

**VK2MB** **Manly-  
Warringah**  
**Radio Society**  
www.mwrs.org.au



## Presidents Report—Carlo Nizeti VK2MXC

After 2 years as President it is now time for me to pass the ceremonial gavel on. Whilst the temptation to use my unopposed victory for mischief and mayhem I am proud that I have kept the society on a steady course with everyone's best interests in mind.

My main goal whilst entrusted with the president role was to keep our membership numbers growing, introduce club members to new things and lower the barrier to entry as much as possible. I will let you all be the judge of my success, but on the whole I think we did really well across the board.

Our membership numbers looking okay, but we need to do more work to keep them heading in the right direction. We have some new activities like the pirate day comp that puts the club out there on the world stage while the 4th Wednesday nights recently introduced are introducing us all to new tech and people.

On behalf of the executive committee I would like to thank all the club members for their support, patience and encouragement. I personally would like to thank the committee for their efforts. I would like to thank all members for rolling their sleeves up and helping out during meetings, lectures and working bees. Finally I would also like to call out Dom for mentoring me over the last two years.

I have one last request from you all as I pack up my office and move on. Share your knowledge, ask questions and encourage discovery. This hobby is becoming increasingly niche, and the development of modern technology will only drive it into obscurity. Our gift to the next generation of hobbyists is to expand our experimental, educational and creative virtues into new areas. So long.. and thanks for all the fish.

Carlo Nizeti VK2MXC, President - MWRS, July2013-July2015

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### Also over the past year.....

- Timepiece evening
- Flagpole contest
- Working bees
- Arduino night
- Raspberry Pi night
- Vintage Telephony night



## JOTA Report, Oct 2014

*“232 kids and ~40 leaders  
that came up to Terrey Hills”*

JOTA 2014, the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WW JOTA was held over the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October and we again invited the Scouts and Guides of the District to the Terrey Hills Guide Hall / MWRS Shack and Terrey Hills Scout Hall.

Numbers were significantly more this year than previous years. There were 232 kids and approximately 40 leaders that came up to Terrey Hills. We thought this would be very difficult to man-

age but our processes, plan & activities have been so well tried over the past few years that we coped quite well.

As in previous years they camped at Narrabeen camping ground and were bussed up to Terrey Hills over 6 sessions. This worked out approx 7 kids per 15 minute session as we rotated them through the different stations.

We followed last year's successful plan and had 5 different activities; Shack & Scout Hall (2 x BattleShips), EchoLink, HF/VHF Shack, Build a Ham Station (2m) and a Morse Code Setup. The Battleships game was a big winner again this year – each Scout / Guide had two opportunities to play. We didn't do D-Star this year as it just didn't function properly prior to starting JOTA so it was left on the planning room floor despite best efforts to get it going. We used the trusty old HF & VHF to make contacts and it seemed to work out well this year.

The new activity was the Morse Station where we set up two laptops that could communicate using Morse Code as the protocol. The kids could type their names and other information, listen to the morse being sent & the other laptop interpreting the letters & in turn displaying it on the screen. We also showed them that a few guys could still understand morse too!

The weekend was very successful due to the dedication of the members who assisted over the weekend. I would like to thank those who helped out on Saturday: Mal (2TMF), Chris (2HX), Dom (2JNA), Des(2TGJ), Jeff (2MZZ), Geoff (2AVR), Karina (2FKHD), Lionel (2XOR), Matt (2RQ), Rob (2RL), Richard (2NRA), Russell (2BYN), Sean (2THT), Tim (2BT), Tom (2FTOK) and Tom (2FTMD). Special mention and a huge thanks goes to Mark (2MP), Katrina (2FKAP) – Especially for the Coffee Machine again! Also Penny and Felicity for providing morning & afternoon tea cakes.

On Sunday, the team was strong too – thank you to: Mal, Des, Dom, Chris, Jeff, Matt, Richard (2NRA), Tim and Tom. Mark and Katrina turned up again with the coffee and morning tea. There was also a BBQ after the last Scout group departed for a great meal and a well earned relax. I would also like to thank Glen (2FWOO) for his 3G connection and a complete rebuild on Friday afternoon so that EchoLink worked.

As you read this please put in your diaries the 2015 JOTA weekend please....

