



THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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CONTEST REPORT 2005

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Contesting in Australia is not regarded very highly by the majority of licensed Amateurs.

Remembrance Day Contest

As has always been the case, the RD remains the single event that captures widespread support. Certain sections within this contest have lost participation, but this may be due to the idea that the scoring system is “unfair”. In fact, I would argue that the several years of thought that went into the establishment of the present formula have produced a very fair marking system that allows for the vastness of Australia.

After the 2004 RD Contest, Alek Petkovic VK6APK, decided that it was time for him to step down as Manager. He had done the job for nine years and I ask that this Forum to take the opportunity to thank Alek for sterling work. The new Manager will be Chris. Edmonson VK4AA.

Harry Angel Sprint

Recently held for 2005, this sprint generates a pleasing level of participation from VKs 2,3,4,5, & 7.

VK/trans-Tasman Contest

Has maintained its devotees and fosters strong co-operation between New Zealand and Australia. Privately sponsored by Bruce Renn VK3JWZ, he is to be congratulated for the time and effort that he puts into the event.

Oceania DX Contest

Organised in New Zealand with help from several VKS, remains our international contest. This appeals to the dedicated DX testers and therefore fails to attract large numbers of ordinary operators. This is a shame, as many operators in overseas countries relish an opportunity like this to make contacts “down under”.

Contest Loggers

Whilst it has been accepted that VKs are not widely motivated, I am still amazed at the small usage of logging programs by those who do participate. Many of these use their computers, but via Word Processors. This means quite a period of work after an event, as it would if they did everything by hand. Perhaps the answer here is to write about such loggers in the Amateur Radio Contest Column.

WIA Web Site

The contest section of this web site needs general expansion. Here I need to liaise with Mr. Quick and the webmaster to see what can be done.

Final Comment

Whilst each contest tends to attract its own group of participants, it has been pleasing to see the interest being taken by those callsigns recently admitted to the HF bands. This is probably a strong factor in the decline of VHF participation, but no doubt a balance will be struck after a few years.

Ian Godsil, VK3JS