL



Contest, with a second in the overall VK3 score, first VK on 40 m, and 14th overall in VK / ZL. All in CW.

Membership totalled 430, with 287 members having calls. In his report to the AGM, President "Super Duck" said that over the past 13 years the Club had gone from strength to strength until the EMDRC had become the largest club of its kind in our part of the world. Its size and strength was a direct result of the members' interest and enthusiasm. However, the Editor still begged for articles for the Bulletin.

Anthony Burt, VK3VLX (later VK3TZ), was the recipient of the first EMDRC Classes Award to be presented to a junior member who had shown outstanding accomplishment as a radio amateur.

The inaugural Jack Gutcher Memorial Award for juniors was presented to David Rowntree, VK3BTF. Conditions for this Award may be changed each year as decided by the Committee.

## 1980 / 1981

A proposal was submitted by Peter Ford, VK3YTB (later VK3TAF), that a computer group be formed for a "ham" microcomputer kit project. Meetings were held by those interested and under the guidance of Max, VK3TR, assisted by Leo, VK3ALU, Len Greaves, VK3BGM, Peter, VK3YTB, and Peter Frederick, VK3BSF, a microcomputer kit and video terminal will be made available to Club members only. The Club Committee, in approving the formation of the Microprocessor Group, made a loan available to the Group which may be utilised for interim purchases. By the end of the year 30 members had joined and the first stage of the two-part project was almost at the PC board stage. The Group met every month with an interesting series of lectures by Graeme Wright, VK3ZWG, on the internals of those multi-legged devices.

The Club held a 'Home Brew' gear competition night, the winner being Mike, VK3BKK. Other prize winners were John O'Rourke, VK3KBA (later VK3XS) and Jock Davidson, VK3BLB.

A donation of \$100 was made by the Club to Frances Perry House, Royal Women's Hospital, as a memorial to the late Jeanette Atkinson, Geoff VK3YFA's XYL whose sudden and unexpected death shocked all.

Frank Gardiner, VK3VAV, volunteered to take over the job of the EMDRC Intruder Watch Co-ordinator, his task being to assist the WIA's Federal Intruder Watch expert with any reports sent in by members of the Club.

A low pass filter was bought by the Club for loan to any member for a limited period.

Max VK3TR, arranged a most successful lecture night at the SEC. The very impressive demonstrations were followed by a meal and, judging by the high conversation level at dinner, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. This to be an annual event.

The RTTY Repeater showed progress from last year and the RTTY Group's weekly broadcasts were still going strong on Channel 52. Slow Scan had not been very active but could well expand again in the future, possibly with the accent on computer conversion and enhancement.

A Christmas BBQ was held at the Maroondah Dam – sweets for the children and liquid refreshments (later to be known as "Maroondah Coffee") were supplied by the Club.

It was agreed to support the Disabled Citizens Association and a display was arranged at the Nunawading Civic Centre.

The service of the Outwards QSL Bureau had been reviewed and a decision made not to subsidize outgoing cards for non-WIA members since the postage for these cards was considered an unfair burden on the rest of the membership. In future these cards would cost 5 cents each to send.

Des Clarke, VK3DES, ran slow Morse sessions nightly on 10 m. Later he was joined by Bill Wilson, VK3DXE, after he passed his 10 wpm CW due to Des's help.



Classes were not run during the year (a) to allow the hard-working instructors a well-earned rest and (b) to review the class requirements and replenish ideas. This decision was not taken lightly as the classes had provided about one third of Club membership.

Book sales were very active and obviously a much appreciated service provided by Gavin Brain, VK3HY, assisted by Tony, VK3VLX, (later VK3TZ) and Don Bradbury, VK3YV.

A big problem was encountered with the Bulletin during the year in that Mike, VK3BKK, could no longer continue as Editor due to work pressures. Following a plea for a new Editor, Bruce Marshall, VK3VKT, "applied" for the job even whilst muttering something about "being conned".

DOC started issuing "K" calls which distinguished the holders of combined Limited and Novice licences, with only one licence fee involved. This greatly reduced the risk of using the wrong call at the wrong time and getting a blast from some self-appointed RI.

Coffee Shop nights continued to be a big success with each night drawing a capacity crowd thanks to the dedication of John O'Rorke, VK3KBA, (later VK3XS) and Harry Kraehenbuehl, VK3NKI (later VK3KBA). (Confusing???)

The Jack Gutcher Memorial Award was presented to junior David Tilson, VK3VKH (later VK3UR), and the President's Award to junior Jeremy Harvey, VK3VWH.

## 1981 / 1982

At the April General Meeting, EMDRC paid tribute to David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, and Michael Owen, VK3KI, for their selfless services to amateur radio and, in particular, their participation at W.A.R.C. and their many visits and lectures to the Club. They were both presented with Life Membership of EMDRC.

During the year a new 2 m Repeater for Melbourne, VK3REC, was commissioned. This resulted from a joint venture between Moorabbin Club and ourselves; the EMDRC members involved were Keith, VK3ACE, John, VK3XS, and Trevor Haines, VK3DCQ. This somewhat delayed the construction of VK3RTY though the site and antenna were ready.

Computer Group membership was frozen at 30 members, though later in the year the project was put on hold while Peter, VK3YTB, settled into his new job.

The Committee endorsed a campaign launched to rid the HF bands of the Russian Woodpecker, the "Operation Woodpecker Committee" being chaired by EMDRC member Jim Linton, VK3VKC / PC.

A very successful White Elephant Night was held after a lapse of almost two years with over 300 amateurs and friends gathering at the 1st Mitcham Scout Hall.

A major project which the Club became involved in during the year was the support of the International Year of the Disabled Person. We placed our technical resources at the disposal of the Nunawading City Council and assisted them at several IYDP functions. We were fortunate to conclude our IYDP programme at a special ATV meeting held in November in conjunction with a visit to Melbourne by Chitari Moriyama, JH6THP, a totally incapacitated Japanese amateur who, from his hospital bed in Japan, organised a radio club at his hospital as well as an international club. Chitari is a perfect example that severe disability is no bar to enjoying amateur radio. Peter Cousins, VK3BFG, arranged an ATV hook-up between EMDRC and the Moorabbin Club, with the Mayors of both Nunawading and Moorabbin being able to speak to each other, plus Peter Barnes from DOC Central Office in Canberra, with a TV crew from Nagasaki Broadcasting Corp. filming furiously. To say it was a most successful evening was the understatement of the year.

At the November General Meeting members congratulated Charlie White, VK3AUP, on his half century of holding an amateur radio licence. Charlie's original licence, 5MX, was issued to him in South Australia on 5th November, 1931.

The Club's Christmas gathering at the Maroondah Dam was a great success with over 100 members and friends attending. It was held in ideal weather and many of the



participants discovered the virtues of "Maroondah Coffee". Amusement was caused when David, VK3KID (the Waverley Kid) (later VK3UR), with a big smile on his face, stoked the barbie with great gusto using all his old school test papers. Thanks for the organisation of the day went to Paul Walton, VK3AVD (later VK3PW), Harry, VK3KBA, Keith, VK3ACE, and Graeme Fuller, VK3DOM, the Park Ranger.

A Datong Morse Tutor was purchased for use of Club members.

16 Club members entered the John Moyle Field Day, 1982, from Kinglake National Park and, after turning the car park into a very impressive looking antenna farm, gained 2nd place in the 6-hour, open, multi-op section.

At the end of February, 1982, the Club had 463 financial members, with 85% holding licences: Full 48%, Limited 11%, Novice 16% and Combined Limited / Novice 10%.

The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to Max, VK3TR, and the President's Award to Bruce, VK3VKT.

## 1982 / 1983

Club Meetings are scheduled as follows: 1st Friday – General Meeting, 2nd Friday – Computer Group; 3rd Friday – Coffee Shop; 4th Friday – Morse practice, then later the Computer Group.

The RTTY Repeater, VK3RTY, was commissioned and installed on the Mountain, providing a novel and effective means of information exchange. The project took over 2 years but was well worth waiting for. The 2m Voice Repeater, VK3REC was operational although improvements were still being made, many of the components being supplied by Keith, VK3ACE, from his Elgar Road premises.

At the July meeting, the Club Committee decided to join with Frank Vanderdrift, VK3NGZ (later VK3COF), in his sponsorship of Mirek Rozbicki, SP5IXI, (later VK3DXI) as a migrant to Australia. Mirek had to leave Poland without his possessions when he had to flee the country and had been living in a refugee hostel in Vienna for over a year. The project was presented to the August General Meeting and those present signified their agreement with it by acclamation. The Club's involvement was to guarantee Mirek's air fare of just over \$1,000. Special Efforts would be held after Mirek's visa was granted and flight confirmed. He arrived at Tullamarine at 4 am on 20th November when many bleary-eyed Club members were there to meet him. In fact, the Coffee Shop Meeting on the Friday night started at 8 pm. at Nunawading and finished at Tullamarine next morning – the longest meeting on record!

A 2 m Club Net was started on Channel 49 on a Thursday night with Net Controller Harry, VK3KBA.

The Club's first all-singing, all-dancing Hamfest was scheduled for September, 1983, to be held at the Nunawading Civic Centre. A Committee was formed and ideas were invited.

A Novice Class, with 11 participants, was run during 1982 at Mitcham High School, whilst Morse classes were conducted by Des, VK3DES, in conjunction with Box Hill Technical College.

The Christmas BBQ was again held at the Maroondah Dam with good weather, lots of fun, Maroondah Coffee and a Father Christmas who didn't need any padding!

During the year a project team prepared an excellent video tape of our activities. This was forwarded to the Chester Radio Club, UK, in reply to an earlier tape received from them.

Another SEC night was held and enjoyed by all who attended.

A group of 16 Club members entered the John Moyle Field Day, 1983, from the top of Mt. Donna Buang and won the 6-hour section. They were glad to have the expertise of Mirek, now VK3DXI, on the key. All who attended agreed it was a fun day and looked forward to



the following year now that they had learnt even a few more facts of life about contest operation.

Craig Cook, VK3KCC, (later VK3CMC) was awarded the first Southern Cross RTTY Award.

The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to Graeme, VK3NGH, and the Committee Award to Ken, VK3GJ.

## 1983 / 1984

Novice classes, organised by Peter Frederick, VK3BSF, were run again in 1983.

The Club participated in World Communications Year, using the special Callsign, VK3WCY, for 2 months on a rostered basis.

EMDRC's Communications Expo '83 was held at the Nunawading Civic Centre on 3rd September, with great success. It was the largest event of its kind ever held in Melbourne and was organised as part of World Communication Year and featured a working amateur radio station (VK3WCY) on both HF and VHF. There were RTTY and ATV demonstrations, foxhunts, a tug-of-war between the heavies of the Omega CB Club and EMDRC, a ladies' radio throwing contest, a valve and spoon race, and competitions for reading CW, tuning an antenna, guessing the bands of helical whips and Callsign recognition from a tape-recorded dogpile.

The Scouts put on a kit building and JOTA display, the Box Hill Electric Supply Authority tested household appliances free of charge, SES demonstrated their jaws of life simulated rescue and communications unit, whilst the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Army displayed a wide variety of communication technology. There were trade displays, White Elephant and book stalls. Jack, VK3SP, Mike, VK3BBK, and committee were to be congratulated on an excellent organising job plus producing a special edition of the Bulletin publicising the Club.

Jock, VK3BLB, gave a fascinating talk on Steam Radio at a Coffee Shop Meeting. This was then reproduced in the Bulletin as an eight-part series.

7 Club members achieved the Australian DXCC Award over the last twelve months.

The Club's annual Christmas BBQ was again held at Maroondah Dam with the now famous Maroondah Coffee and Father Christmas with a beard much improved on the previous year's effort.

The responsibility for maintenance and redevelopment of VK3RTY was passed on to the VATG, with Ken, VK3GJ, remaining Project Manager.

The Committee planned (again!) to investigate the feasibility of obtaining our own Club Rooms.

The Club's "geriatric two-wheeled cop", Ron Burns, VK3KOP (later VK3COP), at last graduated to the more civilized four-wheeled method of perambulation.

Congratulations went to David McAulay, VK3EW / KHI, on winning the 1983 Novice Contest.

The Southern Cross Awards Manager, Gwen Tilson, VK3DYL, was pleased to report that we were able to send the Award to BY4AA in China. Their YL operator, Chen, thanked the Club very much and said it was the first Award the station had received and it would be proudly displayed in their shack. Sincere thanks went to Gray Taylor, VK3JQ (later VK4OH), for arranging skeds with this newly re-activated country and enabling Club and other VK members to get BY in their logs for the first time in many years.

Max, VK3TR, (Chairman of the Club Computer Group) reported that the Club computer was up and running.

The John Moyle Field Day contestants, using the Callsign VK3ER came first in the 6-hour section, again from Mt. Donna Buang which was fast becoming our second home.

It was decided that VK3REC should be taken over completely by EMDRC.



The WIA Award for Technical Achievement for 1984 was presented to Ken, VK3GJ. Ken was also the joint winner (with Peter Smith, VK1DS) of the Ron Wilkinson Achievement Award for 1984.

The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to Harry, VK3KBA, but no Committee Award was presented due to the large number of people who put in such a tremendous amount of work at Expo'83.

## 1984 / 1985

Subscriptions were increased to \$8 for Full member, and \$4 for student, junior and pensioner. \$2 extra for late renewals or new members.

The Christmas BBQ was again held at Maroondah Reservoir.

Len Vermeulen, VK3COD, took over the slow Morse (3-12 WMP) transmissions on 10 m from Des, VK3DES, and Bill, VK3DXE, who had been doing it for many years.

A team from the Club, using the Callsign VK3ER, won the JARL Medallion for Continental Leader in the All Asian DX Contest, CW mode, multi operator and multi band.

A group of EMDRC members, after having first spent a sleepless weekend providing communications for a horse endurance trial at Mt. Disappointment, made tracks to Kinglake National Park to activate the Callsign VK3BNW to give amateurs a chance to gain points towards the Keith Roget National Parks Award.

Joe Magee, VK3BKI, was appointed editor of the VATG newsletter and said that the Group would soon be announcing the details of the "Garry Davis Memorial Award".

The WIA gave the Club permission to use the special call, VI3WI, for the month of November on a rostered basis. The Callsign was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of European settlement in the State of Victoria. A special award, the Vic.150 Award was produced, with the No.1 award being earned by Gwen, VK3DYL. Vic.150 medallions were presented to 9 Club members who helped with communications for the Melbourne organisers of a display in the city.

David Jewell, VK3DAJ, headed off to the Antarctic base at Mawson for a 12 months' stay. He took radio equipment with him and looked forward to working Club members, and the world, as VK0DJ. Gwen, VK3DYL, "volunteered" to be his QSL Manager.

Discussions were held about holding an Expo '85 but it was later decided it was not practical.

David, VK3UR, put a proposal to the Committee re building a 10 m FM Repeater. This was approved on the basis of favourable results from a feasibility and desirability study.

The Club's Constitution was being studied by Errol Stodden, VK3KRZ, and Mike, VK3BKK, with a view to updating it.

Once again EMDRC members braved the cold atop Mt. Donna Buang, using the special call of VI3ER. The Club entered the 24 hour, multi-operator, open section, made over 1100 contacts and gained second place. They were thrilled to log the Heard Island DXpedition, thus proving their HF antennas were working well.

