2016 Year
Annual General Meeting
Open Forum Reports

Spectrum Committee

(Regulatory, ACMA, ITU, IARU, Repeaters & Beacons, Standards, Interference & EME, Monitoring Service)

Phil VK2ASD (Director), Peter VK3MV, Roger VK2ZRH (Director), Brian VK3MI, Dale VK1DSH, Peter VK3APO, Andrew VK4QF, Richard VK2AAH, Ron VK3AFW, Gilbert VK1GH, Rob VK1KRM, Noel VK3NH

Technical Advisory sub-Committee (Tech support, Band plans etc.)

Chairman	John Martin VK3KM

Technical Advisors

VHF/UHF	Walter Howse VK6KZ
Microwaves	Peter Freeman VK3KAI
Repeaters	Peter Mill VK3APO
Band Plans; Beacons	John Martin VK3KM
ATV	Peter Cossins VK3BFG
Satellites	Paul Paradigm VK2TXT
Digital DX Modes	Rex Moncur VK7MO
Packet Radio	Barry White VK2AAB
D-Star; APRS	Richard Hoskin VK3JFK
EME	TBA

Regional Advisors

VK1	Amanda Hawes VK1WX
VK2	Tim Mills VK2ZTM
VK3	Peter Mill VK3APO
VK4	TBA
VK5/8	Paul Bell VK5BX
VK6	Eddie Saunders VK6ZSE
VK7	Rex Moncur VK7MO

Adminstrative Tasks

National Repeater Co-ordinator	Peter Mill VK3APO
Data Base; VHF-UHF Records	John Martin VK3KM
Data Base; Repeaters	Steve Ireland VK2MD
TAC Email Admin	Robert Broomhead VK3DN

ITU and Related Activities

Report to the 2017 WIA AGM on WRC-19 Preparatory activities

There are a number of agenda items of concern to amateur service at the next International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-19):

1. Agenda item 1.1 seeks a new amateur allocation in the 50 – 54 MHz frequency band in ITU Region 1. While agenda item 1.1 is mainly of interest to ITU Region 1 amateurs it is important for amateurs in ITU Regions 2 & 3 to support the work required to achieve a new Region 1 6 m allocation as it helps to reinforce the value of the 6 m band in the other two regions. Region 3, Australia in particular, has useful experience in band sharing between services and it is hoped that this experience will help inform the debate in Region 1.

2. Agenda item 1.13 seeks additional spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) in various bands above 24.25 GHz. This Agenda item is a potential threat to a number of microwave bands, in particular the 47 to 47.2 GHz frequency band.

3. Agenda item 1.16 seeks additional spectrum for Wireless Local Area Networks (WAS/RLAN) between 5 150 MHz and 5 925 MHz. This agenda item could affect the 5.65 – 5.85 GHz secondary amateur allocation.

4. Agenda item 9.1.6 seeks a new allocation for Wireless Power Transmission (WPT) for electric vehicles. This agenda item is of concern because of the very high power and possible widespread usage of such systems which could cause considerable interference to various amateur LF, MF and HF allocations.

It is important that the amateur service be represented in all WRC-19 preparatory discussions at international, regional and Australian meetings. In Australia, discussions between interested and concerned stakeholders are held in Australian Radio Study Groups (ARSG), Task Groups (TG) and at the WRC Preparatory Group (WRC-PG) which operate under the auspices of the ACMA. Regional work progresses at meetings of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Preparatory Group (APG) at various locations each year and international work is focused on the ITU in Geneva at meetings of Working Party 5.

I represent the WIA at the meetings of ARSG-1 and I am Australian coordinator for agenda item 9.1.6. I also represent the WIA at meetings of ARSG-5 and TG 5-1 and I am Australian coordinator for agenda item 1.1. I am the chairman of ITU Working Group 5A-1 (Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services) which is responsible for all amateur issues at the ITU. (Travel and attendance to ITU meetings is jointly funded by the IARU and the WIA)

Work on all WRC-19 agenda items is progressing and the concerns of the WIA are being heard in the Australian meetings and the wider amateur service at the ITU. Given the

enormous pressure on spectrum usage, only time will tell how successful we will be in protecting the various amateur bands. I thank the WIA President, the WIA board, the WIA Spectrum Strategy committee and the IARU for supporting the required representative activities.

Submitted by Dale Hughes VK1DSH

IARU Liaison

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is responsible for representing the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service at the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) and its preparatory meetings.

In our case, the IARU Region 3 is being represented at a series of Asia Pacific Group meetings for the WRC-19 cycle, where the administrations seek a common position on WRC agenda items. The WIA is supporting that activity and any other Member Society duty.

Submitted by Jim Linton VK3PC, IARU Liaison

Standards Committees

RC006/RC004 standards development committees.

Noel Higgins VK3NH is the WIA's representative on these Standards Australia committees, which develop and maintain AS/NZS radio communications standards. As these are generally industry driven standards, the WIA generally participates in the capacity of a watching brief on spectrum issues which may affect the amateur service. RC006 and RC004 held back to back meetings on 14th and 15th September in Melbourne and the next meeting of RC006 is scheduled for 26 April in Sydney.

The RC006 (Land mobile and General) committee chaired by Noel (For ARCIA):-

- Revised standard AS/NZS 4268 titled Radio equipment and systems - Short range devices - Limits and methods of measurement was published on 22 February. The project, sponsored by ACMA, encompasses changes made to the LIPD class licence and also moves the structure of the standard to one that will eventually update automatically by directly referencing requirements in a "re-vamped" LIPD class licence. The revision work turned out to be quite complicated because the standard references test methodology from both the FCC and ETSI test environments as products in the scope of this standard can come from many sources. A flow chart was added to the standard to assist users of the standard to interpret their best path to establishing device compliance against the standards requirements.

- The project to develop a part three of standard AS/NZS 4768 was put on hold last year at the request of sponsor ARCIA and has now been reactivated. A factor in that decision, revision of the RC Act has been delayed but recently ETSI has completed a revision of the main standard referenced for testing as part of the new ETSI directive in place there. (See http://www.etsi.org/news-events/news/1103-2016-06-news-etsi-publishes-harmonised-standards-for-new-eu-radio-equipment-directive. The purpose of the standard is to extend the coverage of the AS/NZS parts 1 and 2 to cover the latest "mature" international standards to include non-continuous envelope emissions and narrower 6.25kHz and hence assess the "spectrum impact" of various land mobile technologies when used in the local spectrum environment.

The RC004 (Marine) committee, chaired by Glenn Dunstan (VK4DU):-

- The AS/NZS 4280.1 406MHz EPIRB and AS/NZS 4280.2 406MHz PLB standards were amended to mainly update registration procedures.

- Glenn is proposing a project to replace AS/NZS 4415.1 VHF IMM (DSC) standard with two direct adoption standards and this approach is supported by the ACMA.

Submitted by Noel Higgins VK3NH

TE003/TE003-19 Standards Development

TE-003-19 is a sub-committee of TE-003 Electromagnetic Interference. These committees are concerned with electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), including the protection of radio reception, in the range 9 kHz to 400 GHz, from interference caused by operation of electrical or electronic appliances, and the setting of limits and test methods. The committee's liaise with the ACMA and with the following International Organizations in the preparation of Standards to protect the radio spectrum:

- CIGRE (International Council on Large Electric Systems)
- EBU (European Broadcasting Union)
- ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute)
- IARU (International Amateur Radio Union)
- ITU-R (International Telecommunications Union - Radio-communications Sector).

My interest is in ensuring that as far as possible the Standards provide protection to broadcast services and amateur radio and that the measurements have an assessment of the measurement uncertainties so passing and failing a device has a defendable basis.

In the last year there have been five committee meetings. I participated in four of these.

During and in between meetings some eighty documents, mainly from CISPR; (International Special Committee on Radio Interference) were received for review. I reviewed these and

submitted comments/suggestions on about ten. One issue I failed to get committee support for was the perennial problem of reducing interference from electrical tools.

Standards covering induction charging of batteries in devices from electric toothbrushes through to electric vehicles continue to be developed. Following the lead of the IARU I made a submission restricting the operation of these devices to a few frequency ranges, however, the final standard is likely to be allow additional bands with protection for some essential services and limits on harmonics.

Submitted by Ron Cook VK3AFW

National Technical Advisory Sub-committee

It is with regret that I record the resignation of the VK4 regional TAC advisor, Bill Sebbens VK4XZ. I thank Bill for his work and advice over many years.

The role of the TAC regional advisors has changed over time. The formation of the single national WIA meant that the regional advisors no longer had state divisions to consult. And the handing over of repeater licensing matters to a single national co-ordinator has meant a reduced role for the regional advisors in the frequency allocation and planning area. However the regional advisors can still make a very valuable contribution based on their local knowledge and contacts.

The same applies to the members of the technical advisory panel. Their expertise is available for the benefit of the WIA. Like most advisors, they are at their happiest when they are consulted.

Activities 2016 - 2017

The past year has been fairly quiet. The routine tasks of maintaining the records list and data bases continue as usual. Steve Ireland VK2MD continues to update and refine the repeater data base.

In the band planning area, discussion of the 80 metre digital mode plan led to a review of the digimode segments of all bands up to 10 metres. There was also an active discussion of ways of minimising interference between different modes on 30 metres. Material published on these subjects elicited 21 responses and comments. As a result the band plan digital segments on several bands (80, 30, 17, 15, 12 and 10 metres) have been adjusted so that they now align with the IARU band plans.

General

As usual, I thank all members of the TAC advisory panels for their contributions. I offer to continue in my role with the TAC. I also recommend that other members of the TAC technical and regional panels be reappointed.

Submitted by John Martin VK3KM, Chair Technical Advisory Sub-committee

Repeater and Beacon Advisory Service

For many years the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) has provided a recommendation service for those wishing to licence a beacon or repeater. The WIA may make licence recommendations to the ACMA, which has a long standing practice of recognising the WIA's expertise on the use of the Amateur Radio spectrum.

