

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

June 2017 Newsletter

Front Page

- President's Column
& Editorial

Page 2

- Club Program
- QSL Corner

Page 3, 4 & 5

- WIA AGM Report

Page 6

- John Moyle Contest

Page 7

- WICEN Report

Page 8

- General Club Information
- Exams, ALARA, Contacts
- Website, Newsletter, Etc



For the On-line

**Supplement Go To Our Website:
ahars.com.au**

- DECEASED ESTATE UPDATE
- RISKY WIRING
- ELLISON MUSEUM VISIT
- DARCY HANCOCK
- VK5SFA's TMLA
- RESTORING SOME OLD ROTATORS

← Visit to the Ellison Museum.
See the On-line Supplement.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

WIA AGM and National AR Weekend.

I will start by thanking the committee who have done a magnificent job of organising this event. I have been involved in organising events of this size in the past and I know how much effort and often some anguish goes into getting it to happen. Well done committee.

I must also thank the presenters and folk running the demonstrations.

And of course, I must thank the people who have registered and come to the event and those who will make their way to Hahndorf for the come and try sessions on Sunday.

It is time to sweep the problems we have had with the WIA organisation away and start over again. The WIA is very important to Amateur Radio, it is our link to the governing bodies and I am sure governments would like to take away at least some of our frequency allocations and sell off the spectrum to organisations that wish to make money from radio communications.

I hope the folk who have resigned from the WIA over the past two or three years get back on board, united we fight, divided we fall. I can't understand the people who say it is too expensive to belong to the WIA when we consider what most of these people have spent on their equipment. Sadly the days of home building are almost a thing of the past and commercial equipment is now very affordable for most people interested in the hobby. Good to see there is still a hard core band of Amateurs who are building QRP equipment, often from simple commercial kits made available by other amateurs.

It is also encouraging to see the efforts being put into antenna design and construction, particularly Magnet Loop antenna. With building allotments getting smaller and back yards becoming a thing of the past these antenna could be the saviour of our hobby.

Let the fun begin:

Phil, VK5SRP

EDITORIAL

I think that all of us who attended the WIA AGM and National AR Weekend will be still on a high from that. If it wasn't the best weekend of that nature in our country's history, it must surely rate equal to earlier similar events. We all realise the effort required to have such a complex show organised so that it ran seamlessly.

(Note Phil's comments above.)

Herein is an (almost!) full report on the event. There will be also one on our club website. You are invited to read and enjoy both reports, whether to find out what happened, or just to reminisce. I recently shanghaied myself into becoming the Deceased Estate Officer. This is quite a demanding, but important job. Thanks to Geoff (TAW), and Trevor (NIX) for offering to help. It's an important part of the preservation of our hobby, as well as discharging a moral debt to our radio friends who have passed on, and their families.

Next month, your Editor reaches the age of "See you later and thanks for the Chat". It didn't take so long to come. However, I'm still none the wiser than I was at half of that age. John, VK5EMI, Editor. (---... ---!!)

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc Club Program 2017

Regular Club 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	At The Shack
4th Saturdays	Technical Mornings (TBC)	At The Shack

Meetings & Special Events

JUNE	Saturday 3rd	Licence Training	At The Shack c/- Barry VK5BW
	Sunday 4th		
	Thursday 15th	Regular Meeting Members Projects - Show and Tell	Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)
	Saturday 24th	Techo Session	Visit To Fablab In The City Contact Graham VK5ZFZ
JULY	Sunday 16th	Mid Year Luncheon Bookings via John VK5EMI	Uraidla Hotel <u>(Book now, please!)</u>
	Thursday 20th	Coax Cables - Barry VK5BW	Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)
AUGUST	Thursday 17th	Krix Theatre Loudspeakers David Murphy	Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)
SEPTEMBER	Thursday 21st	Batteries For Field Trip Use Rod VK5ZRK	Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)

Thanks to Phil and the AHARS committee for the above information.

