

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc December 2015 Newsletter



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On-line Supplement Go To Our Website: ahars.com.au

- Our SK's, Rx and Windows bug?, Buy & Sell, August Meeting, and more....

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

There has been quite a lot going on in this last quarter and in particular the last couple of weeks. At the beginning of December we were advised by the Girl Guides Association that the Blackwood chapter is going into recession. I am arranging a meeting with the director of GGSA to see what implications or opportunities this might mean for us. They have agreed to honour our current contract so there should not be any changes to what happens to the Shack in the short term so there are no major concerns for the moment.

The kits program has entered a new beginning, with the release of the much anticipated VK5JST VHF Analyser. This kit is a significant advance on the earlier HF unit and now covers the VHF band up to ~170Mhz and is considerably more accurate. Now it has been released through our Website, the demand for it has gone through the roof, and Roy VK5NRG has been seen running back and forth to the post office (tongue hanging out !) trying to keep up with the mailing dispatches ! Much effort has been put into getting the first batch of 50 kits (we had enough parts for 100 kits) assembled and ready for dispatch, but at the rate they are going we will need to generate the next batch of 50 very shortly and order more parts for the next 100 units.

The Club picnic will be held as usual at the Bridgewater Lions Park, at this time it is pencilled in for Sunday January 17th, but this year we are intending to have the event catered for if possible, with the usual salad / sweets to share and BYO drinks. Further information will be made available as it comes to hand, by circular and Sunday broadcast, I have already put my request in for another good day for it !

A reminder that the next meeting and AGM will occur on February 18th 2016 and we are looking for nominations from members to be on the Committee, nomination forms are available from our secretary Jean VK5TSX. All committee members need to have a current police clearance certificate as it is Club policy in light of our Child Protection Policy, a copy of which is on our Web site.

All nominations must be in to the secretary 21 clear days before the AGM as per the constitution (section 6.2i) and must have a proposer and nominees acceptance signature on the form to be valid.

Unfortunately we have had a few members go to 'silent key' status this year and we will be poorer for their loss, but on the brighter side, we have also added quite a few new members to our ranks during the year and managed to get a few upgrade assessments completed as well.

The Web site is being looked at now by a professional and ideas and concepts are being readied to present to the committee for their perusal, suggestions and ultimately, approval. For the moment I have been updating the appropriate sections with news and other items.

The new years general meeting and the shack programs are being to be formulated as of now, we welcome suggestions on what you would like to see and hear, and with the success of the visit this year to the Aviation museum, I think that a visit or two for next year will be on the agenda.

Finally, I wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and may Santa bring you what you wished for, and we will see you in the new year.

Cheers for now & 73 from Barry, VK5BW.

EDITORIAL

We've said farewell to a few good old friends this year - Ted, Joy, and Horst. We remember these fine people in our daily lives, as we forge on, not content to let the grass grow under our feet, as they certainly didn't. Thanks very much to our hard-pressed publishers - Kaye and Michael Roden - who somehow always manage to turn my rough-edged publication into a work of art, and also provide much-needed proof reading (unlike some of our major newspapers!)

Next year looks very promising for AHARS, vide our President's Column, and continued good leadership within the ranks of our most fortunate society.

John, VK5EMI, Editor. (--... ---!)



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc Club Program 2015

	DATE & TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Regular gatherings	2nd & 4th Fridays	Regular Luncheon (All welcome)	Blackwood RSL, Brighton Parade
	2nd Fridays	ALARA Luncheons	Contact Jean, vk5tsx@bigpond.com
	2nd Saturdays	Social get-togethers	The Shack
	4th Saturdays	Technical mornings	The Shack
DECEMBER	Sunday 13th	Christmas Luncheon	Belair Hotel
2016 JANUARY	Sunday 17th	Club BBQ and picnic	Lions Park, Bridgewater. Main course is catered for, but BYO salads or sweets, and drinks.
FEBRUARY	Thursday 18th	Annual General Meeting	Blackwood Community Centre

QSL Corner

If you're looking for something a little different, why not try one of the regular HF nets? I wandered into the ANZA (Australia, New Zealand, Africa Net), on November the 5th, and had a pleasant and relaxing time, listening to, and working a few overseas stations.

Nets are a relaxed and easy way to learn the ropes, and to pick up new countries if you wish.

Each net is controlled by a competent and (usually!) patient amateur, who ensures that everyone on net has a fair chance to contact any other station that has checked in.

I made contact with Mike (VK4LMB), the Net Controller (as one must!), Maurice (FK8HZ), in New Caledonia, John (VK7XX), and Andy (E50A), Rarotonga, in the South Cook Islands.

All most enjoyable.