Individual radio amateurs and radio clubs are encouraged to discuss their applications for repeater or beacon licences, or a change of licence conditions for an existing service. The WIA does not charge for the service. The full policy URL is at the end of this report.

During 2016 there were *46* recommendations made for repeaters.

The ACMA staff handling the processing of licence applications for repeaters and beacons was experiencing difficulty through the new SPECTRA system software, due to the unique nature of the applications.

The ACMA chose a meeting in Canberra to discuss the difficulty, attend by Peter Mill VK3APO and Gilbert Hughes VK1GH. A solution was agreed resulting in the ACMA able to handle applications differently to speed up issuing and reduce errors that may occur.
It was mutually agreed that the ACMA would receive from the WIA a spreadsheet that had suitable formatting, to make the processing and issuing of licences run very smoothly.

With the development of mixed mode repeaters there have been a number of groups wishing to multi list a frequency with a different emission. The ACMA indicated that this was unnecessary duplication in the data base and it was agreed that 2 emissions would fit most applications.
12.5 kHz allocation   11K3F9W
25 kHz Allocations   16K0F9W

WIA Repeater and Beacon Licence Recommendation Policy:
http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2014/20141215-1/index.php

Submitted by Peter Mill VK3APO, WIA Repeater & Beacon Coordinator.

WIA Monitoring System Report

WIA Annual General Meeting - WIA Monitoring System Report for 2016.

The WIA Monitoring System is one of many radio societies reporting arrangements of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). The IARU Monitoring System provide reports of intruders into the "Primary" status Amateur Service high frequency bands to the relevant Regulatory Agencies in member countries.

Like many other areas of the WIA, the monitoring system relies upon volunteers for without their significant contribution each month the WIA could not provide its reports to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) the Australian spectrum regulator. I am particularly grateful to John Kirk, VK4TJ for his monthly reports. I would like to thank the many ad-hoc reports that are sent in by individuals via the WIA website electronic lodgement system, in particular Lyn VK4SWE and Col VK4CC.

In the year 2016, WIA observers detected 5294 intruders, which contrasted with 5289 reports in 2015. The WIA continues to provide monthly monitoring reports to the ACMA of these intrusions. Due to the iterant nature of some intruders, the ACMA has difficulty in determining which ITU member administration is responsible, which draws out the process for their removal. In many cases, there has been some success but only to see the same intruder return some time later. Unfortunately, some Administrations ignore requests for removal of interfering services from our Primary status bands. There has, however, been some success with the removal of a number of Indonesian "village radio" stations by the government regulator. There are many of these stations still in operation and considering the 10,000 islands within the Indonesian jurisdiction, the work of removal from the Amateur Service spectrum will take some time.

As reported in past years has been multitude of Over-The-Horizon-Radar (OTHR) systems mainly Chinese, Turkish, Iranian and British systems along with CODAR systems (oceanographic radars) particularly on the 20 to 10 meter bands. With the downward trend in the Solar cycle, there will is future years be increasing numbers moving to the lower HF bands. There is also increasing numbers of digital emissions where the use of Software Defined Receivers (SDR) has been useful in identifying non-amateur digital systems that are frequency hopping. I wish the thank the Manly-Warringah Amateur Radio Society for establishing a 5 band SDR receiver system as this greatly assists in our monitoring activities. I recommend that other clubs establish SDR systems to not only help their club members to the intruder monitoring system as a whole.

The monthly monitoring reports are placed on the "Members Section" of the WIA website.

For the WIA monitoring system to continue to work volunteers are required - Can you help? Information can be found on the WIA website on how to become an observer and what's involved, or you can contact me via vk3mv@wia.org.au .

Submitted by Peter Young VK3MV, WIA Monitoring System Coordinator

The Administrative Committee is concerned with the day-to-day running of the WIA, the operation of the WIA Office, and the WIA's accounts.

Number of VK Amateurs

Please see the companion analysis by Marc Hillman for an estimation of the total number of Radio Amateurs.

New Licences Issued

	The Wireless Institute of Australia					
	2011	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Amateur licenses in Australia	14,592	14,206	14,202	14,035	13,977	13843
WIA Membership	4,575	4,562	4,538	4,465	4,447	4,130
% WIA Members	31%	32%	32%	32%	32%	30%
New & Upgrade Licences Issued						
Foundation	411	360	414	382	390	361
Standard	121	100	118	104	115	118
Advanced	96	86	93	104	250	101
Total	628	546	625	590	755	580
% of Amateur Community	4.3%	3.8%	4.4%	4.2%	5.3%	4.1%

WIA Membership

On 31 December 2016 there were 4130 members of the Institute. That membership includes members in the following categories.

Number of WIA members:

Membership type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Life	34	32	32	32	29	28
Full	3,105	3,100	3,080	3,082	2875	2720
Concessional	1,108	1,125	1,128	1,085	1099	1125
Family	98	96	93	82	79	79
Non-AR (no longer available)	164	146	139	125	107	105
Student	20	26	27	28	36	39
Overseas	46	37	39	31	28	34
TOTAL WIA MEMBERSHIP	**4,575**	**4,562**	**4,538**	**4,465**	**4,447**	**4,130**

Due to the non-processing of membership renewals immediately leading up to and during the Christmas office closure, the end of year membership count was determined by using the membership number at 28th January 2017 and subtracting new members during the month of January.

WIA Administration

The year started with the full handover of the WIA office administration to Bruce Deefholts who had been employed late in 2015 as the WIA's Executive Administrator. Fred Swainston stood down as a contracted administrator very early in 2016, but continued to oversee the WIA office throughout 2016 in his voluntary capacity as a WIA Director.

Bruce is responsible for the day-to-day activities at the WIA office including membership administration, supplier orders and payments, sales and invoicing, the club insurance scheme and a myriad of other tasks. Petra continues to administer the assessment and callsign allocation service as required under the Deed between the WIA and the ACMA, as well as providing other administrative services to members and the Board. Membership organisations have their own peculiarities, and the WIA Board are very appreciative of both Bruce and Petra for their dedicated service, often in quite trying circumstances.

The accounting and book keeping services are now performed by external contractors (2-Peas) working in the WIA office for one day per week. After a period of difficulty with the accounts last year, 2-Peas book keeping services quickly brought the WIAs accounts up to date, and have also simplified the accounting process. Monthly financial reports are generated by 2-peas and are presented to the monthly Board meetings.

The administration of the Club Insurance Scheme was brought into the office for the first time in 2016, and although there were some difficulties getting all the information together from clubs by the due date, everything eventually came together. Some valuable lessons were learned for the 2017 year club insurance.

Some office processes have been simplified, and some changes have been made to improve the linkage between the MEMNET membership management system and the MYOB accounting package. There is still a great deal of administration time taken-up sending membership renewal notices and processing member payments. One of the issues is the large number of payment portals used, and the fact that every payment received through B-Pay needs to be manually matched from the bank statement to the renewing member. Too much office time is still taken up with telephone and Email enquiries.

The WIA continues to provide services on a cost-recovery basis on behalf of the Commonwealth, such as education and assessment administration, callsign and certificate of proficiency administration. That service has run at a financial loss for several years and, rather than increase entry costs for new amateurs, we should look at ways to reduce the administration time/cost of that service.

Submitted by Phil Wait VK2ASD, WIA President

WIA Bookshop

A number of books were being ordered from the ARRL and RSGB. Transporting these books for resale in Australia was making the sale of the overseas books non-competitive. A process where books were ordered from Pages of Cobram was introduced the result being that the books on offer through the WIA bookshop were once again competitive.

Later in 2016 the sale of overseas books decreased and on advice from the Executive Administrator and approval of the WIA Board the ordering of overseas books was stopped. The remaining stock of overseas books has been almost completely sold. The WIA is now looking at a collaborative arrangement with Pages of Cobram to advertise some Amateur Radio books through the WIA Bookshop website with sales and delivery via Pages of Cobram.

The two best-selling books are the Foundation Manual, with approximately 700 units sold, and the WIA Call Book with moderately good sales. These publications are produced in-house. Wireless Men and Women presales have been excellent with 100 ordered by December 2016.

Currently the book shop is running at a profit.

The Publications Committee were asked in 2015 to examine the possibility of reducing the mass of the Call Book to less than 500g. This would result in a cost saving of $5 on postage which would be passed to members and others. This was not achieved in 2016 and will be considered by the Publications Committee in 2017.

Submitted by Fred Swainston VK3DAC

Affiliated Clubs Committee
Ted VK2ARA, Phil VK2ASD (Director), Bruce Deefholts (Executive Administrator)

"Clubs – Clubs – Clubs"
Are they the organised groups of amateurs who are the mainstay of WIA support, or are they a secret society in their own little world, or maybe even the Dark Side of Amateur radio?

If you take a helicopter view of the WIA, its Affiliated Clubs, and how information is shared, I have no idea what your perception will be. So many times I hear, "he should have" or "he should not have", "they did" or "they did not", or "what have they ever done for us" and "it is all wrong because I heard Bill tell Tom that he heard Dick say that he knows for sure that..............." You get the idea; It makes me wonder if we are all on the same side.

2016 has been a quiet year since I handed back the liability insurance renewal process. After a bumpy start it eventually got back on track. It is a pity that well intended advice was not more closely adhered to instead of "I have a better way to do that". The start-up stumble was totally unnecessary and caused a lot of problems that could have been avoided. I am happy to be out of the annual insurance renewal process, but I feel that after 10 years it is beholden to me to support the process where needed.

First, I will offer two reminders: To the WIA office and staff - this is not an item that you can do when you have time. The 1st of April at 4pm is a real deadline. You must act in time to cooperate with clubs to meet that deadline. If the 1st of April is an inconvenient date, manage a change just as we did in 2005.

To Affiliated Clubs - most of you have been in this joint policy for at least 10 years, and I fail to see any reason why you are not prepared for the annual renewal. You may want to consider the costs, but in all-else be ready to respond, and this should not be a month after the renewal request. Over the years I was repeatedly asked, why does it matter if we are a few days late?

