

# The Propagator



VOLUME 03/06 ISSUED APRIL, 2006  
NOW PRINTED MONTHLY  
WORTH MORE THAN PETROL  
MEETINGS HELD SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT JANUARY).  
AT A VENUE TO BE NOTIFIED AT 7.30 PM.  
THE PROPAGATOR IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY INC.  
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EDITOR- MAEVA BENNETT VK2HUG

## EDITORIAL

WELCOME TO A VERY LATE ISSUE OF THE PROPAGATOR.

I THINK JOHN AND I KNOW EVERY POT HOLE IN THE ROAD FROM SHELLHARBOUR TO RANDWICK. WHAT REALLY HAS AMAZED ME IS THE VOLUME TRAFFIC THAT IS NOT ONLY GOING NORTH BUT SOUTH. THE TRAFFIC JAM AT THE TURN OFF TO WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY IS HERENDOUSLY LONG – YOU COULD MISS YOUR FIRST LECTURE BEFORE YOU EVEN GOT TO THE CAMPUS! MUCH LESS FIND A PARKING SPOT!

AND THE CHANGES IN THE PRICES CHARGED FOR PETROL, BETWEEN AREAS AND THE TIME OF THE DAY MUCH LESS THE DAY OF THE WEEK!

ONE THING THAT I HAVE DONE, IS REALLY APPRECIATE THE TIME I GET TO SPEND AT HOME – THOUGH IT IS PRECIOUS LITTLE AT THE MOMENT...JUST TO GAZE OUT THE WINDOWS AND SEE THE OCEAN...THERE IS DEFINITELY NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

Maeva Bennett  
VK2HUG  
Editor.

### THE ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY INC EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE FOR 2006

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**Repeater Committee.** Rob McKnight VK2MT, John Bennett VK2AAL

**Canteen.** Peter Reid VK2HPR.

**Web Master.** Michael Eckardt VK4GNV

**Club Broadcasts for 2006 – Each Tuesday, except Meeting night, at 7.30 pm with Geoff, Jack and Peter**

**Next Club Meeting for 2006 – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm**

**Listen to 146.850 on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> for the monthly meeting venue.**

Guest Speaker – VK2HSS Shane Sorgsepp “Computer Technology”

Collection of ticket books Mothers Day for Fathers Raffle – see later in this edition for details.

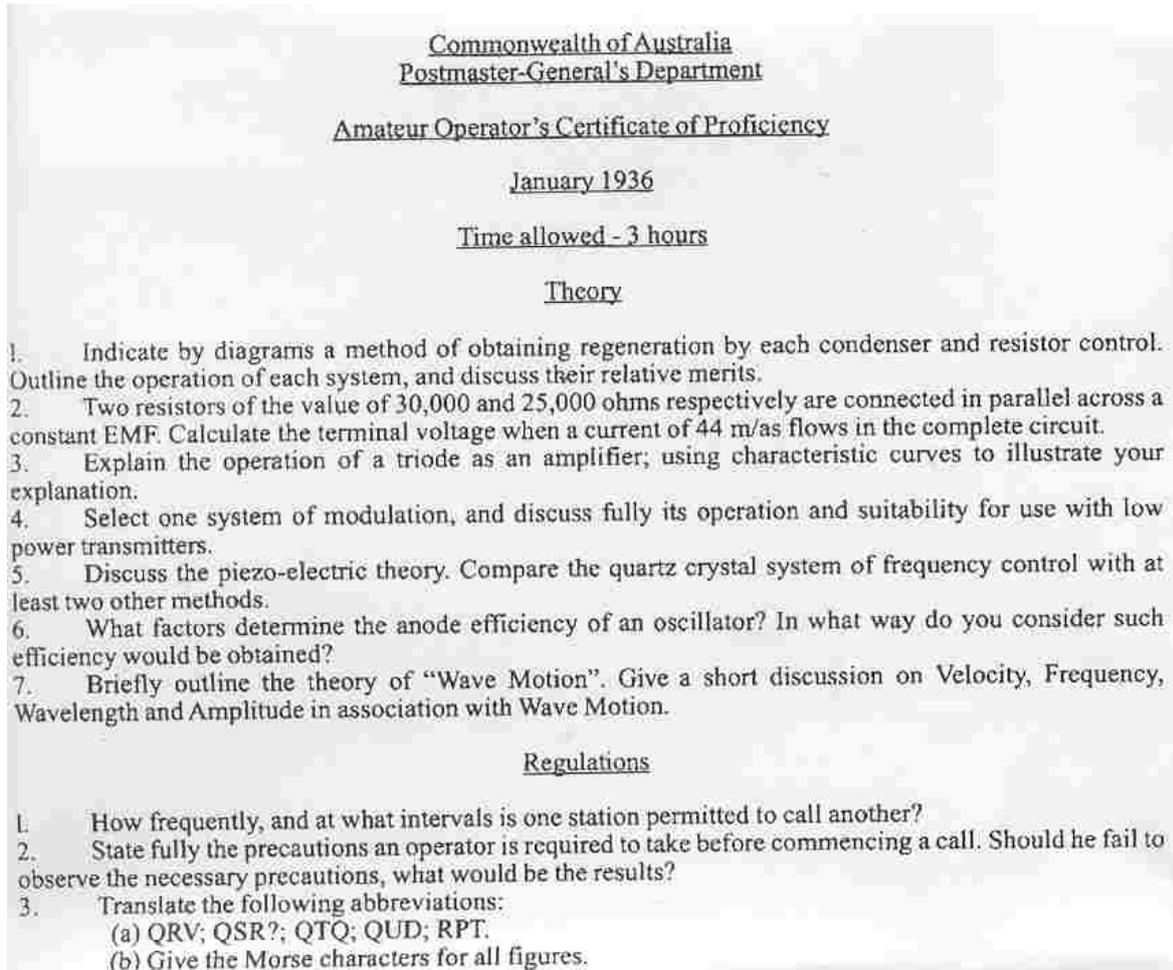
Name badge collection for badges ordered and to place orders.