Note that our illustrious President will be away from 21 June to 5th August.
Gerard (VL5ZQV) will have the honour to steer the AHARS ship in his absence. *[Ed]*.

QSL Corner

QSL Corner: From VK5EMI - AHARS QSL Manager.

OF100FI. Finland's 100th anniversary

In 2017, special jubilee call sign OF100FI/x is activated in turn by amateur radio clubs around Finland.

Read more at: suomifinland100.fi

ACTIVE IN THE FIELD: Paul, VK5PAS, and Marija, VK5FMAZ, and John, VK5BJE, have been frequently in the field in various parks.

Check your inbox regularly for notes from these people, check the relevant sites (VKFF & SOTA) and support their field activities. It's all good fun, whether (like me), you're a lounge lizard) or like them or their ilk, enjoying the panoramas and the pains of operating out there.

ATM, I am managing the estate for Noel, VK5VT (SK).

Testing his radios has given me a reason to come up a few more times than normal, catching up with Daryl (VK5JDS), VK7NWT (Scott, in North West Tassie (I think, but note NWT), Peter (VK5PET/p) at Ikara NP. Prior to that, I worked VK5WOW (a clever and catching callsign), and of course Paul (5PAS), who must never be home these days (did he buy a Jeep, the neighbours ask?)

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc W.I.A. 2017 Annual General Meeting Report



▲ Waiting for the start of the meeting. A great crowd attended, attesting to the interest in the event.



◀ The new Board of Directors takes the stand.



WRAPPING UP. Grant (VK5GR), and Matthew, VK5ZM - putting zing into the minds of those present.

WIA AGM ROUGES' GALLERY



Doc, VK5BUG, launched his new book "Cellar - Dwellers on the Go"



John, VK5BJE, one of the workers, advertising the event.



...from near and far...



Steve Adler, VK5SFA, spoke on "Operating on Low Band HF in Confined Spaces"



Some of the Old Board, before retirement. Phil Waite at the microphone.

Continued on Pages 4 & 5

WIA AGM and Convention at Hahndorf. 19th to 21st May, 2017 (cont'd).

Saturday

Technical Symposium PROGRAM

1. David VK5KK and Iain VK5ZD

Introducing Amateur Microwaves

2. David VK5DMC

Getting into Digital Amateur Television

3. HORUS.

AR Balloon

4. David Rowe VK5DGR

(of FreeDV fame)

HF Digital voice demo - very impressive for a "simple" and cheap system.

5. Paul Simmonds VK5PAS

Operating Field portable in the great outdoors.

6. Steve Adler VK5SFA

Operating Low Band HF in confined spaces. 160m Magnetic Double loop, with surprising and excellent performance.

7. Julie VK3FOWL and Joe VK3YSP

Promoting Amateur Radio / STEM amongst younger children.

8. STEM Practitioners

Finding what makes a person's mind go "pop"! AREG presentation.



Before the AGM, Lesley (VK5LOL), George (VK5IT), Hans (VK5YX), and Herb (VK5HK) warming up over a cup of coffee.

AGM AWARDS

AHARS

Amongst the various well-deserved awards given out at the AGM, AHARS' members did very well.

Congratulations to Jim (VK5TR, best technical article), Christine (VK5CTY, many years of service to AR and AR Mag), and Barry (VK5BW) and Leigh (VK5KLT) for 10 years service as Assessors.

and

Tony (VK5ZAI), Manager, ARISS 1993 To 2014. ARISS Award from KA3HDO, Chairman). Tony is now (mostly) retired from that demanding but very valuable work. His replacement is Shane Lynd VK4KHZ.

Many other worthy amateurs received awards. More details on:

<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2017/may/wia-honours-achievers.htm#.WTX5pWiGOUk>



Hungry hams attacked the lunch tables with relish. The function centre put on an excellent spread, and was a fine venue for the event.