For those who hold this view, it is a joint policy where a single invoice is issued for each of the $10 million or $20 million cover. The invoices cannot be issued until the details of every club have been returned. If you are late, then you are holding up all other clubs, risking loss of cover for all.

To answer another common question; the cover you are buying is only <u>Liability Insurance</u>. Meaning that you are protected in cases brought against the club for personal or property damage. It does not provide any form of general cover. For General Insurance, clubs need to make their own arrangements. Clubs need to study the policy document carefully to determine if it is suitable for them.

Enough of my words now- how about some of your own. The WIA as a representative body cannot provide a lot of material support, but what it can do is provide you with an avenue to tell everyone who you are, and what you are doing. This starts with your input to the WIA National News, and for longer term exposure, the club pages on the WIA website. Recent checks show that about 30% of clubs have not updated their information for at least 12 months. Even worse, at least a dozen clubs have entered no club information at all.

If you do not tell us, how are we going to tell others? In case you do not know, access to the log-on details is as simple as a letter/email from the club President or Secretary to the WIA office, requesting your Password and Access code. Regular updates of activities, contact information, and security of the code, is then up to you.

Communication
For people who are into radio communications, we are near to hopeless communicators. If you listen to the WIA news, or read AR magazine, you may notice that there is a lot of club information submitted from only a handful of contributors. What would it be like if most of our 150 or so clubs provided regular input? Reminder, it does not cost anything to pass info via WIA news or AR Magazine, just a bit of effort on your part.

Last for this year
It is always distressing to hear about clubs where there is conflict between the Committee and Members. It is equally distressing to have to say that the WIA has little or no role in solving internal club problems. Within the WIA the first consideration is always to its members. This includes treating all members as equals, to the extent that it can never take sides in a conflict. The WIA cannot interfere with club matters, it can only advise.

From time to time I am made aware of issues within clubs. My response has always been the same; you cannot solve a club dispute by proving who is to blame. Both sides of the dispute must acknowledge that the problem exists and the other side has a right to their opinion, every bit as much as your own. The only long term resolution to disputes is a mutually agreed solution, and both must feel satisfied with the outcome.

WIA Clubs Coordinator Role

Let's try to make sure that we all have the same expectations – What is the role of Club Coordinator?

- To provide volunteer support to all affiliated clubs
- To the best of their (my) ability, to make sure that information is passed to all clubs in a timely manner
- To be a communication link between clubs and the WIA office/Board
- To support clubs in posting event details in the coming events calendar
- When requested by the Board, to participate in and support specific initiatives

I do not work alone. On major issues I work directly with the WIA President and the office.

Contact and Follow-up

I have recently moved over to NBN and my email address has changed. It is now edwardthrift1@bigpond.com and I am happy to receive email from anyone. My phone number is 02 42729521 and I would very much prefer that this is used as a last resort. I am the only active Learning Organiser between the South of Sydney and the Victorian border and this makes my time very precious. I cannot do justice to your enquiry if you call when I am doing training. If you email me I can give you my 100% attention.

I so often hear people say, "The WIA did this", or "The WIA didn't do that". Please keep in mind, there is no "THE WIA" - WE are the WIA! Another useful quote: It was once heard that "somebody should do something about this" - **are you not that somebody?**

Submitted by Ted Thrift VK2ARA, Clubs Coordinator

Communications Marketing and Publications

This resource has been used by the Board of Directors, in the promotion of numerous special events, and to communicate with WIA members. News items were sent weekly to the website, the Sunday broadcast and appeared in the monthly Amateur Radio magazine.

Working with the IT Services Committee, website material and content have been updated and expanded, reflecting suggestions made by members, the needs of the office and ACMA.

The WIA STEM involvement and the review of the Licence Condition Determinations due in 2017, are major ongoing marketing activities led by the WIA Committees through the WIA Board that is ultimately responsible.

The Spectrum Strategy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Education Committee, ARISS Sub-Committee, plus the Historical and Archives Committee have each benefitted. Replies to inquiries from the media and general public have also been sent.

Members of the Communications and Marketing Committee are constantly in touch mostly via email, but also on the telephone sharing ideas and strategies. It looks forward to a restructure of WIA Committees in 2017 and some new people with different skills and workable ideas.

Submitted by Jim Linton VK3PC, Communications and Publicity

Publications Committee

Annual Report for 2016

Publications Committee (PubCom) continues to meet on a quarterly basis, in March, June, September and December. The September and December meetings in 2016 were held on-line using the WIA arrangements to use *GoTo Meeting* software. This drastically reduced the time requirement, with no or minimal travel time required of most members.

Most of the work of PubCom is focussed on the production of *Amateur Radio* (*AR*) magazine. Articles are normally submitted to the PubCom Secretary Kaye VK3FKDW, who enters the articles on an Article Register. Technical articles are sent to the Technical Editors

for review, and then to the Editor. General articles are examined prior to being sent to the Editor for consideration for publication.

During 2016, a total of 256 articles and columns were submitted for consideration. An additional number of articles were submitted and published without being added to the Register, mainly the *Editorial, WIA News* and *President's Comment*, plus some small WIA announcement articles. Depending upon the content, articles are normally published within 12 months of initial submission. Columns are normally published in the next issue. Most articles that have time-sensitive content are published whilst the content is still relevant.

PubCom also oversees the preparation of the *Callbook*, with the Callbook Editor Peter VK3PH undertaking most of the work. The *Callbook* is based upon the content of the ACMA *Register of Radiocommunications Licences and Broadcast Service Licences* on 1 September each year. Therefore, changes to listings after that date are not recorded in the *Callbook*, as the WIA must publish the data as it appears in the *Register*.

During 2016, PubCom also embarked on the preparation of a compilation of articles relating to the Centenary of the ANZAC landing. Most of the articles had been published in *AR* beginning in the latter part of 2014, and during 2015 and 2016. Several additional articles were included which had not yet been published. Several months passed without further action due to some confusion, prior to clarification being achieved in October.

The final result: *"Wireless Men and Women at War"* was in the final stages of preparation in early 2017 and is expected to be printed and ready for distribution by the end of March 2017. As this report is prepared in March, 100 copies had been pre-ordered. PubCom apologises for the delay between the placement of the pre-orders and delivery. We trust that this publication will form an important document covering the history of involvement of amateurs (wireless experimenters) in the early developments of radio in Australia and the Australian military services, and in the following years. Significant efforts have been undertaken by the individual authors, by Peter Wolfenden VK3RV and by the Editor Peter VK3PF to bring this material to print. We also thank Sergio VK3SFG of Fontana Design for his work in preparing the material for print.

During 2016, some difficulties were encountered with processes at the National Office in regard to the background work related to the publication of *AR* and the processing of matters related to advertising. The Board is attempting to resolve these issues.

During the year we welcomed a new member to the Technical Editor team: John Morrissey VK3ZRX.

I convey my thanks to all of the members of PubCom, to our regular contributors, to our small proofreading team, and to our regular advertisers and suppliers. The outputs of PubCom are truly team efforts.

Submitted by Peter Freeman VK3PF, Editor and Publications Committee Chair

WIA National News Broadcast

VK1WIA

We again this year thank our readers and listeners; without you there would be no need for a myriad of volunteers who put the weekly news to air each and every Sunday.

To our call-back operators who take the time to forward to nationalnews@wia.org.au the number of check-ins each week; to the various clubs and individuals up bright and early transmitting the audio files; to the writers and particularly those who take the time to voice their reports thanks not only for your input.

With one notable exception, for your understanding that material is edited, in the main, to try and adhere to a 30 minute bulletin. I thank you all for your dedication, effort and understanding.

Much has been written in the main stream media about so called 'fake news'. I believe the VK1WIA News broadcast has been successful in reporting the real news rather than manufacturing fake news; being a 'news reporter' rather than a 'news maker'.

There have been items from amateur news services questioning why we are having a complete board election this year, and claiming that the WIA news is censored.

The WIA news is not censored by the WIA Board. Yes, lies were told and then re-circulated, and several emails asking to 'desist' went unanswered.

Let us all hope this situation is well behind us now, although I tend to think no matter WHO are elected there will be those who will never be happy. (A bit like one club member who wanted his HamFest plug given the same spot 5 minutes into a broadcast that he figured we gave a VK2er because he was a WIA Director).

On HamFest material, over many years, the Wyong Field Day promotions on this newscast show the way it can be done. Each week new recordings contained something new. Each week the expanded text editions also highlighted their commercial traders, which, to adhere to ACMA regulations, could not be aired on the Broadcast.

Those members elected to the new WIA board this weekend have a lot to live up to as far as supplying the ham radio operators of VK the latest "No Spin" news. So I'll finish this year's report with a BIG thank you to regular reporters, Jason VK2LAW, Bryan VK3GR, Robert (retired WIA Director) VK3DN and Felix VK4FUQ. To Jim VK3PC - last year's WIA Secretary, Phil VK2ASD - WIA President, and Roger Harrison VK2ZRH - WIA Director, for regular input not only on WIA material but amateur radio operating in general.

Walking a little louder than usual. I'm GraHam VK4BB, WIA NEWS EDITOR.

Education Committee

Fred VK3DAC (Director), Ron VK2DQ, Bruce Deefholts (Exec. Administrator)

October 2016 is the 11th anniversary of the introduction of the current LCD. ACMA and the WIA commenced discussions on the remake of the LCD in 2015. Several WIA submissions were tabled and discussions continued in September 2016 and February 2017.

The new LCD is intended to allow for future technological developments to be included into Amateur Radio. The introduction of a new LCD will require an amended syllabus to be introduced which will have an impact on our training and assessment resource material. As yet we do not have timelines for this to occur, although it is a priority for the WIA and ACMA.

Minor changes have been made to the syllabus documents to include EMR questions into the Standard and Advanced Regulations Syllabus.

