

## **VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST**

**FOR SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2005**

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### **VK7 WIA DIVISIONAL HONOUR ROLL FINALISED**

I thank all those people who contributed to the finalisation of the WIA VK7 Divisional Honour Roll (1925 to 2004) especially Richard, VK7RO who was responsible for much of the research as Divisional Historian.

The VK7 Division Honour Roll is now being "set in gold" and will be hung in the Queen's Domain clubrooms.

<http://reast.asn.au/wiaVK7honourroll.php>

73, Phil Corby, VK7ZAX, VK7 Advisory Committee Chair.

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### **ACMA TO REVISE BPL GUIDELINES**

The following is sourced from ZD Net Australia and was written by Renai LeMay.

As rollouts of broadband over powerline (BPL) technology gain pace in Australia, the nation's communications regulator will take another look at the rules for its deployment.

BPL is a transmission medium that can see broadband delivered at speeds of up to 200Mbps through a normal electrical wall socket. Several electricity utilities in Australia are deploying the technology, particularly Tasmania's Aurora Energy which has a commercial pilot in progress.

While the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) already has a set of BPL guidelines for testing purposes, a spokesperson told a Sydney conference on Wednesday that the rules would be revised in the light of knowledge gained from the experiences of Aurora and others.

"We've learnt a lot from Aurora and Country Energy," ACMA's executive manager of spectrum markets Dr Hugh Milloy said. "The next step is to revise the trial guidelines."

One of the most critical issues for the regulator will be managing complaints by segments of the community that are concerned BPL will cause interference to radio-based telecommunications and stop them from operating.

"ACMA's role is to strike a balance between the argument for industry development and the interference management argument," said Milloy.

"The jury is still out on whether the signal is harmful or will stop something else from operating... We'll address any complaints professionally, but it's too early to judge what signal strengths will travel along those wires," he concluded.

But the debate spilled over into the conference's roundtable session, where participants were free to speak their piece on any aspect of the BPL technology.

"There are significant radio frequency (RF) issues with the Aurora site," said a spokesperson for the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA), which represents Australian amateur radio operators.

WIA director Phillip J. Wait further told the conference the RF problem was particularly bad in Australia because the nation is "a very heavy user of radio communications".

"We have a lot of services that don't exist in Europe," he said.

However both Aurora and Country Energy -- which is seeking to rollout its own commercial BPL pilot next year -- denied BPL created significant interference.

"There isn't a single example of BPL causing real, scientifically-verifiable interference," said Country Energy's manager of telecommunications enterprises Geoff Fietz.

A small BPL technical trial by his company had only generated one complaint, he said, which had turned out to be a problem unrelated to BPL.

"The result of all the research has been that Country Energy doesn't believe there is any issue," said Fietz.

A spokesperson for Aurora said they had visited an amateur radio operator's residence in Tasmania but had not detected any significant interference.

While both sides of the debate committed to working with ACMA on the issue, telecommunications analyst Paul Budde -- who chaired the conference -- had a different view.

The analyst took the WIA for task for not being prepared to sit down with the electricity utilities and work around the problem.

"When it's only a small segment of the Australian population affected, we can surely find a solution," he told ZDNet Australia .

Budde alleged he had invited the WIA several years ago to meet with the utilities on the issue, only to have his request turned down.

ACMA's Milloy said the regulator would take "a light touch" to BPL regulation, and that its approach would be multi-faceted.

Various methods such as applying standards, codes, licence conditions/fees and allowing the industry to self-regulate itself would be utilised, he said.

See the email and internet editions of this broadcast for the web addresses of this story.

<http://tinyurl.com/cb7w7>

<http://www.budde.com.au/conferences/public-workshop-details/utilitel-summit-23Nov2005.html>

(Thanks to Harry, VK7AR and the Spectrum email list for highlighting this story)

Stay tuned for a follow-up to this story on next week's WIA National News.