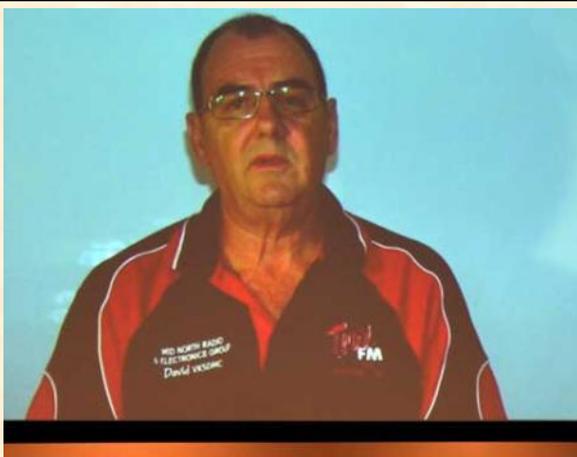
WIA AGM and Convention at Hahndorf. 19th to 21st May, 2017 (cont'd).

AMATEUR RADIO SHOWCASE Technical Symposium (Radio is Magic!)

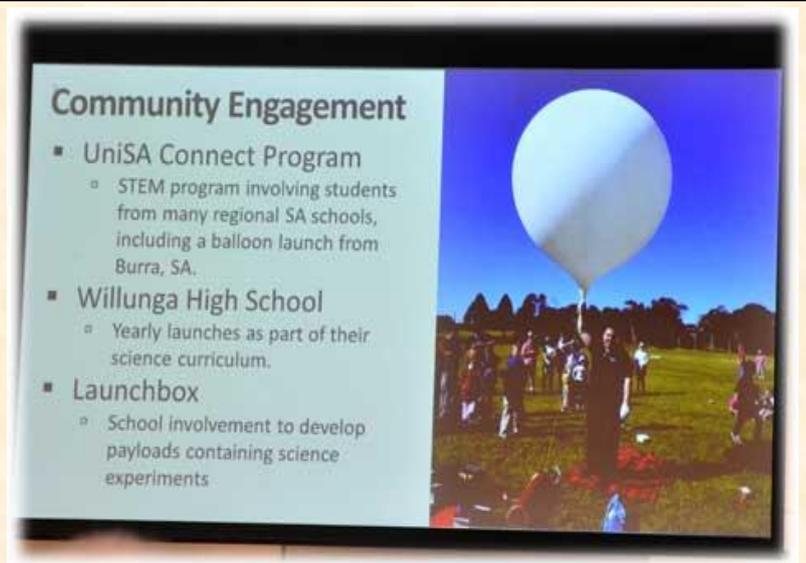
After lunch, various enthusing aspects of AR were presented to an indulgent audience.



1. MICROWAVE DEMONSTRATION
Iain (VK5ZD) at the Convention Centre, communicating with David(VK5KK) at Mount Lofty, on 47 GHz.

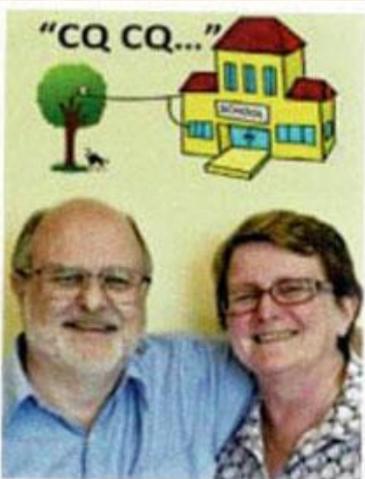


2. David, VK5DMC, President of the Mid North Radio Club/Trax FM, at Port Pirie, outlined the achievements of his group: on local mountain The Bluff, the group has installed a digital ATV Tx, which can be viewed on a standard Set Top Box.