The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to Derek Dawkins, VK3KX and the President's Award was presented to Gavin Brain, VK3HY.

## 1985 / 1986

Unfortunately, Graeme VK3NGH, was unable to continue with the printing of the Bulletin due to increased workloads. Paul, VK3PW, took on the job of Editor and Printer.

The EMDRC computer group entered its fourth year of operation. The Group's activity centred around the construction of Motorola 6802-based microprocessor systems to a design developed by a number of group members. Fifty kits had been prepared and most of the active members had completed construction and had their systems running. Max, VK3TR, outlined the plans for future development of the computer group; this involved



termination of the construction project by July 1985, disposal of stocks of components and residual kits to members on a preferential basis and finally a restructuring of the interests to attract a broader group of members.

An EMDRC car rally was held in August with some 10 cars and families participating. Along the way the participants had to collect many and varied "treasures", e.g. a rusty drink can, a pine cone, an old nail, a piece of barbed wire, a Foster's top, a piece of solder and a parking ticket. The trip finished off with a BBQ lunch and much reminiscing of the event. It had been suggested that this was a good event for people who always seemed to read the Melways upside down! The winner was Leigh Baker, VK3KLB (later VK3TP) and nephews, with Bob, VK3AIC, and family coming in second. In November a mini car rally was organized by Jamie Baker, VK3NWA, starting from the Nunawading Coffee Shop car park and ending in the Upper Yarra RSL grounds.

In 1985 the Four Six Four Newsletter, the official journal of the Victorian Amateur Teleprinter Group (VATG), produced by Joe, VK3BKI, was included in the Bulletin.

VK3REC has been rebuilt and reinstalled, most of the work being performed by Ken, VK3GJ and John, VK3JH, and a considerable improvement was noticed.

Roger Baker, VK3BKR, was made custodian of the Keith Roget National Parks Award for Victoria. It was suggested that members should activate a National Park when in the vicinity of one or make up a small group for a weekend away and activate the Park on behalf of the Club.

The Southern Cross Award was redesigned due to the impracticability of handling and posting the old Award which was printed on stiff and shiny card.

Bob, VK3AIC, was elected a Life Member of the EMDRC in recognition of his continued service to the Club.

The change of the Annual Picnic to Wesburn proved to be a popular move, and this event could be expanded as members saw fit.

The Club started the major exercise of Incorporation which should see improvements to its operation and wellbeing. Discussions were continuing and the Committee decided that the Club engaged in no outside activity other than General Meetings until Incorporation is completed.

Len, VK3COD, was presented with the Jack Gutcher Award and Paul, VK3PW, received the President's Award

## 1986 / 1987

Subscriptions for the year 1986 / 87 were set at: Full: \$15. Pensioner / Student: \$10. Joining: \$5.

David, VK3UR, reported to the Committee on the current status of the 10 meter FM Repeater, VK3RHF, which, although not an EMDRC project, has been supported by the Club. A plea was made for more donations as the project could not be completed due to lack of funds.

Roger, VK3BKR, was appointed Controller of Region 13 WICEN Group.

A Special General Meeting was held on 5th September, 1986, to consider, move and vote on the incorporation of the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club. Mr. Paul Hughes of the firm of solicitors engaged by the Club (Pavey, Whiting and Byrne) attended the meeting to speak on the

history, benefits and purpose of incorporation for Associations and Clubs, then answered various questions put by members. It was moved by Bob, VK3AIC, and seconded by Len VK3COD, that the Club be incorporated. The motion was Carried, For: 61, Against: Nil. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, Mike Nardella, VK3PS, was appointed Public Officer.

The RTTY Repeater performed most satisfactorily during the year though operating statistics indicated that the usage rate of VK3RTY was dropping off.



VK3REC's performance remained good considering its slightly inferior location and lower power but it was able to provide service to Melbourne at times when power failures rendered other Repeaters unserviceable.

All the kits for the computing SWR bridge were sold but the Projects Group would be looking at making up some more.

The Jack Gutscher Award was presented to Ray Graf, VK3CT, for his work as Auditor.

## 1987 / 1988

Subscriptions for the year 1987 / 88 were set at: Full - \$17. Pensioner / Junior - \$10. Joining: - \$3.

It was decided to encourage Novice members of the Club to enter the VK Novice Contest by awarding a trophy to the most active Club Novice participating in the contest. This was won by Stu Braunholz, VK3NXA, and consisted of a cheque for \$50.

David, VK3DAJ, took over the position of Editor after returning from Mawson in the Antarctic, followed by a few months' walkabout around Europe.

The Coffee Shop Meetings on the third Friday in the month were being devoted to SKILLS evenings where ideas were exchanged and practical skills demonstrated.

Proceeds of the admission to the White Elephant Sale were donated to 3RPH, Radio for the Print Handicapped.

The Club purchased copies of the Callbooks for North America and the Rest of the World for the use of members. These were available for perusal at General Meetings.

A short form kit for an automatic SWR bridge was available through the Club at the cost of \$45 and would enable SWR to be measured on all bands, HF – UHF.

John Hogan, VK3CJH, reported that valves from "the valve bank", of which there were approx. 10,000 already, were available free of cost except for postage.

Harry Lodder, VK3AXJ, a Club member and teacher at Camberwell Grammar School, has organised and supervised a school radio club, VK3BCG, which operates regularly from the school. Five students obtained passes in the Novice exams due to the study course provided by Harry.

Many members attended the Club's Christmas BBQ. The associated car trial was won by Craig,

VK3CMC, and family, whilst Craig's eldest daughter won the YLs' radio throwing contest.

The Club entered the John Moyle Field Day Contest again from the top of Mt. Donna Buang, with lots of fun but not much success.

## 1988 / 1989

Club Nets were held on Wednesday nights on 80 m at 8 pm (VK3ER) and Sunday mornings on 10 m at 9.30 am (VK3BNW). The RTTY Broadcast was on Tuesday nights at 8 pm on VK3RTY and the Slow Morse on week nights on 10m at 8.30 pm for one hour.

General Meetings were held on the first Friday of the month in the Willis Room at the Nunawading Library and an informal meeting night in the Courtyard Room (ex. Coffee Shop) on the third Friday.

An ATV interest group within the EMDRC was formed with Adrian Ward, VK3DAW, as co-ordinator. Neville Stingal, VK3CNS was prototyping an aerial suitable for the reception of the ATV Repeater, VK3RTV, and kits were being made available. An ATV Net was held on Wednesday evenings via VK3RTV on channel 34 on the UHF dial.

The White Elephant Night became a daytime affair in larger premises at the Ainslie Park Cricket Club rooms with longer time allowed and more room for more elephants.



The winner of the inaugural EMDRC Field Day competition was Derek McNeil, VK3BYA, ably assisted by his very young son, David. The pair operated from Churchill National Park.

A home brew competition was held for all Club members with various conditions set down. The entries proved to be of an extremely high standard and the judging panel had difficulty in coming to a decision. When it came down to the wire, the panel could not separate the first two, and thus Bob Fincher, VK3BRF, and Peter VK3TAF, were announced co-winners, with Harry, VK3KBA being given the encouragement award.

Club member, Dave Neville, VK3TDI (later VK3UC), had a successful QSO with a cosmonaut aboard the Russian Space Station. Dave's photo appeared in the Waverley Gazette, which was good publicity for amateur radio.

It was decided to hold future AGMs in the middle of the year so as to give all members time to consider their nominations for committee. The net financial result of the Club's activities for the year was a surplus of \$1,714 and due to the change in the financial year end, members enjoyed 15 months' membership for 12 months' subscription.

The Jack Gatcher Award was presented to Derek, VK3BYA, and the Charlie White Award for encouragement went to Phil Gardner, VK3PMZ. (later VK3GMZ).

## 1989 / 1990

The President, Geoff, VK3YFA, told members that he had a dream he would like to see realized about the Club having its own "home" and he asked for the support of all members in achieving that. He pointed out we would not be able to build a big enough hall to accommodate all but he envisaged a smaller building which could be used for Committee meetings, education classes, "Courtyard" meetings, Saturday workshops etc. whilst retaining the Willis Room for monthly meetings. He had found a building which could be relocated and had approached a Council to ascertain the availability of a suitable site. Negotiations were continuing.

Geoff also stated that he had written to all the Club Presidents around Melbourne asking them to join in a quarterly meeting to discuss amateur radio matters that affect us all and to plan a function which could be used to provide for the specific needs of amateurs as well as being an opportunity to show the wider community that we have a hobby that knows no bounds and one in which lifetime friendships are created and learning never ceases. Suggested date was October, 1990.

The White Elephant Sale reverted to a night-time event in the Willis Room with tables available for individuals and commercial firms. The Club also offered to transport any excess items, for a small charge, via trailer to a suitable permanent resting place provided by the local Council.

Both the Book Sales Manager, Des Bird, VK3EDB, and the Editor of the Bulletin, David, VK3DAJ, announced their forthcoming resignations from their respective positions. David headed off to Canada and other places for 6 months, one of the highlights of the trip being the time spent helping with communications at the Iditarod dog sled race in Alaska. He and David, VK3UR, just missed each other at the big Science Museum in Sudbury, Ontario – when David, '3UR went to sign the visitors' book, the previous signature was that of David '3DAJ!!

The WIA reconstructed the Inwards QSL Bureau, with EMDRC becoming a Distribution Point.

Simon Osborne, VK3XSJ, and Phil Gardner, VK3KMZ, organized three weekend activities for members to participate in by either going bush or working the portable stations from home. One trip was to Mt. Donna Buang for the John Moyle Field Day in March and two trips to Mt. Buller.

Early in 1990 the Department of Transport and Communications made a decision to cease conducting Amateur Radio examinations and, as a result of this action, the EMDRC became one of the examination centres operating in conjunction with the WIA,



Vic. Div. The exams to be held every three months and the charge for both Theory papers - \$22. Regulations - \$16 and Morse - \$10.

Andy Blight, VK3BFA, took over as Bulletin Editor on behalf of the Committee until someone volunteered to take on the job officially. Meanwhile he had help from Des, VK3EDB, Alan, VK3BBM, and Peter VK3TAF.

Derek, VK3BYA, was seen at a WICEN exercise on a natty bicycle with a very neat VHF / UHF antenna combo. Said he was monitoring the event on 2 m and 70 cm. It was not known if the RF was interfering with the digital speedo on the bike!

David, VK3UR, was hard at work on the 10m FM Repeater, VK3RHF, the control and monitoring system of which is very sophisticated and has to be seen to be believed. In his spare time (?), David helped design and build the WICEN Bulletin Board System (BBS) and became its SYSOP.

Len, VK3COD, was still running the Morse code practice net and estimated that he had got over 200 people up to licence standard over the last few years.

Neither the Jack Gutcher nor Charlie White Awards were awarded since it was considered that the criteria had not been met. However, a number of Club Banners were handed out to members in appreciation of services rendered.

## 1990 / 1991

The Club Committee wrote to DOTC protesting about the appalling state of affairs re 2 m Repeater abuse.

The quarterly examinations conducted by the Club in November had a total of 56 candidates. A DOTC representative was in attendance and expressed satisfaction with the way we were running things. Mal LeMaistre, VK3KSA (later VK3UE), conducted AOC classes during the year, with 23 of the 26 people in the class gaining their licences, whilst Len, VK3COD, continued running his Morse classes on 10m.

The "new look" Bulletin was being published using a desktop publishing package and set up on templates so it was a simple matter of preparing text on the word processor and importing it straight into the Bulletin, reducing the time scale from the old "cut and paste" days. It was also a far cry from the old Gestetner days! A "Deskjet 500" computer printer was purchased for general club work and the production of the Bulletin

Due to the refurbishment of the Civic Centre, the Nunawading Council evicted the Club until alterations were completed. It was decided to hire the Lecture Theatre at Box Hill Tafe for the first few months of 1991. The Committee were still looking around for our own permanent home and, after investigating several possible venues, they agreed to a trial period at the premises of the Knox Boat & Fishing Club in Wantirna.

The Club held a restaurant night at "Mykonos", a Greek restaurant in Doncaster. 18 people attended and had a good time, and future ones are in the pipeline.

On Saturday, 11th May, 1991, a large crowd gathered at Schultz Reserve, Wantirna, to watch the launching of the first of a series of scientific payloads via a modified weather balloon. After a false start when enough lift was not available from the first balloon, a second was attached and then lift-off took place. Signal reports were received from VK1,2,3,5 & 7, and over 760 reports were logged on HF and VHF. The balloons reached an altitude in excess of 50,000 ft. and ultimately fell to earth and were located at Snobs Creek, near Lake Eildon by VK3YQN of the Healesville Club who received the \$50 reward for the safe return of the payload. The project was originally devised by Joe, VK3BKI, who acted as coordinator.

Geoff, VK3YFA, was elected to Honorary Life Membership of the Club.

The proposed Expo involving other Clubs and exhibitors was cancelled due to apathy. The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to Joe, VK3BKI; the President's Award to Leigh

Fitzgibbon, VK3ZB, and the Charlie White Award presented equally to 2 younger members – Andrew Czompo, VK3JAC / PAC, and Aaron Elliott, VK3AJQ.



## 1991 / 1992

Fees for the year were set at: Full - \$20. Pensioner / Student - \$10. Joining Fee - \$10. Late payment fee \$2. Pro rata membership adjusted on quarterly basis.

A membership card was produced, to be issued on receipt of renewal payment. In future this may be used to gain discount on purchase of certain goods with some retailers. It could also be used to obtain 10% off all short courses at Box Hill TAFE.

VK3RTY needed a new battery installed on site to hold the Repeater's memory but site access was the major problem. Members were told in the Bulletin that "RTTY is still a very accessible and friendly mode since most contacts are live via the keyboard rather than the store-and-forward-and-wait method of Packet. As well, it's a lot cheaper to get started!"

Discussion was held on the winding up of the Computer Group, with all assets being passed over to EMDRC Inc. which would become responsible for the disposal of components and issuing any moneys owed to Computer Group members.

Jeff Daly, VK3MFR, offered to take over the job of Public Liaison Officer from Roger, VK3BKR.

A successful White Elephant Day was held in September at the Telecom building carpark in Box Hill. Club finances received a boost with approx. \$500 being made from the day.

In September, the Club was advised by the Nunawading Council that the renovations to the Willis and Courtyard Rooms had been completed. When this was put to the General Meeting on 4th October, it was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that the Club move back to these rooms at the Nunawading Civic Centre as from the 18th October Courtyard Meeting.

Len VK3COD, received a handsome Certificate of Achievement from the WIA for his efforts of many years in Morse practice.

Sel Hortin, VK3CRZ, took along his portable station to a General Meeting and set up on 80m to activate a Club Callsign. The results surprised a few people and proved how it was possible to work some considerable distance with simple gear.

To encourage the fraternal spirit within the Club, the Committee decided to fine those people not wearing their name badges to meetings. The fine was set at 20 cents with the proceeds going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

February, 1992, was the Club's 25th birthday but an Anniversary Dinner had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

Joe, VK3BKI, with the assistance of Geoff Baxter, VK3ZVW, who developed the computer and voice circuitry, let go another balloon, this time from Nunawading. This created a lot of interest from the people at the Sunday morning market and our hobby received a wider exposure than at the first launch. The Shepparton Club also let off a balloon on the same day but we saved the \$100 reward by causing our balloon to land in inhospitable country where it could not be recovered!