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### ***VK7 Events Calendar***

A quick heads-up on VK7 amateur activities in the next few months:

Dec 7 – REAST End of 2005 BBQ at Domain.

Dec 10 – NWTARIG BYO BBQ at Legion Park, Ulverstone.

Dec 14 – NTARC end of year BYO BBQ at Myrtle Park, Launceston.

February 2006 is AGM month in VK7.

And don't forget the regular VK7 broadcasts:

Monday Nights at 19:30, Spectrum Tasmania is broadcast on 2, 40 & 80m;

The REAST Experimenter's broadcast in the South on R2 & UHF CB on Wednesdays at 19:30,

Thursday Nights at 19:30, Spectrum Extra airs on 2 & 6m; and,

Thursday nights are the CHARCT Tassie Devil & Tassie Trout net from 20:00-20:30 and then the Quiz net commences and this all takes place on 3.585MHz.

If you have any events, meetings or gathering you would like publicised please let the VK7 News and Broadcast Coordinator know, details at the end of the broadcast.

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## **VK7 GIVE AWAY, FOR SALE & WANTED**

OK now the non-commercial for sales and wanted section and we have a range of items this week:

### ***For Sale***

For Sale a second hand all band HF 7 Element Log Periodic Beam. Boom length of this beam is 21 and half feet. The beam requires a little repair work in that 3 element mounting brackets need repair or replacing.

It is very reasonably priced and can be inspected at the QTH of Jim VK7OW at 15 James Street, Latrobe or alternatively give Jim a call on 6426 1520.

Joe, VK7JG is selling his antenna array comprising:

6M - 9Element M2 yagi 39Foot boom

2M - 15Element Jaybeam Quad Yagi 21 foot boom

432Mhz 88 Element Jaybeam about 15 feet long

The lot for \$600.00.

Buyer to collect. If interested contact Joe on R8 or 6327 2256

### ***Wanted***

Damien is soon to be a Foundation Licensee and he is looking for a Yaesu 7800H 2m/70cm Rig and a Phillips FM900, Contact for Damien is 0410 927 060.

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## **VK7 REGIONAL BROADCAST**

### ***HF Rebroadcasters Needed***

We currently have a team of 20 people who put together, read and rebroadcast the VK7 Regional News each Sunday morning. This is a dedicated team who provide this service on a voluntary basis each Sunday on behalf of the VK7 Advisory Committee.

We welcome anyone who would be interested in helping out. We currently have spaces on the roster for 80, 40 and 20m rebroadcast stations. Especially 80 & 40m.

We have designs for patch boxes to connect VHF/UHF rigs to HF rigs and we can even make one up if required.

It's not an onerous job and a great way to blow the cobwebs from those HF rigs. I encourage those newfound standard licensees to please consider this? Our roster is structured so you only have to do it once a month.

If you are interested then let the VK7 Regional News and Broadcast Coordinator know, details at the end of the broadcast.

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**NORTH WEST NEWS**

*North West Tasmanian Amateur Radio Interest Group*

<http://vk7ax.tassie.net.au/nwtarig/>

A brief report of NWTARIG General Meeting held 12 November.

Attendance at the meeting was very pleasing with 15 persons taking the time and interest to turn up and it was also great to see some of our newer members present.

The Membership Officer stated that the membership was now 36.

The main item on the agenda was the proposed Centenary Celebration of the first radio transmissions by Marconi across Bass Strait in 1906.

NWTARIG in conjunction with the GARC (Geelong Amateur Radio Club) and other public utilities would be running the Celebrations in July 2006.

A Steering and Planning Committee was formed and consists of the following.

Tony VK7AX, Ron VK7RN, Ivan VK7XL, Winston VK7EM and Keith VK7YBP.

Bryan VK7KBE offered his service and expertise to organise all required antennae.

The meeting resolved to order a quantity of the new Foundation Licence Manuals for purchase and use by those interested in the Foundation Licence procedures and requirements.