The Assessment Information System continues to work well. The on-line component is providing the information required by assessors and over the past 12 months there have been no issues with the Assessment Information System.

On-line trial exams have been introduced as a "proof of concept" in preparation for the introduction of on-line exams. On-line exams will be introduced when the process has been proved and is considered sufficiently robust. The exam instructions will be adjusted to meet the on line requirements, and Assessors/Learning Facilitators will need to be present to supervise on-line exams. ACMA will be involved in the development of the process.

Currently there are 212 assessors using the system, and an increase of 8% in Assessor numbers over the past 12 months. There has been a trend evident where some of our older assessors are retiring and are being replaced by a younger group.

Some assessors have not completed assessments for more than a year. The currency of competency issue is continually monitored, and the audits conducted of assessors indicate that generally these assessors are located in remote areas or areas where there are few assessments requested.

The breakdown of assessors is as follows:

ACT 6: NSW 75: Victoria 68: Queensland 46: SA 22: WA 11: Tasmania 7: and NT 6.

There are currently 47 Learning Facilitators providing assistance to the assessors and 53 assessor/learning facilitator trainees. The breakdown of Learning Facilitators is as follows:
ACT 1: NSW 12: Victoria 9: Queensland 16: SA 2: WA 2: Tasmania 4: and NT 1

Currently there are 24 Nominated Assessors covering all States and Territories. 3 additional Nominated Assessors, one in WA, one in SA and one in Qld have been trained during 2016. ACT 1: NSW 4: Victoria 6: Queensland 6: SA 3: WA 2: Tasmania 2. The 24 Nominated Assessors have conducted 314 audits over the past 12 months and as a result of these audits there were 61 non-conformances. The non-conformances were minor, where the assessor or learning facilitator had not conducted an assessment in the past 12 months. These are flagged as non-conformances relating to currency of competency, and are often assessors or learning facilitators who are in remote areas.

1 special and 6 remote assessments have been carried out by the Nominated Assessors. There have been 8, Form 11 exam queries generated over the past 12 months. These have all had a response.

Currently there are no incorrect answers in the question banks; however, some older exam papers will still have incorrect answers. Several of the Form 11's were generated as a result of old exam papers still in circulation. 3 form 11's required a change to adjust an ambiguous distracter in a question.

There have been 4 requests for recognition of prior learning for theory examinations. In every case these requests require the applicant to complete a Regulations examination. The standard of RPL applicants has been extremely high with the majority coming from an electrical/electronics radio background. Of the 4 applicants, 3 received recognition for advanced theory and practical, 1 received recognition for standard theory.

We have seen a general declining trend in the number of persons seeking to sit for the Foundation Licence, with a slight increase in 2016 to 392 assessments up from 388 in 2015.

In the 2016 calendar year 90 Foundation licensees qualified to Standard compared with 120 in the 2015 calendar year, and 30 Foundation licensees qualified directly to Advanced compared with 29 the year before. We continue to see a general upward trend in licence level upgrades.

Reciprocal Licence Applications based on US General Class Licences:

The WIA has commenced discussion with ACMA in relation to US Reciprocal Class licences being received by Australians, in particular Foundation Licensees, who have completed a US General Class Licence examination. This discussion relates to maintaining Australian Examination Standards. The "Table of Equivalent Qualifications and Licences", which is published on the ACMA website, is currently under review.

The WIA Training Organisation wishes to thank all Nominated Assessors, Assessors, Learning Facilitators, Learning Organisers and AR trainers for their co-operation and assistance in encouraging new entrants into Amateur Radio.

Submitted by Fred SwainstonVK3DAC/VK4FE, WIA Training Organisation

Ross Hull Memorial VHF-UHF Contest

There were twenty entries for the 2017 contest, and it is encouraging to see entries from amateurs who have not participated in the contest before. The aim of the contest is to encourage and recognise achievement in DX working on the VHF and higher bands. Its long duration (approximately four weeks encompassing the peak DX season) enhances opportunities to fit on-air activity around other summer commitments. This gives the contest a unique identity that will continue into the future. The contest would not benefit from any attempt to change it into a "something for everyone" contest.

I have foreshadowed my retirement as contest manager, but there have been no volunteers as yet. So I can do another one if need be.

Submitted by John Martin VK3KM, Contest Manager

Oceania DX Contest

The Oceania DX Contest has been managed by the Oceania DX Contest Committee since approximately 2000 when the committee was formed with volunteer committee members selected from the active contesting community within VK and ZL. From an administrative point of view the OC DX Committee manages the rules, running, scoring, log checking, adjudication, allocation of awards and the publication of results on behalf of the WIA and NZART who are jointly, the major sponsors of the contest.

Committee Activities

The committee has been moderately active over the year, with the contest running smoothly, processes and procedures now well established, roles appropriately allocated and many functions automated, there is less mundane work to do. This leaves the committee with more easily handled workloads and the ability to focus on promotional improvements. The main activities conducted include:

- Development and total revamp of a new Oceania DX Contest web site which is more mobile browser friendly site. see www.oceaniadxcontest.com
- Conduct, preparation and publication of the results for the 2015 Oceania DX Contests.
- Log checking and preparation of the 2016 Oceania DX Contest, results have been published. Log checking and processing is now faster with results published and PDF versions of certificates available within 6 months of the contest weekends.
- Production and dispatch of the 2015 winners plaques and awards.
- PDF online downloadable versions of the 2016 certificates.
- Plaques for winners of the 2016 are expected to be dispatched in approximately 6 weeks.
- New sponsorship has been obtained for several new award categories to encourage further participation in the OC DX Contest.
- Financial details have been handed over from Martin VK7GN to Lee Moyle VK3GK. Bank details are the same with sponsorship directly deposited and managed in the account.
- Much reduced operating costs have been achieved by having downloadable results and PDF certificates.
- Despite very large increases in postage costs, plaque sponsorship has been able to remain at $50 for the last 10 years. This is expected to need to be increased shortly because Australia Post charges are rising well above inflation.

Once again, the committee extends thanks to Paul Crossan, of Corio Printing for production of very high quality plaques at a very reasonable price.

Plaque and Contest Sponsors

The committee hopes that further sponsors can be found so that plaques for the best scoring stations in each of the continents of the world can be awarded plaques for each of the Phone and CW contests each year.

The current list of sponsors includes:
New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Wireless Institute of Australia, Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group Inc., Pacific Dxers Group, VK Contest Club, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, Wellington Amateur Radio Club, South Pacific Contest Club, Northern Corridor Radio Group, QRO Communications and OM Power, Rippletech Electronics, Ken Keeler N6RO, Lee Moyle VK3GK, Mirek Rozbicki VK6DXI (Silent Key), Chris Chapman VK3QB, Tony

Hambling VK3XV, Wes Printz W3SE / ZL3TE, Martin VK7GN, Slawek VK3CTN, Karsano YB0NDT, Lee ZL2AL (Silent Key), Brian ZL1AZE, Mike ZL2CC, Win ZL2GI, Phil ZL3PAH, Gary VK2IFB

It should be noted that the above list of sponsors has grown significantly over the years, testament to the hard work the committee has expended in this arena.
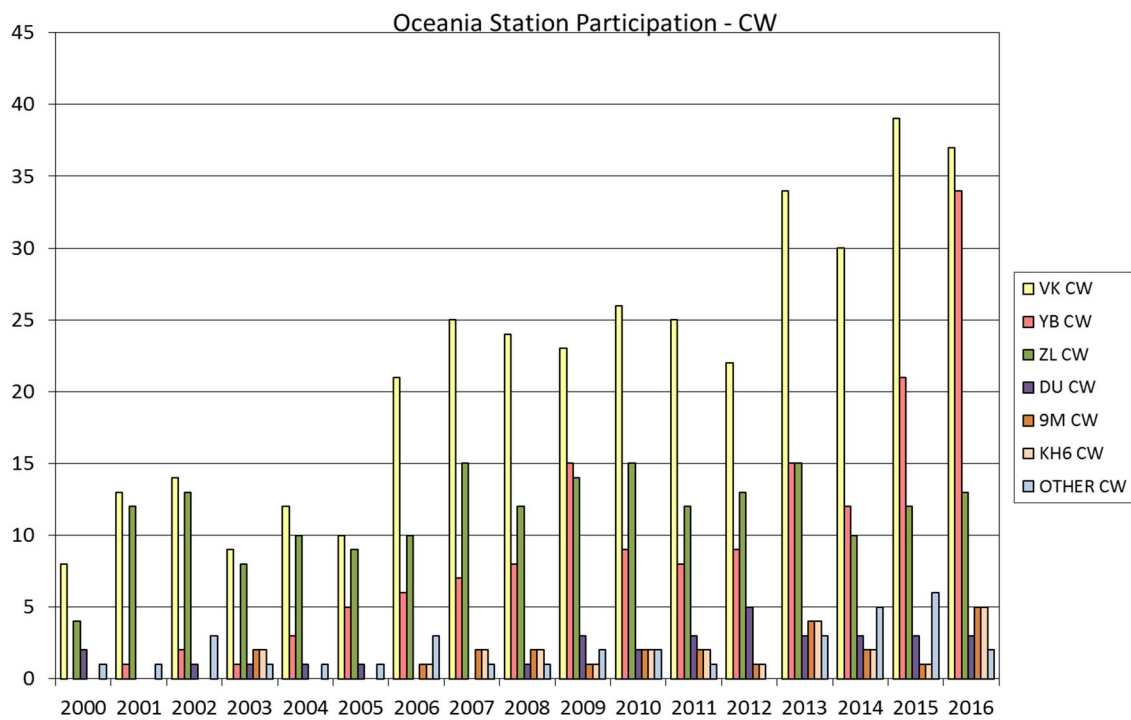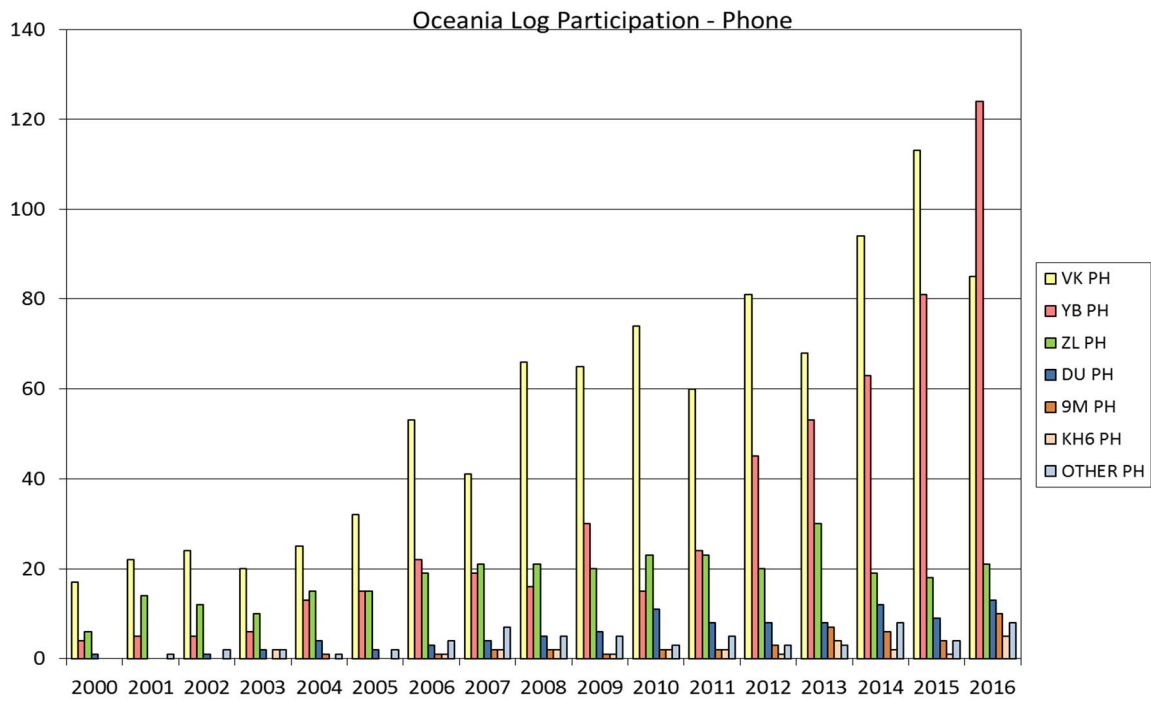