There is no record of Awards being presented at the AGM.

## 1992 / 1993

A call was put out for people to help with the upgrading of VK3RTY. When the rebuilt Repeater was back on air, signal reports were received from a wide area. Geoff, VK3ZVW, the builder, found and fixed a fault in the receiver, giving the device much better "ears". It was hoped the Repeater would be back on the mountain in the near future.

Comments were invited to be sent in writing to the WIA and DOTC on the proposal to restructure the Amateur Service with the addition of a no-code Novice Licence restricted to 2 m.



Mal, VK3KSA, reported that the Club SWR meter project kits were all sold, leaving just a few audio amp kits designed to make a hand-held audible whilst mobile. A new kit was being worked on – a simple, low cost RTTY modem to plug into an IBM PC to access our upgraded Repeater, VK3RTY.

Rod Petit, VK3TPE, gave details of the PC compatible Input / Output board being designed as a Club project. Possible applications – model trains, home security, battery charger, sprinkler control, satellite tracking, repeater controller, electronic Morse keyer etc.

The Club took out a subscription to QST as a member service.

Lindsay La Pouple, VK3DXH, took on the position of Contest Manager and arranged for the Club to take part in both the RD Contest and the John Moyle Field Day.

The Christmas break-up was held in lieu of the December meeting with many families attending. Santa appeared with presents for the harmonics.

It was decided to have a “Stepto’s Corner” at each meeting where members could bring along various bits and pieces to sell. A free service to members; non-members to pay a \$30 annual selling fee (or join the Club!).

The Editor announced that a revised format of the Bulletin would be issued in December and that it would be produced quarterly thereafter. However, the Committee decided the following February that it would be preferable to have a monthly “what’s on” sheet as well which would be available at General Meetings.

John Bedwell, VK3EHZ, compiled and circulated a list of 9 volunteers who were willing to provide assistance for members studying for their AOCP exams, to work on a one to one basis. It was also hoped to have regular get togethers when common problems could be thrashed out.

Bruce McCubbin, VK3SO, was presented with the Jack Gutcher Award, Jeff, VK3MFR, with the President’s Award, and Phil, VK3GMZ, with the Charlie White Award.

## 1993 / 1994

After several years of virtual silence, many members welcomed the return of the weekly Club Net on 80 m. It was pointed out that this was a great way to meet fellow Club members and often provided that snippet of information needed to get a troublesome project completed or a recalcitrant piece of equipment back into operation. It was arranged that regular members would do monthly stints as net controller.

Exams were being run by the Club on the third Tuesday in February, May, August and November usually at Forest Hill Secondary College in the evenings. The Club was very fortunate in having a number of members registered with the WIA as official examiners.

Carl Schlink, VK3EMF, undertook the responsibility of arranging speakers for General Meetings. Jeff, VK3MFR, became the Club’s Magazine Custodian, holding copies of newsletters etc. put out by other Clubs. Geoff, VK3YFA, continued as Examinations Officer.

On 26th September, Bruce, VK3SO, activated the Cub Callsign of VK3ER to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the EMDRC. A special commemorative QSL card was issued to stations who worked the call on 2 separate days during the following week.

For the third year in succession, VK3 operators took line honours in the Remembrance Day Contest. VK3ER was operated for 9 hours on the Sunday by some of the Club members who put up a creditable performance on VHF from the QTH of Max Chadwick, VK3WT, whilst others participated in the Contest under their own calls from their own QTHs.

A successful Christmas breakup was held in the Willis Room with many family members attending a BBQ and afterwards being entertained by our resident magician, Jeff, VK3MFR.



The Club was sad to learn that Jock, VK3BLB, had become a Silent Key. Jock had been a great supporter of the Club for many years and his talks and articles on "Steam Radio" had been appreciated by all. Ray, VK3CT, who had been the Club's Auditor for a number of years, also became a SK.

After more than 25 years' involvement in the scouting movement, a Club member, Bert Fairchild, VK3VFX (later VK3KBF), was recognised nationally for his commitment and dedication when he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the New Year Honours List. The Club heartily congratulated Bert.

Due to pressure of work and studies, Andy, VK3BFA, relinquished the position of Bulletin Editor, and Max, VK3WT, accepted the task of restoring the Club newsletter to a monthly magazine. With impeccable timing, Sergio Fontana, joined the EMDRC just a week after Max took over as Editor and asked if his skills in graphic design and publishing might be of any benefit to the Club, perhaps in the production of the Bulletin? Needless to say, his offer was gladly accepted! The March, 1994, edition saw the start of the monthly reports on Foxhunting submitted by Jack Bramham, VK3WWW.

The Club again entered the John Moyle Field Day from Templestowe, this time in the 24-hour period section instead of the 6-hour section worked the previous year. More than two thirds of the contacts were on HF – it was decided that we needed to put a bit more effort into VHF and UHF preparations for the following year.

Congratulations went to David McAulay, VK3EW, who was confirmed as the winner of the Single Operator, Phone Section, 1993 VK / ZL / Oceania DX Contest. And that's not all! David achieved his greatest contest victory by being placed first in the All Bands, Single Operator section of the 1993 All Asia DX Contest, and that was against worldwide competition. He also achieved 2 highly acclaimed Awards offered by an American DX magazine for working 100 countries or more in 6 months on 80 m (Cert. No.5) and 150 or more countries on 40m (Cert. No. 13). Not a bad effort!

Early in the year several groups of members visited the Control Centre at Tullamarine airport and the CAA museum at Essendon. While the numbers were not exactly large, those who took the opportunity to go were not disappointed.

A proposal was made by Joe, VK3BKI, that the Club change its name to the "Eastern and Mountain District Radio and Electronics Club". Joe's motion put to the AGM read "The incoming committee to the EMDRC actively seek to broaden the scope of the Club activities to include all areas of electronics beyond amateur radio. These would include uses to which radio can be put, and such things as computers and digital technologies." After much discussion, by a show of hands the motion was declared lost, 23 votes in favour to 31 against.

It was reported at the AGM that, on the basis of financial members (155), the Club was slightly stronger than for the previous few years.

The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to Stephen Dench, VK3CSD, and the President's Award to Max, VK3WT.

## 1994 / 1995

EMDRC members were offered a chance to work with staff of Monash University in contributing to a worldwide accumulation of data associated with the collision of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 1993e with Jupiter between July 16 and 22, 1994. A small team helped Monash Uni. staff in establishing an effective HF receiving facility near Emerald, even to the extent of having a couple of intrepid "hams" paddling around in a canoe out in the middle of a dam, after sunset, on a cold, windy, winter evening trying to do up PL259 connectors with half frozen fingers for the chance of hearing a few extra "static crashes" coming from their receivers. We were grateful to Club member, Dr. Tuck Choy, VK3CCA, of the Monash Uni. Physics Dept. for suggesting the exercise.

On Sunday, 19th June, Bruce, VK3SO, logged the one thousandth QSO on the VK3BNW Sunday morning Club net since he took over as net controller six years ago. The lucky 1000th caller was Glenn Alford, VK3CAM, our resident cartoonist,



The Club's Datong Morse Tutor, which sends random numbers and letters from 6.5 WPM to 37 WPM, turned up again and was available to anyone wishing to borrow it to speed or brush up their Morse.

Once again the Club participated in the Remembrance Day Contest. Chris Platt, VK3NCP (later VK5JJJ), and all who helped were to be congratulated on their sterling effort which, when put together with their personal logs, added almost a thousand points to the VK3 tally.

VK3ER was also activated in a moon bounce attempt from Templestowe, and twice from Mt.Cowley in the Otway Ranges for the VHF-UHF and the John Moyle Contests.

Club name badges were provided free of charge to members at the time of joining the Club and on a licence upgrade.

Many Club members again were involved with JOTA and enjoyed the experience of seeing the look on some of the children's faces when they realized they were actually speaking to a Guide or Scout in another state or overseas.

Congratulations went to Chris, VK3NCP, who was placed sixth overall and second in the state in the phone section of the WIA Novice Contest. Other members to do well were Geoff Sanders VK3JJM (later VK3KB), and Glenn, VK3CAM.

Baycom Packet Modem kits went on sale and the first 20 kits were sold out well before Christmas. Chris Travers, VK3XGT, started taking orders and gathering parts for another batch.

The White Elephant Sale was moved to Box Hill Secondary College, where the area of the main hall plus the stage made it a much larger and more accessible venue than in past years. There was more car parking space as well as an excellent cooking and eating area downstairs.

It was announced that the format of the WIA broadcasts in 1995 would be quite different to those in the past. EMDRC will continue to promote its activities through this medium to the greatest extent possible.

Just prior to the AGM, the Secretary / Editor, Max, VK3WT, left for a trip "up North" with his family. Chris, VK3KCP, took over as temporary Secretary whilst Jenni Bramham undertook to be Editor. Also about this time, long time Club member, Alan, VK3BBM, became a Silent Key, and our resident humourist and magician "Clutzo", alias Jeff, VK3MFR, moved back to VK5 and became VK5MFR.

The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to Sergio Fontana VK3VCL, and the President's Award to Carl, VK3EMF.

## 1995 / 1996

President, Jack, VK3WWW announced some of the goals for 1995 / 96: 1) Searching for a new venue in case we lose our current one. 2) To hold an even bigger and better White Elephant Sale. 3) To become involved in activities outside the Club, such as collaborating with Monash University on another monitoring project.

Fees for the current year increased to: Full, \$25. Concessional, \$15.

Chris, VK3KCP, started up a No-Code Novice course to run over 8 to 12 weeks. Keith Proctor, VK3FT, offered to take on the position of Examination Officer.

The VK3ER team gained first place in the 24 hour All Band Multi-Operator section of the 1995 John Moyle Field Day Contest, beating second place by over 1000 points.

Another Balloon Launch took place from the South Vermont shopping centre on 16th September, 1995. People were advised that the balloon was a transmitting device only and all stations hearing it were invited to log in and send reports during the flight. A special QSL card was available and a bounty of \$100 was offered to the person returning the payload. This was eventually located high in a tree in the vicinity of



Snobs Creek, between the Royston and Torbreck Ranges. The VK3YQN foxhunt team was first to find the payload, with the VK3CRA team and several others in hot pursuit. In appreciation of his contribution to the project by designing and constructing the on-board module, Bryan Ackerly, VK3YNG, was awarded honorary membership of the Club for 1995 / 1996.

The Bulletin continued to be wrapped at the QTH of Gwen, VK3DYL, where the regular helpers, Max, VK3WT, Jack, VK3WWW, Geoff, VK3KB and Glenn, VK3CAM, discussed numerous subjects, radio and otherwise, while folding and addressing the magazine. VK3ER commenced operation on Packet, where all the current Bulletins appeared. This, together with the Club's contribution to the regular WIA Sunday broadcasts, helped keep members in touch with upcoming events.

The President and Secretary attended a meeting of the Whitehorse Council to get some ideas regarding the best way to approach them for getting positive results in our continued search for clubrooms.

Permission was granted for the Club to activate a Special Event Callsign, VI3GP, during the inaugural running of the Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix in Melbourne in March, 1996. 20 Club members worked from their own shacks on a roster system and kept the call on air practically 24 hours a day for the 4 days of the event. A total of 1882 contacts was made covering 103 countries. Glenn, VK3CAM, designed a special QSL card which was much sought after worldwide. A letter of congratulations was received from Ken Matchett, VK3TL, Hon. Curator of the WIA QSL collection saying that "after examining about 900,000 QSL cards from all over the world, I consider your VI3GP card is of particularly high standard for a Special Event occasion." Under the Callsign of VI3GP, the Club applied for and received the DX Century Club 50th Anniversary Award for working more than 100 countries since November, 1995.

Two of the Club's avid DX contesters achieved notable results in the 1995 CQ WPX SSB Contest - on 40 m. David, VK3EW, had the highest score in Oceania and the 7th worldwide, whilst Tony, VK3TZ, working all bands, was the 2nd highest VK scorer in his section.

The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to John Longayroux, VK3ZJH, the President's Award to Gwen, VK3DYL, and the Charlie White Award to Glenn, VK3CAM.

## 1996 / 1997

In March, 1997, VI3GP was again activated by the Club over the 4 days of the Grand Prix race meeting. 1975 contacts were made, 18 operators took part and 83 countries were worked. Another fine QSL card was designed by Glenn, VK3CAM.

Three Club members were acknowledged by ARRL as having worked all the 326 currently available DXCC countries. Peter Forbes, VK3QI, worked them all on both Phone and CW, whilst David, VK3EW, and Gwen, VK3DYL, worked them all on Phone.

Once again the John Moyle Field Day went well in that VK3ER had the second highest overall score and took out the multi-operator, all-band, phone section in spite of having to spend most of the weekend battling heavy rain and gale force winds on Mt. Cowley.

The year's membership fees remained at: Full - \$25. Concessional - \$15.

The Club organized its own Internet connection so that future material for the Bulletin could be sent to the Editor by E-mail. Sergio Fontana, VK3CWX, (later VK3SO) drew up our own Home Page where Club information could be found.

As the first step in a program aimed at providing members with access to various items of test equipment, the committee acquired a high quality RF signal generator to be under the control of John, VK3ZJH. It was hoped this would help anyone venturing for the first time into home brewing or equipment modification.

The fourth Balloon Launch took place in November, 1996 from the rooftop carpark of the Altona Gate Shopping Centre. The change of venue was to try to avoid previous recovery problems with the balloon being carried into the Alpine area. However, an unexpected



gale force wind saw the balloon making off at high speed in the direction of Bass Strait. Unfortunately, the 6 m antenna was ripped off on a rooftop railing, so the only new facility added to this flight was lost. The overall flight time was about 4-1 / 2 hours, during which the balloon covered more than 150 km, eventually landing near Venus Bay.

The 1997 White Elephant Sale was organized for a Sunday in March at the Box Hill High School in the hope that parking problems would be less than encountered last year on a Saturday.

Bob, VK3AIC, and Roger, VK3BKR, put together a series of talks on modern amateur transceivers for the Club's Coffee Shop meetings.

New operating sites for both the VHF / UHF and the John Moyle Field Days were tried out this year, the former from Mt. Hoogley and the latter from the Mt. Buangor Forest Park.

Jack, VK3WWW, participated in the Region 3 ARDF Championships in Townsville, the Australian team comprising of four VK3s and five VK4s. Both the Old Timers' (over 40) team and the Women's team collected Bronze medals in the 80m and 2m events. ARDF is a mixture of orienteering and Fox Hunting skills.

The President's Award went to Max, VK3WT, and the Charlie White Award to Bryan Ackerly, VK3YNG.

## 1997 / 1998

After a long illness, Mal, VK3KSA / VK3UE, became a Silent Key. Mal's practice oscillator and Morse key were donated to the Club for the use of members, also the books from Mal's library.

Bruce, VK3SO, was presented with Life Membership of the Club in October, 1997 but, unfortunately, became a Silent Key the following January. He was in his 82nd year.

Another Silent Key was Bob Wilson, VK3SD, an old time member of the Club.

A new Novice course run by Club members commenced in August with 20 participants.