It was also decided to run a club family picnic and BBQ day on Saturday December 10th. at Legion Park, Ulverstone.

The FL Manuals have just arrived so if you would like one (those people in the North West area that is) please contact Tony VK7AX to arrange for its collection.

The 2006 Callbooks have been despatched from the National Office also, and should be available for collection/postage in the next day or two.

(Those notes from Tony VK7AX - President NWTARIG)

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## **NORTHERN NEWS**

### ***Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club (NTARC)***

Not a lot happened in the NE this week - looks like everyone is keeping a low profile before getting into the Chrissy festivities - or maybe just trying to be good in hope of the special present that's been hinted about hihi

Next meeting - well get-to-gether - will be at Myrtle Park on December 14.

Bring your own everything! Myrtle Park is a picture perfect spot for just about anything you could think of - if you haven't been there then you should definitely make the effort - and if you have then you will know exactly what is meant.

See you all there I hope and before I go this week.....

Foundation Licence books are now available from Bob VK7KRR or from Hunga Munga Cafe. Anyone planning on sitting the Foundation licence exam can grab a book and start studying early. Limited stocks so don't delay!

Until next week

(David, VK7HAH NTARC Secretary)

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## **SOUTHERN NEWS**

### ***Einstein's Greatest Mistake?***

2005 has been declared the International Year of Physics. One hundred years ago, a 26-year old Albert Einstein presented four revolutionary ideas which changed the way we view our world.

There are a host of events, activities and celebrations happening around the globe and the next one is a free lecture in Hobart by Professor Paul Davies this Wednesday, 30 November at 8pm in the Theatre Royal, 29 Campbell Street, Hobart.

A few years ago, astronomers were staggered to find that the expansion of the universe is speeding up, propelled by a mysterious antigravity force. Amazingly, Einstein predicted just such a force in 1917, but then abandoned it as "the greatest blunder of my life." But might he have been right all along? Cosmic antigravity is caused by invisible energy pervading space. Observations suggest that most of the universe is dominated by this "dark energy" - ordinary matter constitutes only a few per cent of the total. But where does it come from? And what does it tell us about the ultimate fate of the cosmos?

Paul Davies is theoretical physicist, cosmologist, astrobiologist and author of many popular and specialist science books. He is Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Australian Centre for Astrobiology at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Take a look at the website address that can be found on the email internet editions of this broadcast for more info.

<http://www.aip.org.au/wyop2005/events.php?state=TAS>

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***Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania***

<http://reast.asn.au/>

***BPL***

The latest reconnaissance was undertaken last week around Hobart and the results are available on the REAST BPL watch page.

<http://reast.asn.au/vk7bplwatch.php#spectrans>

The system appears to have been switched back on around and above the shop in Mt Nelson and has been switched on in North Hobart. We understand that the ACMA has been taking measurements in the Mt Nelson area.

The REAST Committee has received a response to its complaints to the ACMA and these will be considered at the next committee meeting.

<http://reast.asn.au/vk7bplwatch.php>

I encourage every amateur and 11m CB operator with mobile/portable equipment to head up to Mt Nelson or North Hobart and take a listen at what BPL sounds like and what it is doing to the HF spectrum. It is currently affecting the upper HF bands and is easily detected at the top of the bends and Federal St between Argyle and Letitia Sts.

***Are you experiencing interference?***

<http://reast.asn.au/vk7bplwatch.php#whattodo>

If you believe you are being affected by BPL interference we suggest you take a listen to the many sound files that are available on the REAST website.

If these match the type of interference you are experiencing, and you wish to make a complaint then take a look at the website for the process, forms and contact details.

If you require assistance with making a complaint then please contact myself or a REAST Committee member.

We have distributed BPL information papers and there are copies of this paper available in the Domain clubrooms.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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### ***First Foundation Licence Course***

REAST's first Foundation Licence Training and Assessment weekend was held last weekend. Fifteen participants attended a training session last Saturday. This included theory and practical sessions that gave everyone the chance to assemble equipment and handle on-air contacts on both HF and VHF

The background of the participants varied some having much more experience than others so there was plenty of opportunities for them to help each other.

