

PRESIDENT REPORT TO DARC AGM MARCH 6th 2019

General

For the Club to be radioactive it requires a significant amount of input from Committee members in particular, and generally from all members participating in Club activities.

The Committee has done its part, but participation by members has been a bit lacking in that numbers at the first Wednesday meetings are average despite some very interesting speakers addressing those present. I am very much aware of family commitments, and I believe that in all cases, "Family comes first".

However, despite this apparent reduction in participation, the work of the committee does not diminish. I wish to acknowledge the input of Committee members whose input must go on, for the club to continue to operate.

Treasurer

Ray West, as our treasurer for the past 6 years has done a sterling job of keeping us informed of our financial position and suffice it to say, Ray is not planning a trip to South America so we can conclude we are solvent but not rich.

As well as Treasurer, this Ray is generally the first in on Thursday mornings to open up, and put the billy on, washes the cups and frequently is left to lock up. All without a murmur.

Secretary

Paula Chappel, our secretary, has kept the correspondence under control, organised the SGM and AGM and dealt with WIA to renew our Public Liability Insurance. Paula has volunteered to represent DARC on the Litchfield Council run Knuckey Lagoons Recreation Reserve Management committee.

Paula has informed of Litchfield Councils intention to charge an hourly rate suggested at \$10 per hour, commencing 1st July 2019 which is way beyond our means.

Station Manager

Richie Chappel has been Station Manager for 5 of the 6 years of my involvement with DARC, and indicated he wishes a younger person to take over and is not offering his services for 2019. Richie's efforts and time spent setting up the club at Knuckey Lagoons and keeping it on the air mean that we are kept abreast of WIA activities on a weekly basis as well as being able to test our equipment.

Call Backs

Karl CAW is a most familiar voice most Sunday mornings running the call backs and reporting numbers to WIA

Public Officer

Phil Brennen has stepped in whilst Richie has been out of town and has been putting the WIA news to air each Sunday, and has continued to do so of recent weeks. Phil is also our Public Officer, fulfilling this role in a very efficient manner.

On your behalf I thank Ray, Paula, Richie Karl Phil and all the Committee members for their input to keeping the club moving.

ACTIVITIES

Lighthouse Weekend:

This nearly happened, but was cancelled at the last minute when the Committee became aware that the Northern Land Council were expecting in excess of \$2000 for permission to access the site using their security services. This figure was not palatable nor affordable.

I might add that the decision was made to go with the lighthouse weekend rather than the Memorial day contest the following weekend as Peter Clee VK8ZZ, WIA Secretary, of Wagite beach, had expended effort in arranging access to the site, earlier in the year and there was no assurance that we would be able to gain access on future occasions. Thanks Peter

Fox Hunt

This saw a number of the Committee front with a variety of homing antennas, but not one ordinary member, despite members calling for activities. It was an interesting morning and those present enjoyed it.

Thanks to Paula for providing refreshments

Christmas Lunch

Members responded to this activity well, and those present enjoyed excellent food (as happens when you bring a plate to share) and good company. It was a chance to meet the wives/partners who make Amateur Radio possible.

Bombing of Darwin:

It is my intention as an ex long time Committee member of the MVEC to make this an annual event. It did not happen last year as I had medical issues.

I see it as a chance to get out into the public arena and be seen.

Peter HPB, Ray RW and John AL and myself set up 2 multiband dipoles the day before.

Being sun spot non-existent we achieved only 4 interstate contacts and some 10 local.

The club achieved a Community Benefit Fund grant to purchase 15 copies of the Foundation syllabus with the intention of charging a \$10 deposit to interested members of the public, refundable on sitting the foundation licence.

With limited public interest, the club now has a good stock of foundation books.

Donations

DARC received a donation of 9 serviceable UHF repeaters from a local firm.

The club may have need for 1, and it is proposed that the remainder be offered for sale, to boost club funds.

Committee Meetings

In an attempt to get our name before elected Members of the NT Legislative Assembly, we have for most of the year rotated our Committee meetings through MLA's Community meeting rooms. Whilst our approaches have been well received, by the office staff, it is hard to establish the degree of success, but we will keep trying. The rooms are certainly ideal for the purpose.

Knuckey Lagoons for how much longer?

Knuckey Lagoons was a move of desperation after we were given notice to quit the club venue of nearly 30 years in Fannie Bay. No one considered DARC would have to move, it was too comfortable to contemplate.

The committee at the time were aware of some of the shortcomings of Knuckey Lagoons namely:

Location,

Behind locked gates,

First floor level with no handicapped facilities/access,

Sharing with others, and

Restricted access (seek permission to visit site)

The change from the Management Board of local friendly users to the council controlled Management Committee, run by Council employees and an elected Alderman reduced the user friendliness of the venue.

Further we are on notice of Litchfield Councils intention to charge an hourly rate, suggested at \$10 per hour, for the use of the premises from the 1st July 2019 which is way beyond our means. At the moment we have little non-discretionary expenditure after meeting our Public Liability Insurance, Radio licences, and Post box liabilities from some 25 member subs of \$25. Any Club luxuries are covered by the member donations of \$2 each time we use the facility.

Our annual planned time on the premises is in the order of 200 hours per annum plus any field activities. You do the sums and the answer leaves a lot to be desired.

AMC replacing WIA as Amateur Examining Authority

We live in interesting times!

After 20+ years of WIA providing the Amateur Radio examination and call sign allocation services, ACMA has issued and closed an invitation for proposals to run the Amateur Radio exams and call sign allocation from interested parties. The indications are that WIA are not confident of selection as the provider for the next period.

Closing

I thank you for making the time and effort to attend the 2019 DARC AGM.