

The Propagator



CLUB CALL VK2AMW
VOLUME 07/01 ISSUED OCTOBER, 2005
NOW PRINTED MONTHLY
WORTH MORE THAN PETROL

MEETINGS HELD SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT JANUARY).
S.E.S BUILDING MONTAGUE STREET, NTH WOLLONGONG. STARTING AT 7:30PM.
THE PROPAGATOR IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY INC.
PO Box 1838 WOLLONGONG 2500.
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EDITORIAL

I am going to try to publish a copy of the Propagator each month. To do this, I am going to need the help of you, our members. As you all know, I am a mere female who did not study Maths or Science after Year 10, this was about the time they added all those funny things to numbers, the squiggly signs and the alphabet, so therefore, my skills in this area are far from up to scratch. I definitely need you help for technical articles and home brew designs. To me, if you say homebrew, I think beer and a cook book has flour, eggs sugar etc, not wire, transistors, and insulators. Please HELP!

You will notice a few new things in this issue and the return of some old. Hopefully, this will make for an interesting read each month and one that you will look forward to receiving.

Maeva Bennett
VK2HUG
Editor.

THE ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY INC EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE FOR 2006

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Canteen. Peter Reid VK2HPR.

Web Master. Michael Eckardt VK4GNV

IARS Affiliation with the WIA.National

The IARS is in the process of applying for affiliation with the WIA National. At the September Committee Meeting the motion to join was passed by all present. There will be more on this in the next Propagator.

IRLP

Well after a lot of hassles and rude words the IARS IRLP is up as Node 6018 on the VK2RMP 2metre repeater frequency of 146.850Mhz.

Yes you heard right!

It is currently operating from my QTH in Primbee via a link radio and IRLP board furbished by Rob 2MT and is testing well. The antenna will be relocated to ensure a full quieting signal into the repeater as now there is just a little background noise on it. I hope to be able to retain the node at home as this will allow a quick response should it ever require human intervention to return it to normal operational status. I am in the throws of assembling a complete IARS Club manual with a copy of the full operating software on CD, along with backups of the security keys, critical if one is to rebuild a system due to hard drive failure etc.

Remember the voice recognition software delay of a few seconds, so you must initiate the connection with a couple of second's worth of carrier, and your call sign to ensure a connection can be made. Example – This is VK2TS VK2 Tango Sierra initiating an IRLP Contact..... Then send your DTMF tones. Thanks goes to Rob2MT for the IRLP board, link radio and a kick around, Steve VK2BGL Node 6022 for his invaluable help and for emailing the IARS wave files off his IRLP box so that our connect messages are customized for the Club(Originally professionally recorded by Rob2MT's friends). Ted 2ARA and Paul 2FE for the offer of 2metre Yagi antennae, I will catch up with one or the other soon as they sound like the go.

Any reports on audio quality etc would be appreciated.

Don't forget to look here for the Node numbers and yes I know the map location shown for VK2RMP is a bit screwy, I will get that fixed soon.

The node numbers for around the world and Australia can be found on www.irlp.net.

Tony Stone
VK2TS
Club President – Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc.

How does it work?

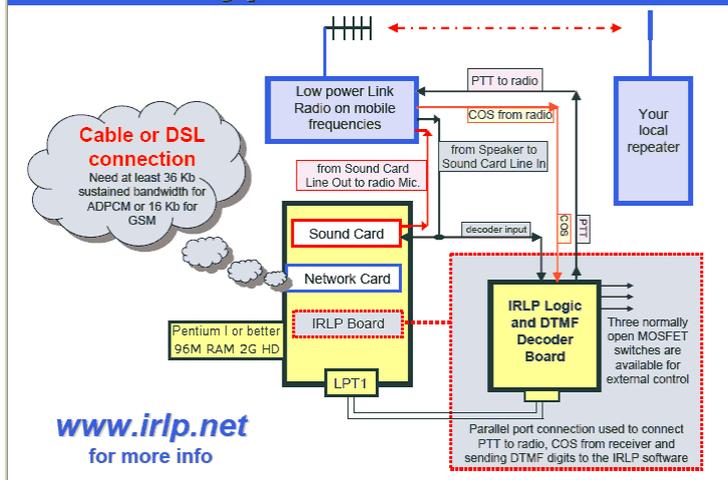
The IRLP uses a Voice-Over-IP (VoIP) streaming software called Speak Freely. Speak Freely is very similar to other VoIP software packages (such as Microsoft NetMeeting and VocalTec Iphone) with one difference... It runs under Linux.