**All day Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday morning 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.**

There is a thought that if we get enough volunteers for Terrey Hills and we find a couple of extra to go to Narrabeen on Saturday night, we might see if we can run a session down there for the older ones to talk into Europe? As I said, many hands make the weekend so much easier so any time you can afford will be much appreciated.

So, thank you to each and everyone who assisted. This was the biggest and the best JOTA weekends we've had and I look forward to the next one.

## Social Report — Shaun Pitcher VK2XPP

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### BBQs.

We love a good BBQ at the MWRS and we enjoyed a few BBQs this year.

For something different we trialled the idea of a lunch BBQ and show and tell on your portable set up. One small problem was that I forgot to arrange a key holder to attend at the high noon kick off. So we had a small gathering of Geoff and Chris at the bottom of the stairs, however not all was lost! Chris has done a welding course and told me that when blowing holes in thin metal you actually need to poke the electrode further in to cool the arc, rather than pull it away as I was doing.

The BBQ did go ahead later in the day but the three early arrivals couldn't wait due to other commitments.

Also a thanks to Yves who organised the last BBQ recently.

### Christmas Party.

As with previous years another well attended event at the Terrey Hills Tavern with a similar feel to last year which always works well. It's a good arrangement as you purchase what you want when you want, the buzzer buzzes you're away. Stories are swapped and laughter was a plenty as it is every year and none of the pesky splitting bills etc. at the end.

### What's next?

For personal reasons I will not be standing for the position of Social Officer for 2015/16. (and don't get any ideas about nominating me for el Presidente!) I would like to thank all the members for being the great people you are and supporting the events organised with passion and enthusiasm.

On a final note I did notice that through out this year that massive fires have seemed to appear in our BBQs and this is not a bad thing!

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## Publicity Report—Richard Murnane VK2SKY

The world these days seems to be filled with people trying to draw attention to themselves. In contrast, the job of a Publicity Officer consists of trying to draw everyone's attention toward somebody else.

Where MWRS is concerned, being Publicity Officer centres around publicising club events on the weekly Amateur Radio NSW broadcast, and sometimes WIA National News. It's a simple way to draw extra visitors to the club lectures, theme nights and the like. That's the easy part, but it's mainly preaching to the converted, as listeners to the Sunday broadcast are Amateurs already.

A bigger challenge is letting non-Amateurs know about the club, so that we can draw fresh blood into the hobby. As radio operators, we can always show off the hobby to those in our social circles. Grabbing the attention of strangers is more difficult; long gone are the days when the Sydney Morning Herald covered radio club activities on a regular basis.

Local papers like the Manly Daily now accept events online and display them on their website; getting those notices into print is another matter altogether, though there are occasional wins. From time to time, we manage to make an appearance for events like Lighthouse Weekend, which is pleasing. When VK2FUNK Balint Seeber came to lecture on rescuing the ISEE-3 space probe, there has a hint of interest at the Daily, but in the end no journalist showed up for that one. You win some, you lose some.

Even getting into Amateur Radio magazine is no

sure thing. Last year's announcement of our Flagpole Contest failed to make AR mag's Contests column; perhaps James VK4TJF thought I was having a lend of him. But mysteriously the October 2014 edition featured a pirate flag on a squid pole on the front cover. This earned the Flagpole Contest a mention on page 3, even though the flag was part of an unrelated Lighthouse Weekend station in VK7. At least somebody was listening! By the way, James assures me that the Flagpole Contest will get a mention in the Contests column of the September edition of AR.

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*Flagpole, Pirate Day & ILLW wrapped into one*

## Lectures over the last year

JUL - Nick VK2FS on HF across the Pacific  
AUG - Geoff VK2TGO on Multiband HF end-fed wire antennas  
SEP - Peter Jensen VK2AQJ on "Portable Radio - Military and Clandestine Radio - The first 50 years"  
OCT - Bernd VK2IA on CQWW Contest  
NOV - Dick Smith VK2DIK on helicopter contacts & Ham radio  
JAN - Melinda from WIRES  
FEB - Geoff VK2AVR with home made Mag Loop  
MAR - Nick VK2DX on Working DX "100 x 365"  
APR - Balint Seeber VK2FUNK on ISEE-3 Rescue and SDR  
MAY - Mike Plessis VK2UCT on DXpedition to Tristan Da Cunha  
JUN - John Kessner VK3ATV, fireside chat on Torres Straight

*"We had some very wild weather...our repeaters operated throughout...WiFi internet (5.8GHz link) worked flawlessly"*

