



THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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REPORT ON THE WIA QSL COLLECTION 2006

**Ken Matchett, VK3TL, Curator
WIA QSL Collection**

Although an ardent collector of QSL cards for nearly fifty years (many thousands of QSLs being the result of radio operation on Norfolk Island and Nauru) the QSL Curator's collection of QSLs was donated to and officially became the property of the WIA (Victorian Division) in July 1991. The Collection became the responsibility of the Federal body of the WIA in February 1994. Today it is known as the WIA QSL Collection.

Publicity for the Collection has resulted from articles written for the Amateur Radio magazine and by QSL cards being exhibited at Radio Conventions. Two colour CDs have been prepared showing both the Pre-War historical collection of QSLs and the Special Issue, Pictorial and Thematic QSLs of the post war era. The WIA Website could also be used to give publicity to the Collection.

The WIA provides an annual allowance for both storage facilities and maintenance of the Collection, which now numbers several hundred thousand QSL cards. The vast majority of the QSLs are housed in secure steel filing cabinets and A3 folders, the less valuable ones in cardboard boxes.

Unfortunately no decision has yet been made by the WIA on the future of this valuable collection, particularly in regard to its storage, location and care in future years. As time goes on the situation has become progressively more critical. Ideally, a Committee of Management appointed by the WIA should administer the QSL Collection.

Ken Mtachett