

## **AHARS Presidents report for the year 2017-2018 – Page 1**

Taking over the presidency in 2017, I did not know what I had let myself in for. The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the WIA AGM and Convention and I am very thankful for the excellent work the Convention Committee did to make this event an outstanding success.

We had a good mix of topics presented at the general meetings and at the Shack Technical sessions. Thank you to all the folk who did these. The highlight of the General Meeting nights has to be the November meeting where we had not just one presenter but three. Firstly there was Josef with his presentation on Hamming Blind, then there was MAS from Japan and in spite of his protesting his English was not all that good, he did a great job of keeping us entertained and we found his English was very good. The third presenter was a spur of the moment opportunity, the WIA President Justin who outlined some of the changes to the WIA organisation and Amateur Radio magazine.

The Social morning on the second Saturday of each month were well attended as was the technical sessions on the fourth Saturday. The social mornings are not just an excuse for a coffee and a chat. At each session, at least one attendee brings along something interesting to show and tell and I am amazed at the depth of technical knowledge there is in the AHARS membership.

Numbers are steadily growing at the second and fourth Friday lunches at the Blackwood RSL. Even though I have to travel half way across the world to attend, I am becoming a regular attendee.

I must also thank Gerard and the rest of the committee for covering for me while Pat and I travelled round Europe for seven weeks. The highlight for me of that trip was a visit to “Ham Radio” in Friedrichshafen Germany.

We seem to have been spared most of the Vandal attacks on the shack and the Girl Guides hall this past year. This being mostly confined to spray paint attacks and rubbish strewn round the site.

The credit for this must go to Barry VK5BW, Roy VK5NRG and a few volunteers who live near by. The cage over the entrance has surely spared us of much of the damage and when we install the security cameras we have, this will further discourage the perpetrators.

The September cleanup at the site was a great success with about 10% of our membership turning up with garden tools and brush cutters. This activity also endeared us to our neighbours who were obviously getting worried about the fire hazard.

This year we will do this again in September and I am hoping we can have two such activities for the year. The September date will be 29<sup>th</sup> of September. If we try to continue on the idea of a fifth Saturday, the first date is Easter Saturday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and I think we will not get too many volunteers for that day. Perhaps we will have to sacrifice a technical session at the shack and make April 28<sup>th</sup> our next clean up day.

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The Girl Guides Association has finally decided on a use for the hall on the site and after seeing what we have done with our shack. They have asked us if we can help them do something similar to the other shed.

The hall is going to be used for training Girl Guide leaders and they wish to relocate their vast archives of stuff from several sites around the suburbs to the shed and a shipping container located next to the shed. As they do not have much of a budget to do this, we have been asked if our members can help with this. We have also suggested they need to make more provision for parking near by.

Those of you who use the RAD 147MHz repeater may have found it can be plagued with noise when receiving weak signals. The tower has been inspected and it has been found to be in quite a bad state. A lot of rusted metal and many nuts and bolts holding it together almost corroded away. We think it is at least twenty years since it has been given any attention.

Barry is planning to establish a temporary site for the repeater while the tower is lowered and long over due repairs carried out. We will need a few members to help with this process. If you have the skills and feel physically capable please put your hand up to help and talk to Barry. Thanks again Barry for all the effort you put in to keep our repeaters running.

The deceased estate auction/disposal process has been taken over by John VK5EMI and in spite of being over whelmed with stuff , he is doing a good job at this task, Thank you John for your dedication to the cause.

This years training and assessment sessions at the shack have not attracted the number of participants they have in the past. I suspect the radio clubs are providing too many opportunities to do the training and assessments. We may have to coordinate this with the various clubs in South Australia. Never the less thank you to our small group of assessors who carry out this vital activity, VK5SN, VK5TR, VK5PH, VK5BW and VK5ZQV.

I must also thank Jim VK5TR and his small band of helpers who put the Antenna Analyser kits together and then post them round the world. The money raised from this activity has meant AHARS subs have been kept very low for many years. Note that some clubs/societies charge as much as \$70.00 a year for membership. I suspect this happy state of affairs may come to an end as Antenna Analyser kit sales are being eroded by a hoard of inferior low cost kits and assembled items available on the web. The ever increasing cost of Australia Post is also making our offering less attractive to Hams all over the world. Thankyou Roy VK5NRG for your Stirling effort dealing with your local Post Office and seeing the parcels get off to a good start, on their journey, often to the far flung corners of the earth.

I must not forget to thank Christine Southby who gets the supper ready at the general meetings. It is good to be able to have a coffee or a tea, and a cake or a biscuit while chatting with fellow AHARS members and visitors during the interval at these meetings.

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Let us not forget Paul, VK5PAS for his efforts keeping the AHARS web site operating and Barry and John who send out the occasional mass email with urgent messages and item of interest to AHARS members. This is the only way we can send out our silent auction lists as these are only intended for financial AHARS members.

I have enjoyed my year as the AHARS President and thank my dedicated committee for their efforts and the members who make the journeys to the general meetings, shack events and other social events each month

Phil Storr VK5SRP President AHARS 2017/2018 year.