Linux is the operating system of choice for the IRLP system as it allows the best in reliability, programmability, efficiency, and functionality. Most IRLP nodes use Linux RedHat 7.3 or RedHat 9 as they are very stable releases and run very smooth on any P1 or better computer. *Effective December 2004 IRLP started shipping the open sourced Fedora Project Core3 version of Linux. This release provides greatly improved operation with more support for audio cards.*

The concept of IRLP's use of VoIP is as follows:

1. Sample the audio using an analog to digital (A/D) converter. The A/D converter used by IRLP is the input source of a standard PC sound card. This creates a continuous mono 16-bit digital stream of raw audio at 8000Hz (120000 bps).
2. Compress the audio by downsampling the stream and using an 4-bit ADPCM algorithm to reduce the size of the stream by a factor of four (32000 bps)
3. Split the sample into small chunks (or packets).
4. Transmit the packets to the remote host using a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) stream. UDP does NOT confirm the reception of packets, so it uses a "fire and forget" method.

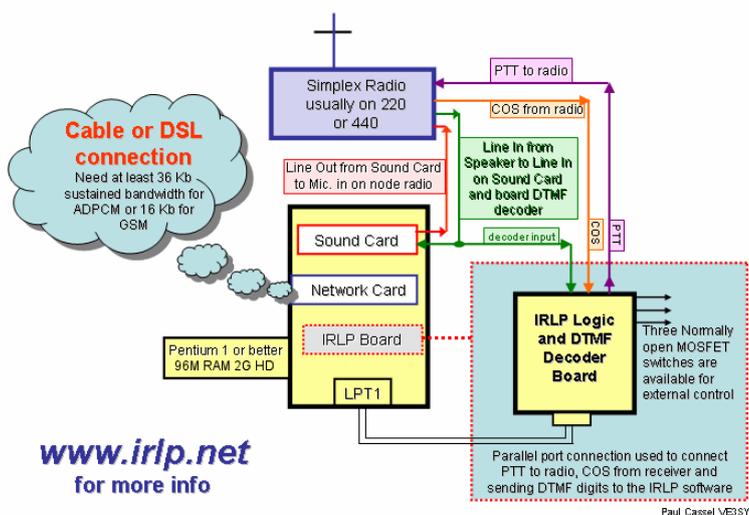
A Typical IRLP Node



it through the IRLP interface board.

The PTT is controlled by the buffer which joins the split packets back into the audio stream. The IRLP interface board receives a "transmit" signal from the computer while there are packets in the buffer, and a "unkey" command when the buffer is empty.

Typical IRLP Simplex Node



5. Receive the packets on the remote host.
6. Join the split packets back into a 4-bit ADPCM stream.
7. Uncompress the ADPCM stream back into an 16-bit raw stream of audio.
8. Play the raw audio stream through a digital to analog (D/A) converter (the output device of your sound card).

The control software controls the stream using carrier operated squelch (COS) or continuous tone coded subaudible squelch signals (CTCSS) to start and stop the stream. When COS is present, the computer detects

The user interfaces to the IRLP computer using DTMF signals sent over the radio. DTMF sequences are owner programmable, and can accomplish almost any function imaginable. The DTMF signals are detected on the IRLP interface board and sent directly to the computer in binary, where they are converted into numbers. A DTMF software program which I wrote then runs commands on the computer depending on the code entered.

These commands are what start and stop Speak Freely, basically establishing and breaking the link and that is, in a nutshell, how IRLP works.

David Cameron
IRLP Designer
VE7LTD



Japan Ham Fair 2005

The Japan Ham Fair 2005 was held at Tokyo Big Sight (sic) again this year, August 21 and 22. Attendance was up 2,000 over last year, with 16,000 visiting on Saturday and 13,000 on Sunday.

Yaesu has introduced their new FT-2000 HF to 50MHz transceiver, and Tokyo Hy Power has a variety of new amplifier and automatic antenna tuner products. Icom was showing off the IC-7000 transceiver. Comet and Diamond are each showing new "broad band" short HF antennas.

These antennas were mounted on the roof for the weekend.



For the Christmas wish list

Yaesu FT-2000 prototype

- to be available in two versions: 100W with internal power supply and 200W with external power supply - - VRF and high dynamic range RF front end
 - first IF 6kHz and 12kHz roofing filters IF DSP
- dual-watch (in-band)
- RF scope, audio scope, and oscilloscope using an external display



Radio has sure come a long way!

NEWTEK ELECTRONICS
 Phone and Fax 4227 1620
RESELLER FOR
 Altronics Arista Jaycar Avico
 Stockists of: Alarm Accessories, UHF Antennae,
 Tools, Computer Accessories, Test Equipment,
 Cables, Plugs, RF Sprays and Components for the
 Professional and the Amateur
 Call in and see Jack at 345 Keira St., Wollongong

Call in a see Jack
 VK2XGD
 I have been told there
 are special discounts for
 IARS members
 Not to mention, specials
 just for us.....Ed.

IARS Christmas Raffle

Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2.00
ON SALE NOW!

Help your club keep financial and you on the air

All members are asked to contribute non perishable goods

Please ask the fundraising committee for a book of tickets to sell to your family, friends and workmates.

It will be drawn at the December Meeting.



The Gosford Link

The new Gosford link allows direct access by either of the 3 repeaters (UHF, VHF and 6 metres) at Madden's Plains by "linking" to the repeater system of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club and the Rylestone repeater in central NSW.