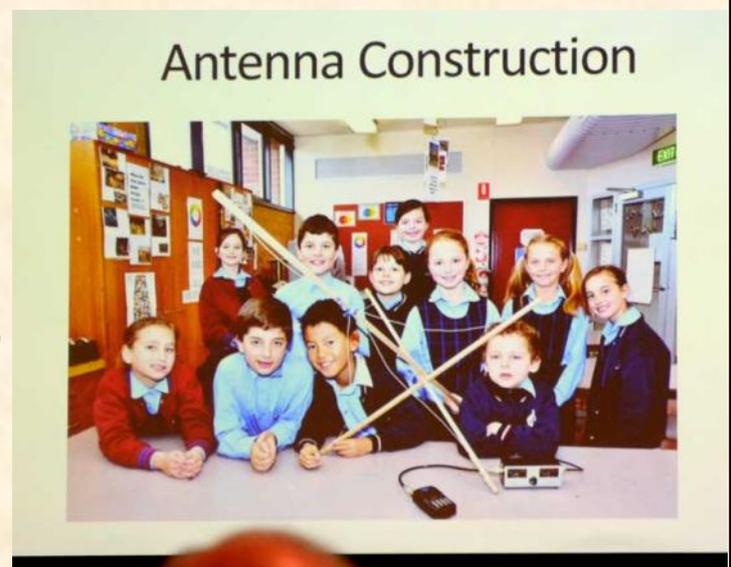
3. HORUS (AR balloon).
The payload in the image above far exceeds that which the balloon is capable of lifting.
(Name and callsign of payload suppressed by request).
There was a balloon launch from the oval on the Sunday.

7. Promoting Amateur Radio.



Julie (VK3FOWL) and Joe (VK3YSP) are running a successful course on radio and electronics at a primary school. The children love it, and it's surely a good way to get children interested in STEM.

joe@gonzales.com.au



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY WEEKEND. March 18, 2017

AHARS' intended operation on this weekend at its usual location at "Womberoo" in the Mallee, was cancelled (due to forecast high temperatures, and insufficient numbers of volunteers).

Not willing to let the opportunity to be involved slip by, I quickly organised AHARS to operate from The Shack. We had a pretty good turnout, at short notice; thanks to those who operated (Shirley, VK5YL), Roy, (VK5NRG), Patrick (VK5MPG), Kevin (VK5AKZ), and myself. We were supported by President Phil (VK5SRP), Gerard (VK5ZQV), Graham (VK5GH), Phil (VK5GM), and Jim (VK5TR).

It was a pleasant and mostly successful operation.

Where the event didn't quite work out was in the Rules of the Contest. In my hurry to preserve the operation, I overlooked one important rule - all club stations must operate as portable.

For that reason, our entry in the contest was invalid, although the log I submitted was used as a Check Log. My apologies for being mortal on this occasion!

Discussion re operating portable in 2018 have already been initiated. If Womberoo is unavailable, then we now have another venue.

John Elliott, VK5EMI, AHARS QSL Manager.



The support crew around the table, with Shirley, Roy, and Patrick operating in the background.



Making good use of The Shack. Shirley and Roy on HF, and Patrick (at right) on VHF and UHF.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc WICEN SA REPORT

WICEN (Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network) serves the Public by providing radio support for various community events.

Participating in these events is a good way to test your gear, and develop skills.

(If you don't have much gear, you can team with someone else who has.)

Events include some car rallies, the Horse Endurance Trials, and bike trials, ANZAC salutes, Cancer fundraising relays, SAVEM (Vet help in bushfires).

Email = secretary@sa.wicen.org.au Facebook = <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Wicen%20SA>

Website = <http://www.sa.wicen.org.au/>



WICEN 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was held on May 4th, at the Scout SA 'Centre for Adventurous Activities' at Glenelg. About 19 amateurs attended.

Discussions included:

- WICEN's future role - more participation in Event Recovery operations (eg, SAVEM).
- Responding to emergencies: State-wide blackouts in September and December provided an example of where WICEN needs to be responsive. In a rare twist of fate, our main repeater (VK5RAD) went down quickly (battery failure - this has now been rectified). So, for those in or near the Adelaide metro area easy comms suddenly became a challenge. There is a response procedure for this, but some WICEN members didn't respond in the best way. *Read on....*

Repeater VK5RHO was active and WICEN members monitored there. HF and VHF tests were conducted shortly afterwards with about 40 operators making contact with WICEN control.