The ANZA Net is run daily, starting at 05:15 UTC (15:45 Central Summer Time), and is on 14.183 MHz.

You don't need a beam or 400 Watts (I have neither), and, as it's not a contest, you'll get a fair go at making contacts with some interesting stations.

MYSTERY CALLSIGN:

Does any member know of VK5QH?

The call is not registered on the ACMA Register, but maybe the call has lapsed.

If you recognise this callsign, please contact me,

as I have a QSL card for him.

John, VK5EMI, AHARS QSL Manager.

Note the danger of
having cats in the
shack! ►



2015 BUY AND SELL



(Above) Photos taken before the opening of the doors:

A few familiar rogues (vendors to some) waiting for the crowds to flood in. From The President: "The Buy & Sell ... went well this year, with increased attendance figures ... I spoke with several of the commercial attendees and they seemed to be very satisfied with this year's event ." Thanks as usual to all the workers, including our lovely ladies who, besides feeding the hungry hordes, brighten up the place!

More photos in the on-line supplement.

TED MACKENZIE, VK5KBM, SK.

AHARS recently said goodbye to a long-time and much-loved friend, when Ted, aged 91, passed away on November the 6th.

A good number of AHARS' people , amongst other amateurs and other friends attended his funeral. At The Florey Chapel, Centennial Park.

Here are some tributes from two "senior" Amateur Radio people:

From Rob, VK5RG: "Ted was a frequent supplier and demonstrator on the use of Plastic in Amateur Radio. He relayed the WIA Broadcast each week on 28MHz on behalf of AHARS.

He was frequently the mirth and life of the party at the regular AHARS luncheons at the Blackwood RSL Club. He suffered my Morse Code at practice sessions at my house.

He was a good cook and produced wonderful morsels at afternoon teas at his home. Rob"

From The President: "It is with great sadness that I have to advise that another of our long time members has passed away, he was VK5KBM, **Edward (Ted) McKenzie** at the tender age of 90 + a few. I have had the pleasure of being able to sit down and chat with Ted from time to time, usually when returning something he had asked me to repair. He was very keen on experimenting with antennas, and was always doing something outside making changes of some sort. He will be sadly missed. Barry."

From The Editor: My son and I had— only a few months before - put up one leg of Ted's new 80m dipole—quite a memorable saga, and one rewarded with a cup of tea and a nice chat, as Ted was wont to do!

Our condolences to the family, who obviously loved this lovable character.

Rest in Peace, Ted. Ed.



A recent photo of Ted, at the base of his tower.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

WAY DOWN SOUTH

COMMS IN ANTARCTIC REGIONS

Rob Gurr lent me some copies of the magazine "Aurora", which is the journal of the ANARE Club. (ANARE = Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions).

A photo (below) of a reunion of ANARE people piqued my interest, so I began some research of my own.

Working down at the various Antarctic bases was indeed a challenge, particularly in the early days, and we can safely regard those people as pioneers. Four of our AHARS members have done work down in the far southern climes of our Australian territory.

Rob Gurr, (VK5RG): 12 months at Macquarie Island, 1952/1953. Callsign VK1RG.

Keith Gooley, (VK5OQ): Wintered in Antarctica, Mawson 1971, Ionospheric Physicist and Casey 1974, Glaciologist. Callsign VK0MX. Also spent 1 month at Macquarie Island in 1983, Electronic Engineer.

Graham Whiteside, VK5GW:

Mark Spooner, VK5AQV:

Editor's Note: My own cousin, Brian Wall, was stationed at Wilkes Base in 1960. There he carried out the first ionospheric measurements by an Australian, from that location. Before setting off for Casey, Brian was trained in Morse Code by Rob, VK5RG. Brian was issued with a Limited Licence, VK5CX. For Wilkes, he was issued with full licence privileges. He took photos of the traces on a CRO, which showed the reflections of the various frequencies from the ionosphere.

Radio was essential in those early days, before satellite communications made things much easier. Erecting aerials was a difficult and often dangerous activity.

If you're planning on travelling to Hobart at some stage, go to Mawson Place, on the waterfront, to see the Mawson's Hut replica. It includes a replica wireless from the original hut.

Note - for more Antarctic news, see the On-line version of this Newsletter - Ed.