2016 - Recent Contest Results

The most recent CW and SSB contests were held in the first and second weekends of October 2016. Sunspot numbers were not outstanding however the number of logs received and participation still exceeded 1100 logs for the combined CW and Phone events. There is a significant number of logs submitted in Oceania and Australia. A table of the 2016 entries per continent is as follows. Note a total of 1192 logs, still at almost record high, despite nearing the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

Mode	Total Of ID	Africa	Asia	Europe	Nth America	Oceania	Sth America
CW	566		139	281	44	98	4
PH	626	1	180	149	26	266	4

Regarding Oceania station participation, there has been an overall steady growth over the last 15 years, mostly in the Phone event. However, most notably has been the rapid and vast growth of the participation of YB (Indonesian) stations in the contest. The number of YB stations now outnumber VKs in the phone event. The committee is hopeful to attract a YB ham to the committee to foster participation from Indonesia and provide representation within the committee. See the following participation graphs.

Oceania Log Participation - Phone

Oceania Station Participation - CW
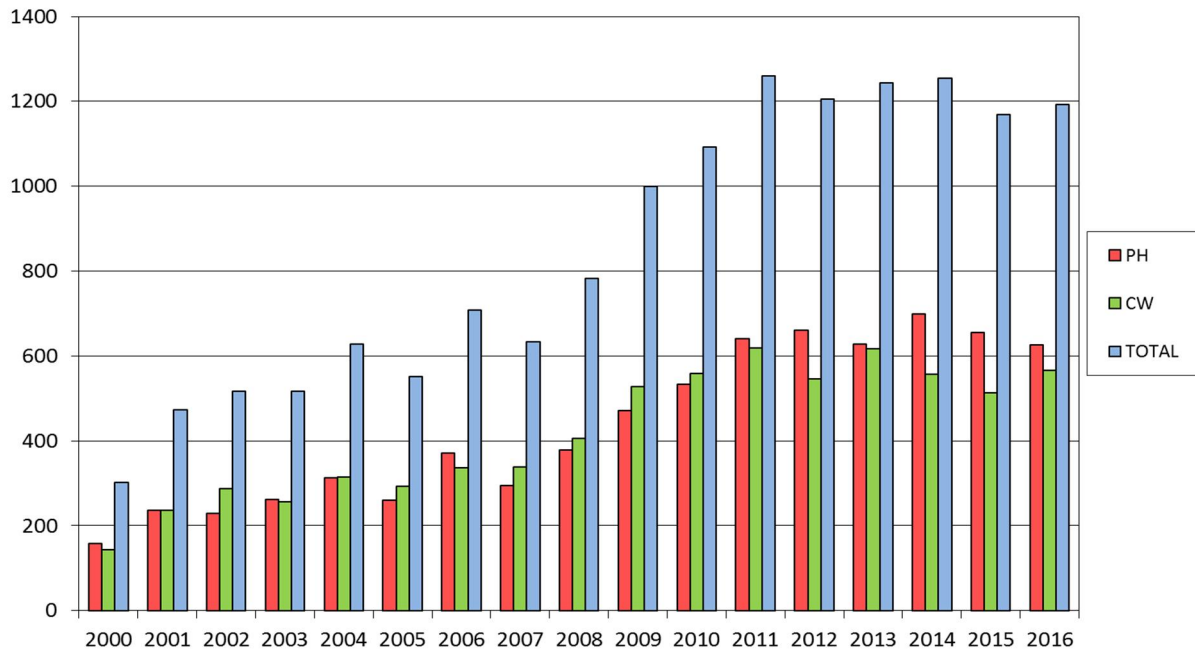

Participation from Oceania Stations is still increasing although there is still a much greater need for participation in the CW event where the number of Oceania stations is far less a percentage of overall participation. This makes it difficult for international (non-Oceania) station to make QSOs.
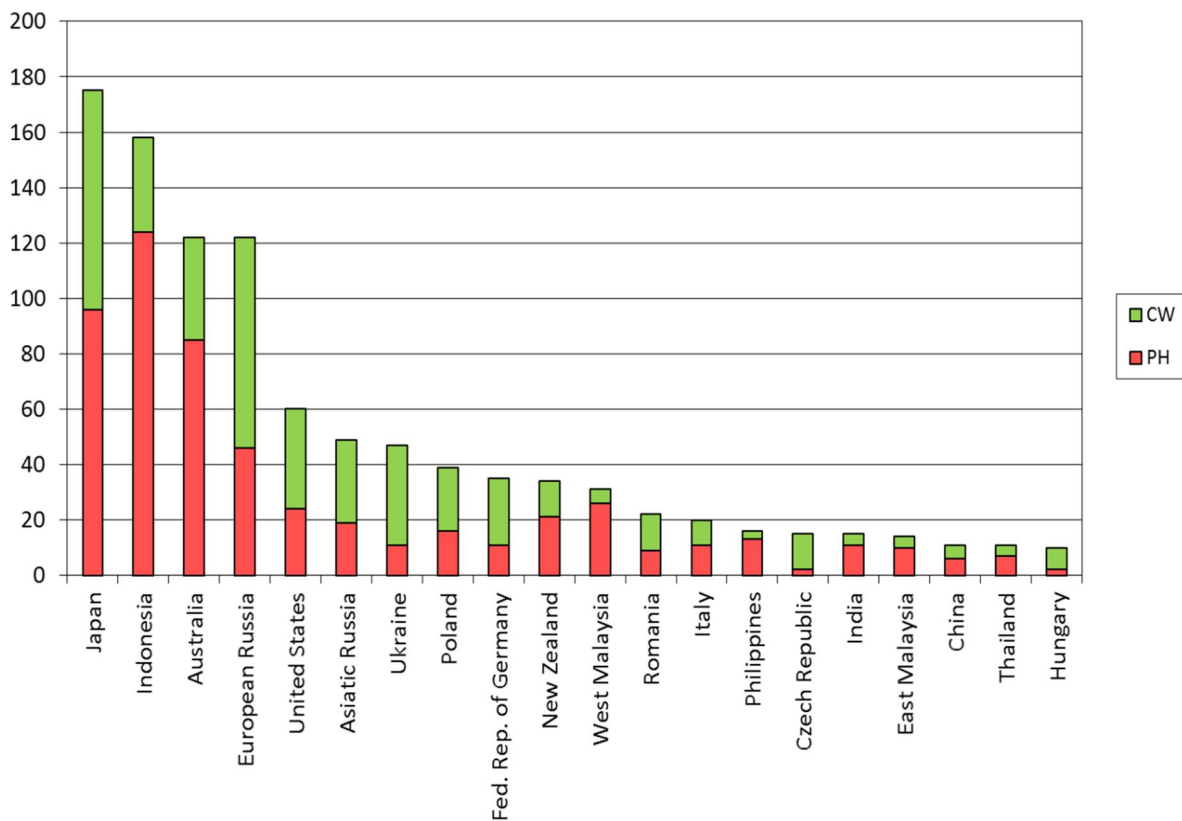
A history of participation is shown in the following graph, indicating steady participation

over the last 6 years.

The following is a graph showing the top participating countries and it is notable that Indonesia is second only to Japan. Europe continues to be the continent with the most participation.