This can also be used to interlink the repeaters at Madden's Plains.

VK2RMP SITE CONTROL TONES		
OPEN ACCESS COMMANDS		
1 2 * 1	GOSFORD LINK RADIO	CONNECTED
1 2 # 1	GOSFORD LINK RADIO	DISCONNECTED
1 2 * 2	VK2RMP 438.725 REPEATER	CONNECTED
1 2 # 2	VK2RMP 438.725 REPEATER	DISCONNECTED
1 2 * 3	VK2RMP 146.850 REPEATER	CONNECTED
1 2 # 3	VK2RMP 146.850 REPEATER	DISCONNECTED
1 2 * 4	VK2RMP 53.650 REPEATER	CONNECTED
1 2 # 4	VK2RMP 53.650 REPEATER	DISCONNECTED
1 2 * 5	GOSFORD LINK RADIO FREQUENCY SELECT	KARIONG RPTR
12 # 5	GOSFORD LINK RADIO FREQUENCY SELCT	SOMMERSBY RPTR

Update on the Gosford and Interlinking of the repeaters at Madden's Plains.

Depending on which link you are going on, say 146.850, if you send your own code 12*3 plus add "0", now 12*30, the link controller will tell you which links are connected.

At the moment the UHF receiver is desensed by the Gosford link transmitter, but it will work OK if you have a good signal into the 438.725 repeater. This should be rectified shortly by fitting a new link aerial and reducing the power of the link transmitter. The new aerial should also rectify the link to Kariong.

Do not forget that the Gosford Link has a 3 minute timer, keep the overs short.

I hope the new link system will give enjoyment to our members and advance amateur radio.

73's

John Bennett VK2AAL

Repeater Committee

The Gosford Link is the top box, the others in order are 2x6 M. 2xUHF. 2xVHF repeaters





Presidents Report for October 2005.

Hello one and all, and welcome to the latest propagator. I must say our editor Maeva VK2HUG is doing a sterling job with it. She has certainly been on the look out for content and I have not escaped her relentless hunt☺

Well the foundation license is about to be released and we should hear some new licensed amateurs on air soon. It is up to all of us to assist and guide them into the hobby and hopefully, the local licensee's at least, will become members of our great club. It also sounds like the novices will gain access to 40metres, 20 and 15metres too. Those bands could do well with the boost in activity. I know it's a bit of a cliché but it's either use 'em or lose 'em.

Last meeting was a little quite with only a handful of members attending and we hope to attract some more members in the near future. Don't miss Jack VK2XGD this month with his talk on component substitution and next month is the usual monster club auction which is a tradition that has gone on for many years at the IARS. Thanks to Simon VK2XQX for taking on the challenge yet once again. Simon has the knack of getting everyone bidding☺

I also accompanied John VK2AAL up to the repeater site at Maddens Plane and was impressed by the Club installation on site. I bet there are a few radio techs that go to site who don't even realize that our equipment is amateur radio equipment. Well done the repeaters boys for a very modern, reliable set up. (see VK2TS's photos below)

Anyway that's enough of me for now; I look forward to seeing you all at the next club meeting at the SES hall Montague Street North Wollongong. Don't forget it is on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm bar January when we all rest and drink beer.

Cheers for now!
Tony Stone
VK2TS
IARS President



The actual Gosford link was designed and built by John VK2AAL for our club.

The Aerial at Madden's Plains





From the Secretary's Desk

The Committee is looking for methods of raising the participation you our members in our Club. Last meeting, we had a whiteboard huddle to think about ways to encourage members to get involved. The main suggestions were to get involved in radio, the air waves have been quieter than normal and attendance at meeting needs to be increased.

Our First fundraising event is a Christmas Hamper. The Fundraising Committee is asking members to contribute non perishable items at each meeting until the raffle is drawn at the December Meeting. Tickets for the raffle will be \$1 each or 3 for @2.00. Members are also asked to take a book of tickets to sell to their family, friends and work colleagues. Each book will contain 21 tickets and can be obtained from the Committee – Geoff VK2HIC, Jack VK2XGD or from Peter VK2HPR.

The Committee decided that the Club should purchase a black and white laser printer for Club use. It will be used to print the Propagator for those who are not on Email and other material required from time to time. The Committee decided that this was the most cost effective way to go as printed material for members is very expensive to have done elsewhere.

You will notice that calendars for October and November are printed in the Propagator this month. Each month this will occur so that members know what is happening in your club with plenty of advance notice so you can organise your plans to attend. If you have any events that you would like to include, please contact me, so they can be published on the calendar.

Our guest speaker for our October meeting will be Jack, VK2XGD, who will be giving a technical talk on replacement substitutes for homebrew and repair parts that are now no longer available. I want to remind Jack of this too!

Now is the time to clean out the shack and the shed, the November Meeting is our Auction Night. It is also the time to start saving some money for your new purchases. Remember, someone's trash is someone else's treasure. For rules of the Auction Night, please see November's issue of the Propagator.