## *How Amateur Radio Exams have changed in 60 years!*

For those who are studying for there amateur radio licence, and for those who have already had it for some time....nostalgia and the present.

Which exam would you rather do?

### **Unrestricted Licence 1936**



Now remember, this is to be written out, I wonder if spelling and grammar counted?

Thanks Ted VK2ARA and the WANSAEC for this copy of the exam.

### **2006 – What a difference!**

This is a copy of a proposed Advance examination I have taken from the Radio and Electronics School, [www.radioelectronicschool.net](http://www.radioelectronicschool.net), written by Ron Bertrand VK2DQ. If you wish to try your knowledge, you can do the exam electronically and submit it for correction, it will take seconds to mark.

And now there is also a separate Regulations paper!

I know it's a bit skew-whiff, but  
.....Ed.

**Australian Amateur Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency Theory Exam**

[Time allowed 90 mins] By Ron Bertrand - VK2BQ

1. What is the effect of Sulphation in a lead-acid cell?
  - reduces the effective plate area
  - increases the effective plate area
  - increases the ampere-hour capacity
  - causes a rise in the specific gravity between 1.22 and 1.27
2. The current at the centre feedpoint of a half wave dipole is:
  - maximum
  - minimum
  - in-phase with the voltage
  - zero
3. Selective fading of a radio wave results from:
  - a combination of ground waves and sky waves
  - bending of line-of-sight waves
  - wave path variations with small changes in frequency
  - absorption of the ground wave signal
4. Ionisation in the ionosphere is caused primarily by the:
  - magnetic effect and axial rotation of the earth
  - magnetic effect of the sun
  - ultra-violet and other radiation from the Sun
  - rotation of the moon
5. Which of the following classes of amplifier would not be suitable for amplification of an SSB emission?
  - class 'B' grounded grid
  - class 'A'
  - class AB
  - class C
6. The correct detector for FM signals is a:
  - balanced modulator
  - discriminator
  - product detector
  - infinite-impedance detector
7. Neutralisation of a transmitter power amplifier stage:
  - improves the Q of the tank circuit
  - prevents self-oscillation
  - prevents harmonic radiation
  - cancels the effect of regeneration from feedback through the anode-cathode capacitance
8. Intermodulation distortion occurs in any non-linear device driven by:
  - a single high frequency tone
  - a complex signal having more than one frequency
  - a single low frequency tone
  - an unmodulated carrier
9. The velocity factor of a transmission line is:
  - the relationship between electrical length and physical length
  - the speed of electron flow within the line
  - a measure of the efficiency of the line
  - a measure of its usefulness as a matching stub
10. The impedance of an unterminated transmission line one half wave length long is:
  - maximum resistive
  - minimum resistive
  - maximum inductive
  - maximum capacitive
11. The bandwidth of an amplitude modulated signal is determined by the:
  - strength of the modulated signal
  - frequency of the carrier
  - frequency of the modulating signal
  - strength of the carrier
12. A simple S-meter circuit may consist of:
  - a voltmeter in parallel with the output of the detector
  - VSWR meter in series with the antenna
  - milliammeter in series with an RF stage collector current
  - milliammeter in series with an AF stage base circuit
13. In a frequency modulated wave the power in the carrier:
  - depends on the number of bessels
  - remains constant
  - changes with the degree of modulation
  - has no power as all the power is in the side frequencies
14. ASCII means:

- Australian Semiconductor Interchange Index
- American Semiconductor Information Index
- Australian Scientific Code for Information Interchange
- American Standard Code for Information Interchange

15. What is the most suitable instrument to test whether a transmitter is radiating harmonics?

- a deviation meter
- an SWR meter
- a multimeter with an RF probe
- an absorption wave meter

16. The standard colours of the active, neutral and earth conductors respectively in a flexible three core mains power lead are:

- red, blue, green
- red brown, green
- black, brown, green/yellow
- brown, blue, green/yellow

17. Terrestrial point to point UHF and VHF propagation occurs in the:

- ionosphere
- stratosphere
- troposphere
- hemisphere

18. The ripple frequency of a full wave bridge rectifier is:

- 25 Hertz
- 100 Hertz
- 50 Hertz
- 240 Hertz

19. A folded dipole is used as the driven element in a Yagi antenna:

- allows multi-band operation
- enables the antenna to be erected in a more confined space
- increases the terminal impedance of the antenna
- increase the effective height of the antenna

20. The term 'hFE' or 'beta' of a transistor represents the:

- noise figure
- current amplification factor
- operating speed
- breakdown voltage

21. An inductor connected in series with an antenna causes an effective:

- increase in the antenna length which raises the resonant frequency

- decrease in the antenna length which lowers the resonant frequency
- increase in the antenna length which lowers the resonant frequency
- decrease in the antenna length which raises the resonant frequency

22. A capacitance of 11 nanofarads is the same as:

- 110 picofarads
- 1,100 picofarads
- 11,000 picofarads
- 11 microfarads

23. Overtone crystal oscillators provide output:

- at the fundamental frequency only
- on even harmonics
- near an odd multiple of the fundamental frequency
- on all harmonics

24. A transmitter operating in the 40 metre band is found to be emitting signals on 7100, 7160 and 14,200 respectively. These signals are:

- fundamental, parasitic, third harmonic
- harmonic, carrier, overtone
- fundamental, parasitic, second harmonic
- parasitic, overtone, fundamental

25. A heat sink is often used with power transistors to:

- increase the forward current
- increase the reverse current
- isolate the transistor from earth loops in the chassis
- prevent excessive temperature rise within the device

26. A Yagi antenna for use in the 144 MHz band would have a:

- driven element approximately 2 metres long
- director slightly longer than the driven element
- reflector slightly longer than the driven element
- driven element approximately 2.5 metres long

27. A simple and satisfactory device for producing FM in an amateur transmitter is the:

- Foster-Seeley discriminator
- ratio detector
- varactor reactance modulator
- balanced mixer

28. When operating a mobile in a road blasting area the transmitter must not be used because:

- others may wish to transmit a warning
- charges may be fired by its RF voltage
- it may interfere with road work communications

operation from the road side is not allowed in the license conditions

29. Varactor diodes are used for:

- supply voltage regulation
- altering the effective capacitance of a circuit
- limiting the amplitude of oscillation in an oscillator circuit
- automatic gain control

30. In amateur satellite communications the apparent shift in frequency caused by the satellite moving toward or away from the Earth is called:

- frequency shift
- down link effect
- Doppler effect
- Faraday rotation

31. The three electrodes of a Silicon Controlled Rectifier (SCR) are:

- source, emitter and base
- anode, cathode and grid
- anode, cathode and gate
- source, drain and gate

32. A parallel combination of a resistor and a capacitor placed across silicon diodes in high voltage power supplies:

- limits the current flow in the power supply
- maintains a constant voltage regulation
- equalises the PIV drops and guards against transient voltage spikes
- increases the heat handling capability of the power supply

33. The RMS value of a sine wave is equal to:

- peak x peak
- peak / 2
- peak x 1.414
- peak x 0.707

34. A multiplier for a voltmeter is:

- a high resistance in series with the meter movement
- a high resistance in parallel with the meter movement
- usually less than 1 megohm in series with the meter movement
- usually less than 1 megohm in parallel with the meter movement