Mobile phone towers began to fail as their batteries ran out - Wiki gives 5 days for these. Persons with NBN would immediately lose use of their landline and Internet access. If you have a battery backup system with your NBN system, you would have about 5 hours of use. More info on this from: <http://www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/information-for-home/what-happens-in-a-power-blackout.html> What shouldn't fail is our well-equipped Amateur Radio stations, both home and portable!

(Q. Do you have a backup battery, just in case?)

For those in the country, Paul, VK5SL, has suggested an HF link to a metro repeater site. See article in the AHARS December 2016 newsletter, page 7.

- Finances: How much should WICEN charge for events? We usually provide several thousand dollars worth of equipment - loss, and wear and tear, need to be covered for each event. We charge much less than professional organisations, but provide high-quality comms.
- Training meetings: (Maybe quarterly), could include: inspection of members' equipment, demonstration of equipment, solutions to various problems, cable terminating demonstrations, maybe a field exercise, etc.
- Planning for Events. (Presented by Louis, VK5FLY). Louis gave an impressive visual display of the software he uses, and its results, creating propagation terrain maps, which show the best place to install repeaters and intermediate stations for events. Visually impressive, and it saves a lot of time in the field.
- WICEN equipment. We now have quite a lot of good equipment, including two modern mobile repeaters, some "go" boxes, and a repeater for both Amateur and Commercial use.

We can provide equipment for unlicensed groups if needed, operating on commercial frequencies.

- Election of Officers: (Nic, VK5ZAT), continues as President; Treasurer, Louis (VK5FLY); Secretary - in the absence of a nominee, this role will be shared by the committee members; General members: Arno (VK5ZAR); Trevor (VK5ATQ); and David (VK5LSB). Retiring Secretary, Andrew Macmichael (VK5FMAC) will continue to assist.



Outgoing secretary and WICEN stalwart, Andrew, (VK5FMAC) outlining the purpose and format of the AGM.



President Nic (VK5ZAT), demonstrating the WICEN Tait dual band (Amateur/commercial) repeater.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

Club Projects

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



Club Contacts

Club President Phil Storr VK5SRP
0428 835 621

Vice President Gerard Rankin VK5ZQV
08 362 3832

Secretary Jean Kopp VK5TSX
08 8322 0066

Treasurer Peter Reichelt VK5APR
08 8352 5904

Licence Training Sasi Nayar VK5SN
0417 858 547

Meetings & Venue

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

Postal Address

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

Our new website is up and running the address is:

www.ahars.com.au

Thanks to our new web-master Paul Simmons

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 Controllers: VK5's Jim (TR); Dean (5LB); Barry (BW); Roy (NRG); David (LSB); Lyle (WL), Steve (AIM).
All licensed amateurs are welcome.

VK5RAD (Crafers 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

Articles For The Club Newsletter

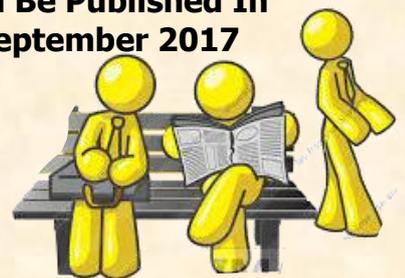
Projects, anecdotes, experiences, ideas, advice, etc, all make interesting and useful reading, and will be much appreciated.

Please forward directly to the Editor

- John Elliott VK5EMI phone 8278 1269
- or by email (best) to vk5emi@wia.org.au

Publishers - Michael VK5FMTR & Kaye Roden

Our Next Newsletter Will Be Published In September 2017



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 Police Club, Carrington 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.

ON-LINE SUPPLEMENT AHARS Newsletter June 2017

CONTENTS

- 1 DECEASED ESTATE UPDATE
RISKY WIRING
- 2 ELLISON MUSEUM VISIT
- 3 DARCY HANCOCK
- 4 VK5SFA's TMLA (Transmitting Magnetic Loop Antenna)
- 5 RESTORING SOME OLD ROTATORS

DECEASED ESTATE UPDATE.