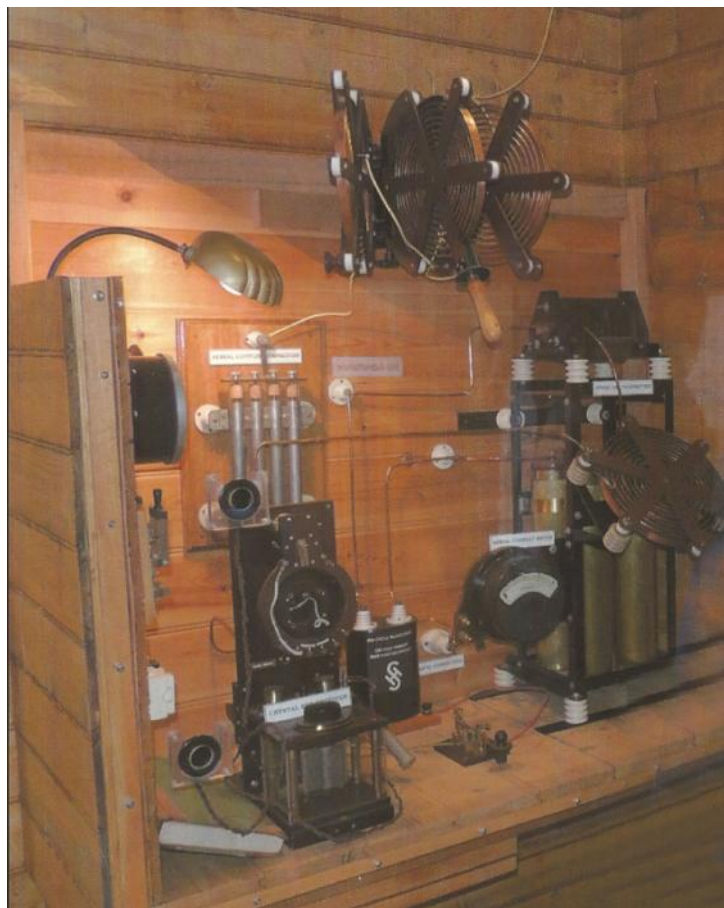


ANARE Club Reunion. Adelaide. Midwinter 2014

Some familiar faces evident!

From Aurora magazine, June 2014.

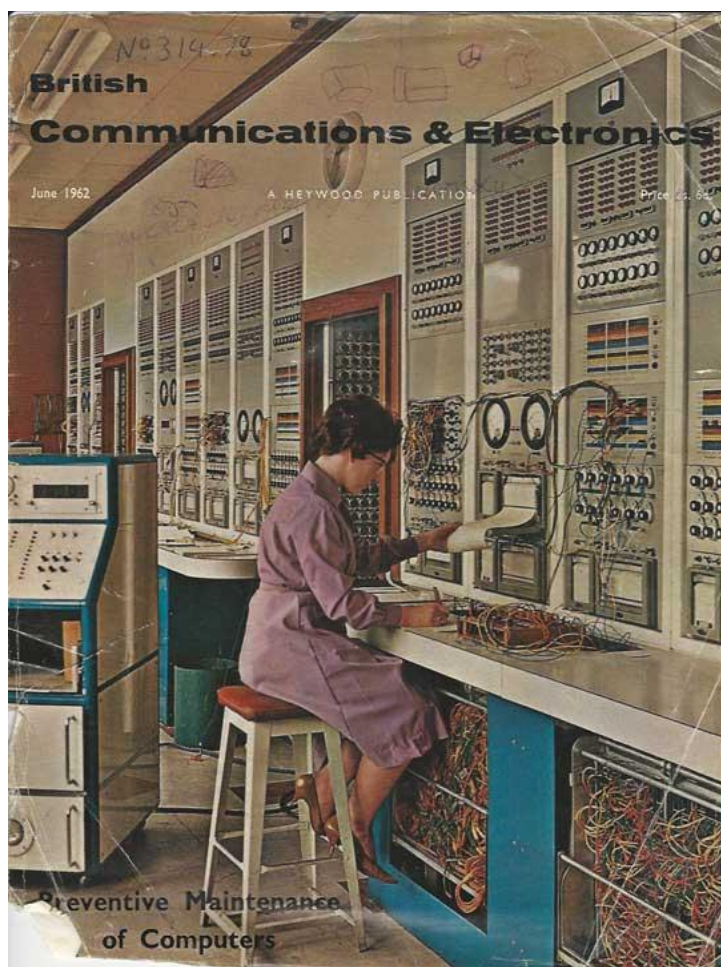
Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc SNIPPETS



*Replica radio in the Mawson Huts
Replica Museum in Hobart.*

(See article on opposite page.)

