

**Manly-  
Warringah  
Radio Society  
VK2MB**

# UTS WINTER 2013

**UTS Winter 2013**

**AGM Edition**

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## Special points of interest:

- AGM Elections Tonight !
- Repeater recovery from near disaster
- JOTA \*very\* busy, a few more helpers this time
- 15 new ham tickets issued through MWRS
- Revamped webpage, facebook & now a YouTube channel

## Presidents Report—Dom Bragge VK2JNA

For the last two years I've had the privilege of being the president of our wonderful radio society. I've heard past tremblings of "Amateur Radio is dead" & "that's grandfathers hobby" but you wouldn't know it at MWRS ! We can measure the enthusiasm by the willingness of members to actively participate in weekly meetings & extra events like JOTA, Lighthouse, Field Days, camping weekends, training for exams, working bees around the Terrey Hills Guide Hall & also

those who step forward (or at least "not backward") fulfilling committee roles keeping the MWRS juggernaut rolling. We have renewed interest from hams, many younger foundation members & that's swelled our numbers & added enthusiasm to our already lively meetings. We've farewelled true friends including Bruce VK2ZZM Moving to Queensland; & Bob Hawksley VK2GRY now Silent Key. I wish to thank the outgoing

committee for all their hard work over the last year & encourage all members to take on a spot for the new committee forming now.

As my last opportunity to speak *ex-cathedra*, in the immortal words of young Mr Grace,

"You've all done very well"

**Dom Bragge  
VK2JNA**



*Dom Bragge VK2JNA, DXing in India*

## 2013 Repeater Report- Geoff van der Wagen VK2MIA

The VK2RMB repeaters have been running quite well for the last year, until December at least when the whole lot went offline at once! First impressions were bad – the whole repeater hut stunk of burnt electronics and nothing was working. After

some quick investigation by Ben VK2BEN, first on the scene, the 2m repeater was brought back to life. The worst affected was the 70cm repeater which had a failed PSU, all other equipment blew the protection fuses but survived unscathed. All in all we

got off very light – the Marine Rescue equipment we co-habit with suffered many thousands of dollars worth of damage. The cause? Electricians replacing a backup generator made a wiring mistake and put about 400V across all our gear.

In January the 70cm repeaters went offline, investigations revealed that the feedline was damaged where it entered the shack giving high SWR. LDF5 does not damage easily, and the way the plug was shattered looked like someone had stood on it while climbing the tower. Definitely not us, maybe a bad contractor or skylarking kids? In any case the connector was replaced with a spare and 70cm put back into service. Thanks to

Dom VK2JNA for supervising the connector replacement.

Recently it became clear that the 2m repeater didn't have the same range as it once had. Bruce VK2ZZM and Tim VK2BT checked it out and found the 2m antenna to be full of water. A temporary replacement was found and installed at short notice.

We have a folded dipole array

as a permanent replacement waiting to go up the tower.

**Geoff VK2MIA**



“whole lot went offline at once!”

## 2013—JOTA Report—Robert Drake VK2DH

JOTA 2012 was held over the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October and we again invited the Scouts to the Terrey Hills Guide Hall / MWRS Shack.

This was an exceptional year for numbers - 197 Scouts and some 20 odd cubs attended the weekend and stretched our resources somewhat. To have an **extra 100** come through the shack was a real exercise in logistics management but nevertheless an achievement. The fact that the Australian Jamboree was held in January 2013, seemed to be the driver for the increased numbers.

The weekend was successful due to the dedication of the members who assisted over the weekend. I would like to thank Matt (at the time 2ACL), Geoff (MIA), Richard (2NRA), Carlo (then 2FLUX), Chris (2HX), Ben (2BEN) and Des(2TGJ). I think Roger dared to come over for a short while and a couple drop-ins from Narrabeen.

We had 4 different activities; Shack (HF Voice), EchoLink, D-Star, Build a

Ham Station (2m) and some activity tables for Morse Code, Phonetic Alphabet etc. It was clear that EchoLink/D-Star overseas communications were exciting for the kids. I think we were very lucky that Carlo and Matt managed to connect to some very talkative Americans who assisted for quite a few hours in trawling through the numbers.

The camping was at Narrabeen Caravan Park again, and Yves brought the Helicopter over on the Saturday afternoon. Again, a highlight for the kids and thanks go to Yves & Connie, Malcolm (2TMF), Bruce (2ZZM) and Robert (2RL).

These things don't just happen on the day and I'd also like to thank Dom (2JNA), Tim (2BT), Bruce (2ZZM), Matt (2ACL) and Ben (2GHZ) in helping me organize the lead up to the weekend. A particular mention goes to Dom for assisting the Electronics Project team in sourcing the PCBs for the LED Bike Flashers. I would also like to thank Carlo, Glenn and others for getting EchoLink sorted prior to the night and Ben for the posters.

In the post mortem we conducted, it was identified that the noise in the hall with so many coming through (approx 40 per session) was significant and not conducive to having good contacts. Chris even took the building of the 2m station outside. I reckon that might have halved the problem - just kidding Chris! J

Some other suggestions for 2013 might be to utilize the Scout Hall too. Perhaps we can set up another station there and potentially run a wide game on the oval. The other suggestion was ATV, if anyone has any kit and can commit to some time.