Alan Tubb, VK3BF, took over the nightly Morse sessions during Len, VK3COD's absence, with Ross Keogh, VK3MY, supplying and setting up the necessary equipment.

A number of Club members kept a late night sked with Gwen, VK3DYL, when she was operating from the shack of VY2RU on Prince Edward Island, Canada. Whilst Max, VK3WT, headed north to VK4 on holidays, Jenni Bramham kindly stood in as Editor again. Tuck Choy, VK3CCA, visited the Dayton Hamfest and the RSGB HQ during an extended working holiday overseas and Carl, VK3EMF, paid a visit to Edmonton, Canada.

Unfortunately, Sergio VK3CWX, had to cease the help he had given to the Editor over the past several years, nor could he continue as the Club's Web Manager. John, VK3ZJH, took over this position as well as printing the labels used at Bulletin wraps.

Results came to hand of the 1997 John Moyle Field Day with the EMDRC team being placed first in the all band, all mode, multi-operator section. The VK / ZL Contest was conducted from the Community House in Vermont South over a 24-hour period whilst the VHF / UHF Field Day was operated from Mt. Hotham in conjunction with the "Roof Top Run" organised by Bob Tait, VK3UI.

A very comprehensive study and report by Tony, VK3TZ, was published in the Bulletin on the subject of establishing permanent club rooms for the EMDRC. Several alternatives were suggested for the Committee to follow up.

During the Australia Day Display at the Nunawading Civic Centre, AX3ER was heard around the world, and VI3GP had another successful airing during the 1998 Formula 1 Grand Prix meeting in Melbourne. In May, EMDRC operated AX3ITU on behalf of WIA, Victoria, to celebrate World Telecommunication Day 1998.

Jack, VK3WWW, provided a great treat at the May Club meeting, having arranged a sked with Andy Thomas, VK5MIR, aboard the Russian space station, MIR. To hear "CQ



VK3ER, this is VK5MIR calling” and to have 7 or 8 minutes of QRM free speech with an Australian astronaut in space was an unforgettable experience.

The Jack Gatcher Award went to Jack, VK3WWW, the President’s Award to Reg and Phil Gardner,

VK3GAR & VK3GMZ, and the Charlie White Award to Leigh Philips, VK3HLP aged 14.

## 1998 / 1999

After much consideration, Dave Williams, VK3KAB, Tony, VK3TZ, and Keith, VK3FT, entered into negotiations with the managers of a Scout Hall in McCubbin Street, East Burwood. The proposed use of the hall for the EMDRC was: Coffee Shop and committee meetings, historical record and equipment storage, classes, examinations, special interest meetings, Bulletin wraps (if required), contests, JOTA, etc. etc. Club members were invited to a BBQ to inspect the hall before voting on our taking out an initial one-year lease.

1998 classes, under the expert tutelage of Jonas Sadauskas, VK3VF, proceeded splendidly with 6 passes from 6 attempts in the Regulations Exam, whilst two classes were planned for 1999 – a Novice class and a bridging class going up to full AOC level for students already holding Novice licences. The Club purchased six FM92s to be loaned to newly licensed members for a 6 months’ maximum period.

It was with sorrow that we learned that five Club / ex-Club members became Silent Keys in 1998.

Frank James, VK3CFJ in May, Keith, VK3ACE, in June (many members would have started off their career in amateur radio on a rig bought from Keith’s shop!), Frank, VK3COF, (our Southern Cross Award Manager for many years) in July, Des, VK3EDB, (who had helped the Club in many ways for many years) in August and Jim Kelly, VK3YSW, in September.

A warm welcome back to the Club was extended to Life Member Tony King, now VK3FBD, who, as VK3IO, was an ex-President of the Club before moving interstate.

Jack led the VK3WWW foxhunting team to Mt. Gambier to compete in the Australian Championships over Queens Birthday weekend, 1998. Jack reported that his personal highlights were working dogpiles in the 80 m and 40 m scrambles and seeing a VK3 team win the championships. Jack’s expertise in Amateur Radio Direction Finding saw him selected to be the Australian National ARDF Co-ordinator for the 1999 World Championships in South Korea.

In July several members attended a symposium held by Monash Uni. Many excellent speakers presented papers and led discussions on a wide variety of VHF / UHF related topics.

The Committee had to suspend the high speed packet project and decided that components should go to other Clubs.

A well-attended and enjoyable social evening was held at the Mitcham Hotel.

In October, a dozen or so members headed to a farm property near Cranbourne and set up a multi-band station to operate in the VK / ZL / Oceania DX Contest. They had fun though scores were down on last year’s effort. Also in October, VK3ER was heard from a Club stand at the Nunawading Spring Community Festival where we attracted quite a few curious folks, whilst the Club again operated in the John Moyle Field Day from Mt. Cowley.

For the fourth consecutive year, we enjoyed using the Special Event call of VI3GP for the Grand Prix in Melbourne in March. Contacts were up on the previous year and the final tally was: number of contacts – 1599; number of countries worked – 83; number of operators – 12; and number of bands worked – 8. Again the WIA, Vic. Div., invited the EMDRC to activate the special call of AX3ITU which we again did successfully.



The Publicity Officer, Ken Robertson, VK3HKR, worked hard throughout the year resulting in great press and radio coverage. Ken was also instrumental in “recruiting” the current Mayor to be our Club Patron for the coming year.

Gwen, VK3DYL, again took off for overseas, this time to represent the Australian YLs at an International YL Meeting in Svalbard in the High Arctic. Again she worked back to a number of Club members as JW / VK3DYL.

The Club ended the financial year with a Cash Book balance of \$18,932 plus Assets of \$2,732.

The Jack Gutcher Award was presented to Jonas VK3VF, the Charlie White Award to Shannon O’Keeffe (a 13-year-old studying for his Novice Licence), the President’s Award to Ken, VK3HKR, and a Special Award to Gwen, VK3DYL.

## 1999 / 2000

Thirty-two years after the formation of the Club, we at last found some Club Rooms!!!!!!!

We will become a sub-tenant of the Scout Hall in McCubbin Street, Burwood East. One room has been set aside for a Radio Shack and we have been given permission to erect some antennas. There is plenty of storage and working space downstairs plus an area for a barbecue. Club members were invited to a BBQ to inspect the premises which were promptly given the seal of approval. Working bees were planned plus, of course the first Christmas Party in our own “home”. While we rejoiced on our own behalf, we sympathised with FAMPARK whose recently completed club house was destroyed by fire.

A few keen members headed to a farm property in Clyde for the VK / ZL Oceania DX Contest. Numerous antennas were erected and radios etc. set up. Conditions were quite good and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The special calls VI3GP and AX3ITU were again run by the Club on a roster basis, and an entry was made in the John Moyle Field Day from Mt. Buangor.

Roger, VK3BKR, arranged a very successful GPS (Global Positioning System) Seminar. There were various speakers covering 4 or 5 hours with appropriate breaks for refreshments and a BBQ lunch. This day proved so popular that Roger had his arm twisted to conduct a second one.

The Club’s Bulletin Editor, Max, VK3WT, proved his dedication to the job by putting together a couple of issues whilst travelling (with caravan) on the back roads up to Darwin and back. He was able to send back some interesting and graphic articles for inclusion in the magazine while his laptop held out after severe jolting! However, during the year Max felt that after almost eight years of editing the Bulletin it was time for him to have a rest. Brian Ezard, VK3NAY, volunteered to take over the job.

Other Club “travellers” (plus their XYLs and Harmonics where applicable) included Jack, VK3WWW, who attended the Third Region 3 ARDF Championships in South Korea; Glenn, VK3CAM, who visited Canada; Geoff, VK3KB, went to Norfolk Island; Tony, VK3TZ, to Fiji; Gwen, VK3DYL, attended the ALARAMEET in Brisbane; Steve Haines, VK3DBL, to Vanuatu and VK4-land; and Bernie Piechowiak, VK3BWP, went on a NT / WA safari. Obviously one can’t keep a good Hillbilly down – hi!

Keith, VK3FT’s availability as Examination Officer has meant that we have been able to have regular exams, giving Club members and others a chance to sit for the various licence classes almost upon demand.

Just before Christmas, 1999, Len, VK3COD, past President and Life Member of our Club passed away after a long battle with cancer. Many Club members have Len’s dedication to his regular CW classes to thank for passing both their Novice and Full Call Morse exams. As some of the old-time members of the Club will remember, Len took over the CW classes originally started off by Des, VK3DES, and Bill VK3DXE. Len’s Callsign will be assigned to the Club to be used with future classes which will probably be run by Allan Tubb, VK3BF.



The teaching skills of Jonas, VK3VF, resulted in a 100% pass rate with at least 4 new call signs.

Due to the everyday running costs of the Club, membership fees had to be increased to \$30 for Full Membership and \$25 for Concessional Membership.

## 2000 / 2001

During the year Australia became the 7th country to adopt the five words per minute Morse code amateur licence test speed for full access to the HF amateur bands. This saw our "K" call members joining in the fun of the DX dogpiles on 20 m, much to their delight.

Our new Secretary, Peter McDonald, VK3DI, started compiling a database of E-mail addresses of Club members. This enabled him to keep people up-to-date with all the decisions / gossip occurring at Committee Meetings.

The venue of our White Elephant Sale was shifted to the Great Ryrie Primary School which proved a great success. The XYL committee of Stella, Susan and Lois again proved what an asset they are to the

Club and contributed greatly to the success of the day. The Treasurer proudly informed us that the WES picked up approximately \$1,100 in profit plus two new members.

Members who had purchased one or more of the ex CFA antennas had the opportunity to attend a second Conversion Day at the Clubrooms thanks to Jack, VK3WWW's usual enthusiasm for getting things done rather than just talking about them. Tony, VK3TZ, tabled a design for the shack and will be co-ordinating the activity in this area. During the year, Packet radio was installed in the Club shack and an antenna analyser bought for the use of members.

Ken, VK3HKR, accepted an invitation from the Whitehorse Council for our Club to participate in the Spring Festival once again this year.

Gwen, VK3DYL, led a multi-national team of YL operators on a DXpedition to Norfolk Island as AX9YL following on the International YL 2000 Meet in New Zealand. Once again many Club members popped up to say hello to Gwen and the other YLs.

Drew Diamond, VK3XU, took on the long-vacant position as Club Librarian and has been busy cataloguing all the books and manuals.

The Clubrooms came in handy for running JOTA, VI3GP and AX3ITU this year, as well as now being the accepted location for the Christmas Party. Father Christmas has been advised of the change of venue and now knows exactly where to come! We have re-carpeted our room, put up some blinds and constructed and installed our new operating bench. With the lease of the clubrooms up for renewal, we have indicated to the Scouts that we would like to renew the lease for the coming year – they have said they are happy with us as tenants and would like to continue the arrangement.

The Jonas School of Radio again obtained a 100% pass rate from its students. Two Juniors joined our ranks with licences, Sam Jackson VK3HXR, and Tim Broomhead VK3HTB. Their respective dads, Dave and Robert, will now have to lock the shack door until the boys' homework has been finished!

Brian, VK3NAY, had to resign as editor due to work commitments but Ken McCleary, VK3HKD, and Bob Toll, VK3TKZ, agreed to take over where Brian left off and will take over the production and editing of the Bulletin.

John, VK3ZJH, produced a Membership Certificate which, when framed, will enhance the walls of members' shacks.

Coffee Shop Meetings, held on the third Friday of the month, have settled down quite happily into the new Clubrooms with many interesting speakers and demonstrations provided. The numbers attending these meetings have increased greatly since the "old" Coffee Shop days at Nunawading.



Max, VK3WT, took over as the Club's QSL Manager from Gwen, VK3DYL, whilst Peter, VK3DI, agreed to co-ordinate the Special Event Callsigns.

At the AGM the Jack Gutcher Award went to Peter, VK3DI; the Charlie White Award to Tim, VK3HTB and Sam, VK3HXR, and the President's Award to the "Ladies' Committee" of Stella, Susan and Lois for their assistance to EMDRC over several years, particularly at White Elephant Sales.

## 2001 / 2002

Membership fees remained the same: Joining Fee \$10. Full Membership \$30. Concession Membership \$25. Family Membership \$40.

A Special General Meeting was called to resolve that a maximum expenditure limit of \$1,000.00 be imposed on the Committee where the purchase of items of a capital nature is proposed. This limit not to apply to things like insurance, hall hire, utilities nor the payment of any statutory requirements. Also this limit to be reviewed at least once per financial year. Carried unanimously.

Those members who had concerns re some proposed constitutional changes had their fears allayed thanks to Peter VK3DI's Power Point Presentation. The manner in which it was put forward made it very easy for everyone to comprehend the Committee's objectives in initiating the changes. The new Rules of Association for EMDRC came into effect on 9th October, 2001.

Activities in which the Club was involved during the year included the WIA's participation in the Great Australian Science Show, the RD Contest, World Lighthouse Day, the Nunawading Springtime Festival, use of special calls VI3GP and AX3ITU, JOTA, our annual White Elephant Sale, building trestles and a Club Workshop to convert the FM900s for use on 2 m.

Membership cards were printed up by the Treasurer and were available at meetings. Arrangements had been made with DSE Powerhouse, Nunawading to accept these cards. Caps and jackets with the Club insignia and / or personal Callsigns on were made available at very reasonable prices.

Peter, VK3DI, instigated the idea of E-mailing out copies of the monthly Bulletin to those members who were set up to receive copies in that mode and were happy to do so. This resulted in a great saving in both time and money. Pete also forwarded on to people on his E-mail list copies of other Clubs' magazines, thus enabling an easy exchange of information between Clubs.

Congratulations to Trevor Smith, VK3TI, on becoming the first Australian amateur to make contact with the International Space Station on phone. Trevor had worked the ISS on packet for some time, along with a number of other Club members, but on this particular morning he switched over to phone and back came the Commander of the ISS. For the record, Trevor used no special antenna, just a dual band vertical about 5m above the roof line.

Over a period of two weeks, some Club members provided the 1st Rowville Scouts with an introduction to the hobby of radio and communications and to help them work towards their communications challenge badge. Topics covered during the meetings took the Scouts from basic radio theory to many practical applications such as foxhunting, international contacts via IRLP, slow scan TV and packet radio.

Roger Stafford, VK3FRS, got the FRS BBS up and running again, with the DX Cluster being a popular spot amongst the keen Dxers in the Club.

President Carl, VK3EMF, got it into his head that he would like to activate a Lighthouse for the International Lighthouse Weekend. After Carl had sussed out a few places (and rejected them for various reasons), Glenn, VK3CAM, happened to notice the Gellibrand Lighthouse adjacent to the Maritime Museum, Dockside, where his request to operate a station was very favourably received. All mod cons provided, even a heater – hi! Marty Van Bladel, VK3FII, joined the operating team who had a very enjoyable weekend



working fellow enthusiasts in 13 Lighthouses in 16 countries, most of whom were outdoors, cold, wet and windblown whilst our clever lot were nice and snug indoors.

Club members who travelled further afield during the year were Bryan Ackerly, VK3YNG, and Adam Scammell, VK3YDF, who with Jack, VK3WWW, took part in the Australian Foxhunting Championships in Mt. Gambier. Adam then competed in the ARDF Championships in New Mexico, British Columbia

and Germany, after which he headed to Mongolia to join Bryan, VK3YNG, to contest the Region 3 ARDF Championships.