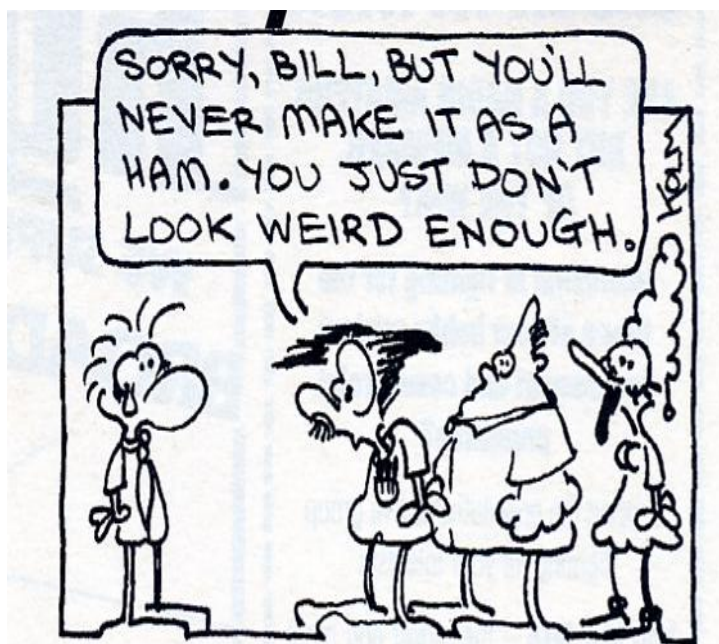
*Most of the wood panelling is Baltic Pine,
imported from Finland for authenticity.
From "Aurora" magazine, December 2014.*



*Don't complain about "bulky" computers!
A 1962 Ferranti. It cost a lot more
and had a lot more maintenance than
modern computers. But, it worked,
and it was a marvel in its time.*

Seasonal Stress Relief

May, 1965



*Reproduced with the kind permission of
the ARRL.*

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

DOC'S DABBLINGS

LIFE ON 630 METRES.

Whilst many pioneering amateurs are reaching up into SHF, some others are pioneering at the other end of our spectrum. Thanks to Doc (VK5BUG) for these two articles.

MF AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATION

The RSGB has expressed interest in publishing a new amateur radio production, *"MF Down Under"*, an edited anthology of 44 articles related to 630 & 160m operation in VK & Oceania, written by 22 notable Australian amateurs. Edited by Dr David "Doc" Wescombe-Down VK5BUG, the book contains eight chapters, approximately 200 pages, References, Resources & Index, embracing a pot pourri of local MF theory and construction project material for 630 & 160m bands operation in Australia & Oceania.

It seeks to provide a one-stop shop in either/both book/disk format to inform new aspirants & other interested parties interested in commencing and continuing a working relationship on the MF amateur bands. Setting up a suburban MF station is not as onerous as some would have us believe, and both bands offer excitement, homebrewing opportunities and a lot of fun in this era of commercial "buy, plug & play" communication. So far this year, the Editor has successfully worked distances of 2000Km on 630m manual CW and 18000Km on 160m manual CW, including Europe (during February), Japan, USA & West Malaysia from his inner city residence (April through October)

Greater MF amateur operation is being encouraged. For example, both 630 & 160m were activated during 25-30 April for the special callsign VI4AE2 Anzac centenary commemoration, with the 630m operation being a world first.

A second & more comprehensive Anzac commemoration acknowledging the Royal Australian Navy Bridging Train (RANBT) safe evacuation of 30 000 Anzacs from Kangaroo Beach (Suvla Bay) will run from 12-20 December on 630 through 6m on AM, CW & SSB involving a team of 5 ex-RAN, 2 ex-RAAF, 1 ex-Army, 1 ex-coast station operator & 1 pilot/technician operators. The QSL card is not the standard VI4ANZAC version, but has been specially approved for this acknowledgment of the RAN being "first in, last out" of the Gallipoli campaign. Further details will be forthcoming via AR magazine & the WIA broadcast.

The anthology does not include the LF band 2200m/136kHz.

Publication specifics including an anticipated release date are currently being negotiated, with on or before 31 January 2016 as a possibility .

Further details will be made available as they unfold.

de Doc/VK5BUG Thursday, 12 November 2015 7:32 AM

"VI4AE2" April 25th ~30th 2015

World First 630m Band Special Event Station

On April 25th 2015, in honour of the Gallant Officers and Sailors of His Majesty's Australian Submarine "AE2", the special event amateur radio call sign VI4AE2 went to air on the 630m Band, as a World First.

This was undertaken by both, Peter Hewitson VK4QC, and David Wescombe-Down, VK5BUG by way of their MF Stations in Queensland and South Australia.

Both men succeeded in making World First contacts on Anzac Day, 2015 on the 630m Band. Their CW signals emulated the transmission by Royal Australian Navy Telegrapher, William Wolsley Falconer, aboard HMAS AE2, operating the Marconi Type 10M/F Transmitter.

Falconer was indeed unaware if his signal had actually been transmitted, and had no way of confirming that it had been received, as both his Transmitter and Receiver were playing up despite his best efforts to confirm them working.