Wireless Institute of Australia

Open Forum
Hahndorf, May, 2017

Paper log entries continue to decline and this is assisting with a reduction in administrative time required. Less than 1% of logs are now received in paper format. Some other contests no longer accept paper log submissions. We will continue to accept paper logs to ensure that all hams are able to participate in this contest. WA7BNM provides an on-line web form that can be used by entrants to manually enter log data to produce a Cabrillo file and then submit it to the email robot. This form is intended for entrants who are using paper logging, or logging software that doesn't produce a Cabrillo file

Submitted logs and claimed scores are available on the website within hours of submission and ZL3GA and more recently Gary ZL2IFB, continue to do a sterling job ensuring that updates are quickly loaded onto the web site. Current rules are published in time for participants to note and slight rules changes, new plaques and awards for the upcoming contest. Contest stories are also available for casual reading and enjoyment. PDF versions of past results and reports are easily and quickly available. In short the web site is our portal to the contesting community and it is of world class, providing the same information as that available on the major contesting sites.

The list of software that supports the OCDX Contest includes Writelog, N1MM logger, CT, Win-Test, AAlog, DxKeeper, SD Logger, TRlog, Genlog, OH2GI's software Hamsystem and VKCL.

Funding and Future Improvements

The financial aspects of the contest have been running smoothly. Nevertheless, the committee is focused to ensure that financially we run a very tight ship, keeping costs to an absolute minimum. A "no fee" bank account would be a significant benefit.

Recently Australia Post has significantly increased postage costs for overseas parcel mail as well as local parcel costs. To maintain plaque costs at under $50, overseas plaques have been sent via seamail. Since the 2015 plaques were sent, Australia Post has discontinued seamail for items under 2kg, meaning we will again have to use Airmail and so it will not be possible to maintain this price.

OC DX Contest Committee and Contributing Amateurs

The current committee comprises Brian ZL1AZE (VK3MI) (Chairperson), Tony VK3TZ (Deputy Chairperson), Lee VK3GK (Financial Controller/Treasurer), ZL3GA, Phil VK4FHN (Log checking and certificate production) and Gary ZL2iFB - webmaster plus other marketing and promotional activities.

The Committee is most grateful for the support provided by:

- **NZART**, **WIA** and the **other sponsors of awards**.
- **K1EA** for the provision and development of the log checking software.
- **N5KO** for developing and hosting the email robot.
- **K5TM** for publishing the on-line certificates.
- **WA7BNM** for the provision of the on-line Cabrillo web form.

- **ZL1AXG** for the hosting of the www.oceaniadxcontest.com web pages.

Submitted by Tony VK3TZ, OC DX Contest Manager

ARISS

During 2016, ARISS stalwart Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI, made the decision to hand the ARISS Australian coordination reigns over to Shane Lynd VK4KHZ. Tony will continue to provide ARISS Technical and Telebridge support, whilst supporting and mentoring Shane.

Tony is one of the original ARISS team members and he has been actively involved in the educational aspect of the space program since August 1993 when Alex Serabrov answered a series of questions from students at the Loxton High School, South Australia.

1. **ARISS events completed 2016**
   88 events were completed during 2016 calendar year, comprising 51 Direct contacts, and 37 Telebridge contacts.

   Two Australian events took place; Essex Heights Primary School, Essex Heights Victoria and Glenmore State High School Rockhampton Queensland.

   A total of 11 ARISS events were facilitated through Australian ground stations VK5ZAI & VK4KHZ during 2016. Contacts comprised 5 x USA, 2 x Canada, 1 x Austria, 1 x Nepal, 1 x Italy and 1 x Australian contact.

   In addition Glenmore State High School facilitated a very successful Telebridge contact via ARISS ground station W6SRJ located in Santa Rosa California.

2. **Australian Telebridge Station Status**
   VK5ZAI – Tony Hutchison **(Active)**; VK4KHZ – Shane Lynd **(Active)**; VK6MJ – Martin Diggens **(Inactive)**. All three Australian Telebridge Stations currently have HAMTV receive capability.

3. **2016 Highlights**
   A very successful Telebridge contact took place for Essex Heights Primary School; Robert VK3DN and his team did a great job in preparing for the contact as usual.

   Another very successful Telebridge contact took place in for Glenmore State High School with over 800 parents, students and visitors in attendance. The RADAR Amateur radio club of Rockhampton also set up an amateur radio display which generated significant public and media interest.

The first HAMTV video being received over Queensland by VK4KHZ -
ESA Astronaut Tim Peake was observed setting up the Columbus module around
55 minutes prior to a scheduled ARISS HAMTV contact over the UK.

First Australian Telebridge utilising HAMTV - Students at Briargreen, in Ontario
Canada facilitated a successful ARISS Telebridge contact through VK4KHZ on the
13th June 2016. Despite a low elevation pass for VK4KHZ around 1 minute of
HAMTV video was received and the video was streamed live to the school via the
BATC server.

4.   **Technical issues encountered**

Failure of the Ericsson VHF transceiver in the Columbus module - A replacement
Ericsson hand held transceiver arrived on the ISS during March 2017 and will be
installed by the crew when time permits.

5.   **Australian and Pacific ARISS applications**

Four (4) Australian schools currently approved and waiting to be scheduled
however, we will always welcome further applications.

We are also currently working with education practitioners in the Solomon
Islands in assisting with the preparation of an ARISS application.

Submitted by Shane Lynd VK4KHZ, ARISS Coordinator

Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF)

During September 3rd to the 9th 2016 two of our local ARDF competitors headed off to
Albena Bulgaria to represent WIA at the 18th IARU World ARDF Championships.

A total of 462 people registered for the Championships, but looking at the results many
more attended. Region 3 (our Region) were represented by teams from China, (CRSA) Korea,
(KARL) Japan (JARL) and Mongolia (MRSF).

You may remember me mentioning in my last report that we did not win the right to host
the 19th World Championships in 2018. This event will be hosted by KARL, but no details as
yet.

Also locally, as there was no Region 3 Society offering, we were unsure if the 2017 Region 3
Championships would take place. In December 2016 this changed, and the event will now
be hosted by MRSF (Mongolia) during the month of September 2017. At this stage we have
a possible team of 6 planning to travel to Mongolia and represent WIA in the ARDF
Championships.

Preceding this event in early September a team of 3 will attend the IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships. As the WIA is not part of Region 2 our competitors will not be eligible for medals.

I am slowly assembling an ARDF/Foxor Road Show kit and when complete my intention is to take ARDF around the country. Some interstate areas are already familiar with ARDF, and a lot more RDF, but not all. As I am starting to wind down my working commitments, this will leave more time to spend promoting this part of our hobby. As for an international event here in Australia, I am not sure if it will be 2019 or 2021, but that will be decided in Mongolia later this year.

When I have more information regarding the ARDF Roadshow I will publicise it via the AR Magazine and VK1 WIA News.

Submitted by Jack Bramham VK3WWW, WIA ARDF Coordinator

Parks Activity

Activity from parks all across Australia continued to flourish over the last 12 months. Operating portable from a park has become a very popular pastime for many amateurs, trying to escape the noise floor from their homes, or by combining other interests such as bushwalking, 4WDing, caravanning, etc.

Three parks programs exist in Australia: the World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF) program, the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Awards (KRMNPA), and the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award. Participation in these programs is at an all-time high level. It is extremely pleasing to see a number of Foundation operators taking part in the programs as both park activators and park hunters. Another very pleasing aspect is that a number of comments have been made by amateurs that their interest in the hobby has been rejuvenated due to the parks programs.

Since the inception of the WWFF program in Australia in March 2013, over 2,150 award certificates have now been issued. That is an increase in nearly 1,000 certificates over the past 12 months. During the last 12 months around 10 KRMNPA certificates have been issued. This includes 1 KRMNPA Grand Slam plaque for activating and hunting all 45 Victorian National Parks, issued to Tony VK3XV. And a further 3 Merit Award plaques have been distributed. The VK5 National & Conservation parks Award commenced in April 2013, and around 400 award certificates have been issued.

During November 2016 the KRMNPA Activation Weekend took place which saw around 21 activators, operate portable from 41 National Parks across Victoria. This is just 4 short of the total number of National Parks in Victoria. Also during November 2016 the special activation weekend took place for the Australian (VKFF) chapter of WWFF. This was the 2nd year the

activation weekend had been held. A little over 40 amateurs took part and activated 70 different parks all across Australia. A total of 2,655 QSOs were made.

One month earlier, in October 2016, a total of 8 teams took part in the VKFF Team Championship. This is a fun event, where teams of up to 4 people are formed, with participants heading out to a park and making as many contacts as possible in a 6 hour period. Teams from VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, and VK7 took part. With sponsorship for the event coming from a number of private donors of cash, and also SOTABeams, and Pages & More from Cobram. The overall winners were Team Kookaburra, comprising Tony VK3XV and Mick VK3PMG.

In April 2017, the VK5 Parks Award celebrated its 4th birthday in fine style with a special anniversary activation weekend. A total of 17 amateurs took part, and around 25 different parks were activated all across South Australia. Each year, the VKFF program, acknowledges the Top VKFF Activator, the amateur who activates the most number of VKFF references during the year, and the Top VKFF Hunter, the amateur who works the highest number of VKFF references during the year. The Top VKFF Hunter certificate for 2016 was awarded to Mick VK3GGG, whilst the Top VKFF Activator certificate was awarded to Rob VK4AAC.

During early 2017 Paul VK5PAS was elected as the International Chairperson for WWFF. Events planned for the remainder of 2017 include the VKFF Team Championship to be held on Sunday 22nd October 2017, the KRMNPA Activation Weekend on the 10th-13th November 2017, and the 3rd VKFF Activation weekend to be held on the 25th and 26th November 2017.

More information on the parks programs can be found on the respective websites as follows…. http://wwff.co/ http://www.wwffaustralia.com/ https://www.amateurradio.com.au/awards http://www.vk5parks.com/

Submitted by Tony VK3XV, VK3 Awards Manager & Paul VK5PAS, WWFF Chairperson, VKFF co-ordinator & VK5 Parks Award Manager

Inwards QSLs

By the end of 2016 the Inwards QSL had received, sorted and despatched to the State and Territory QSL Managers over 50,000 QSL cards. The incoming physical card numbers continues to increase even with continued use of E-QSL. At the time of this report the Bureau is up to date with incoming QSL cards sent to the State and Territory Bureaus.