35. To enable an AM receiver to resolve CW signals, it is necessary to add a:

- high gain audio amplifier
- narrow band filter before the detector
- beat frequency oscillator
- more efficient noise limiter

36. Interference to TV reception from harmonics of an FM transmitter will be seen as:

- two horizontal bands of white spots
- long transversal dashes
- ghosting
- herringbone weave pattern

37. The impedance of an antenna can be measured with a:

- reflectometer
- wavemeter
- noise bridge
- deviation meter

38. Two 5 uF capacitors are connected in series - across the series combination is a 2.5 uF capacitor - the total capacitance is:

- 2uF
- 2.5uF
- 5uF
- 12.5uF

39. Frequency multipliers are normally operated in:

- class A
- class B
- class AB
- class C

40. Spurious interference is generated by a transmitter when the:

- transmitter is under-modulated
- when the final amplifier stage is neutralised
- gain of the RF power amplifier is low
- linear power amplifier is overdriven

41. An electret Microphone:

- is the same as a dynamic microphone
- requires no bias voltage
- exhibits a piezoelectric effect
- has a high impedance

42. Decreasing the capacitance in a tuned circuit will:

- lower the resonant frequency
- raise the resonant frequency
- not change the resonant frequency
- prevent the circuit from being resonant at a higher frequency

43. The calibration of a moving coil meter is linear because the pointer deflection is:

- directly proportional to the coil current

- inversely proportional to the coil current
- directly proportional to the resistance of the coil
- inversely proportional to the coil voltage

44. The skip distance is determined by the:

- frequency and power level used
- frequency used and the state of the ionosphere
- effective radiated power and antenna height
- power level and the mode of emission used

45. In an RF amplifier parasitic oscillation is caused by:

- poor voltage regulation in the power supply
- stray circuit inductance and capacitance
- a low gain transistor
- negative feedback

46. An oscillator will cease operation due to:

- loss of DC power to the following stage
- increased positive feedback in the oscillator
- loss of positive feedback in the oscillator
- loss of bias on the following stage

47. Tropospheric ducting may:

- cause high frequency signals to fade suddenly
- allow long distance VHF communications
- occur as a result of meteor showers or auroral activity
- occur more frequently on HF than on VHF

48. Eddy currents and hysteresis losses in iron core transformers:

- are due to direct current
- are not dependent on frequency
- increase with frequency
- decrease with frequency

49. The term 'vertically polarised electromagnetic wave' refers to a wave in which the:

- the vertical electric component has been eliminated
- electric component oscillates vertically
- magnetic component oscillates vertically
- vertical magnetic component has been eliminated

50. The function of the gate in a field effect transistor (FET) is to:

- increase or decrease the electron flow to the plate
- control but not collect the 'space charge'
- stop secondary emission
- control the conductance of the channel between source and drain



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***The Mother's Day Raffle For Fathers!***

Mum and the girls get a big TV for their favourite programs and DVD's

And Dad and the boys get a big TV for the football and the car races!



***Ticket Sales Starting 14<sup>th</sup> February***

***Drawn Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting***

***Just in time for Mothers Day!***



***\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00***

Our major fund raiser this year will be "The Mother's Day Raffle For Fathers!" Total Concepts Projects, see the December issue for details of TCP, has donated a 30inch LCD Television and Sony DVD player to the IARS to raffle.

Thanks must go to Steve VK2TSB and Tracey Benko for organising the printing of the raffle tickets. The Club has ordered 100 books of 21 tickets, we hope to raise \$35.00 per book of tickets, but we can have more printed if required. Your chances of winning are 1 in 2100 – good odds!

Please see the fundraising committee, Geoff VK2HIC, Jack VK2VGD, or Peter Reid VK2HPR for a book of tickets or books, to sell to family, friends and workmates. Every ticket sold goes to our hobby to keep it running in 2006, as it is not a cheap hobby to maintain with repeater licencing, maintenance etc.

All books must be returned to the Club by the May meeting for the draw.

***Port Macquarie Field Days***

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 10 & 11th JUNE 2006**

HOSTED BY THE OXLEY REGION A.R.C.Inc.

HELD AT SEA SCOUT HALL, BULLER STREET, PORT MACQUARIE

DISPOSALS FOX HUNTS DEMONSTRATIONS HOME BREW DISPLAYS

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Or Bill Sinclair On (02) 65839302



## From the Secretary's Desk

I have been sitting here for a while thinking about what I would write about this month and I decided to take a break and check my emails. When I checked, I had received this email from a friend of mine.....I couldn't think of anything better,,,,,,,,,could you?