Luckily for everyone, his signal was indeed received by the Royal Navy destroyer HMS JED, stationed at the entrance of the Dardanelles, some 35 miles away. The Telegraphers aboard HMS JED upon receiving Falconer's signal, continued to relay it to HMAS QUEEN ELEZABETH until they received a confirmation, against regulations. The signal from HMAS AE2 led to Hamilton deciding that the Anzacs would indeed stay on and fight at Gallipoli.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank both Dave and Peter for their operations on the 630m Band in memory of Telegrapher William Falconer, and the brave crew of HMAS AE2 in the Dardanelles. It was certainly a highlight of the VI4AE2 operations.

By Michael J. Charteris, VK4QS, Ex AB.EWS, Royal Australian Navy, and submitted by Doc.



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

THE TELEGRAPH

- WHAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN.

Definition: *A telegraph is a communications system in which information is transmitted over a wire through a series of electrical current pulses, usually in the form of Morse code.*

The credit for inventing the telegraph generally falls to two sets of researchers: Sir William Cooke (1806-79) and Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-75) in England; and (a little later) to Samuel Morse, Leonard Gale (1800-83) and Alfred Vail (1807-59) in the U.S.

The Cooke-Wheatstone system went through several versions, from 6 wire (5 needles, giving 20 characters, in 1838) to 2 needles (3 wires, 24 characters), and finally to a one-needle (2 wire, 26 characters) system. The latter was quite slow, though.

In 1844, to transmit messages by telegraph, Morse and Vail created what came to be known as Morse code. The code assigned letters in the alphabet and numbers a set of dots (short marks) and dashes (long marks) based on the frequency of use of each letter. Initially, the code, when transmitted over the telegraph system, was rendered as marks on a piece of paper that the telegraph operator would then translate back into English.

Rather quickly, however, it became apparent that the operators were able to hear and understand the code just by listening to the clicking of the receiver, so the paper was replaced by a receiver (sound box) that created more pronounced beeping (clacking) sounds.

American physicist Joseph Henry (1797-1878), in collaboration with Gale and Vail, Morse eventually produced a single-circuit telegraph that worked by pushing the operator key down to complete the electric circuit of the battery .

Why did the original telegraph system (Wheatstone) get replaced by Morse System? The Morse system was much faster (30 or more wpm, compared to 5), and only needed one wire, the earth providing the return. The transmitter and receiver for Morse was also simpler. Note that Morse (who gets all of the credit), devised a limited system - only the digits 0 to 9. Each word would be represented by a code number, and that number transmitted to the other end of the line. At that end, the operator would look up the word that corresponded to the number received. Mr Vail extended the code to cover all of the characters of the alphabet, plus some special characters.

From then on, there was no need to look up a list of numbers to ascertain each word. The modern "Morse" is a variation on the original, from the work of Gerke in 1848, and brought to its current International form at the 1865 ITU Congress.

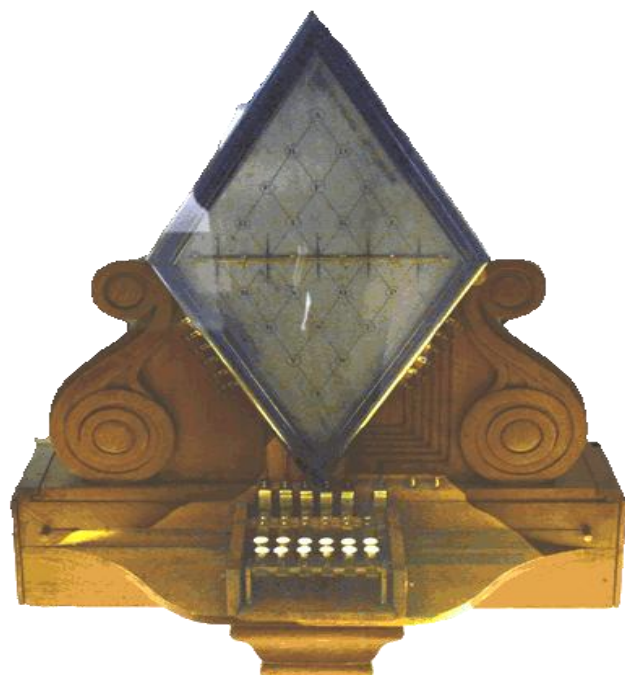
Morse also was ideal for radio comms, and was the primary means for transmitting messages until about 1989.