The Wyong Field Day, 19th February, 2006 will also include a sections for the Crafty Ladies, it has been endorsed by ALARA. There will be a Craft display and workshops for crafts on the 1st Floor of the Racecourse building. If your XYL as any ideas of what they would like to see or do, or wish to have an item they have created displayed on the day, could they please contact me.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Club calendar, it should be finalised for the November issue of the Propagator. If there are any other suggestions please contact me at either secretary@iars.org.au or by phone on 4297 6065, by radio on 146.850 or in person at the next meeting. If you know of any events that should be included in our calendar, please let me know. I have looked at the calendars of surrounding clubs, but they do not list any events, only meetings on their web pages.

A reminder that membership renewals are now due, forms can be obtained from the webpage or from me.

December meeting will be a Christmas Party and Recognition Night. You may have noticed you have been asked to note how many years you have had your amateur licence. Certificates of Recognition of your contribution and participation in amateur radio will be presented on this night. Certificates will be awarded for 5 years, 10 years, 15 years etc.

For those who did not know – our Treasurer, John Lawer, VK2KEJ, can sure be trusted to balance our books – he is a Scot to the end – “waste not want not”. This is the pencil he has been using at Meetings to record our finances. Could any member please donate him a new pencil?



This month we are also attaching to the Propagator, the minutes of the monthly meetings. This month, Septembers Monthly Meeting minutes are printed for those who could not come to the meeting and for pondering for those who where.

That's it from me for this month.
Maeva Bennett VK2HUG
Secretary IARS Inc.

October 2005

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1 Propagator on Club website PSK31 Rumble Oceania DX SSB
2 Oceania DX SSB	3	4	5	6	7	8 Oceania DX CW
9 Oceania DX CW	19 10-10 International Day Sprint	11 IARS Club Meeting Jack Decesco Guest Speaker	12	13	14	15 Scout Jota JARTS WW RTTY
16 Scout Jota JARTS WW RTTY Asia-Pacific Sprint RSGB 21/28 MHz	17	18	19 IARS Committee Meeting	20	21	22 Cataract Picnic with FGARC Riverina Field Weekend
23 Riverina Field Weekend	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2005

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 IARS Club Meeting Auction Night	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 IARS Committee Meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	26	30			

Contests for October 2005.

Oct	1	PSK31 Rumble	(RTTY)
	1/2	Oceania DX Contest	(SSB)
	8/9	Oceania DX Contest	(CW)
	10	10-10 International Day Sprint	(All Modes)
	16/16	JARTS WW RTTY Contest	(RTTY)
	16	Asia-Pacific Sprint Contest	(CW)
	16	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	(CW)

COMING EVENTS for OCTOBER

BBQ PICNIC SOCIAL



FGARC are having a BBQ Picnic Social Lunch and we would like you and your family to come whether you are a past member of FGARC or not.

WHERE: Cataract Dam Picnic Area
WHEN: Saturday, 22nd October 2005
TIME: 10.30 a.m. onwards

We thought it would be enjoyable to catch up with other Amateurs in the area in the pleasant surrounds of Cataract Dam Picnic area.

We have extended the invitation to members of Illawarra Amateur Radio Club (IARC) and Liverpool and Districts Amateur Radio Club (LADARC) so there should be plenty of people attending.

Please bring your own food and drinks. There are BBQ hot plates in the area.

We would appreciate a response from you by any method below advising if you can make it so we have an idea of how much room we should reserve.

Any need for a 'talk-in' would be on 146.825 or 146.850

President
Wal ZWK
4626 8423

Vice President
Ted JAU
4625 4959

Secretary
Chris JCN
4681 9365

The Scout Jota is October 15th and 16th October 2005, please take the time to talk to the scouts. Shoalhaven Rovers are looking for someone to be their Radio operator for the Shoalhaven's JOTA for the local scouts and guides on 15th and 16th October this year. If you have anyone who is available please contact Alice Lane on 44235128.

RIVERINA FIELD DAY

22/23 OCTOBER 2005

The Wagga Amateur Radio Club will again be hosting the Riverina Field Day on 22 & 23 of October 2005. This event will be held at the WARC Clubrooms in Small Street, Wagga Wagga.

Program

Free Entry and Registration

Saturday

2pm – Doors open for Coffee

7pm for 7:30pm – Field Day Dinner at the Clubrooms

Sunday

Clubrooms available for setup from 8am

Doors Open at 9am

Lee Andrews Communications

Flea Market

Food and Drinks available

Free Tea and Coffee

Closes about 3pm

More Information

www.warc.org.au

jeyles@wia.org.au

Buy Swap or Sell?

If any member has items that they would like to convert to something they would prefer, contact either myself or the webmaster, Michael, for listing in either the Propagator or the webpage.

Unfortunately, buy, swap or sell cannot be broadcast on Tuesday nights as it contravenes ACMA protocol rules.

If you have no luck at the Auction Night, try this out.