The Inwards QSL Bureau Manager and WIA Board expresses thanks to Mick Adams a WIA volunteer for his assistance in sorting over the year. The State and Territory QSL Bureau managers have once again provided excellent assistance in making sure the cards are being

distributed. The WIA Board have received a report on QSL operations and have resolved that a Policy be developed for QSL Bureau operations. The draft report will be provided to the State and Territory QSL Managers for their input.

Later in 2017 the IARU have QSL Operations on the agenda where the IARU QSL procedures will be reviewed and updated. The WIA Board will have input to this review.

The cost of sending out QSL cards to the State and Territory Bureau continues to increase due to Australia Post increased cost.

The system over 2016 has worked efficiently and effectively.

My intention to retire as the temporary Inwards QSL Bureau Manager at the AGM in May 2016 has not occurred due to the time taken to define the role of volunteers via the Volunteer Charter. The WIA received an offer for a new Inwards QSL Bureau Manager and this will be followed up during this year.

Submitted by Fred Swainston VK3DAC/VK4FE, Inwards QSL Manager

Outwards QSLs

As is the case each year, the Westlakes club provided the WIA's outwards QSL service during 2016.

The outwards QSL service continues to provide a valuable service to members as seen by the following statistics for the year 2016:

QSL CARDS POSTED TO OTHER BUREAUS	22800
QSL CARDS RECEIVED FROM WIA INWARDS BUREAU	18165
QSL CARDS POSTED TO VK2 MEMBERS	5381
QSL CARDS HANDED AT WYONG FIELD DAY	2530
TOTAL	**48876**

As in previous years, there is a continuing problem with non-ITU standard card sizes which cannot be sent through the normal channels.

The outwards QSL bureau is holding a significant number of cards for non-WIA members and is awaiting determination by the Board on how these should be handled.

Submitted by Alex VK2ZM, Outwards QSL Manager

HISTORIC QSL BUREAU

The Historic QSL Bureau collection continues to be maintained and is growing thanks to the contributions of the many radio amateurs or their families who donate their cards. The collection is the second largest in the world and houses some of the rarest QSL cards.

We continue to maintain our contact with Wolf Harranth OE1WHC in Vienna who maintains the world's largest QSL collection including domestic and commercial and other historic radio memorabilia. The WIA Board have an agreement with Doku Funk in Vienna that the WIA continue to preserve their 50,000 card donation.

Over 2016 we have had generous donations from family of SK's and others, who have been added to the collection. These are being kept as collections under the name of the original Amateur. Our pre-war collection has increased by several 100 cards which are now filed, based on callsign.

During 2016/7 the QSL collection was used on 7 occasions for research purposes, where we were able to provide assistance in a variety of areas.

The Historic QSL Bureau has been reorganised to allow for more efficient searches for historic information. The Bureau has now sorted collections based on the former owner of the collection instead of integrating cards into the broader collection where often the identity of the former owner is difficult to find. This change has come about based on advice from Wolf Harranth.

The Historic QSL Collection is a valuable resource and is also of significant monetary value.

Submitted by Fred Swainston VK3DAC/VK4FE, Historic QSL Manager

AR Scanning Project

Scanning back issues of AR continues. Will VK6UU advises that he has completed scanning all issues 1933 to 1997 (as of February 2017) and that Terry VK5TM has completed indexing 1933 to 1996 – a major effort on the part of both Will and Terry.

At this rate, all ARs to 2000 should be completed in about a year's time.

We now have to decide how this major resource is to be made available to members.

Archive Software

Development of the Inmagic data base software has progressed to a point where a number of existing Excel spreadsheets have been uploaded to Inmagic. Inmagic is a software database used by many historical societies and similar organisations. We feel that the initial hurdles have now been largely overcome and that we should soon be in a position to be able to search for records much more easily and rapidly than at present. Ian VK3IFM and Linda VK7QP have been ably applying their skills to this area.

History on the WIA Website

WIA website history can be found by going to *Members* then *Reference Information* then *WIA History*, alternatively, *WIA Information* then *WIA History*.

While time has prevented any additional information being posted on the website during the past twelve months, we know from inquiries received, that people are using the site. This project has proved to be worthwhile as not only are locals contacting the Archive as a result of looking at the History pages, but so are international browsers and researchers. Furthermore, a number of important donations have been made to the Archive as a result of individuals viewing the website.

It is planned to add further information about more recent historically significant material soon.

ANZAC - 100 STORIES and *WIRELESS MEN and WOMEN at War*.

The publication of *Wireless Men and Women at War* book should have occurred by the time this report is tabled. The Publications Committee, Peter Freeman and Sergio Fontana have done a mighty job and we all hope the book sells well for the Institute. Although the publication contains material printed in AR for the ANZAC 100 activities, a few articles were updated and expanded by further information from members and other magazine

readers. The book also contains a number of major articles which "missed the boat" for AR or were too long for the magazine at the time. In addition a number of other shorter articles have been added including reports about the WIA's involvements for the ANZAC-100 celebrations The resultant publication is now not only a record of amateurs who went overseas in the services, but it also relates to much of amateur radio's history in Australia around those difficult times, together with some history of the WIA. Itself This. project involved a number of HAC members (as well as the Publications Committee) and it certainly would not have been possible without the facility of our Archive.

In the Pipeline:
- **Donations**. We continue to receive donations and wish to acknowledge and thank all donors who have forwarded material to the Archive during this past year. Donations received have varied from important single sheets of official licencing information to boxes of books, photographs and memorabilia. Thank you all.

- **Call Book Scanning.** We continue to locate callsign listings which require scanning. These are very important tools for basic research into individual amateurs. Consequently, we are seeking additional competent volunteers to help produce searchable pdf call book files. If you think you can help, (and you don't have to reside in Melbourne, this work can be done remotely), please contact me via the WIA Office or vk3rv@wia.org.au

- **Library.** There is still a hiatus in making the Library available to members, a situation which hopefully will be resolved soon. Librarian, Drew VK3XU continues to acquire suitable books and magazines from donors.

-

Recommended Actions

- **The Board consider how AR and Call Book scans should be stored and made available to members and other users.** (The HAC recommends use of the WIA website.)
- **The Committee recommends that call sign listings and Call Books should also be made available on the WIA website.**

Thank-you again to all committee members for their interest and dedicated work for this important WIA activity and a sincere thanks to all who have donated or contributed to the Archive during this year.

Submitted by Peter Wolfenden VK3RV, WIA Historian, for the WIA History and Archive Committee

IT Services

**Robert Broomhead VK3DN, Marc Hillman VK3OHM, Tim Broomhead VK3KTB
Jim Linton VK3PC and Roger Harrison VK2ZRH (website content)**

WEBSITE AND IT SERVICES

Welcome to the WIA 2017 open forum and the annual IT and Website report. As usual our report contains a large number of website statistics reported on each year, plus updates on new technology and features deployed. The annual statistics provide and insight into the use and interest in website activity. The online callsign lookup facility, AR Digital edition facility, weekly WIA news broadcast in MP3 formats and WIA callsign@wia.org.au email facility continue to be widely utilised in conjunction with the wide range of reference material relating aspects of the hobby.

Some stats for the period April 1st 2016 through to April 1st 2017.

- During the last 12 months the WIA website has received just over 17 million hits, an increase in the number of hits since this time last year.

- In the last 12 month period the WIA has served out over one terabyte of data to members. This figure is made up of web page traffic from our website, an average 900 weekly downloads of the WIA news broadcast, plus downloads of the new AR digital edition for members.

- In the last twelve months there have been 48,984 downloads of the weekly news broadcast, which is similar to the number of downloads in the previous 12 month period. In addition to members clicking and downloading the news directly from the WIA website news page, many have chosen to subscribe to the news as a podcast. The news broadcast with the highest number of downloads in the last 12 months was Sunday sixteenth of October with 1,138 downloads.

- 511 people have used the websites "contact the WIA email form" in the 2016-2017. The breakdown of people using the WIA email contact form were:
    - 304 people sent an email to the National WIA Office
    - 110 people sent an email to the WIA President
    - 97 people sent an email to the WIA Webmaster

- In the last 12 months there have been 62,552 lookups of callsigns on the online available callsign database.

- In late June 2014 we launched a new Members Only feature on the website, Digital AR download. This has proved very popular the following are the monthly download statistics for the last 12 months.

  812 downloads April 2106 digital edition AR
  928 downloads May 2106 digital edition AR
  783 downloads June 2106 digital edition AR
  731 downloads July 2106 digital edition AR
  434 downloads August 2106 digital edition AR
  839 downloads September 2106 digital edition AR
  840 downloads October 2106 digital edition AR
  807 downloads November 2106 digital edition AR
  779 downloads December 2106 digital edition AR
  363 downloads January/February 2017 digital edition AR
  761 downloads Februray 2017 digital edition AR
  259 downloads March 2017 digital edition AR

  Currently 212 members have elected to save some WIA expense by suspending receipt of their hardcopy AR magazine and accessing the digital edition monthly.

- Currently 2,405 members have taken advantage of the WIA email address forwarding service providing them with their WIA email address in the format callsign@wia.org.au forwarding email to an email account of their choice.

The website also provides a public enquiry form completed by anyone seeking further information on how to get into the hobby of Amateur Radio. In the last 12 months 138 people have completed that form. The WIA's office staff follow up each enquiry, mailing out information packs on amateur radio. Included in the packs are a personalised letter, some promotional literature including a Calling CQ brochure and a sample back issue of AR magazine. The public enquiry form also asks people to identify the age bracket they fall into, the results of which are of particular interest. Listed below are the age breakdown for inquiries both the current 12 month period and the previous 12 month period, they are as follows:

- 4 were in the age bracket 10 -19 years
- 6 were in the age bracket 20 - 29 years
- 28 were in the age bracket 30 - 39 years
- 39 were in the age bracket 40 - 49 years
- 34 were in the age bracket 50 - 59 years
- 18 were in the age bracket 60 - 69 years
- 9 were in the age bracket 70 years and over

Thanks again for taking time to read this report, as always you feedback and suggestions for improvements and enhancements are most welcome.