More information can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.history.com/topics/inventions/telegraph> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooke_and_Wheatstone_telegraph

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse_code

John, VK5EMI



Wheatstone's 5 needle telegraph machine. There are 20 characters on the face, and the received character (letter) is indicated by the direction that any 2 needles are pointing to. Just below that is the keyboard for transmitting.
British Museum. Photo VK5EMI.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

GENERAL INFORMATION, NOTICES & CLUB CONTACTS



Club Projects

HF/VHF Antennalyser kits.
Saturday morning technical talks.
Details from Roy Gabriel,
VK5NRG. Ph 8278 2522.

Amateur Radio Licence
Study Courses and Examinations
Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences.

Please See Club Program For Dates
Location: The Shack, Blackwood.

Contact Sasi Nayar VK5SN
0417 858 547 or email vk5sn@wia.org.au

Club Weekly Net on VK5RAD
Listen to or join in on Monday nights
from 8 pm to about 9:30 pm local time.
Receive frequency is 147.00 MHz, with -600 KHz offset.
Net Controller: Jim (VK5TR);
Dean (VK5LB); or Barry (VK5BW)
All licensed amateurs are welcome.

VK5RAD (Crafrers Repeater)

The Repeater Controller is Barry Williams.
All enquiries, including requests for access, etc,
are to be made through him.
Phone 8339 5683 or email vk5bw@wia.org.au

Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA)

<http://www.alara.org.au/>
State Representative: Jean VK5TSX
Phone: 08 8322 0066

Encouraging women's interest and active participation in Amateur Radio.

ALARA was formed in 1975 by a small group of Australian ladies interested in Amateur Radio. Membership has now grown to over 200, with many Australian members sponsoring overseas YLs into ALARA.

The term "YL" stands for "Young Lady"
regardless of age.

The SA group meets at 12.00pm
on the 2nd Friday of each month
in the Grand Chancellor Hotel, 18 Currie St, Adelaide.

They have a net on 80 metres on Mondays
at 1000 UTC in winter and 1030 UTC during
summer (day light savings time) at 3.570 MHz.
There are also EchoLink skeds.

CLUB CONTACTS

Club President	Barry Williams VK5BW
Vice President	Paul Simmonds VK5PAS
Secretary	Jean Kopp VK5TSX
Treasurer	Peter Reichelt VK5APR
Licence Training	Sasi Nayar VK5SN

08 8339 5683

08 8391 2397

08 8322 0066

08 8352 5904

See Opposite

Meetings & Venue

AHARS meets on the third Thursday of each month, commencing at 7:30 pm., at the Blackwood Community Centre, Young Street, Blackwood.)

Postal Address

A.H.A.R.S P.O. Box 401, Blackwood, 5051.

Website Address & On-Line Newsletter

The address for our website is:

www.ahars.com.au

Thanks to Paul Simmons, our new web-master.

Articles For The Club Newsletter

Projects, anecdotes, experiences, ideas, advice, etc, all make interesting and useful reading, and will be much appreciated.

Please forward directly to the

Editor- John Elliott VK5EMI

phone 8278 1269 or by email (best)
to vk5emi@wia.org.au

Publishers-

Michael & Kaye Roden VK5FMTR
email - visit01@bigpond.net.au

**Our Next
Newsletter
Will Be
Published In
March 2016**



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- A final Christmas Thought

WORKSHOP PROJECT—Making up Antennalyser Kits at The Shack.
November 27.

BUY AND SELL. November 1st, at The Goodwood Community Centre.



The ladies at the gate. Deidre, Tina and Shirley



All photos by Lyle Whyatt, VK5WL.

SILENT KEYS—a brief reminder of friends lost to AR in the past 12 months.

Silent Keys include Ronald Andrews (VK5RA, late last year), Joy Charles (VK5YJ), Ted Mackenzie (VK5KBM), and Horst Scheer (VK5ZLW).

I note that Horst made it to the October meeting, obviously in poor health, and on a walking frame, but it was plain that he wasn't going to miss his last opportunity to come to a meeting!

"Windows bug ruining your receiver's performance."?

There's a bug with the USB audio chipset used in many ham radio sound interfaces that occurs in Windows Vista and later. The affected chipset is the TI PCM2900 series PCM2904 and below, pre-C revisions.

A non-exhaustive list of devices using this chip and therefore have the bug guaranteed:

All Icoms with built in USB Audio

All Kenwoods with built in USB Audio

All Yaesu with built in USB Audio, as well as the SCU-17 Interface

All Signalink USB's

If you have one of these devices, and are on **Windows Vista or later**, your performance is reduced due to this bug even if you think it's working fine. Wait until you see your performance afterwards! This is confirmed by Texas Instruments, who never recommended this chipset for use on Windows Vista and later in the first place, and also tested with more than 70 hams who gained massive receive performance after the fix.

<https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/3eytah/hugebug>

Please log onto the link above for the full story.