Two of the Club's OMs, Keith, VK3FT, and Randall McDonald, VK3RM, together with Paul Groves, VK3DK, and "Tex" Ihasz, VK1TX, mounted a DXpedition to Gabo Island for a week. Apart from taking too much gear and too much food, experiencing bad weather to start off with, strong winds and unfavourable band conditions (except for the last day when 10 meters was brilliant), the boys had great fun, making over 1,000 contacts. As soon as they got home, they started planning their next trip – the DXpedition "bug" had got to them!

Secretary Peter VK3DI, kept up the excellent work of E-mailing all the Goss and items of interest to members on his E-mail list. A good method of keeping in touch between meetings. The Club Call Book was also sent out via this medium.

A new ICOM 2 m rig and a pre-loved TS440 were bought for use in the shack in the Club Rooms. A new computer was also installed, thanks to Dave Buck, VK3AAD. The next major item required is a LARGE heater to keep the Hall warm in winter.

After joining the EMDRC in the early 1980s and being instrumental in many Club projects getting off the ground successfully, Roger, VK3BKR, became a very deserving recipient of the Club's Life Membership Award.

At the AGM, Awards were made as follows: Jack Gutcher Award to Robert, VK3KRB, the President's Award to Peter, VK3DI, and a Special Award to John, VK3ZJH

## 2002 / 2003

President Rob, VK3KRB, was happy to announce that the Club had been averaging 3.5 new members every month and had been doing so for the last 12 months in spite of what some people are saying is a decline in our hobby. Obviously we are doing something right!

The WIA honoured Peter, VK3DI, and Len, VK3COD (SK) by naming them amongst the first inductees into the WIA Victoria Elmer Hall of Fame. Peter for his continual assistance to other amateurs and Len for the many years he ran Morse code classes on air.

A number of Club members attended the Gippsland Zone's 7th annual VHF / UHF Symposium at Churchill. This was a weekend for both OMs and their XYLs, the latter being well catered for with various excursions. Peter Freeman, VK3KAI, (an ex-EMDRC member) and his committee were heartily congratulated for their range of speakers and presentations which attracted not only VK3s but people from VK2 and VK5, as well as a ZL.

Greg Chenco, VK3BLG, provided the Bulletin with an excellent article on his experimental 70 cm. Patch Antenna and gave directions on how to build one, even including a photo of what it should look like when finished and up in the air. Prior to these antennas being made available commercially, Greg made one production run purely for Club members.

After a couple of trial runs, the IRLP Node was finally installed at the QTH of Peter, VK3KG, where it was operational on VK3ROU on a 24 hr, 7 days per week basis. Peter wrote an article for the Bulletin (June 2003) to assist those amateurs who wanted to know how IRLP works and how to use it.

The Southern Cross Award was revised and became more of a "fun" award. There was great hilarity on REC one night when 14 people all tried to work each other for the Award .... and succeeded. The group later spread to HF, resulting in David, 9V1RH, in Singapore being the first DX recipient.



Per usual the Club participated in the Whitehorse Spring Festival, JOTA, the RD Contest, GASS (or the Great Australian Science Show), the use of special calls VI3GP and AX3ITU, the usual John Moyle Field Day and our White Elephant Sale (plus visiting those held by other Clubs) – our WES made a profit of \$2,920 this year with a record attendance. A visit was made by about 40 members and friends to the Imax Theatre where, after the film, they were shown the projection facilities.

WICEN members of the Club helped again with the annual Murray River Canoe Marathon, whilst others were amongst the 50+ volunteers who assisted with radio comms for the bushfires in the State's north-east. Adam, VK3YDF, provided the Bulletin with a very interesting article on the latter. The Incident Control and Operation Officers at Mt. Beauty commented that the help from the amateurs was "valued, appreciated, a Godsend and extremely professional."

EMDRC was approached by Alan Payne, VK3BPU, a teacher at Waverley Secondary College for assistance with their science experiment consisting of sending Orb Weaver spiders into space on one of the shuttles and to observe their behaviour and how they spun their webs in micro-gravity. Arrangements were made for students to contact the space station whilst in orbit, and to this end EMDRC was approached to assist. Joe VK3BKI, Andy VK3BFA, Jack VK3WWW, Craig VK3CMC and Rob VK3KRB answered the call for help and before an audience of about 100 people at the school made a successful contact as the ISS sped overhead. A few of the students were able to talk directly to the astronauts and ask questions about the mission and life aboard the station. Of course it is history now that the space shuttle Columbia and all aboard were tragically lost during their return to earth.

During the year a couple of informal BBQs were held at the Clubrooms with approximately 60 members, partners and friends turning up on each occasion. More get-togethers like this are planned.

Robert VK3KRB and Peter VK3KG put together the latest edition of the Club CD which is full of lots of amateur software. The CD proved very popular and a large quantity was sold to members.

Jonas VK3VF again volunteered to run Courses at the Clubrooms on a Saturday afternoon from May to August.

The lease for the Club Rooms was renegotiated with the Scouts for the coming year. The annual rent was increased to \$1,640 which covers the hall and storeroom and allows us to use them for Coffee Shop meetings, Saturday afternoon Courses and other miscellaneous activities.

Travelling Hillbillies for this year included... Michael Dunne, VK3MSA, and Gordon Knowles, VK3NGK, who took themselves off on a world tour. They attended a Club meeting in Belfast from whence some "interesting" photos were sent back to Peter, VK3DI, who was able to chat with the boys on Echolink.

Gwen, VK3DYL, headed to Palermo in Sicily to attend the 6th International YL Meeting but couldn't get near a radio to talk back home – too many other YLs wanted to talk! On arriving home, she repacked and joined a few other YLs on a DXpedition to Lord Howe Island where they operated for 2 weeks as VK9YL. This was followed by a further 2 weeks in the Cook Islands – 1 week each on Aitutaki Island and Rarotonga (ZK1XYL) where they broke the drought and had to buy umbrellas. The 4 weeks netted a total of nearly 13,000 contacts, mainly thanks to the superb set of wire dipoles made for the girls by Charles, VK3GKK. Elizabeth VE7YL and Gwen reckon they hold the record for the fastest dipole changers in the South Pacific!

Meanwhile the DXpeditioning OMs had gone to an IOTA which had never previously been activated, Lady Julia Percy Island – the group consisting of Jack VK3WWW, Peter VK3QI, Tom VK3ZZ, and Paul VK3KXG. The seas were too rough for them to travel to the island by boat so they had to hire a helicopter for a few trips but at least the wind enabled Jack to launch his kite antenna with a long wire for 30 m. They used the Callsign VI3JPI and managed to work the world just before the bands closed with one of the worst and most prolonged disturbances so far in cycle 23. Jack VK3WWW later gave an



excellent presentation to a Club meeting on the excitement, planning, trials and tribulations involved in being part of the DXpedition.

The boys' next IOTA trip was the first activation of Waldegrave Island, part of the S.A. West Centre Group. They used the Callsign V15WCP to commemorate the bicentenary naming of the island by Matthew Flinders. Operators were: Peter VK3QI, Tom VK3ZZ, Keith VK3FT, and Jack VK3WWW. Again the world was waiting for them and they made a lot of IOTA hunters very happy.

Marty VK3FII, Joe VK3BKI and Ken VK3GKW went off for the annual Lighthouse Weekend to Troubridge Island in VK5-land while another team led by Kieran VK3BTB operated from the Cape Otway Light, and Carl VK3EMF and Glenn VK3CAM returned to their comfortable "home" in the Maritime Museum next to the Gellibrand Light.

Pres. Rob, VK3KRB, took his family on a camping holiday up to Stradbroke Island in VK4. Using his TS50, batteries and dipoles, Rob was able to keep nightly skeds back to Club members so that (a) he could keep an eye on our doings and (b) we could monitor what he was up to. So when he was pulled up by the local police and given a Breathalyzer test at 10 am one day whilst driving along the sandy beaches of the island, the whole Club got to know about it – hi!

The annual Christmas Party, well attended per usual, was enlivened with the musical talent of Peter, VK3KG, on his electronic keyboard, Scott VK3USH on the flute and Pres. Rob, VK3KRB on the guitar. The old Hall really "rocked" that night and I doubt if Santa has been given such a warm welcome before. It is anticipated that the band will be even bigger next year – apparently there is an untapped wealth of musical talent amongst the Hillbillies

Congratulations to Drew Diamond VK3XU on being the selected the recipient of the Ron Higginbotham Award during the recent WIA Federal Convention for his contributions to AR Magazine – for the second year in a row. Well done Drew.

At the WIA Vic. Div's AGM, three members of EMDRC were elected to the Council – John Brown, VK3JJB (as Secretary), Keith VK3FT and Peter VK3KG.

At last a LARGE heater was purchased for the Club Rooms – a gas-fired factory blower / heater. Also a bookcase for the library.

The Treasurer announced at the AGM that the Club's Net Assets totalled \$22,925.55, made up of \$3,155.43 for equipment and \$19,770.12 of cash at bank and term deposits.

The Jack Gutscher Award was presented to Carl VK3EMF, the President's Award to Jack Griffin, VK3AF, and the Junior's Award to Scott VK3USH. Bottles of wine were presented to a number of other members whose help during the year was appreciated.

## **2003 / 2004**

*TBD – If members have anything to contribute, please contact the club.*

## **2004 / 2005**

*TBD – If members have anything to contribute, please contact the club.*

## **2005 / 2006**

During the past year the EMDRC has continued to grow its membership, improve and diversify Club Activities and further add to its already enviable financial position.

In my two years' involvement with the EMDRC, and Amateur Radio at large, it has been mentioned to me a number of times, by non-EMDRC Amateur Licensees from around the state, that this club was traditionally known for the elitist and 'snobby' attitude of its members and that "it's marginally better now".

I am proud to be a member of this club and from the enthusiasm and effort put in by everybody I rub shoulders with, I am certainly not alone. To those critical of the club I can



only say: "Come join us, because you certainly won't beat us!". This is the largest and greatest club in VK3 and snapping on the heels of the number one spot in the country.

The relatively new Foundation Licence is responsible for the majority of new blood in the club and for that we must thank the WIA. While new Amateurs have always had a thirst to learn and take part in club activities, that most new members are also newly licenced - in my opinion - is the sole unstoppable force in the EMDRC today.

Since nominations opened for the next Committee I have spoken with each of the new candidates and, to a man, they are newly licenced Amateurs (less than 2 years) overflowing with ideas, projects and activities for the coming year. It is the passion and vigour of all the gentlemen you will see up here tonight that generates the power behind this mighty club and fills me with hope that we can further strengthen the hobby against future challenges like BPL and erosion of operating privileges.

## 2006 / 2007

New initiatives over the past year began with the 'Xmas in July', our first catered dinner function in over 5 years. With thanks to the unofficial Women's Auxiliary and Guest Speaker, WIA President Michael Owen VK3KI, a yearly Winter Dinner is now a fixture so to provide a warm, social, cold- weather activity in the middle of the chilly months.

With particular thanks to Bob AIC, Andrew BFA, Roger BKR and Layton CLJ, an additional Friday night "F-Meeting" was held at the Clubroom on the second Friday of June through August. Planned as a monthly Q&A for new Amateurs, this was discontinued in favour of emphasising the monthly 'Coffee Shop' meetings as a single theory and technical focussed session for ALL members. Coffee Shops begin with a call for members to put questions to the rest of the group before the presentations commence, generally having a homebrew and participatory flavour while General Meetings at the Whitehorse Centre are reserved for longer and lecture formatted presentations.

In September we added the 'Saturday Arvo'. These afternoon sessions are agenda-free and provide all members a regular chance to fire up the BBQ; activate the Club Station; and to socialize without staying out till midnight after Friday meetings. Most activity so far has been around the chili sausages on the BBQ while enjoying the consistently good weather. In the coming months, with luck, we'll see some much needed rain and this may force us inside. I hope to see groups around the whiteboard in a lively discussion and more use of the shack.

During this time, the '2 m, 70 cm, FM & SSB Antennas' project was in full swing. It was the first Club Project for some time and thought up as a way to promote involvement in the John Moyle Field Day. Committee Member Graeme VK3ZGD and JMFD aficionado Jack VK3WWW lead the project that build around 50 antennas. That we now have not only the technical diagrams and accounting results of the activity, but also the jigs and 'How to Build' instructions shows the high standard to which this project was run. It should be used as a model for future Club Projects and we should make absolutely certain that at least one large project is run each year.

Licence Courses have continued on a regular basis with Jonas VK3VF extending his long tenure as Club Instructor. Jonas' eff011s are the keystone to the success of our candidates and words cannot express my gratitude. With the main assessors Keith VK3FT, Robert VK3KRB and Lionel VK3NM, our focus on educating new Amateurs continued and the processes around conducting the training have been streamlined. Of special note was the April Foundation Course where four Club "XYL's" (Jean, Cristina, Margaret and Michi) took the plunge, joining Karen and Susan from the year before, in becoming personally aquatinted with the hobby I've heard labelled "The Other Woman".

During the final weekend of last year's 'Standard/Advanced/Upgrade' Course, while the bushfires ravaged Victoria for over 60 days, EMDRC hosted WICEN's SMR Network Training. The 40 participants who attended were prepared for possible activation and facilitating the training has rekindled the relationship between our organizations. General



preparedness of all Amateurs has been identified as a key project by the WIA and the EMDRC is planning to lead the pack in this area.

While enjoying another great Christmas Breakup BBQ in early December, the Committee had already begun implementing the project plan for the 2007 EMDRC WES, but we did take a few weeks off for the festive season.

2007 saw an unusually early start to Club Activities with the first function mid-January's Saturday Arvo, rather than the February General Meeting. After reviving the VK3ER Wednesday Night Net in February (first controlled by Former Club President Gary VK3ZGC, now by John VK3ARK), we looked towards the WES, and tended to the meetings, courses and other activities as they occurred - tweaking as needed. More new Amateurs, more new members, more ideas for growth and promoting the hobby.

Finally, the day arrived, Sunday March 25th at the Great Ryrie Primary School. After a flurry of crossed off checkboxes in the week previous I was anxious when the doors opened to the public. From the number through the door to the amount of trade on the floor and the evident passion in haggling inside and spinning yarns outside, it was an excellent event. After cleaning up the Primary School, we retired to the Clubroom to clean-up the last of the spoils from the kitchen, not knowing we'd substantially improved in every metric over the 2006 event.

This was the first WES I'd attended, and I was continually surprised and impressed throughout the weekend, mostly by the number of volunteers ready to man the doors, the BBQ and load the transport. I must thank Steve VK3LSW for again providing the truck and driver. The hours of work by Club Secretary Antony VK3TAG in collating and massaging all the disparate WES planning information was the most important factor in the smooth running of this year's event.

In the afterglow of the WES it was clearly time to rid our storeroom of the 'junk' that had been carted back-and-forth each year and never sold. So the storeroom was cleared out and two Working Bees carved a chunk out of the long list of Clubroom maintenance that forms part of our rental agreement. We enjoy mostly unrestricted use of our Clubroom, but not full autonomy. The holes in the asbestos roof, lack of adequate heating, only recently replaced hot water service, shortage of parking and general escalation of maintenance costs has sparked more than one discussion about finding an alternate venue.