The group received much help and support from a number of assisting Amateurs both at the Clubrooms and over the air. Thanks to Justin, VK7TW and Dave, VK7KDO for their help at the Domain and Charles VK7PP and Gavin VH7HGO for their assistance on the air.

Reg, VK7KK and John, VK7RT handled the assessment.

Ten candidates were assessed on Sunday – all passed as competent, the WIA has already processed their results and their licence applications are with the ACMA so you should hear the first VK7F call during next week.

Another five will receive their assessment today.

It is hoped that by Monday there will be 15 newly qualified VK7's. Thanks to all who helped and others who offered.

The next Assessment session will be in January.

If you wish to reserve a place for the next available session in January 2006 please complete an application form available on the REAST web

site or contact me: Reg Emmett VK7KK on 6248 6824 or [regemm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:regemm@ozemail.com.au).

<http://reast.asn.au/amateurradio.php#exams>

I now have a quantity of Foundation Licence manuals available. Please contact me if you would like to purchase one.

(Reg Emmett, VK7KK, REAST Education Officer)

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### ***Do we have a club project?***

Information on The Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society's dual band J-pole antenna project has been available at the clubrooms over the past few weeks.

Justin VK7TW has one and took it along to the Sewing Circle barbeque for inspection - raising further interest.

The antenna is a dual J pole design with a common driven element for both antennas and two grounded resonator rods. All made from 10 millimetre aluminium rod and mounted on 6 millimetre aluminium angle.

A quite robust piece of gear with good performance over wide bandwidth. Gain is said to be better than a quarter wave whip. A ground plane is not required but mounting on a well grounded metal pole is recommended.

We've priced up the components and come up with about twenty five dollars. The final figure depends on choice of connector and how many are made.

Dale VK7DG has offered to turn up the plastic insulators for the driven element. Other machining of parts would best be done on a small lathe but two small deep holes could be drilled and the element threads die cut.

If there is enough interest we have a couple or three choices:

One - bulk buy the material, cut it up and supply on a do it yourself basis,

Two - divide up the work amongst those equipped to do it then hold a put together day,

Three - given a suitable workshop - hold a full blown manufacturing day from go to wo.

Options two and three might include making a few extras for sale at a small margin with the profit going towards future projects.

If you're interested please contact Gavin VK7HGO, Dale VK7DG or Roger VK7ARN.

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### ***2006 Callbooks***

Dale, VK7DG lets us know about callbooks for REAST.

We have ordered 23 callbooks this year for REAST and will be selling them on a first come first served basis. There are a few people who have already reserved one so, get in quick!

If you would like to purchase one then please contact me on R2 or via email at [vk7dg@wia.org.au](mailto:vk7dg@wia.org.au). Cost is \$22.00 for WIA member or \$30.00 for non-WIA member picked up from the Domain.

(Dale, VK7DG, REAST Secretary)

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### ***Experimenter's Night - ATV Broadcast***

Last Wednesday night there was a simulcast of ATV on 444.25MHz with sound carrier on 449.75MHz and audio on Repeater 2.

The material was about 35 minutes long and was two RSGB promotional videos from 1985 and 2004.

Dave, VK5DG was our very welcome guest and watched the RSGB presentation along with Peter and Graham, VK7ZGK. We had 11 reports about video and audio which included four UHF CB callbacks.

We again ran the AHARS dual band j-pole antenna mounted on top of an extension ladder in a location favouring West Hobart, Moonah and Glenorchy.

Dave even arranged to help Rex, VK7MO with a 1296MHz EME contact around 2am the following morning and the report from Dave was fantastic even though his XYL just rolled her eyes HIHI.

This week will be a video of a talk by the 2003 RSGB President that he gave to the VK2 Division in 2003 on the RSGB Foundation licence.