RIVERINA FIELD DAY



22/23 OCTOBER 2005

The Wagga Amateur Radio Club will again be hosting the Riverina Field Day on 22 & 23 of October 2005. This event will be held at the WARC Clubrooms in Small Street, Wagga Wagga.

Program

WHERE WE NOW LIVE - DOT and LYLE PATISON

We decided in the latter part of 2003, with the enthusiastic approval of our daughters Barbara and Linda, that the time was approaching when we must leave our home of 41 years in Wollongong NSW to live in a retirement village, which, at their suggestion, should be located somewhere fairly close to where Barbara and her family live.

Thus we travelled to Western Australia in October of that year in order to stay with them in Perth - while, with the help of Barbara and John, we inspected and assessed various retirement villages in that area. Then, after discussion of what we had seen, we decided that one of the group of five Retirement Estates which was operated by the RAAFA-WA (Royal Australian Air Force Association -West Australian Division) would best meet our requirements.

Having visited all five of these Retirement Estates and spoken to Management and to residents in each one, we chose the RAAFA Retirement Estate at Meadow Springs – in the city of Mandurah – as our first preference – so applied to the RAAFA-WA for residence at that location if possible, otherwise in one of the other of these Estates.

As luck would have it, shortly after finding a buyer for our property in Wollongong we were advised by the Manager at the Meadow Springs Estate in January 2005 that, subject to our approval, a Unit was now available for us at that location – and after an inspection by our daughter, Barbara, we agreed to take it.

Though Mandurah is some 73 km by road along the coastal plain to the south of the centre of Perth, it is now considered to be almost a far outer suburb. Scenically, it is an attractive area, right on the coast and with the Peel Inlet (like a fairly large lake) inland just to the south east of it. Some 20km further to the east at this point, is a long range of high hills which run parallel to the coast of much of the south west of W.A.

The centre ("downtown") part of the city of Mandurah is located on the northern side of the estuary between Peel Inlet and the ocean, with a strip of parkland along each side of the waterway which is between about 200 and 600 metres wide and has a new, "upmarket" residential canal development extending along a section of its southern bank. A 14 storey hotel (in addition to other tourist facilities) is to be built in an area near to the new multi storey blocks of apartments at the beach end of the "city side" of the estuary. There are residential suburbs to the north, south and east of the central city area.

Much of the ocean front to the north and south of the estuary consists of long sandy beaches, backed by continuous residential suburban development, stretching inland to a series of lakes with interconnecting rivers to the north of Peel Inlet and as far south as the southern of the two channels connecting Peel Inlet to the Indian Ocean.

About 15 minutes eastwards by car from our suburb of Meadow Springs takes us into a real "country-like" grazing and farming area containing a few small towns, scattered over the broad flat coastal plain which is intersected by many small rivers and streams as far east as the tree covered hills.

The largest of these rivers, the Murray River, discharges into Peel Inlet on its eastern side and has several small rivers feeding into it. These originate in the hills to the east, their headwaters passing through several dams that provide portion of the water supply for the southern part of the greater Perth area, including Mandurah. We and other areas around Perth also have a limited amount of bore water available from extensive underground resources - for garden, commercial and industrial use.

The Murray River also gives a water frontage for an increasing number of houses being built in some of the newer suburbs of Mandurah - and provides an attractive alternative for those who like boat, sail or fish in the broader waters of the Peel Inlet.

The population of Mandurah is now about 55,000 and it currently has the reputation of being one of the fastest growing cities in Australia! It has long been regarded as a place for day trippers from Perth to go to boat, swim, fish and, in season, catch crabs and prawns in the "lake" and estuary – or enjoy the surf beaches, parks, walking trails, a live show in the modern Entertainment Centre, a film in the cinema complex - or to take a picnic lunch with them and just 'laze about in the sun' - or to enjoy good food at one of the many cafes or restaurants. Now, in increasing numbers, they are migrating to the area to "live the good life by the sea" and commute to Perth for work, or to work in the local commercial premises or building construction industry, including its many local suppliers.

In addition, hidden in the high hills some 25km to the east of Mandurah are two very large bauxite mines which supply the raw material to one of the largest alumina refineries in the world, located in the foothills to the north east of the historic township of Pinjara. This complex, which is owned by ALCOA, is staffed by workers who mostly live in either Mandurah or Pinjara.

Mandurah has, over the past several years, become the home for another type of citizen – retired people who wish to live in a Retirement Village with their peers - and those a little younger who prefer to live on an Estate with their families rather than on individual private properties.

These people are being increasingly catered for by an influx of new Retirement and other Estates to the area – where land was cheaper than in the inner Perth area.

The RAAFA-WA was at the forefront of this development, with its Estate in Meadow Springs being established towards the end of the 1990's, and a second Estate – Erskine Grove - at Erskine (to the south of the Estuary) now nearing completion

The Meadow Springs Estate is less than 2km from the nearest ocean beach and is located to the north of and less than 5km from the centre of the city in an area in which it was, until recently, half surrounded by virgin bushland containing many types of wildflowers as well as colourful native birds, plus groups of kangaroos and many rabbits. Now, inevitably, large residential developments are appearing nearby.