This year we will be operating again from Terrey Hills and the Weekend of October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It is my expectation that we will go back to our usual numbers of 100 or so again but we really need more helpers with the day.

Put it in your diary now as you read this report if you can help. I look forward to getting the team together in late July to discuss some of the ways we can improve, run, and engage the Scouts. 73's **Robert VK2DH**

197 Scouts and some  
20 odd cubs attended

## 2013—Education report Chris Lobb VK2YY&Mark Plowman VK2MP

Over the last 12 months we had 17 Foundation Candidates also had 2 Advanced candidates and 2 Standard Candidates all passed their assessments successfully.

It appears that we may be down a little on the advanced and standard from previous years.

**Chris & Mark**



## 2013—Vice Presidents report, Bruce Boardman VK2ZZM / VK4MQ

It has been a good year with lighthouse, JOTA, and a couple of working bee's. Antennas have been erected and made operational. The signals on all bands are terrific. The HF beam still slips and I don't know why?? Please get Yves to have a look at it, and report back.

Following my move to QLD I now appreciate what a great radio club the MWRS really is. I am the youngest member, they meet half as often as MWRS, and have no facilities at all.

(radios, beer fridge, fire, chairs, campfire, antennas, etc..) They meet at the SES offices and are in danger of being evicted at any time. We even got kicked out of the room we were using 5 minutes after we began. I was fortunate to be guided on the local 2m



"Fire in the hole"

repeater by Dougall VK4EKA, who is a mate of Rob 2MZ.

It sure makes me appreciate what a vibrant and exceptional club we have in Sydney. Anyway I am planning to do some "whipping into shape" when I get myself organised at home. **Bruce VK2ZZM / VK4MQ**

## 2013- Webmaster & Computer Officer- Carlo Nizeti VK2MXC "El presidente de honor de la sociedad de la materia de radio..."

The previous year has seen some big changes to our online presence and use of technology at the club. The biggest change being our website, which has gone through a complete overhaul. I have

consolidated all the components that make up the site (Domain Name, DNS, Hosting & Email) to a single provider, and deployed a new Content Management System that allows all club members to independently contribute to the club website. In numbers the site receives about 300-400 unique visitors per month, with a number of those people finding us by searching for our call sign or the club name.

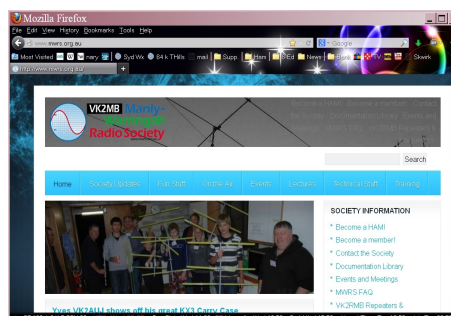
On YouTube we now have 10 videos available, which have seen our channel get 1,415 views

The most popular pages on the site are the Lighthouse weekend write ups and the technical write ups.

To complement the website I have established a YouTube Channel, Facebook page and twitter account. On YouTube we now have 10 videos available, which have seen our channel get 1,415 views. Facebook and Twitter are just a means to share real time information with club members and the wider community, it also serves as a way for club members to find each other on the social network's. If you would like to contribute to any of these pages please let me know!

The website also has a link to a monitoring tool that I have configured to keep an eye on the repeater shack in real time. This is deployed through the installation of a environmental monitoring tool, which has a feed up to a website allowing anyone who is curious to monitor things like temperature, humidity, UPS status and the Internet routers health.

**Carlo VK2MXC**



"the MWRS site receives about 300-400 unique visitors per month"

## 2013- Social Officer—Shaun Pitcher VK2XPP

From memory it was too cold after the July 2012 AGM for BBQs so we started the social year with the Christmas Party at the Terrey Hills Tavern on the 30th November 2012. It was a warm night, well attended, and as usual, a great representation of the MWRS spirit.

The second function was a BBQ at the club house in December. As this was my first BBQ as Social Officer I purchased Country Beef Sausages from Coles. Apparently the usual was home brand from Woolies, so sorry to the financial fund. On a positive note I did get three inquiries as to where I got the sausages from. So just remember this point for general business if you are in favour of the Coles sausages. The day was well attended by members and their families and with an open invitation to the public we did attract one guest, even if all he wanted was some help in getting his trailer down his drive. Another MWRS success story.

We then had both a happy and a sad function at the Terrey Hills Tavern where we said farewell to Bruce VK4MQ (then VK2ZZM) as he and Liz started a new chapter of their life in VK4. We joked at the time that we had so many people turn out to make sure

after 11pm), good company, the installation of a temporary 160m inverted L vertical antenna and I managed to get rid of the 16 x 25 foot flag pole I purchased for members.

So that's about it on the social front for this year.

**Shaun VK2XPP**

Social Officer MWRS.