From Graham Whiteside, VK5GW. *[Thanks, Graham. Ed]*

MEETING REPORT, AUGUST 20

Talk by Bob Nutt, ex-Foreign Office (FO), UK.

Bob's talk covered from Morse Code to Emails = from 75 Baud to 300 to Megabits!

At its peak, the Foreign Office had 250 foreign missions.

There was a listening post (radio signals) at Hanslope Park*.

The Piccolo System replaced Morse messages in 1963. Speed was 30 wpm. Slower, but more secure.

Piccolo was MFSK (Multi Frequency Shift Keying). 33 frequencies were employed - each frequency represented one character. Piccolo MK6 used a 6 tone system.

The FO's first computer was a Ferranti, with 256 Kb of RAM, and 60 Mb of disk space.

[More information on: <http://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Piccolo>].

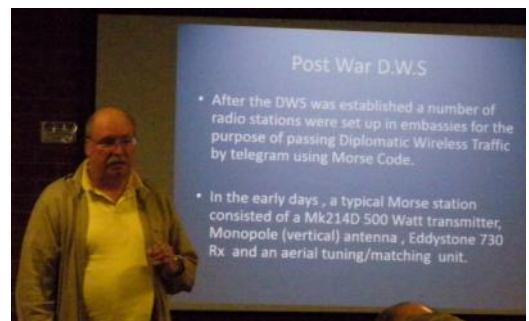
That system closed down in 1996.

Now, The Internet and emails carry FO traffic.

EXTRA NOTES:

In the [Second World War](#) the [Radio Security Service](#) was based at Hanslope Park. The mathematician and [cryptologist Alan Turing](#) worked there in the latter part of the War on secure speech "scrambling". Today HMGCC researches, designs, develops and produces communications systems, equipment and related hardware and software. (From Wikipedia.)

* Hanslope Park is about 12 Kms north west of Bletchley Park (Milton Keynes), and 100 Kms NW of London.



Bob giving his presentation.

Detective Blundell from SAPOL : Internet Safety & Computer Fraud

From my March 2015 Meeting notes.

Yes, it's a bit late, but I've just discovered my notes from this meeting. I think that the topic is well-worth publishing here, and important to all users of computers.

Many of the below may seem like "commonsense", but commonsense also relies on a reasonable amount of background knowledge, so here's some background knowledge:

- REPORT Cybercrime (attempted or successful) to ACORN.gov.au
(Always report such to ACORN, even if you feel embarrassed by being caught out.)
If reporting to the Police/ACORN, retain the dodgy email and any related emails, and details of what may have been said, etc, until the matter is fully settled.
(You can create a folder "SCAMS" in your email system, and drag all such emails into that.)
- Don't pay any money to someone who is buying from you—it will be a scam.
- Don't send money to Western Union, unless you know the recipient.
- Don't pay any money for "prizes that you've won", or appear to have won.
- ATO (Australian Taxation Office) doesn't send out unsolicited emails.
- The FBI or API can't look at your screen.
Nor can the "Microsoft" callers who call up to unsolicited to "help" you with your problems.
They are simply after your bank details, etc.
- Use Google Image Search or Tin Eye to find the origin of images.
- Don't click on links in emails:
You may hover the mouse (don't click) over links in emails to view the actual link.
If in the slightest doubt, close the email and delete it.
Note that I recently (December) had a dodgy email. It appeared to be from ANZ Bank, but the real link, hidden behind the pretend one, was something.amz.com.
I reported this one to the bank security service.
- Dodgy emails from unsafe enterprises will usually state "Dear customer" or the like, and not your name. Delete them or report them.
- PHISHING—someone after your personal details
- KEEP UP TO DATE: Update your software as prompted.
- BACKUP YOUR DATA REGULARLY: External drives are cheap, and easy to use.
- PASSWORDS: Ensure that the password on your on-line banking account is very different to all other passwords on your PC.
- MOBILE PHONE: Have anti virus software installed. Keep wireless off whenever possible.
- PROTECTION OF YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS. A metal wallet or even alfoil wrapping prevents the details on your card being read by remote card readers..
- FACEBOOK: Restrict access to your profile to only those you know. Don't place personal details there ("I'll be away from date to date," etc.)
- Don't give out email addresses to phone callers.

This list is comprehensive, but not complete! If in doubt, don't click on it:

[and, finally, if it sounds too good to be true—it is! Ed.]

A NOTE FROM ALICE SPRINGS

Dear John and Deidre

Hope this reaches you before you set out for W.A. in the heat of summer. It has been very hot here this summer, demoralizing. Thank you for your Christmas Newsletter, you have more to write about than myself. Sorry you find morse code hard to learn, I learnt it from Mrs Mackenzie in 1942. She had words of songs to fit in with the morse music such as H ... "to hell with it," H "this isn't it". She also sent her students to higher speed classes, with the advice "just take down what you can get" and it worked for me. When I was really doing about 10 w.p.m she sent me into the 20 w.p.m class, with the same advice.