The Estate is set out on a "square plan" on a large levelled area of land with a number of internal access roads which have approx. 2 to 4 metre wide lawns in front of the Units on both sides of each road - each Unit with its own front flower garden(s)

There are various other garden and lawn areas scattered around the Estate - with several small gazebos and some outdoor barbecues for the use of residents. Our Estate has three full sized outdoor bowling greens, a croquet lawn, a tennis court, a large indoor heated swimming pool and nearby outdoor swimming pool. There is also a beautiful Country Club 18 hole golf course located on the other side of the road which runs along outside the front boundary fence of the Estate.

On the Estate there is a large caravan and boat parking area in which is a group of caravan garages, provided for the many residents who wish to spend the colder part of the year in the warmer climes of the northern part of Australia- and/or “just muck about or fish on a river somewhere”.

The Estate has a very large Administration building containing the Estate Manager’s and Administration offices, library, Welfare Officer’s office and a hairdressing salon - and inside on the ground floor, a large main hall/entertainment area in which there are displays of Air Force wartime memorabilia and pictures, also a restaurant, café/bar area, and meeting/craft rooms etc. Upstairs is the “Flight Deck”, on which there is a meeting room/ offices for ex Air Force groups and facilities for more displays of wartime photographs, models and memorabilia.

For the “handyman”, there is a large workshop building, which is well fitted out with benches, machines and equipment used for wood and metal work, plus a welding bay. The same building is garage for the two Estate buses – used for shopping trips etc.

Also on the Estate is a 96 bed “low care” Hostel which includes a room for the use of a doctor who visits the Estate twice a week for routine appointments, 19 one bedroom Serviced Apartments for partly disabled residents, an interdenominational Chapel and a 4 unit motel for visitors (bookings must be made for them by residents).

There are 263 single story “Independent Living Units” (houses) in our Retirement Estate – nearly all being two bedroom Units built in pairs, (ie “duplex type”) - but we were extremely fortunate to get one of the approx. 20 which are virtually 3 bedroom (one of which I call my study in which I have computer, bookcases and operating table for radio gear). It also has a storeroom, which opens off the garage attached to the house, and in which we have all our “not yet unpacked” boxes brought from New South Wales, in steel shelving units around the walls, plus a very small work bench.

Also ours is one of only about 6 Units on the Estate that is actually a “stand-alone” house – and being at one end of our road, has no cars going past it. It is located right at the south-east corner of the Estate, so we have our own section of lawn along the eastern side of the house as well as that in the front - both with flower gardens which we look after. The Estate gardeners attend to the grass lawns! We look through the living room and kitchen windows across the side lawn and garden, then through a high wrought iron fence and across a newly constructed outside road, towards green bushland to the east of the Estate.

The first occupants of our Unit had a large 10metre long x 3.5metre wide roofed and completely enclosed patio with glass windows built attached to the eastern side of the house and a second semi enclosed covered patio attached to the house behind the garage on the western side - so all in all, we now have a larger house than that which we owned in Wollongong! It is called by some of the village residents the big house!

Because of the depth of our Unit is greater than most of the others, the depth of our “backyard” is only that of the pathway between the rear wall of the building and the rear fence of our allotment. However, in common with the other residents living in the 18 Units on our side of Jacaranda Rise, we have an unused 7 metre wide strip of ground between our rear fence and the southern boundary fence of the Estate. We can access this if we desire - and are allowed to make vegetable gardens etc in the section that is the width of our allotment. No other Units on the Estate have this facility!

You can be lucky.

So there you are - this is where we now live. It is about 3/4 hour by road from the Perth inner suburban area on the north side of the Swan river where Barbara lives and we see one or more of our “Perth family” on weekends each couple of weeks or so.

Our little great granddaughter, Kayla, is 2 years old and is a favourite visitor (naturally!!). We have had Linda fly over from Caloundra since we came here and hope to be able to get her over for a short stay once or twice a year if that is possible.

Dot has joined in with the group of ladies living on the Estate who meet together once a week in one of the activity rooms in the Administration building to knit, crochet etc (and chat). There is a computer room there too -where, currently, computer awareness classes are being held regularly.

Lyle has joined the Mandurah Branch of the Air Force Association and the Mandurah Probus Club, which both meet monthly in the Estate Administration building - and has also joined the local Amateur Radio Club – a small club which meets monthly in an SES hall about 1km from here.

Lyle still does not have any of his radio gear operational again, except for an old 2 metre portable (2W o/p) all-mode transceiver with inbuilt whip antenna. He can hear a couple of the Amateur 2 metre FM repeaters but, from inside the house, can only access the closest one. Other than this, he brought only his portable narrowband 10GHz transceiver equipment, plus a low power 10GHz beacon transmitter and the “nearly completed” narrowband 24GHz portable transceiver with him. He also brought a small amount of test equipment and a few other “odds and ends” from Wollongong..