Liz & Bruce VK2ZZM / VK4MQ  
(with Shaun supervising)

he left, however we really wanted to acknowledge all the time and effort both Liz and Bruce have put into the club over the years. It was a really nice night.

Our final event was suggested and organised by Dom VK2JNA, which was a 'Hey, it's not raining' BBQ after the recent rainy weather. Another well attended function where we enjoyed a raging fire ('till

"we had so many people turn out  
to make sure he left"



## 2013- Lecture Report — Greg Lee VK2XE

July 2012 – Mal presented a video where Balint Seeber and Matt Robert discuss what you can do with Software Defined Radio.

August - Our guest speaker presented his prototype for a system that converts water and electricity into Browns Gas, a form of Hydrogen. We cut some stuff up... Heaps of fun.

Sept - Yves VK2AUJ and Helicopters 101.

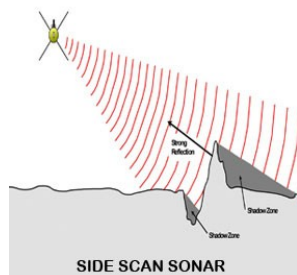
SDR, Browns Gas, Helicopters,  
JOTA Planning, Biometrics,,  
Sonar, Power Grid, Mesh Potato,  
Smith Charts, Wikipedia, NBN

Oct – JOTA Planning instead

Nov – Greg – VK2XE – Biometrics and Security.

Dec – No Lecture

Jan – Richard VK2NRA Sonar and Submarines – A great lecture from Richard VK2NRA explaining some of the uses for side scanning sonar and how the Navy finds things lost under the waves.



Side Scan Sonar

Feb – Shaun – VK2XPP - Ausgrid, cool power stuff.

Mar - Glen VK2FWOO and Carlo VK2MXC with Mesh Potato - The Mesh Potato is a device for providing low-cost telephony and Internet in areas where alternative access either doesn't exist or is too expensive. It is a marriage of a low-cost wireless access point capable of running a mesh networking protocol with an Analog Telephony Adapter.



**Mesh Potato, mesh potato!**

Apr – Chris VK2HX - Smith Charts 101

May – Richard – VK2NRA - Wikipedia

June – Geoff – VK2TGO – FTTN etc. A great explanation on what the NBN could, should and might be.

Future lectures for 2013. Yet to have confirmed dates. Still no lecture for next week AGAIN....

Potentials for the list

Nick – VK2FS on his DXpeditions in the



Terry Hills Girl Guides Hall  
Beltana Ave  
Terrey Hills NSW

[www.mwrs.org.au](http://www.mwrs.org.au)

## MANLY-WARRINGAH RADIO SOCIETY

*"It goes Up The Stick,  
Mullo's !"*

We're on the web  
[www.mwrs.org.au](http://www.mwrs.org.au)

## 2013- HF Report —

One of the main highlights was the Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, where the club activated the Barrenjoey lighthouse. Much of the activity centered around Bruce VK2ZZM's Codan 8520 on a 40m inverted dipole hanging off the lighthouse. In the back room we had a variety of other radios, including Glen VK2FLUX's IC7000 and Greg VK2XE's FT857D, which were hooked into the club's TH3. There was even a QRP SOTA (Summits On The Air) using Matt VK2ACL's shiny new KX3 with a magloop. The club was fortunate to be allowed to stay overnight in the lighthouse keeper's cottage, and a core group operated into the early hours of the morning. It was also a great opportunity to try out the club's new HF band pass filters, which were a great success in managing interference between the multiple radios in operation. All up we made 203 QSOs across 12 countries.

The club saw an old Halicrafters transceiver in the lighthouse museum, and offered to restore it. Roger VK2GHB worked together with other club members to restore the radio receiver into a working condition, and built a power supply for it in an original enclosure! The club will present the radio back to the lighthouse trust at the next Lighthouse and Lightship weekend event.

The club's HF station was activated at the JOTA weekend, where the scouts and girl guides had a chance to experience short-wave radio first hand. The station was also activated on most Wednesday evenings, where a variety of modes including SSB, CW, PSK31, SSTV and even HF packet radio were used. A VHF packet station was also set up, which allows members to access DX clusters over the air, without the need for Internet connectivity in the club shack. This packet sta-

tion also extends packet coverage around Sydney, and links up packet stations in the central coast and south coast regions.

There were also some working bee events, where a number of members pitched in to repair the WARC fan dipole, and a 160m antenna was set up in preparation for the upcoming 160m/80m Trans-Tasman contest.

**Matt VK2RQ**



## 2013- Lecture Report — Greg Lee VK2XE (cont.)

South Atlantic etc..

Ted – VK2WL – In multiple chapters of his days as a commercial operator and teaching etc.

Matt – VK2RQ – Digital modes, Packet etc.. Maybe

Nick –VK2DX – Talk and Demo on 630m Band.

Contest University Lecture – Maybe Patrick as per Wyong Lecture or Ed Durrant – VK2JI

We had some other adhoc ones too I think. Patrick's photos and videos from his trips.. etc.. Lots of show and tell sessions including Russell's and my new radios...

**Greg VK2XE**

## • Matt Maguire VK2RQ