

An interesting year

This year has been a positive year for Waverly Amateur Radio Society. We have endured through storm and tempest!

Firstly, we must reward those worthy members who have assisted in the day-to-day running of WARS. I will refrain from mentioning names because I do not wish to miss mentioning someone.

Would you please join me in acknowledging their fine efforts?

The Annual Auction

The Auction brought a pleasant financial return and continues to permit the Society operate in a modest but ample fashion.

- Computers
- Echolink and IRLP upgrades

Education

The education team within WARS have been active throughout the year with a very large number of people qualifying for their foundation licence. Our Education Officer is not able to be present this evening, however I am informed that we have had a significant increase in course attendance.

Many "F" calls have also been able to advance through to Standard and advanced. We are grateful to the Trainers and Assessors for their time and effort

This year, some members engaged with the local Scout troop to have a Crystal Set Buildathon, Some equipment was prepared and in three hours, a number of Scouts were listening to radio signals through devices that they had assembled themselves. It was rewarding to see the satisfaction on their faces. We have had some very positive feedback for this project from both leaders and parents. We will endeavour to carry out another project this year.

Christmas Party,

A good time was had by all

Wednesday Evening meetings

This year we have had the privilege of receiving very interesting presentation from a number of Guest speakers, some of the topics included:

- "Radio Sun - Why the sun matters if you want to work somebody halfway round the world".
- "3D printing"
- "RFID sensing projects"
- "Antennas in restricted spaces".
- "Experiences with Early Computers"
- "The P25 Digital Mode"

And of course, Show and Tell is also a very interesting part of the evening.

Contests

Whilst not a contest we were able to assemble a team to participate in the International Lighthouse Week End at Macquarie Light. There were a large number of passers by who came to have a look and ask questions.

Storm and Tempest

In 1546, John Heywood wrote in "Dialogue containing a number of proverbs in the English tongue" a saying that

"an ill wind does not blow someone some good!"

Well, this proverb has indeed turned out to be correct.

Early in the year, I had some long discussion with our immediate Past President Eric on the state of the building and our antenna array. Eric was of the opinion that the antennas, feeds and connections into our shack were in need of some TLC. It was assumed that we would have to have a number of special project days to achieve the upgrading.

Well, a severe windstorm in the second half of last year blew down several trees on the property damaging the building, some cars, and our antenna array.

We have been very fortunate that some of our members were in a position to donate some materials so that we now have a completely new mast, antennas, and cabling.

Thanks also to those members who so willingly attended the several project days to ensure that our operations are once again in a very good state.

Generosity

This year we have seen some worthwhile assistance with the provision of equipment.

- A near new 70cm P25 repeater
- A near new 2m Repeater and spare

The area between the rock and the hard place:

Now most people would have us believe that the area between a rock and a hard place usually means that there is a dilemma, well that is not my understanding of things here at Waverly tonight.

You see I am referring to the fact that tonight Wednesday 15th May 2013 is between last night's Government budget and tomorrow nights' budget in reply by the Leader of the Opposition.

So here we are in the middle between a rock and a hard place – depending on what your views might be.

So, I believe that here at Waverly we are in a good position! Our Radio Society continues to be an active group. We have members on the Council of Amateur Radio New South Wales and the WICEWN State Committee that represent amateurs across the state.

But I also would like you to think about where we are and what it is that we should consider as our future plan:

There are several items that I would encourage you to consider:

- Centenary Celebrations 1919 – should we consider asking that the WIA AGM be held in Sydney
- Education –and recruitment.

Finally our building and usable space, it is my view that we should always have a readily usable area that is dedicated to two or three members being able to come into the station and commence amateur radio activities: things like contests, education, and community service etc.

So I would like to see one or two members put up their hands to be Station Officers and volunteer to keep the area tidy and readily usable.

I have enjoyed my year as President, although I confess to a being little frustrated at not being able to have achieve more.

If you will permit me, I would be honoured to continue as your President.

John Harper
VK2HRK
President
Waverly Amateur Radio Society