Obviously, he has had to put his Amateur Satellite and experimental 10368MHz Earth-Moon-Earth communication days behind him!

Unfortunately Amateur microwave activity is almost zero in the Perth area but Lyle has been told that there are 3 or 4 experimentally inclined Amateurs with some interest in this aspect of the hobby up in the inner suburban area. Maybe in due course he will be able to install his 10GHz beacon somewhere locally and take his 10GHz and/or 24GHz portable gear to local hilltops or seashore areas for attempts at communicating on these microwave bands with some of these Amateurs up in Perth or elsewhere

Lyle still is rather limited in what he can do due to health reasons – having to be in bed between about 2.30 to 4.30pm daily - and is confined to the house much of the morning on some days - which restricts somewhat his productive activities to, mainly, the “daily essentials of living” on those days.

However, it is great to have our daughter Barbara and her family living not far away from us - and to have friendly and helpful neighbours in the RAAFA Estate with us as we continue to slowly establish ourselves in our new environment – a long way from our old friends in Wollongong and elsewhere in that part of the world.

ED: Many thanks to Brian Farrar, VK2UBF, for sending this in for publication, I am sure many have wondered how Lyle and Dot are doing in WA.. Sorry about having to print this so small, but I didn’t want to print it over 2 issues.

Lighthouse Weekend 20/21 August 2005 at Kiama VK2WHO



Despite rain and a howling gale force gusting wind, the aerals went up on Saturday morning; the Gazebo was nailed to the ground and a windbreak made from brattice. Carl 2HRC lent his weight to hold things down after making a 4 mile detour.....Sightseeing in downtown Kiama!!! The rain stopped and the wind died down and the first signals went out on the DC bands not long after 00.00 UTC (10.00 hrs local) Dave 2EZD used an off centre fed dipole of sorts, Hank 2BHL used his single element delta loop, John 2BES was on a multiband vertical, Ray 2ILV and Chris 3ZDX/port2 used "Spy Radio's" and a whip and Peter 2JTV was slow scanning pictures via his laptop, G5RV and 706Mk2g. Terrorists, I mean tourists, were brought in by the busload.

One gentleman from Korea came up and asked "Why BWOWHOLE NOT BWOWING?" Velly simple: "Wind bwowing fwom wong direction" Ah so, sank you velly much". He did take a pamphlet about Ham Radio though!!!! Around lunchtime, Meals on Wheels rolled up in the form of John 2AAL complete with gas fired Bar B Que, plenty of snags, onions, fresh bread rolls and a choice of Tomato ketchup or Bar B Que sauce. Even my GREAT DANE was full after John's visit! The sea gulls had to eat the last snag!



Many visitors were spotted during the day including Vaughan 2KBI and yl harmonic, Vic 2KVH who is hoping to get the ABCGD call sign (for the uninitiated, he reckons it stands for "ANOTHER BLOODY CHINESE GOLD DIGGER"). I'm glad you did not bring another "BUNGER" Vic! John 2HJW, Barry 2DLI (Department of Labour and Industry) Stan 2EL from the mid South Coast who is now in Bluehaven, Paul 2FE who forgot his pix's of his latest aerial, Michael 2VKA minus his DAWGS or XYL. Maeva 2HUG, xyl of John 2AAL came around and said "I've got you fellows something for AFTERNOON

TEA....."Promises, promises.....She parked it in John's van and I'm sure John 2AAL had a terrific afternoon and put on 3 pounds. We missed out...Around 15.30 hrs local, the wind came back with a vengeance, it was howling. Little Davy's Gazebo would have finished up in the Pacific Ocean or the Blowhole had it not been for Carl 2HRC, who grabbed it and held on for grim death.....Rigs were rescued, aerals pulled down in a hurry, a cabin was rented at an exorbitant price and most of us went to the Group7 Leagues Club to defrost. Plenty of ANTIFREEZE later, we found out that Eric THE MAN (VK2MAN) had been visiting too, sorry we missed you Eric. After a somewhat "LIQUIFIED" dinner, we headed back to the cabin and put up the aerals again.



Yours truly was CARRIED by then, better known as NECCARRED..... And went to sleep. The diehards kept on going.....On SPY RADIO's that is. Sunday morning Peter 2JTV was going to shoot the Lighthouse while the floodlights were on. Guess what, as soon as he got the camera ready, some "Bar steward" turned the darned lights off. That lazy wind was still around, did not want to detour but rather blow straight through you. So the decision was made to operate from the cabin so at least we had a bit of a windbreak sitting on the balcony enjoying the Sun and the view of Kiama Harbour and the Pacific. And millions of terrorists (Tourists) as it were Kiama's Annual Fair. Some 150 to 200 stalls lined the foreshore. Who said Ned Kelly was dead????? The amount they charged us for bacon, cackle berries and two pieces of toast for breakfast....unbelievable.....

Back to the cabin and more R (ought) F (frequency) was generated.