I put my hand up to handle estates at our last general meeting.

Managing such things requires a lot of time—picking up the gear, cataloguing it, testing it, and finally, selling it, firstly by blind auction, and then the left-overs by other means.

Thanks to those who offered to help me—in addition to those mentioned in the Editorial, I acknowledge—Hans (VK5YX), and Norm (VK5GI), and of course Barry, VK5BW, who is keeping a fatherly eye on me (although I'm actually older than him.)

I intend to run the auction some time in July/August. An email with the full listing will be sent out to all members then, and an inspection day at The Shack will be arranged.

More later, John, VK5EMI

Switch Power Supply 110V-220V to 12V 24W for Strip L



Deal: **\$12.9**

\$39.95 Save: \$27.00

Estimated Postage:

Add to Ca

Direct Shipping

Combine Shipping ar

Promotional Off

\$1 Shipping Stor

\$1 Shipping Storewid

Time Left: 20:56:52

RISKY WIRING IN-DEED!

Image seen in a recent online advert.

No doubt done in a hurry, but a very bad example, especially to those who don't know electrical safety.

THE ELLISON MUSEUM OF RADIO AND MAGNETIC RECORDING

May History Month visit by The Editor on May 13th, 2017.

The Ellison Museum is a registered private museum of crystal, valve and transistor radios, magnetic recording devices, microphones, speakers, valves, batteries and associated equipment; many of which were designed and manufactured in Adelaide, including a unique collection of Ferry recorders manufactured in a "garage" factory in Clapham in the early 1950s.



It's a modest museum by World Standards, but once I stepped inside, I found a world of recent history, largely local, and most which I'd not known of.

Neville Ellison collected dozens of older mantle radios - valve, and transistor; tape recorders of various sizes; three wire recorders (how do you splice fine piano wire when it breaks? I'm told that there's a way); older dry cell batteries, and microphones. He worked at the Ferry factory for many years.

I was most impressed with the locally-built Ferry tape recorders, built in a small factory behind a house on Springbank Road. These units were semi-professional, apparently of high quality, and certainly looked professionally built.

On display, and discussed at some length in Neville's DVD*, are Peerless mantle radios, made by A.W. Campbell Dobbie, who made thousands, shipping about 400 sets to the Australian Armed forces in Japan. This thriving business continued until transistor radios from Japan came onto the Australian market.

Also within this most interesting DVD are stories about Adelaide manufacturers, including Bland Radio, Ernsmiths, Scharnberg Strauss, National, Gladia, Nomis, and some imported brands.

For more information, including opening hours, tour bookings, etc, please contact Keith Ellison, phone 0407 304 028, email keith@ellisonfamily.net or <http://historyfestival.sa.gov.au/content/ellison-museum-radio-magnetic-recording>

Details of the Walkabout AKQ radio:

http://www.radiomuseum.org/r/nationalau_akq.html?language_id=2

Keith's father, Neville, has written a history of this facet of our state's industry:

**Adelaide's Early Radios and Tape Recorders - by Neville Ellison - DVD for PC/MAC*

The book (as a DVD) is available on

<http://pages.ebay.com/link/?nav=item.view&alt=web&id=142410240832&globalID=EBAY-AU>

*Thanks to Neville for the extra information, and for keeping this part of our state's history alive.
[Ed.]*



Keith Ellison with his father's Walkabout AKQ. This was made from a water canteen. The aerial is in the strap.



A Peerless mantle radio, and a Ferry tape recorder.



One of the wall of tape recorders. Most of these are Ferry manufacture.

Still going strong at 106 VK5RJ, Darcy Hancock

Will King SUBMISSIONS PO Box 3

Darcy Hancock VK5RJ reaches 106
Ian Sutcliffe
RAOTC member

On 18th December 2016, Australia's oldest ham radio operator Darcy Hancock VK5RJ, RAOTC (life number 584), celebrated his 106th birthday with family and friends.