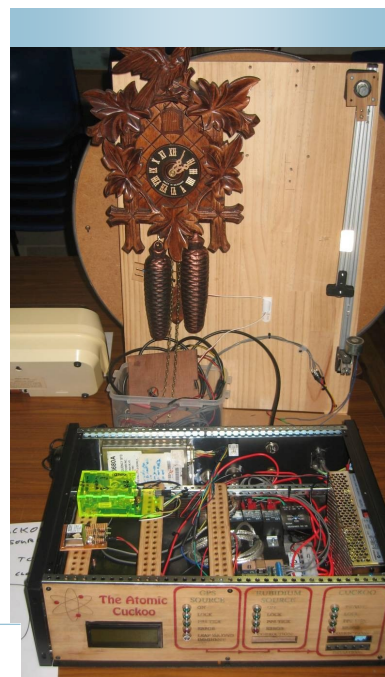
## Repeater Report—Geoff Van der Wagen VK2AVR

A few hiccups, and some improvements. Our VK2RMB & VK2RWN repeaters have mostly been stable over the last year. One of the power supplies went a bit temperamental (affecting the DSTAR stack) and after Tim VK2BT gave it a stern talking to on the workbench it was fixed and put back into service. A temporary power supply was put in place while the original was repaired so downtime was minimal.

Our VHF repeaters have an ongoing issue with intermodulation, attempts to track the source have put it "at the top of the tower". It's not our radio gear, and it's not Marine Rescue's. There must be something up the top of the tower that is allowing RF to be mixed and re-radiated back into our antenna. There are a couple of antennas on the tower that have fallen into disuse so a good project for the coming year would be to remove those antennas in case they are contributing to the

problem. Exacerbating this issue was somebody leaving the VHF DSTAR repeater linked to busy reflectors overseas. Matt VK2RQ has kindly installed a script so that if the local RF is idle for a while, the repeater automatically unlinks itself.

We had some very wild weather in April, with many trees downed and widespread damage. Our repeaters operated throughout, and our newly commissioned 7km WiFi link (that now carries the DSTAR and APRS internet traffic) worked flawlessly through the worst of the weather. If the link survived those rainstorms, it will survive anything! Well done to Carlo VK2MXC and Glen VK2FWOO for preparing the link hardware, and Tim VK2BT and Yves VK2AUJ for their help commissioning the system. Jeff VK2MZZ also donated 30m of outdoor-rated CAT5 to feed the WiFi link at the VSC, and Dom VK2JNA for letting us piggyback off his internet!



Morrie Tremble  
VK2BIS—SK



#### Manly-Warringah Radio Society SK

We lament the passing of:

Morrie Trimble VK2BIS  
-SK Nov 2014, Life Member

Bernie Seward VK2KAD  
- SK May 2015, past member

## Education Report—Mark Plowman VK2MP

—Chris Lobb VK2YY

The MWRS Education team have been active again in 2014-2015. The team provides a one day foundation licence revision and assessment day is provided. This event provides a fast path for people that wish to get into amateur radio by studying the foundation manual and then attending the MWRS one day foundation revision and assessment day. Assessments for all levels of amateur radio licences are also made available on the day.

Apart from the foundation revision and assessment day event, MWRS also has an amateur radio regulations course available. This course is 4 hours in duration and is followed by the standard/advanced regulations assessment. This course/assessment is available on demand and we need 2-3 confirmed starters to schedule one. MWRS Education has a supply of foundation manuals available for sale, \$20 for club members, \$25 for non-members. The book itself is full of colour diagrams that explain the foundation syllabus simply, but effectively.

Please keep these in mind for friends and family that might be interested in our pastime.

Enquiries about all things amateur radio training and assessments are always by the team. Please help us get the word out that amateur radio is quick and easy to get into and that MWRS can assist in obtaining the amateur radio licence. We are always looking for additional trainers and amateur radio assessors and facilitators. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

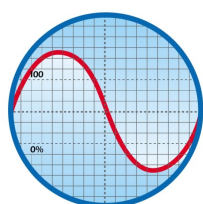
A big thank you to all the extended Education Team that happily provide their time and expertise during the year.

#### Manly-Warringah Radio Society

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*The Education Team facilitated 30 people that undertook training &/or assessments in the last 12 months at a number of assessment locations.*