While strong, we're not yet in the financial position to take an evolutionary leap forward in facilities and clubrooms unless a property is bequeathed or a Council decides not to consolidate community buildings and then bulldoze the old ones to make way for more housing. I strongly believe it is time for the Club to take stock of what we have, and where we want to go. I ask members to discuss this among yourselves until I formally bring this to the Committee's notice in early 2008. I want this to be a major issue next year.

This past year continued the process of laying foundations and building reliable systems to ensure consistency and repeatability. I'd like to thank the Committee members not returning: Peter VK3KG for his many years as Treasurer and David VK3DRB for his two terms on the Committee and running the Club Raffle. The remainder of the Committee stands again and is committed to build on our work to date.

## 2007 / 2008

Bryan presented the President's report at the AGM. A copy of the report follows:

The 2007/8 year began with a class of XYLs achieving their licences and ended with the smoothest run WES yet. In between, more than 40 more Foundation and over a dozen Standard and Advanced assessments were also conducted.

We celebrated the EMDRC's 40th Anniversary with old friends and well-wishing members of the WIA and other local clubs. We held dipole building workshops, enjoyed social Saturday afternoons and even visited the Open Day at Cerberus Naval Base.

Our membership database and new member's processes have been overhauled and those involved are confident the system in place now will see no further delays in



dispatching new member packs and also ensure that a Club Callbook is again printed and distributed yearly.

Financially, the club continues to improve. We have the strongest membership numbers in VK3 and the raffles a number of projects-cum-products are bolstering our figures. The 2 metre and 70 centimetre Yagi kits from an earlier project were again produced and we've seen strong sales of the 6-pin power connectors used on the majority of recent HF radios.

The decision has been taken to attend all local hamfests and increase the Trading Table's revenue with a defined catalogue of products, rather than a table full of 'homebrewers' delights'. Where possible these items are also for sale via VKham.com and soon our website. More products are in the pipeline and I am confident this is another activity that sets us apart as a leading Australian radio club.

I will venture to say that the fundamentals are now mostly on track, but the workload certainly needs to be spread across more members. A fully staffed Club Committee should be the last of our concerns, particularly for such a successful club. We do have a cast of supportive members contributing sporadically but the Committee is undermanned and missing opportunities to better the club, mostly due to being overcommitted already and without additional time to devote.

More than half of the outgoing Committee are new to the club in the past 5 years. We are unfamiliar with the history and culture of the EMDRC and unskilled as Amateurs. We call here, formally, for help. Help from the long term members to pitch in teach us, lead us, and help steer the future of the Club for all of us.

The unclear future of our tenancy at McCubbin Street as discussed at the last AGM, still looms over us. Please understand clearly that neither the Whitehorse Council or Scouts Australia have indicated that we should find another home. Nor has a decision been made to move.

The Committee's concern has grown from our evaluation of the facilities, how we'd like to improve the building, that we have no formal lease and separate audits by the Scouts and Council on all such venues in the area are slowly underway. We have time to thoroughly research the heating, accessibility ramps, more frequent hall use, or explore other venues.

Whether the time has come to discuss our future direction, or just continue on without a plan, is up to the membership to decide.

My two years as President have been an undeserved honour and regretfully I can no longer maintain the quality of work I expect from myself, nor can I commit to the time required to serve in this position. I must thank & I urge all members to make suggestions to the committee, or better still, nominate and become actively involved.

## **2008 / 2009**

The year 2008/09 has again been a very productive one for the Club. Not only has there been a healthy increase in membership, invariably a good sign, but also numerous projects and activities.

Arguably one of the most significant events in the history of the Club was the achievement this year of exclusive access to the ground floor area of the East Burwood Scout Hall. Although we have been using some of this space for several years the revised lease conditions now allow us to access and develop the whole ground floor area to meet the particular needs of the Club. We are establishing a Shack, Workshop, Training and Storage Rooms as well as modern Kitchen and Toilet facilities. These

will surely be envied by many other organisations. Refurbishment of the area is being carried out by a small, dedicated group of members who deserve our wholehearted gratitude as well as praise for their workmanship.

Our increasing involvement in community activities has been very rewarding and I trust that this trend will continue in future years. To the City of Whitehorse Spring Festival at



which we have been a regular exhibitor for many years, we have this year added for the first time, the Belgrave Lantern Parade and the Scoresby Steamfest.

Cross fertilisation is beneficial to all clubs and our visit to the Yarra Valley clubrooms this year provided a great opportunity for members of both clubs to explore a wide range of personal interests and meet new on air friends. The fact that some of these new friends were later to be involved in the devastating fires of Black Saturday made the events of that terrible weekend much more personal.

This year the Club was once again able to bring the excitement of speaking to astronauts on board the International Space Station to a group of primary school children through the school's program arranged by NASA and via the amateur radio bridge provided by Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI. There can be no doubt that this was a wonderful opportunity to bring the reality of amateur radio into the minds of these young people. Several of our members are already exploiting such latent interest by conducting Foundation Licence classes at another primary school in our area, with great success.

Our monthly meetings, both at Nunawading and at East Burwood, are always well attended and that must surely be attributed to the quality of the guest speakers and discussion leaders we consistently attract. While I intentionally continue to be non-specific in my praise, I do feel that we owe a deal of thanks to those who organise our meeting programs.

Being the club chosen to host the inauguration of D-Star in Australia it is pleasing to note the continuing growth of members participating in this new technology. Others must be congratulated for delving into the vagaries of Software Defined Radio, which some seem to believe will be the technology of the future.

Two outstanding achievements that made history in the Club this year cannot pass without mention. They each involve several members of the Club.

Firstly, presentation of a Family Award went to the Gardiner family, led by Ross, VK3UB; every member of the family now holds an Amateur Radio Licence. The other is the VK3ER Contest Group, which in this year 's John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest not only gained first place in the 24 hour All Band/All Mode section but also won the President 's Cup in the first year it has been awarded under revised rules.

In conclusion, I welcome this opportunity to thank all those people who have given of their time, whether as members of the Management Committee, as helpers at events like the annual White Elephant Sale, assisting with the building alterations, club projects, selling raffle tickets or just tidying up after meetings. Without your efforts the Club could not have made the progress it has.

## **2009 / 2010**

From the AGM minutes: President Jack VK3WWW spoke about the progress made by the club during the past year referring particularly to improvements to the clubrooms, the Club's highly successful participation in contests and its promotion of the hobby through public displays and training courses. He thanked all who helped in any way, mentioning in particular contributions by Carl VK3EMF, Robert VK3DN, John VK3PZ, Jean VK3VIP and all members of the Committee.

## **2010 / 2011**

Presenting his Annual Report, the President referred to the many successful activities conducted throughout the year and drew particular attention to several very successful promotional events and training courses. Participation in the WIA Centenary activities and other national events from the Club "Shack" were very rewarding and served as an opportunity for members to join in as a group.

As well as reporting a successful launch of the Hands-free Kit, Jack foreshadowed other Club projects in the pipeline and an offer by Andrew VK3BFA to promote hands-on practical sessions for members interested in learning basic construction skills.



Referring to problems currently being experienced with the Club repeater VK3REC, Jack stressed the need for tolerance and patience while the site owner endeavours to resolve a difficult situation and assured members that the Committee has the matter constantly under review.

## 2011 / 2012

In making a list of the major points for the year 2011/2012 it is easy to forget how active the EMDRC Club is. Only, when you go back through the records you realise that we have really been very active.

On a sad note though the past year saw the passing of Lionel VK3NM, Andrew VK3BFA and Graeme VK3ZGD all 3 were far too young and I am sure many of you will agree are sadly missed.

Whilst still active, Andrew VK3BFA managed to hold a training day for many of our members during the year. This showed his determination to continue on with the job even though his health was waning. Activity at the clubroom has been on the increase. This year saw the introduction of the Saturday opening of the clubrooms and since it began in November 2011 has had a mixed success. This activity will continue and I expect re-evaluated by the new committee. Along with these open days the Thursday morning group have been very active. Thanks to them we now have a working 160 m antenna plus a very organised and tidy shack. Recently they managed to cut and install some heavy cement sheeting to the main hall entrance steps covering up the mesh step treads which caused an issue for some of our members. Also a great addition to the club was the short concrete ramp that was installed at the entrance to the clubroom. This addition will not seem very major to most but for some it makes a visit to the club a much more enjoyable and safer experience.

Our clubroom was the venue for a BBQ in honour of Demetria K4DPW who was visiting from the USA. Demetria is very active on the DSTAR network and has many friends in VK especially Melbourne via the VK3RWN repeater.

Other activities at the club included several Foundation courses, a 3-week radio mobile course and more recently, a dozen or so members competing in the Trans-Tasman 80 m phone contest. Damian VK3KQ and Bob VK3AIC have been hard at work getting the 2 m Yagi project to a stage where they are in the process of working out costings and a construction schedule.

Contesting for the past 12 months saw VK3ER take out first place in both the Spring VHF/UHF Field Day and the John Moyle Memorial Field Day. It is great to see EMDRC up there as one of the premier VK contest clubs. Well done to the portable team for both events and also I am sure the portable stations would like to thank all of our members who took the time to hand out numbers.

One interesting thing to note is that in this year's JMMFD, EMDRC were represented by 3 portable stations each taking out first place in their respective categories. One issue that had bugged the committee for quite a long time was the poor performance of the club 2m repeater VK3REC. Eventually the receive antenna was replaced and it was nice to hear some of the great reports after this task was completed. In addition to the repeater repair and a minor repair to his own antenna feedline. Carl, VK3EMF was back on air with the Sunday Morning net. Along with the net Carl has again been very active organising our guest speakers for the year.

During the year our club has been involved in many other portable operations, some being official club activities whilst others are a chance for club members to spend some time together. These activities include: International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, Region 3 ARDF Championships in Maldon, Melbourne Cup Day 160m am Coffee Break Net, and trips to Charlesworth Park in Vermont South. And on the promotional front we attended the 2012 Scoresby Steam fest followed by the WIA National Field Day. One of the portable events was an ATV transmission from the wedding ceremony of Matthew VK3EVL and Emily VK3MED. This event was televised both locally by VK3RTV and internationally via the BATC site.



Extra fundraising for 2012 saw EMDRC selling sausages at Bunnings in Nunawading; this was a very profitable venture and so far some of the proceeds have gone into the purchase of club equipment like the Youkits FG-01 Antenna Analyser. Our 2012 WES was also very popular from a buying and selling point. It was disappointing though that some of the regular Commercial Distributors could not attend but I suppose we have to accept that times are changing. Even without them we were still able to fill all of the tables in the hall.

## 2012 / 2013

2012-2013 has been an interesting year for the club. Mostly highlights but some lowlights as well.

Contesting for the year saw VK3ER participate in the Trans-Tasman 160 m and 80 m section but with the latter being very poorly supported by our members. Not so for the JMMFD where we had a decent turn out and managed to win both our section and the President's Cup. For the Spring VHF/UHF Field Day we managed third place which was not too bad considering we were literally only a couple of contacts behind our main rival VK3UHF. For the Summer Field Day, we were hoping to improve on the previous outing but the weather and fire danger put paid to our stay on McLaughlans Lookout. We again man-aged third place but this time in the eight-hour section. VK3ER was also active for the Whitehorse Spring Festival, Scoresby Steamfest and National Field Day. These three events are our best chance to promote our hobby and I urge all of you to consider taking part in at least one or all three of them.

In November I was approached by Andrew Flint from the Carbon Community Foundation regarding assistance in making up battery packs for some solar lights. It was great to see so many members offering assistance to Andrew at such short notice; we can all feel very proud that the club assisted with this project. Also in November, the EMDRC hosted the first Microwave test day at the clubrooms. Local amateurs, joined by some country and interstate visitors had a very fruitful day testing out microwave gear. It was also pleasing to see so many members attending, most just interested to have a look at another aspect of our great hobby.

During the year we had a couple of outside activities, the main one being a tour of the Telstra Telecommunications Museum in Hawthorn. Melbourne Cup day saw two groups activate 160m portable and from all reports both were well supported. Cape Schanck was also activated for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

Amateur TV was another activity that a significant proportion of our member's experiment with. We had quite a few members participating in the ATV QSO party. Also, the EMDRC was fortunate enough to receive \$1000.00 from the WIA through the club grants scheme. This grant was for the purchase of the three main boards required to put together a DATV transmitter. With the assistance of Damian VK3KQ, Max VK3WT, Ralph VK3LL and Peter VK3BFG this project is nearing completion. This transmitter will be a great asset to the club both in the promotion of Amateur Radio generally and the EMDRC in particular. Thanks to all involved with this project.

Our WES in March was very well attended by private traders and the general public. With many of the commercial traders no longer supporting hamfests the fact that EMDRC was able to fill all available tables and more, shows how popular our event is.

During the year we have witnessed many great presentations at club meetings; Carl VK3EMF again has done a wonderful job in making sure that each of the Willis Room and Coffee Shop meetings have a presenter. Some of the time Carl's job finding presenters is easy but most of the time he has to work very hard with leads from members.

Courses at the clubrooms are progressing well; the current Standard/Advanced course will be last one for our main instructor Jonas VK3VF. Jonas has conducted many classes since the early 1990's and he is responsible for literally hundreds of Standard and Advanced Certificate holders. Along with the Foundation Course crew that mainly consists of Robert VK3DN and Damian VK3KQ our resident group of assessors are regularly kept busy.



Opening of the clubrooms on Thursdays has developed into a very popular activity; recently I was able to drop in for a few minutes and was very impressed to see so many attendees. Our Saturday morning following a club meeting openings are not as well attended as the Thursday morning ones but with the continuation of this practice it seems to be gaining more support from the members. Saturday morning openings will be one thing for the new committee to look into.

Just recently a few of our club members received local and international recognition. At the recent WIA AGM in Perth, John VK3PZ was awarded the Chris Jones award for his Exceptional Contribution to the Advancement of Radio and the WIA. Marc VK3OHM also received a Presidential Commendation for his work on the WIA Awards Program.

On the International scene, at the 2013 Hamvention in Dayton Ohio, Drew VK3XU was inducted into the QRP Hall of Fame. Drew is only the second VK to be inducted. The late Michael VK3KI (SK) was one of eight inductees into the CQ Magazine Hall of Fame. John VK3PZ, Michael VK3KI and Drew VK3XU are EMDRC Life members. On behalf of the club I would like to congratulate all three Life members plus Marc VK3OHM in being recognised for the part they played in serving the ham community both locally and internationally. We all should be very proud of them.

On a sad note 2012-2013 saw the passing of two EMDRC Life members. In September Michael VK3KI passed away and only days ago Gwen VK3DYL became SK. Both Michael and Gwen will be sadly missed and our heartfelt condolences go out to both families.

## 2013 / 2014

Well, another year gone. This is my fourth annual report since coming back on the committee five years ago. Where did the time go! Here is a roundup listing some of the many activities and club related events over the past year.

July and August saw the completion of the VK3ER Club ATV Transmitter followed by the official launch at the August Coffee Shop Meeting. Our Yahoo Group was Launched. The EMDRC was named the official WIA IARU station for the International IARU Contest.

Club member Geoff VK3TL, in his capacity of an IARU Director, operated from the EMDRC Clubrooms. Sadly, September saw the passing of club member Colin VK3KWM. The EMDRC participated in the International Lighthouse Weekend and also the DATV QSO Party.