### 'I Hope You Dance...'

*This was written by an 83-year-old woman to her friend. \*The last line says it all. \**

*Dear Bertha,*

*I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time working.*

*Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savour, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.*

*I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first Amaryllis blossom.*

*I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank.*

*"Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now.*

*I'm not sure what others would've done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favourite food was.*

*I'm guessing; I'll never know.*

*It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and lustre to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, tell myself that it is special.*

Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God.

"People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don't need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there."

Regards to all  
Maeva Bennett  
VK2HUG  
Secretary

***Now for some funnies, I think we really need one now!***

Paddy staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking Buddy, Mick. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Brigid. He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful. Managing not to yell, Paddy sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could d on each place he saw blood. He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Paddy woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Brigid staring at him from across the room.

She said, "You were drunk again last night weren't you Paddy?"

Paddy said, "Why you say such a mean thing?"

"Well," Brigid said, "it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly... it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror."

*A married man was having an affair with his secretary. One day they went to her place and made love all afternoon. Exhausted, they fell asleep and woke up at 8 PM. The man hurriedly dressed and told his lover to take his shoes outside and rub them in the grass and dirt. He put on his shoes and drove home.*

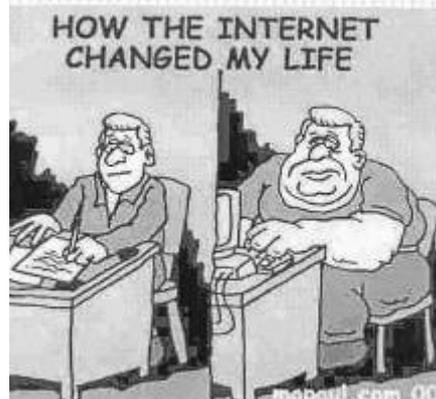
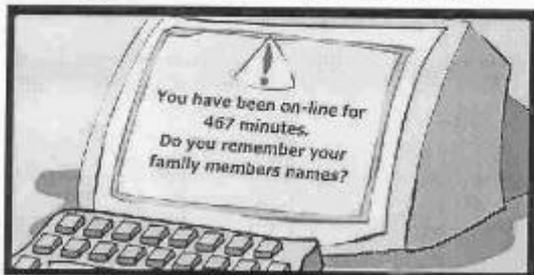
*"Where have you been?" his wife demanded. "I can't lie to you," he replied, "I'm having an affair with my secretary. We had sex all afternoon."*

*She looked down at his shoes and said: "You lying bastard! You've been playing golf!"*

Jake was dying. His wife sat at the bedside. He looked up and said weakly: "I have something I must confess."  
"There's no need to," his wife replied. "No," he insisted, "I want to die in peace. I slept with your sister, your best friend, her best friend, and your mother!"  
"I know," she replied, "now just rest and let the poison work."



"How shall I torture you today?  
Put you on the rack? Boil you in oil?  
Make you call a technical support line?"



## ***IMPORTANT HEALTH NEWS.***



Let's say it's 6.15pm and you're driving home (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job.

You're really tired, and frustrated.....you are really stressed and upset....

Suddenly you start experiencing **SEVERE PAIN** in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw.

You are only 10kms from the hospital nearest your home.

Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.

### **WHAT DO YOU DO????**

You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that conducted the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself!!

### **HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE?**

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

### **WHAT TO DO???**

DO NOT PANIC, but start coughing repeatedly, and very vigorously.

A deep breath should be taken before each cough, the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every 2 seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm.

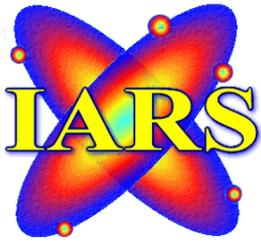
In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

Tell as many other people as possible about this.

It could save their lives!!! Don't ever think that you are not prone to heart attack as your age is less than 25 or 30. Nowadays due to the change in lifestyle, heart attack is found among people of all age groups.

*Article published on N#240 of Journal of General Hospital Rochester*

*(Sent in by Rob Heyer VK2XIC for the information of all members.)*



# ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (INC)

## Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006 Club Meeting

Attendance as per Attendance book.