All of his family were present, including his five grand children and four great grand children. Darcy was born in 1910 in Kadina, South Australia. He was a very popular musician and Adelaide, with a music system for him by the name of 'Newcastle'.

His present were from Ian VK5RJ and friends and another Ian, VK3V. Darcy enjoyed a hobby cake, appropriately, for his 106th birthday.

Darcy can remember broadcast radio arriving in South Australia, Cairns when he was a boy. Born in 1910 and he would be a definitely Amateur Radio. Congratulations!

Was your letter...

IS D'ARCY OUR OLDEST MAN?

THE family of **D'ARCY MAXWELL HANCOCK**, 106, is trying to find out whether he could be South Australia's oldest living man. His family describes D'Arcy, above, as a remarkable and humble man who was living at home alone when he was well over 100. Born on December 18, 1910 in Kadina, he had his own business, Hancock's Radio Sales & Service. D'Arcy was exempt from World War II service because he was needed to repair refrigerators on the Yorke Peninsula. Moving to Adelaide in 1964, he worked for Philips Industries for eight years as a purchasing officer then several years at Brighton Technical High School, maintaining its electrical equipment. D'Arcy was also an accomplished jazz musician on a variety of instruments, including the ukulele. At 16, he gained his licence to operate in amateur radio, and was believed to be the nation's oldest active radio amateur, continuing his passion until moving into Resthaven Marion at 105. He also drove until he was 92. Married for 60 years to **JEAN**, who died 10 years ago, he has three children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Please let me know if you know of anyone in the state older than D'Arcy.

STRICKEN SIGN
ON a school Year 6 camp to Canberra, "strict" security at the capital's Old Parliament House swooped on a reader when they took this picture below, of a "strickly no access sign on a rear door.

RED-LIGHT RAGE
HARRY agrees with reader Alison, who bemoaned having to wait for ages for a green light at Gawler Place's intersection with Wakefield St, city. "I've been caught there at all time of the day when there are no cars or pedestrians in Gawler Place in sight," he says. Geoff would love Adelaide's Traffic Management Centre to explain why the narrow thoroughfare seems to get special attention when far busier roads intersecting it don't.

OFF THE LEASH
MARYLOU did a double-take — then a triple-take — at a park of...

DA
DURIN

[Thanks to Will King, and The Sunday Mail, for permission to republish this, in our Newsletter. Ed]

PS: It turns out that Darcy isn't quite the oldest man in SA— only the second oldest.



Report on VK5SFA's TMLA (Transmitting Magnetic Loop Antenna)

Email from Leigh (VK5KLT) to Steve (VK5SFA) on Sun 9/04/2017.

"G'Day Steve,

I was listening to the WIA Sunday broadcast on 1843 kHz this morning and when you came up to take the callback session using the WIA AGM special event callsign VK5WOW your fantastic signal blew me out of the chair...it was a ferocious +30 dB over S9 with the usual superb renowned and punchy 5SFA audio modulation.

This reception is particularly notable because my elevated roof mounted Vertical HF antenna is way off resonance down on 160m and behaving predominantly like a proverbial wet noodle! The lowest band the multi-band Butternut vertical (comprising a 9.5m long radiating stick) is matched at is 80m, and secondly no preamp was engaged so the S meter was in its calibrated true S9 = 50 uV position...so that's a lot of microvolts of signal landing in North Adelaide!

I'm curious which Tx antenna were you running...the TMLA or the inverted-V dipole?

It was certainly an impressive "wow" of a signal! 73, Leigh, VK5KLT.

Reply from Steve to Leigh:

"Thanks Leigh,

I pretty much exclusively use the TMLA on 160 and 80 metres these days. Worked Greece yesterday morning at Grey Line on Top Band. A 90 second opening. 559 both ways. You have to be quick! ATNO for me.. (All time new one)

Worked VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5 and VK6 on Friday night using 160 & 80 metres on the big loop signing VK5WOW. It really is an extraordinary antenna for its small size. People don't believe it when they learn I only use 100 watts on SSB & CW and deliver 59+ signals around VK. I will be on the air again tonight. Can you come up on 80 metres and work me?

