

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1998

1998 was our 4th year here at the Rose Bay premises and there is plenty to congratulate ourselves over but also some disappointments.

Our membership has not grown and this may in part be due to lack of any serious drive to recruit more people, but may also be due to the ageing of the amateur population with many preferring not to venture out at night. Perhaps we should start regular daytime meetings for retiree members to cater for these people. Steps are being taken to try to recruit more people by a mail out circulating local amateurs with details of the club.

As a result of low attendance at meetings it has not been feasible to invite many outside speakers to our meetings. Nevertheless our core membership is very keen and active and has contributed to the development of some of our activities and resources.

Early last year we purchased a laptop to TV converter that allowed us to better display computer based material on our projector.

Training efforts continued but with disappointing results. Theory classes were held but with few if any exam passes. Regular Sunday morse classes organised by Grant, VK2TU, occur but are generally attended only by those who have already passed the 10 wpm test. A full weekend's intensive morse course followed by an exam at the end was run by Grant and others with the intention of encouraging limited calls to upgrade and others to pass the novice level. Although attendance was good, examination success did not result. There appears to be no substitute for regularly copying the daily broadcast.

Our regular involvement in the City to Surf and the Canoe Classic WICEN events was maintained, with the latter providing a number of technical problems. City to Surf assistance has to an extent been superceded by the use of mobile phones by the organisers. The annual JOTA event proved popular with the scouts and the club is treated as an official scout radio station.

The latter has contributed to the recently negotiated long term lease of our premises from the scouts, although moves are being made to build an aquatic centre which could ultimately take over our site.

Attempts were made to introduce fox-hunting as an activity, but again there tend to be too few members interested in a single activity for it to flourish. Our premises and facilities continue to improve. Donations of equipment and components, especially from David Moss, have contributed to our well-being. We now have improved antennas, additional 2 and 6 metre rigs and plenty of H/F activity. Project Day continues to be productive and thanks must go to Mark, VK2YZA for his repair assistance and Eric, VK2KUR for his work on club facilities.

Thanks too to Jim, VK2KQ and Eddie, VK2BEH for their efforts in procuring 40 new chairs for our premises. Lets hope we will have an event that makes use of them all!

Our Internet Web pages are regularly improved and updated and have resulted in contacts from overseas hams coming to Sydney.

We should be grateful for the necessary but dull work done by our Secretary, Michael and

the Treasurer, Raffy VK2RF, and of course our Public Officer, Eric, VK2KUR. Our bank balance is in the black despite low membership, as our costs remain very low.

We have now been in existence for 80 years since our founding in January 1919 and for those that may not be aware of it, one of our founding members, Gordon Thompson, VK2AVT, our only honorary life member, is still a fully licensed amateur.

Thanks must go to all those who have contributed to keeping the club active and adding to our facilities. Our main need for 1999 is to expand our membership so that we can broaden our activities.

Simon, VK2UA