Apologies: Rob Heyer VK2XIC  
Frank Diggle SWL  
John Lawer VK2KEJ  
Ted Hawkins VK2HHT  
Bob Walker VK2WRJ  
Phil Greaves VK2ZZY  
John Matthews VK2AHK

Guests Darren Sui from BluSat

Meeting opened by President Tony at 7.40 pm

Correspondence – None

Minutes of February Meeting read

Minutes of February Committee meeting read

Treasurers Report – None given as Treasure not present – Secretary gave brief statement of account in credit

Business Arising from Minutes

- Security of raffle prize a worry if on display at shopping centres

General Business

- Ideas given for new meeting venue possibilities – Signal Station at Breakwater – PK Port Authority, Fairy Meadow Demonstration School, Figtree Catholic Church Hall. The members were asked to look for a venue for the monthly meetings.
- President Tony visited Ted Thirft vk2ARA to look at the way examinations were conducted at this home under the supervision of Stan Bourke. He stated that it was very professionally run.
- Ted's handouts on Foundation Licence tabled for distribution to members and those wishing more information on the Foundation Licence.
- Geoff H VK2HIC reported that there were 45 call-backs over the weekend. He explained that the AM broadcast was the National WIA and a summary of the NSW ARA and at night there was a full broadcast from NSW ARA
- The members were given a reminder that the John Moyle Field Day was the following weekend – and to give them a call.

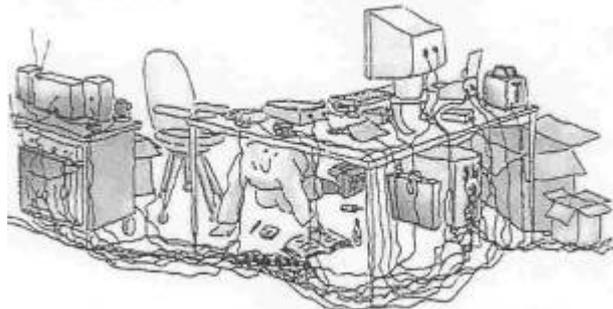
Meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Guest Speaker – Darrin Sui from BluSat

Simon F donated a caravan aerial and a computer tower to the club to be sold to members for a donation to the Club.

## About the Airwaves.

- 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@newtek.com.au. If it interests you it will interest others, it's for the enjoyment of our members and other listeners.
- The first Club Broadcast for 2006 will be Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm.
- 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. Don't forget that Newtek has donated \$20.00 gift voucher to one lucky member who participates in the call-backs, each month! Thank you Jack.
- For SWL listeners, you can also participate in call backs and the chance to win the Newtek gift voucher, either phone in to Geoff or Jack or email Jack at [jack@newtek.com.au](mailto:jack@newtek.com.au). QSL cards will also be issued to SWL listeners.
- 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.
- Many thanks to Jack Desesco at Newtek, for his monthly specials for our members.
- If you have any knowledge of competitions that involve amateur radio could you let the editor know for inclusion in the Club Calendar.
- To Bob Walker, VK2WRJ, from all of us in the IARS, we hope you have a speedy recovery from your operation, and that you will be able to accept the invitation for the next season of Dancing with the Stars.
- Barry Fittler, VK2DLI, and his partner Sharon are in Nova Scotia, Canada at the moment on holiday. True to Amateur Radio, Barry's first day, within hours of arriving in the US, was a ham radio shop to purchase a new hand held! He has found that an Australian should teach them protocol! He hasn't got an IRLP node near him at the moment but listen out for him on 146.850 as he travels around Canada and Mexico over the next few weeks when he can find and use an IRLP node.
- John Matthews has a change of call sign from VK2ZDM to VK2AHK
- From Rob Heyer, VK2XIC  
If you are having problems with your PC, the Acrobat Reader 7.05 may well be the problem. There seems to be a 'bug' in the reader which makes its presence felt by generating 'temp files' and writes them to your HD which eventually fills it. The 'bug' seems to be most active when the PC is idle (screen saver mode).  
So if you have recently installed Acrobat Reader 7.05 uninstall and reinstall Acrobat Reader version 7.00 and you problems may go!
- Michael, our webmaster, VK4GNV, has added some interesting information to our webpage, including past issues of the Propagator, a bulletin board and a chat room. Check it out – it's really good. Thanks Michael.



"Now, if you can find the power switch, flip it on."



# April 2006

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Monthly Meeting	12	13 School Holidays Start	14 Good Friday	15
16 Easter Sunday	17	18	19 Committee Meeting	20	21	22
23	24	25 Anzac Day	26	27	28	29