1996

To Deidre, John
James and Scott
...may the best of everything
be yours.
from Moira VK8NW

A note on learning Morse Code from MOIRA MILLGATE, VK8NW

Moira was in the WRANS

[Women's Royal Australian Naval Service], in World War II, as part of the Australian Intelligence Service, and helped gain military information from enemy radio transmissions.

Moira was proficient in four languages (English, French, Japanese, and I think, German.)

A talented lady!

At the time of this note from her, (1996), I was fighting ("ie, trying to learn") the demon code.

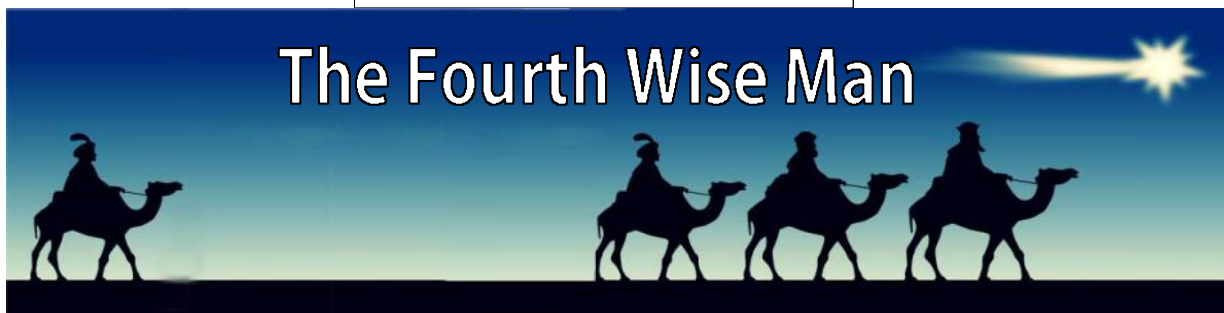
I eventually passed the 10 wpm in 1998, and even progressed to 20 wpm (copying only). I was 54 years of age then, and pretty proud of myself!

I finally met Moira in 1998, in Alice Springs. We'd been introduced, by Bill Trezise, VK5RA, sometime before 1996. Moira became a Silent Key sometime in the early 2000's.

[I felt privileged to have known and met such a talented person—Ed.]

FOOTNOTE: Moira must have written some articles for the local newspaper, The Centralian Advocate. In an article that she wrote in 1954, she comments how her husband, Geoff, a policeman, fell off his horse at a local gymkhana, resulting "in a call for the Flying Doctor, and a quick trip up and back to the Alice. It was a bit of bad luck, which put the long arm of the law in a sling for the remainder of the festivities." (From Trove—Ed.)

The Fourth Wise Man



Three Wise Men came to Bethlehem, following a star,
Their names, we're told were Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar.
One brought a gift of frankincense, the others, myrrh and gold.
They came to greet the newborn king, the Gospel story told.

They gave their gifts to Jesus, in the manger where he lay.
His mother offered coffee, but they said they couldn't stay.
They got back on their camels – near the stable they'd been tied-
And, as they headed off back east, Mary softly sighed.

"I really don't need perfume – though myrrh of course is tops,
And gold is always useful, but we're nowhere near the shops,
And frankincense is lovely – but a stable's not the place.
I hope they're not the wisest men in all the human race."

"It was very good of them to come from such a far-off land,
After all that time on camels, it's a wonder they could stand.
But bringing Jesus gifts of myrrh and frankincense and gold –
It's just not very practical – he's only ten days old!"

Next afternoon a man appeared outside the stable gate,
He said he was the Fourth Wise Man – and sorry he was late.
"I've brought some things I thought you'd need – it's just a little gift.
A quick inspection of his bag gave Mary's heart a lift.

A frozen casserole was there, and a stuffed and fluffy toy,
Some baby clothes in pastel blue – he'd guessed it was a boy!
"The thought of washing nappies", Mary cried, "need not unnerve us –
For here's a six-month voucher for a nappy washing service!"

She turned to thank the stranger, but the stranger wasn't there;
He'd slipped away and vanished in the chilly, winter air.
But on the gate he'd left a note, quite simple, but profound –
"Don't write this in the Gospel, please – I'd never live it down!"

So don't forget the Fourth Wise Man – wisest of the lot.
He brought the really useful gifts the other three forgot.
If thoughts of gold and frankincense and myrrh don't leave you glum,
It's because you're prob'ly not a young, and new (and first time)
Mum

Dermot Dorgan