Also, I have made modifications to the 60/40/30 metre loop by narrowing the turn spacing down to 400mm. Made a huge difference to the VRP. I'm not sure why the 600mm spacing was making it listen below the horizon. Some sort of phasing effect maybe? Worked all sorts of DX and VK on it after the modification.

Measured Q of around 700 or more on 40 metres.

I'm really looking forward to giving my presentation on Low Band TMLA's at the WIA AGM and Convention next month. Preparation is going well for the "Meet the Maker" day on the Sunday with the 60/40/30 loop. Should give folk good exposure on how to use compact antennas on the low bands.

I will also have the "Baby" 6 metre version to pass around at the Saturday afternoon presentation. Might even set it up on the Sunday, tuned to the VK5VF 6 metre beacon, so people can hear the severe nulls it for themselves.

Leigh, I would really appreciate it if I could demonstrate my proposed setup and rehearse my presentation with you. Getting right is very important to me and your critique would be most welcome. The mandatory P29 coffee will be dispensed as matter of course! (The new P29 highland beans are amazing).

73 for now.. or should I say "WOW". Steve VK5SFA "

PS: Steve's email is vk5sfa@wia.org.au



Steve's 160m and 6m TMLA loops at the WIA Convention weekend. Note that these are double loops.

Properties of Steve's Double Loop Antenna

For 160m: Circumference > 3.0 m, (= 0.10 to 0.15 λ) weighs about 30 kgs.
Near Field (Magnetic) extends to about 500m.

For 6 metres: Circumference = approx 0.3m
Tests indicate: "Sweet spot" for circumference is about 0.15 λ)

Nearfield extends to about 3.0 λ .

All local noise is blocked out.

Simple scaling for different wavelengths.

For (much) more info on this, go to:

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~sadler@netspace.net.au/>

NB: λ (lambda) = wavelength.

RESTORING SOME OLD ROTATORS

Email from Doc (VK5BUG) to The Editor. Tue 16/05/2017

"GM Gentleman John

Just FYI I thought I would bring you up to speed with the 3 x rotators project... Combined efforts with Andy VK5AAQ have resulted in both the old clunky rotators going. One controller is good on 240 volts as the mains transformer has been changed for an Australian 240 volt model ,the other controller which has the original 220v 60 Hz unit still in place overheats quickly unless it is fed with no more than 220 volts max. It may have shorted turns I suspect as it smells funky!

An earthed power cord and plug have been fitted to the 240vac controller. This one is the roughest cosmetically and the oldest but is the most reliable for use.

The other one which looks better will need a stepdown tranny at least (or a new 50 Hz 240 volt transformer installed) as well as the three wire mains lead and new plug to be safe.

Both the rotator units themselves are operational but the only one that is complete with clamps and mast mounts is the ugly green coloured one !

The Jap unit ,which looked the best of the lot ,is another story, that is the one which the home made controller goes with, it was seized up and is very rusty inside ,all the ball bearings are rusted and the ring gear and top and bottom covers are corroded ,the bolts which hold it together were corroded into the diecast case and they had to be sheared off to get the thing apart, I figured it has had it anyway so no harm done ,I was curious to see how bad it was, also found the position potentiometer is open circuit.

We actually managed to get the motor itself to run after a lot of fiddling and oiling but that is just an aside. Pictures of the wreck are attached for your perusal!

Essentially there is only one complete working unit ready to go out of the bunch ,at least I will be able to rotate my big 2m x 2m helically-wound loop finally. I will purchase a replacement transformer for the other unit & then Andy & I will both have a rotator to turn our LF-MF loops. A good outcome.

Thanks for helping it happen, John. 73 de Me"

[Note the condition of the units—nicely filled with sand and rust, and thanks to doc for confusing me with a gentleman—Ed.]