At the October Willis Room meeting Doug VK3UM gave his EME/EMR presentation to a full house. After the presentation, VK2BPN Phil Wait WIA President, took questions from the audience. Our Thursday group meetings were cancelled while the asbestos roof at the clubrooms was replaced with a Colourbond replacement. Our trade account with Altronics was announced to members and, we had a very comprehensive AR display at the City of Whitehorse Spring Festival.

November was busy starting with the Melbourne Cup Day 160 m am coffee break BBQ in Heathmont. Following this was our second placement in the VHF/UHF Spring Field Day. The EMDRC had quite a few members as part of the WIA stand at the EURISCO event in North Melbourne. Our new HF antenna was purchased and is currently being prepared to replace the Wilson Triband antenna.

Due to work and study commitments Matthew VK3EVL announced that he was retiring as Vice President. Also, due to health reasons, Max VK3WT announced that he would be retiring as Secretary. Peter VK3PH has stepped in to replace Max as Club Secretary.

In January VK3ER took second place in the Summer VHF/UHF Summer Field Day 24 Hour Section. March was up to its usual tricks with the club having a sell-out WES, PR display at the Scoresby Steamfest plus assisting with the VARMS model air show in Wantirna. Again, VK3ER took first place and the President's Cup for the JMMFD. Also, in the same contest, club members VK3KQ, VK3LL and VK3WAM received certificates.



March also saw the first of, hopefully, many live ATV presentations from the Coffee Shop Meeting. Damian VK3KQ has been working hard and over the next few months you will see a lot of improvements in this area.

A Special General Meeting was held in April and the Committee was given permission by the members to purchase a HF Amplifier.

The EMDRC were represented in the PR4ARExpo with a display at Jells Park. Three Club Members assisted with an ARISS contact from Melbourne Grammar School's Grimwade House. At the WIA AGM, Marc Hillman VK3OHM was presented with the Chris Jones award for his work on the online awards system.

During the year many members have worked behind the scenes to make the EMDRC one of the better clubs to belong to. Without this assistance we would quickly become just another club. So, it is with great pleasure, I would like to thank you all for your input into making mine and the committee's job a lot easier.

## 2014 / 2015

The EMDRC started its new financial year with first place in the John Moyle Field Day, portable, multi-operator, 24 hours' section. We purchased an AV mixer for use while broadcasting our meetings from the club rooms. The online membership system that was recently implemented has been a great success in reducing John's work load and has been providing an easy payment method for members. The WIA advised that it was not going to continue to pay internet costs for the DSTAR repeater VK3RWN. This resulted in the formation of a DSTAR users group to manage the costs. EMDRC has hosted some of the DSTAR users' group meetings to help get them off and running. The Committee decided to use the on-line membership system for distribution of the Bulletin newsletter to save on substantial printing and postage costs so we can continue to keep membership fees low for now.

In July, the Committee decided to trial 4G WIFI internet access for members' use while attending the club rooms. This has proved popular, so we have decided to continue to provide this service as long as it's not being abused. Committee decided that the club no longer needed to keep the Callsign VK3COD as it was not being used for anything. VK3ER will continue to be the clubs primary Callsign with VK3BNW used as a backup and for Sunday morning nets.

In August, the club conducted a Foundation course resulting in 3 successful candidates. The club antenna system was refurbished with 2 new dipoles for 80 and 40 m and new elements added to the 10-15-20 m tri-bander. All this was completed in time for the club to operate the RD contest from the club rooms to test the new antennas and give the new amplifier a work out. In all just under 400 contacts were achieved, with antennas and amplifier working well. Result was 2nd in the multi-single division.

In September, we held a club BBQ and SOTA introduction for club members on Mt Donna Buang. A group of members went to the Cape Schanck lighthouse for a bit of fun on the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, thanks once again to Carl for organising this.

In October, the club purchased SARK-110 antenna analyser and multi-function inkjet printer. JOTA activity occurred at the clubrooms, 20 cubs / scouts attended. We managed the special event Callsign VI3RVAC from the Moorabbin air museum to celebrate 100 years of the Royal Victorian Aero Club. Jack and Damien operated the ATV transmitter from the site while Carl managed the HF station. The special Callsign was extended for a week which enabled some additional club members to operate the call.

In November, we conducted a Foundation course with 3 successful candidates, and 4 to be assessed at a later date.

The Microwave day crowd was down on last year. The committee purchased a sandwich board to guide members and guests in the right direction at club meetings and events. The Club participated in the Spring Field Day resulting again in first prize in division 1. Congratulations to the team that went out and thanks to the members that worked them.



In December, shelving was installed in the club rooms over the operating desk and Anderson power-poles installed under the shelf to power radios. The operating desk was cleaned up and is now fully operational. The club repeater VK3REC gets a timely update, a GPS provides automated time synchronisation to the repeater's internal clock to keep it updated, without the need for any human intervention. The usual Christmas BBQ at the club rooms was well attended again this year.

## 2015 / 2016

*TBA – from Presidents report at this year's AGM*



## Club Awards

Awards are given to members for their contribution to the club and to amateur radio in general for encouragement. There are several awards for different purposes. Each year, prior to the AGM, the committee decides if the Award is to be issued and to whom.

### Charlie White Award

Charlie was a keen member of the club and was well known for his "Dingo" 2 m antennas. He celebrated his half-century of being licensed as an amateur radio operator in 1982, and became a Silent Key in 1985.

The Charlie White Award is presented by the club at the AGM each year to a member in recognition for services performed for the hobby. The following is a list of recipients with the year in which the award was presented:

- 1989 Gardner, VK3PMZ
- 1991 Magee, VK3BKI
- 1993 Phil Gardner, VK3GMZ
- 1996 Glenn Alford, VK3CAM
- 1997 Bryan Ackerly, VK3YNG
- 1998 Leigh Philips, VK3HLP
- 1999 Shannon O'Keeffe
- 2001 Tim Broomhead, VK3HTB
- 2001 Sam Jackson, VK3HXR
- 2004 TBC
- 2005 TBC
- 2007 Graeme Downie, VK3ZGD
- 2008 Richard Holmes, VK3TXD
- 2009 Callum Peutril, VK3FSDP
- 2011 Matthew Dulak, VK3EVL
- 2011 Emily Garlick-Sloman, VK3FEGL
- 2012 Wayne Merry, VK3WAM
- 2013 Ralph Parkhurst, VK3LL
- 2014 Damien Ayres, VK3KQ
- 2015 Peter Forbes, VK3QI



### Jack Gutcher Award

In memory of Jack Gutcher, VK3APU, who was a foundation member of the Mountain and District Group, a small group of Amateurs who helped to operate the local civil emergency group for Mt. Dandenong and districts. Jack helped form a radio club for the Eastern suburbs, known today as the EMDRC, where he was foundation Treasurer for many years, later holding many other active positions. He became a Silent Key in 1978 at the age of 60.

In its first year, the Award was to be presented as a Junior Award to the most regular attender and proficient operator on Club Nets. Conditions may be changed each year at the discretion of the committee. The following is a list of recipients with the year in which the award was presented:

- 1980 Rowntree, VK3BTF (Junior)



- 1981 Tilson, VK3VKH (Junior)
- 1982 Max Dawkins, VK3TR
- 1983 Graeme Hattwell, VK3NGH
- 1984 Harry Kraehenbuehl, VK3KBA
- 1985 Derek Dawkins, VK3KX
- 1986 Len Vermeulen, VK3COD
- 1987 Ray Graf, VK3CT
- 1989 Derek McNeil, VK3BYA
- 1991 Andrew Czompo VK3JAC / PAC & Aaron Elliott VK3AJQ
- 1993 Bruce McCubbin, VK3SO
- 1994 Stephen Dench, VK3CSD
- 1995 Sergio Fontana, VK3VCL
- 1996 John Longayroux, VK3ZJH
- 1998 Jack Bramham, VK3WWW
- 1999 Jonas Sadauskas, VK3VF
- 2000 Keith Proctor, VK3FT
- 2001 Peter McDonald, VK3DI
- 2002 Robert Broomhead, VK3KRB
- 2003 Carl Schlink, VK3EMF
- 2004 TBC
- 2005 TBC
- 2006 Bryan Pliatsios, VK3HXR
- 2007 John Fisher, VK3ARK
- 2008 Colin Perger, VK3KWM
- 2009 JMMFD team: Jack Bramham, VK3WWW; Max Chadwick, VK3WT; Peter Forbes, VK3QI; Mike Subocz, VK3AVV; Peter Young, VK3MV; John Longayroux, VK3PZ; David Ryan, VK3DLR; Jim McNabb, VK3AMN; Callum Peutril, VK3FSDP & Cameron Branden
- 2010 Mark Flanders, VK3FMGF
- 2011 Richard Holmes, VK3TXD
- 2012 Marshall Graham, VK3MRG
- 2015 Andrew Scott, VK3BQ



### President's Award

The President's award, is presented to a member of the President's own choice. The following is a list of recipients with the year in which the award was presented:

- 1981 Jeremy Harvey, VK3VWH (Junior)
- 1982 Bruce Marshall, VK3VKT
- 1985 Gavin Brain, VK3HY
- 1986 Paul Walton, VK3PW
- 1991 Leigh Fitzgibbon, VK3ZB
- 1993 Jeff Daly, VK3MFR
- 1994 Max Chadwick, VK3WT



- 1995 Carl Schlink, VK3EMF
- 1996 Gwen Tilson, VK3DYL
- 1997 Max Chadwick, VK3WT
- 1998 Reg Gardner, VK3GAR, & Phil Gardner, VK3GMZ
- 1999 Ken Robertson, VK3HKR
- 2000 Charles Sleeth, VK3GKK
- 2001 XYLs Stella Vermeulen, Susan Longayroux, Lois Schlink
- 2002 Peter McDonald, VK3DI
- 2003 Jack Griffin, VK3AF
- 2004 TBC
- 2005 TBC
- 2006 Antony Hall, VK3TAG
- 2007 Jack Bramham, VK3WWW
- 2008 Edward Seeto, VK3FEET
- 2010 Damien Ayers, VK3KQ
- 2011 Damien Ayers, VK3KQ
- 2012 David Nisbet, VK3XDA
- 2013 Peter Cossins, VK3BFG
- 2014 Andrew Kayton, VK3KIS
- 2015 Greg Smith, VK3ND



### Special Awards

At certain times the committee may decide to issue an award to a member that has gone above and beyond the call of duty. The following awards have been presented at the discretion of the committee:

- 1980 Classes Tony Burt, VK3VLX (Junior)
- 1983 Committee Ken Palliser, VK3GJ
- 1999 Special Award Gwen Tilson, VK3DYL
- 2002 Special Award John Longayroux, VK3ZJH
- 2003 Junior's Award Scott Hayward, VK3USH
- 2007 Committee Bryan Pliatsios, VK3HXR
- 2008 Committee Carl Schlink, VK3EMF
- 2008 Special Award Gwen Tilson, VK3DYL
- 2008 Special Award Jonas Sadauskas, VK3VF
- 2011 Certificate of appreciation Peter Forbes, VK3QI; Jean Fisher, VK3VIP; Keith Proctor, VK3FT & Ray Dean, VK3RD

### Southern Cross Award

The Southern Cross Award is issued by the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club Inc. to licensed amateurs and SWLs who confirm through the submission of a signed log the required number of contacts as follows:



VK3 stations are required to work 15 financial Club members plus ONE of the Club Callsigns, VK3ER, VK3BNW, or a Special Call run by the Club, e.g. VI3GP.

DX and interstate stations require 5 contacts plus ONE of the Club Callsigns as above.

A member and / or Club Callsign can only be claimed once per application. Contacts made on the Club Repeater VK3REC are legitimate. However, contacts with either Club members or a Club Callsign during both the Wednesday night and Sunday morning Club nets are not eligible for the purpose of the Award.

#### Submitting the Application

An applicant must submit a legible log showing the date, time, band (MHz), mode, Callsign, and operator name of the station worked. The full name, address, Callsign (except SWL) and signature of the applicant are required on the log.

Band or mode endorsements are available upon request.

The following fee is to accompany the application:

\$5.00 for posting within Australia.

\$15.00 for posting outside Australia.

Applications for the Southern Cross Award are to be forwarded to:

Awards Manager  
EMDRC Inc. PO Box 87  
MITCHAM, Victoria 3132





## Office Bearers / Managers

Year is taken from AGM to AGM.

### Patron

- 1971-76 The Rt. Hon. Lord Casey, KG. PC. GCM. CH. DSO. MC. K.St.J.  
2001-03 Cr. Peter Allan, JP

### President

- 1967 John Wilson VK3LM  
1968-69 John Clark VK3GF  
1969-70 Ken Nisbet VK3AKK  
1971 Ken McLachlan VK3ZD  
1972 John Boyce VK3AXF  
1973 John Wilson VK3LM  
1974 Reg Durrant VK3AJV  
1975-76 Geoff Atkinson VK3YFA  
1977-78 Tony King VK3IO  
1979-80 Bob Duckworth VK3AIC  
1981-83 John Hutchinson VK3JH  
1984 John Darvell VK3XEJ  
1985-86 Harry Kraehenbuehl VK3KBA  
1987 Ken Rolls VK3KJR  
1987-88 Neville Stingel VK3CNS  
1989-91 Geoff Atkinson VK3YFA  
1992 Len Vermeulen VK3COD  
1993-96 Jack Bramham VK3WWW  
1997-01 Carl Schlink VK3EMF  
2002-03 Robert Broomhead VK3KRB  
2004-05 TBA  
2006-08 Bryan Pliatsios VK3HXR  
2009 Harry Kraehenbuehl VK3KBA  
2010-14 Jack Braham VK3WWW  
2015 Peter Hartfield VK3PH  
2016 Peter Hartfield VK3PH / Andrew Scott VK3BQ

### Vice President

- 1967 Vin Squires VK3AOV  
1968 David Wright VK3ZDV  
1969-70 John Boyce VK3AXF  
1971-72 Tony King VK3IO  
1973 Theo Van Staveren VK3AMA



1974	John Wilson VK3LM
1975-78	John Hutchinson VK3JH
1979-83	John O'Rorke VK3NOW / XS
1984	Mark Dods VK3ACX
1985	Paul Walton VK3PW
1986	Geoff Atkinson VK3YFA
1987	John Hogan VK3CJH
1987-88	Craig Cook VK3CMC
1992	Jeff Daly VK3MFR
1993	Mal LeMaistre VK3KSA
1994-96	Carl Schlink VK3EMF
1997-99	David Williams VK3KAB
2000-01	Tony Burt VK3TZ
2002	Carl Schlink VK3EMF
2003	Gary Cook VK3ZGC
2005-05	TBA
2006	Paul Ashby VK3MR
2007, 11-13	Robert Broomhead VK3KRB / DN
2008-10	David Ryan VK3DLR
2014	Matthew Dulak VK3EVL
2015-16	Andrew Scott VK3BQ

