

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2001

The Club

The past year, 2001, our 83rd year has been a successful one for the club, with an increase in our membership as well as a number of new and upgraded licences.

Congratulations to those concerned as well to members who gave their time in coaching and invigilating for the exams. There has been a break in exams due to re-organisation of procedures and examiners by the WIA.

Our finances too are very healthy as you will see from the accounts, primarily as a result of donations of equipment and the mid-year auction.

Activities

Monthly meetings were quite well attended with most having speakers covering a wide range of interesting topics. Talks were given both by our own members and by outsiders - our thanks go to both groups.

The afternoon project days continued to be popular with various people getting involved with repairing and testing equipment, operating and carrying out maintenance work in the clubroom and surrounding grounds. In this connection, Eddie VK2BEH, volunteered to be the club's Disposals Officer and has since been instrumental in tidying up the downstairs area and getting rid of rubbish.

In March, a number of members took their equipment to the cliffs above Bondi to take part in the John Moyle Field Day Contest, which involves portable operation. Although not hugely successful in working many stations, the weather was kind and a good time was had by those taking part.

The club's first major auction was held on a Saturday morning in June and was agreed to be a success with a significant amount of money being raised for our funds. A lot of work was put into this function, in particular by Eric VK2KUR, Raffy VK2RF and our auctioneer, Eddie VK2BEH. A further auction is to be held this year building on the lessons learned last time.

The annual scouting Jamboree of the Air, JOTA, towards the end of October, provided an opportunity for us to do something for our landlords and host a group of Eastern Suburbs scouts and guides. Thanks to those taking part thus maintaining our status as an "official scout radio station".

A good contingent of members assisted WICEN at the annual Hawkesbury Canoe Classic at the end of October. In the past we have assisted with the City to Surf fun run, but WICEN no longer takes part in this event.

The final significant event for the year was the Christmas party, which was in the form of a drinks party instead of at a restaurant. It was a successful function with over 25 people attending.

The conference of clubs is organised twice a year by the WIA at Parramatta and we sent representatives on both occasions.

Although not strictly a club activity, mention should be made of the standing invitation to club members and visitors by Richard, VK2XRC to join his crew for Wednesday afternoon yacht racing. Many have taken up Richard's offer and enjoyed a wonderful time on the harbour. Richard also does a good job as net controller of our Tuesday evening chats.

Equipment & Services

The club premises continue to serve us well and the ant infestation discovered last year has been dealt with by our landlords, the scout association. A special thanks to those, in particular Eric VK2KUR, who have worked the trim the yard and to upgrade our indoor facilities including the audio visual equipment.

The Paddington repeater has been a cause of some concern in respect of its future, but it now appears that it can continue to operate at its current location. The club has now taken over official sponsorship of the repeater and will pay for the licence. Our thanks to Laurie VK2GPL, the owner of the equipment, for his past efforts and promises of future assistance in keeping it operating.

Our club website, unlike those of a number of radio clubs, continues to be regularly updated and last year attracted around 2,250 visits, many from overseas. We now have a new URL, www.vk2bv.org together with web hosting and mailing list facilities at members@vk2bv.org donated and supported courtesy of Ben VK2XUF.

A significant amount of equipment was donated to the club during the year, some of which we have retained for our own use but much was sold for our benefit both at the auction and at other times.

On a technical note, the club in common with WICEN, has decided to standardise on Anderson Powerpole low voltage connectors. The clubhouse has been rewired with them and a quantity purchased from the USA on behalf of our members.

Summary

Unfortunately in an organisation such as this, we need to maintain a certain level of paperwork including minutes, correspondence, accounts and annual returns. It is thanks to Michael VK2HMR, Raffy VK2RF and Eric VK2KUR that these sometimes boring jobs are efficiently done.

To summarise, 2001 was a good year only made possible by the individual efforts of many members, only a few of whom have I been able to acknowledge here.

The current year has begun well and promises to be equally successful. The recent availability of versatile small transceivers such as the FT817 has kindled a new interest in portable operating, which will impact a number of activities, while the local introduction of Internet linking will expand our interests.

Simon, VK2UA