Submitted by Robert VK3DN, Marc VK3OHM & Tim VK3KTB, WIA Webmasters

Statistical Analysis of Amateur licence data

This document has been generated in response to a Terms of Reference document created in Jan 2016 which called for an investigation of what analysis could be performed on WIA held data. Initially, this will focus on the RADCOM data provided by the ACMA.

Data Included

Between the years 2005 and 2014, the WIA has been provided with the RADCOM data by the ACMA of CD-ROM. In 2015 there was a transition to the new SPECTRA system, with a significant change of database format. This data includes details of all licences and licence holders. Some years have a complete set of 12 monthly disks, whilst some years only have about 3 disks. The last available disk from each year has been selected. These have been imported into an MS-Access database for further analysis. Only Year, Callsign, client ID and licence grade have been extracted from the licsing.csv file.

Year	Month
2005	Nov
2006	Nov
2007	Sep
2008	Oct
2009	Dec
2010	Dec
2011	Dec
2012	Dec
2013	Dec
2014	Dec
2015	Jan 2016
2016	Dec

Table 1 – Month of data snapshot

Data Extracted

Licence Category by Year

The table below describes the number of licences, by grade, by year. The analysis ignores the fact that some people could have multiple callsigns, and possibly at multiple grades. So, it counts the **number of callsigns**, not amateurs.

Data is shown for Amateurs in Table 2 and Repeaters/Beacons in Table 4.

Year	Category	Count
2005	Advanced	11901
	Foundation	8
	Standard	1858
2006	Advanced	11621
	Foundation	937
	Standard	1894
2007	Advanced	11539
	Foundation	1441
	Standard	1928
2008	Advanced	11313
	Foundation	1728
	Standard	1984

2009	Advanced	11154
	Foundation	1989
	Standard	2047
2010	Advanced	11038
	Foundation	2149
	Standard	2070
2011	Advanced	10911
	Foundation	2251
	Standard	2101
2012	Advanced	10763
	Foundation	2278
	Standard	2064
2013	Advanced	10504
	Foundation	2341
	Standard	2069
2014	Advanced	10321
	Foundation	2375
	Standard	2029
2015	Advanced	10184
	Foundation	2458
	Standard	2079
2016	Advanced	10045
	Foundation	2476
	Standard	2098

Table 2 – Category count by year

YEAR	TOTALS
2005	13767
2006	14452
2007	14908
2008	15025
2009	15190
2010	15257
2011	15263
2012	15105
2013	14914
2014	14725
2015	14721
2016	14619

Table 3 – Totals by year

Year	Category	Total
2005	Amateur Beacon	28
	Amateur Repeater	345
2006	Amateur Beacon	28
	Amateur Repeater	349
2007	Amateur Beacon	28
	Amateur Repeater	367

2008	Amateur Beacon	29
	Amateur Repeater	390
2009	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	403
2010	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	418
2011	Amateur Beacon	32
	Amateur Repeater	423
2012	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	438
2013	Amateur Beacon	35
	Amateur Repeater	435
2014	Amateur Beacon	33
	Amateur Repeater	451
2015	Amateur Beacon	36
	Amateur Repeater	442
2016	Amateur Beacon	35
	Amateur Repeater	441

Table 4 – Beacons & Repeaters by year

Joiners, Leavers & Upgraders

An analysis has been performed to determine the number of Joiners, Leavers & Upgraders. For the first year, everyone is a 'joiner', i.e. it establishes the baseline.

The numbers in this table may be slightly less than those in the previous section as multiple callsigns are ignored, and Amateur Beacons and Repeaters have been excluded.

Joiners are those ACMA clients who did not exist in the previous year.

Leavers are those who disappeared from the RADCOM data for that year.

Upgraders are those whose grade changed that year. 3 types of upgrade are possible:

- Foundation to Standard (F->S)
- Foundation to Advanced (F->A)
- Standard to Advanced (S->A)

There are instances where a licence lapsed, and the amateur rejoined later. These rejoins are counted as a Leave, followed by a Join.

Also shown are the number of Foundation (F never) and Standard (S never) licence holders that have never upgraded.

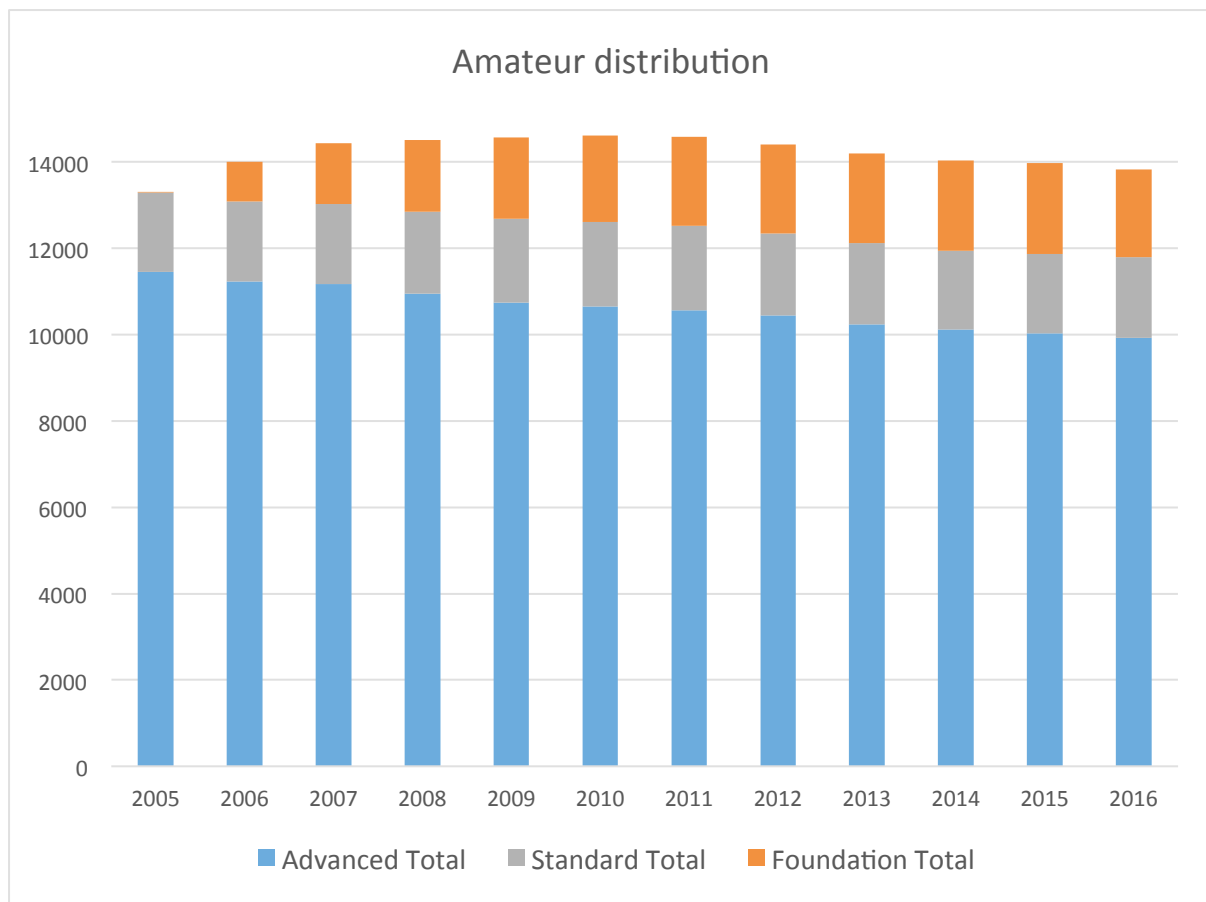| Year	Join/Foundation	Join/Standard	Join/Advanced	Join/Total	Leave/Foundation	Leave/Standard	Leave/Advanced	Leave/Total	Upgrade/F->S	Upgrade/F->A	Upgrade/S->A	Amateurs Total	Foundation Total	Standard Total	Advanced Total
2005	8	1832	11461	13301	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13301	8	1832	11461
2006	916	168	320	1404	0	117	586	703	1	1	41	14002	922	1843	11237
2007	622	92	296	1010	56	99	421	576	70	16	49	14436	1402	1857	11177
2008	579	134	268	981	180	128	603	911	100	46	65	14506	1655	1898	10953
2009	557	121	290	968	178	111	615	904	106	43	71	14570	1885	1943	10742
2010	474	100	245	819	229	114	430	773	88	35	69	14616	2007	1948	10661
2011	416	95	237	748	226	93	453	772	82	42	75	14592	2073	1957	10562
2012	353	68	210	631	248	113	456	817	63	51	79	14406	2064	1896	10446
2013	386	88	204	678	254	114	514	882	78	35	70	14202	2083	1878	10241
2014	390	60	214	664	268	113	450	831	74	42	72	14035	2089	1827	10119
2015	399	115	250	764	239	115	468	822	94	53	71	13977	2102	1850	10025
2016	233	71	181	485	171	87	370	628	99	28	66	13834	2037	1867	9930
Totals	5333	2944	14176	22453	2049	1204	5366	8619	855	392	728				
F never	1774														
S never	926														

Table 5 - Joiners & Leavers

Figure 1 - Distribution of amateurs

Observations

This analysis provides some data that allows some trends within the amateur population to be observed (and there are some interesting trends). Not unexpectedly, this data raises more questions than it answers. It provides insight into WHAT is happening. Because correlation does not equal causation, it is difficult, if not impossible to determine WHY. We can really only speculate.

Marc Hillman

VK3OHM/VK3IP

Dec 2016