## Secretary

1967	Ken McLachlan VK3ZDK
1967-68	Reg Durrant VK3AJV
1969	John Beckett VK3FE
1970	Keith Nichols VK3ANI
1971-72	Reg Durrant VK3AJV
1973-74	Ken Beaver VK3???
1975	Mike Thorne VK3ZVN
1976	Bob Duckworth VK3AIC
1977	Bill Rose VK3ZMI
1978	Graeme Wright VK3ZWG
1979-80	John Hutchinson VK3JH
1981-83	Harry Kraehenbuehl VK3NKI
1984	Ron Burns VK3COP
1985	John Hutchinson VK3JH
1985-86	Ewan McLeod VK3KAK
1986	Richard Counsel VK3YLZ
1987	Noel Rickards VK3CNR
1988	John Kelleher VK3DP
1989	Joe Magee VK3BKI



1990-91	Alan Noble VK3BBM
1991-92	Jack Bramham VK3WWW
1993-96	Max Chadwick VK3WOD / WT
1997	Chris Platt VK3KCP
1997	Tony Burt VK3TZ
1998-99	Jonas Sadauskas VK3VF
2000-02	Peter McDonald VK3DI
2003	Bert Fairchild VK3KBF
2004-05	TBA
2006-07	Anthony Hall VK3TAG
2008-09	Joe Chackravarti VK3FJBC
2010-13	Max Chadwick VK3WT
2014	Max Chadwick VK3WT / Peter Hartfield VK3PH
2015-16	Marc Hillman VK3OHM

## Treasurer

1967	Jack Gutcher VK3APU
1968	Max Palmer VK3ZMP
1969	Keith Nichols VK3ANI
1970	Keith Purchase VK3YCQ
1971	Keith Nichols VK3ANI
1972-74	Jack Gutcher VK3APU
1975-76	John Lancaster VK3ZCX
1977-78	Mike Thorne VK3ZVN
1979-80	Ian McFarlane VK3AQQ
1981-83	Paul Walton VK3AVD
1984	John Blythe VK3XR
1984	Ken Osgood VK3ALO
1985-86	Mike Nardella VK3PS
1987-89	Derek McNeil VK3BYA
1990-91	Bob Fincher VK3BRF
1992-01	John Longayroux VK3ZJH
2002	Ken Robertson VK3HKR
2003	Peter Elton VK3KG
2004-05	TBA
2006-07	Peter Elton VK3KG
2008-09	Anthony Hall VK3TAG
2010-16	John Longayroux VK3PZ

## Committee

1967	John Clark VK3GF
1967	Ken Nisbet VK3AKK



1967	Ken McLachlan VK3ZDK
1967	Max Palmer VK3ZMP
1968	John Wilson VK3LM
1968	Ray Fisher VK3ACY
1968	Vince Squires VK3AOV
1968	Keith Nicholls VK3ANI
1969-70	Bob Callander VK3AQ
1969	John Clark VK3GF
1969-70	Les Jenkins VK3ZBJ
1970	John Shaw
1970	Tony King VK3IO
1971	Bruce Pimblett
1971	Derek Clegg VK3ADO
1971	Ian Alger VK3BCK
1971	Jim Linton
1972	Bob Duckworth VK3ZRO
1972	John Beckett VK3FE
1972	John Martin VK3ZJC
1972-73	Trevor Lewellyn
1973	Reg Durrant VK3AJV
1973	Warren Deitch VK3ZWA
1974	Bob Martindale VK3BMA
1972	Albert Thurrowgood
1974	John Lancaster VK3ZCX
1975	Bob Duckworth VK3AIC
1975-81	Ken Palliser VK3GJ
1975-76	Maurie Ward VK3ZT
1976	Mike Thorne VK3ZNV
1976	Bill Rose VK3ZMI
1976-77	Max Dawkins VK3TR
1977	Keith Haslem VK3NAH
1977	Gavin Brain VK3HY
1978	Len Greaves VK3BGM
1978-84	Leo Lloyd VK3ALU
1978	Tony Kershaw VK3AQP
1978	David Hunt VK3ZYU
1979-80	Alan Noble VK3BBM
1979-83	Errol Stodden VK3NGE / XES
1981-85	Keith Haslam VK3ACE
1982-83	Peter Frederick VK3BSF
1982	Fred Storey VK3BFS
1983-84	Ken Osgood VK3ALO



1984	Paul Walton VK3PW
1984, 88	Des Bird VK3YRW / JAU
1984	Tony Kershaw VK3AOP
1985	Ken Palliser VK3GJ
1985-86	David Tilson VK3UR
1985	Don Bradbury VK3YV
1986	Richard Counsel VK3YLZ
1986	Peter Ford VK3YTB
1986	Ken West VK3CKW
1987	Ken Richards VK3CKK
1987	Craig Cook VK3CMC
1987	Mario Dolfen VK3NI
1987	Neville Stingle VK3CNS
1987	Tony Morris VK3CTM
1987	Ron Mitchell VK3XNR
1988	Liz Randall VK3JQ
1988	Stu Braunholz VK3NXA
1988	Joe Magee VK3BKI
1988	Ken Rolls VK3KJR
1989-00	Len Vermeulen VK3COD
1989-93, 03	Andy Blight VK3BFA
1989-90	Richard Counsel VK3YLZ
1989-92	Robert Habel VK3KCH
1990	Simon Osborne VK3XSJ
1990	Roger Stafford VK3TRS
1991	Jeff Daly VK3MFR
1991-93	John Bedwell VK3EHZ
1991-92	Dave Neville VK3UC
1991-00	Jack Bramham VK3MFN / WWW
1992-94	Lindsay La Pouple VK3DXH
1993	Carl Schlink VK3EMF
1993-96, 00	David Williams VK3KAB
1994-96	Chris Platt VK3NCP / KCP
1994-95	Chris Travers VK3XGT
1995-96	Ernie Lucas VK3FCX
1996	Tuck Choy VK3CCA
1997-01	Jack Bramham VK3WWW
1997	Jonas Sadauskas VK3VF
1997	Geoff Sanders VK3GMS / KB
1997-99, 02	Tony Burt VK3TZ
1998-03	Martin van Bladel VK3FH / FII
1998-99	David Werkmuller VK3EQ



2000-01	Ken Robertson VK3HKR
2000-02	Allan Tubb VK3BF
2000-01	Charles Sleeth VK3GKK
2001, 06, 10	Robert Broomhead VK3KRB / DN
2002	John Longayroux VK3ZJH
2002-03	Richard Bakunowicz VK3KF
2002	Victor Punch VK3CKD
2002	Peter Elton VK3FPE / KG
2003, 06	Michael Dunne VK3MSA
2003	David Friend VK3KIC
2003, 06	Ken McCleary VK3HKD
2003	Greg Chenco VK3BLG
2004-05	TBA
2006, 08	Andrew Blight VK3BFA
2006-16	Layton Moss VK3CLJ
2006	Bryan Pliatsios VK3HXR
2006-07	David Byrne VK3DRB
2007-12	Colin Perger VK3FQL / KWM
2007-08	Graeme Downie VK3ZGD
2008-09	Jim McNabb VK3AMN
2008	John Fisher VK3ARK
2009	Michele Grant VK3FEAT
2009-13, 16	Damien Ayres VK3SOX / KQ
2010-11	Andrew Kayton VK3KIS
2010	Harry Kraehenbuehl VK3QY
2011-16	Bob Duckworth VK3AIC
2011-13	Ralph Parkhurst VK3LL
2012-15	Bob Tait VK3XP
2013-16	Roger Baker VK3BKR
2013	Matthew Dulak VK3EVL
2014-16	John Antonello VK3ZAF
2014	Marc Hillman VK3OHM
2014	Andrew Scott VK3BQ
2014-16	Greg Smith VK3XGS / ND
2015	Trevor Scott VK3VTX
2016	David Green VK3DGN

## Awards Manager

1971-72, 76	Jack Gutcher VK3APU
1977-78	Dusty Miller VK3AYO
1980-82	Peter Frederick VK3BSF
1983	Max Bryant VK3DMR



1984	Gwen Tilson VK3DYL
1985-98	Frank Vanderdrift VK3COF
2003	Peter McDonald VK3DI

## Bulletin Editor

1967-68	John Beckett VK3FE
1969-70	Ian McKellar VK3ZAM
1971-72	Tony King VK3IO
1972-75	Heather Duckworth (Typist)
1973-74	John Martin VK3ZJC
1973-75	Margaret Beaver (Typist)
1975	Dave Brain VK3ADD
1975-76,79-80	Mike Thorne VK3ZVN / BKK
1977	Geoff Atkinson VK3YFA
1978	Graeme Hattwell VK3NGH
1980-82	Bruce Marshall VK3VKT
1981-84	Gwen Tilson VK3KYL / DYL (Typist)
1983	Fred Storey VK3BFS
1984-86	Paul Walton VK3PW
1987-89	David Jewell VK3DAJ
1989-93	Andy Blight VK3BFA
1990	Des Bird VK3EDB
1993-00	Max Chadwick VK3WT
2001	Brian Ezard VK3NAY
2001-03	Ken McCleary VK3HKD, Bob Toll VK3TKZ
2009-16	David Nisbet VK3XDA

## Class Instructors

1970	John Beckett VK3FE
1970	John Boyce VK3AXF
1970	Tony King VK3IO
1975-79	Ken Palliser VK3GJ
1979	John Hutchinson VK3JH
1979	Gil Sones VK3AUJ
1979	Art Coolidge VK3AOK
1979	Mike Thorne VK3BKK
1979	Derek Dawkins VK3KX
1979-84 CW	Des Clarke VK3DES
1979-84 CW	Bill Wilson VK3DXE
1984-98 CW	Len Vermeulen VK3COD
1998-16	Jonas Sadauskas VK3VF
2003 CW	Allan Tubb VK3B



2010-16	Robert Broomhead VK3DN (Foundation)
2010-16	Damien Ayres VK3KQ (Foundation)
2015	Bob Duckworth VK3AIC (Standard / Advanced)

### **Education Co-ordinator**

2002-03	Peter McDonald VK3DI
2009	John Fisher VK3ARK
2010	Bryan Pliatsios VK3HXR
2011-16	Keith Proctor VK3FT

### **Examinations**

1993-94	Geoff Atkinson VK3YFA
1995	Jack Bramham VK3WWW
2009	John Fisher VK3ARK
1996-16	Keith Proctor VK3FT

### **Guest Speaker Co-ordinator**

1997-15	Carl Schlink VK3EMF
2016	Emma / Tom Mackey VK3FTOM

### **Librarian**

1968-72	Alex Bell
1997-98	Des Bird VK3EDB
2001-16	Drew Diamond VK3XU

### **Public Officer**

1986-93	Mike Nardella VK3PS
1994-10	Geoff Atkinson VK3YFA / AFA
2011-13	Max Chadwick VK3WT
2014 onwards	See Secretary

### **Publicity Officer & Public Relations**

1967	Bill Colbourne
1968	John Beckett VK3FE
1968	John Gutcher VK3APU
1968	Trevor Llewellyn
1968	Keith Nicholls VK3ANI
1968	John Wilson VK3LM
1969-70	Tony King VK3IO
1972	Keith Purchase VK3YCQ
1972-74	Alex Bell
1973	Ian McKellar VK3ZAM



1973	Ray Fisher VK3ACY
1974	Harry Jupp VK3AJU
1977	Lin Brown VK3ARL
1980-84	Keith Haslam VK3ACE
1985	John O'Rorke VK3XS
1998-01	Ken Robertson VK3HKR
2002	Robert Broomhead VK3KRB

## QSL Manager

1967-68	Peter Norden
1968-69	Wally Walker
1970	Gerry Lane VK3ABS
1971-72	Jack Gutcher VK3APU
1973	Ian Whitehead VK3YDT
1974	John Watkins VK3EW
1975-78	Lionel Curling VK3NM
1979	Len Greaves VK3BGM
1980	Lionel Curling VK3NM
1981-85	Des Clarke VK3DES
1986-00	Gwen Tilson VK3DYL
2001-16	Max Chadwick VK3WT

## Repeaters

1982	John O'Rorke VK3XS
1983-84	Keith Haslam VK3ACE
1986-12	Roger Baker VK3BKR
2013-16	Ralph Parkhurst VK3LL

## Sales / Disposals / Kits / Components / Projects / Trading Table

1967-69	John Beckett VK3FE
1967	Norm Richardson VK3ZTC
1968	Vince Squires VK3AOV
1968	Trevor Llewellyn
1968	Ray Fisher VK3ACY
1969	Howard Jones VK3ZHX
1969-71	Gil Sones VK3AUI
1970	Bob Halligan VK3AOT
1970	Ian Alger VK3BCK
1971	Ken Richards
1971-72	Chris van Lint
1972	Dave Moore VK3YEN
1973	Geoff Atkinson



1974	Ray Fisher VK3ACY
1974	John Wilson VK3LM
1975-82	Maurie Ward VK3ZT
1986	Don Bradbury VK3YV
1987	David Tilson VK3UR
1987-91	Harry Kraehenbuehl VK3KBA
1988	Joe Magee VK3BKI
1993	Mal LeMaistre VK3KSA
1995-97	John Longayroux VK3ZJH
2002	Tony Burt VK3TZ
2003	David Friend VK3KIC
2004-16	Layton Moss VK3CLJ

### Special Event Calls

1996-00	Gwen Tilson VK3DYL
2000-02	Peter McDonald, VK3DI
2003	Bert Fairchild VK3KBF

### Transmitting Officers, VK3ER, VK3BNW, VK3RTY, VK3COD

1967-68 ER	Reg Durrant VK3AJV
1969-70 ER	Ken Nisbet VK3AKK
1971 ER	Reg Durrant VK3AJV
1972 ER	John Beckett VK3FE
1972-76 ER	Jack Gutcher VK3APU
1976-79 BNW	John Hutchinson VK3JH
1977-78 ER	Dusty Miller VK3AYO
1979 ER	Alan Noble VK3BBM
1980-82 ER	Peter Frederick VK3BSF
1980-83 BNW	Harry Kraehenbuehl VK3NKI
1983 ER	Max Bryant VK3DMR
1984 ER	Gwen Tilson VK3DYL
1984-86 BNW	Paul Walton VK3PW
1984-85 RTY	Harry Kraehenbuehl VK3KBA
1984-86 RTY	Gordon Bennett VK3BWG
1985 ER	Frank Vanderdrift VK3COF
1985 RTY	Bruce Keilar VK3KWK
1985 RTY	Lindsay Rohriach VK3KAF
1986 ER	David McAulay VK3EW
1986-87 BNW	Bruce McCubbin VK3SO
1987 ER	John Kelleher VK3DP
1987-91 BNW	Paul Walton VK3PW
1988-89 ER	Liz Randall VK3JQ



1990, 92-97 BNW	Bruce McCubbin VK3SO
1993 ER	Mal LeMaistre VK3KSA
1994-96 ER	Chris Platt VK3NCP
1997-03 ER	Jack Bramham VK3WWW
2001 BNW	Jonas Sadauskas VK3VT
2002-03 BNW	Carl Schlink VK3EMF
2002-03 COD	Allan Tubb VK3BF
2009-13	Andrew Kayton VK3KIS
2014-16 ER	David Scott VK3FMPW (Wednesday evening net)
2014-15 BNW	Carl Schlink VK3EMF (Sunday morning net)
2015-16 ER / BNW	Peter Hartfield VK3PH (Sunday morning net)

## Webmaster

1996-97	Sergio Fontana
1998-16	John Longayroux VK3ZJH / PZ
2012-16	Andrew Scott VK3BQ