We look forward to your vision and audio reports.

(Ken, VK7DY)

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### ***REAST Visits/Presentations/Meetings***

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php>

Congratulations to all our new Foundation Licence candidates and we hope to hear you on the air sometime soon. Good luck to those people

undertaking the assessment today! You are in very good hands with Reg, VK7KK our REAST Education Officer and John, VK7RT.

The third REAST newsletter hit member's email mailboxes and letter boxes last week. It is another jam packed edition with 11 pages of info and photos of club happening, history and even some practical home-brewing hints. I am always looking for anything for the newsletter so, if you come across something that you think is interesting chances are that other club members will think it is interesting so, SEND IT IN to me!

Our December meeting is an end of year social gathering at the Domain with a BYO BBQ starting and will be in two BBQ waves! The first will be from 12pm for the Wednesday afternoon group and the second wave will be from 6pm for members who work during the day. 2005 is our first full year of REAST and we want to make this a REAL celebration of a most successful year. See you there.

Till next time...

(73 Justin, VK7TW, REAST President)

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## **GENERAL INTEREST**

### ***Mountain Radio Challenge***

Yesterday saw the running of the annual Mountain Radio Challenge (MRC). This event is used to promote the use of CB Radio (27MHz & UHF). It consists of temporary stations camping on Mountains in Tasmania, Vic, NSW & ACT, with the aim of creating a relay chain, and passing a message along this chain. There was at least three VK7 stations participating.

The website reports stations on Mt Wellington, Mt Barrow and King Island and throughout Victoria.

Take a look at [www.mrc.cat.net.au](http://www.mrc.cat.net.au) for details.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Scanning-Tasmania/>

(Courtesy of the Scanning Tasmania mailing list)

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### ***Beware of overseas purchasing***

The following article was posted on the VKHam website and is a timely warning for people who buy over the internet. It comes from the commercial organisation – Hamtronics based in South Australia:

Please beware, a chap in Hong Kong has recently taken us for some money. Dealing internationally has little recourse. I don't want to be specific however the purpose is to inform Australian Hams that some skull duggery exists in various parts of the world and some checking on the person your dealing with is essential.

We are writing off the loss as a bad experience. Due to the large amount of product we buy worldwide, this is going to happen from time to time. The loss is not great to us as a company but may have been to an individual so please be careful dealing with what could be an international rogue seller.

Please feel free to call us anytime if you have any doubts on how you are managing an overseas transaction, we are only too pleased to help.

Hamtronics - 115 Salisbury Highway Salisbury SA 5108.

<http://www.posnav.com.au/>

(VKHam website via Gavin, VK7HGO)

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If you are interested in becoming an amateur radio operator or upgrading your licence then we suggest you take a look at what the Radio and Electronics School has to offer. They have a range of courses that can be delivered through a variety of methods.

They can be found at: [www.radioelectronicschool.com](http://www.radioelectronicschool.com)

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Finally today, a reminder to those people rostered for next week's broadcasts

Newsreader: VK7JK

80m: VK7HRW

40m: VK7RO

20m: VK7PP

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7ZCR

HF CB: VK7HDS

Thanks to all people and organisations who assisted with this broadcast.

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NEWS FOR THE VK7 REGIONAL BROADCAST CAN BE SENT TO  
THE BROADCAST COORDINATOR, JUSTIN, VK7TW

BY EMAIL [justingc@ozemail.com.au](mailto:justingc@ozemail.com.au)

OR BY PHONE 6223 1351

OUR REGIONAL BROADCAST HOME PAGE WHICH INCLUDES A  
TRANSCRIPT OF THIS BROADCAST AND OTHER INTERESTING  
FACTS AND FIGURES CAN BE FOUND AT [REAST.ASN.AU](http://REAST.ASN.AU)

THE DEADLINE TO GET ITEMS TO THE COORDINATOR FOR  
THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST IS 21:00 ON FRIDAY  
PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY OF THE BROADCAST.