Tony 2TS, the new "El Prezzie" of the Illawarra Amateur Society came to visit, drank most of our coffee and talked 75 minutes in an hour. Never mind Tony, I never let the truth get in the way of a good story!!!!!!20 metres opened up and stations were worked as far away as Formosa. Europeans were there too but not worked due to too much local QRM. A few Yanks were heard and they must have been using the Henry 10K's and Log Periodic to bore a hole through the ether.

Packed up mid afternoon and hope to be back next year!!!!!!!

Hank
VK2BIGHAIRYLEGS

Additional Photo's thanks to Barry Fittler VK2DLI



The true cost of petrol



About the Airwaves.

- 1 If you have any items you would like broadcast on Tuesday nights, please contact Geoff Howell VK2HIC either by phone on 42725134 or by email at vk2hic@nsw.chariot.net.au, or Jack Decesco VK2XGD 4227 1620 or at jack@newtec.com.au. If it interests you it will interest others, it's for the enjoyment of our members and other listeners.

I know many listen to the broadcast, please participate in the call-backs – Geoff and Jack put a lot of hard work into doing this each week, let them know their effort is appreciated.

- 2 Over the past few months, many members have changed their email addresses, as emails sent by the secretary have come back undeliverable. If you have changed your email address, could you please let the secretary know, so that our Member Registry is up to date.
- 3 November is our Auction Night – VK2XQX Simon Ferrie will be our auctioneer. Remember to come and participate. Now is the time to contemplate the Spring Clean – look in corners, under benches and in that dusty corner of the shack – get rid of your surplus to someone else, get a few dollars for it, to buy the gear you are missing or need to update. Rules for the Auction will be published in the November issue.
- 4 Our Guest speaker for October will be Jack Decesco VK2XGD, who will be talking about replacement parts for repairs and homebrew when the part you need has been deleted from the catalogue or is not made any more. Jack sure knows his parts as he owns and operates Newtec in Keira Street, Wollongong.
- 5 The Repeater Committee has been hard at work again as well as Tony, making sure all our equipment is working well. Without them, our hobby would be very quiet. When problems arise, they try to fix it as soon as they can. Some problems can be rectified straight away, others take a little longer.

If you notice a problem with our repeaters, please contact the Repeater Committee and report the problem as soon as possible.

Now for some funnies These one's are for the gentlemen reading and the XYL's to have a giggle.

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

Terry had married a woman from America, and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and housework. He said that it took a couple days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and the dishes were all washed and put away.

Jimmie had married a woman from Canada. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. He told them that the first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done, and he had a huge dinner on the table.

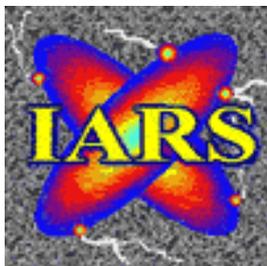
The third man had married an Australian girl. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye. Enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, and call a landscaper.

God Bless Australian Women



The international sign for marriage





ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (INC)

Minutes of 14th September 2005 Club Meeting

Attendance: As per Attendance Book

Apologies: VK2TTH
VK2XIC
Frank Diggle

Meeting opened at 7.35pm by Acting President Tony Stone VK2TS and told the meeting that the SES had donated some surplus equipment to the Club, members could purchase for a donation of gold coins to the Club via the treasurer.

Minutes from July Meeting read by Secretary Maeva Bennett VK2HUG and accepted as a true record of Meeting

Business Arising

1. A letter was forwarded to the WIA on behalf of the Club asking for clarification on some concerns regarding Affiliation and Insurance issues. This letter was promptly answered by Michael Owen. President of the WIA, prior to his departure for Europe with his wife. The issues raised will be discussed at the Committee Meeting this month.
2. Ted Hawkins sent his thanks to the Club and its members for the card he received wishing him a speedy recovery. He is back on his feet.

Treasurer's Report

Tres. John Lawler VK2KEJ Financial report read and accepted as true record of club finances.

Repeater Report

1. 147.300 on service, the filter is missing and once replaced will reduce pager interference
2. 146.850 failed, but was repaired by replacing a power cable plug, it did not have proper contact.
3. Linking to Gosford, John Bennett will give a rundown later in the meeting, more modifications need to be done to make it do more things. There is descensing on UHF, but should be rectified with a new aerial which will also give it more power
4. Intermode on 6 M

IRLP

1. Thanks must go to Ted, VK2ARA, for the aerial and Rob VK2MT for the board.
2. Do not use too quickly and don't forget to identify yourself at the beginning and the end
3. The decoding time is about 5 secs.
- 4.

General Business

1. The Gosford Field day to have a ladies section this year, and it will be held on the 19th February 2006.

Snowball – won by Patrick Kennedy but he was not present

Raffle- won by John VK2BHO

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

The meeting was followed by a White board discussion regarding events for the next year, and a talk and demonstration by John Bennett, VK2AAL, on the Gosford Link and how to use it.