

## President's Report 2005/6

Another year has gone and we're still going strong. We have seen a small increase in our numbers over the year and especially since the introduction of the Foundation licence.

Unfortunately, I have had to miss a number of meetings through the year due to my increased travel for work and for this I apologise.

The club has had quite a lot going on this year especially with the introduction of the Foundation Licence last October. This saw the complete revamping of the WIA Exam service and the introduction of WIA Assessors as well as the previous Invigilators. At this time we have one WIA assessor in the club which means that the exams can be marked on the day and the candidates given their results immediately. Next weekend a second course will be run for WIA assessor, here at our club and at least 3 of our members will be doing it so we will then have plenty of assessors available. This will mean that the dates for courses and assessments will not have to revolve around my availability as the only assessor.

The club has, so far, run two Foundation courses with a total of 15 new Foundation licensees coming from them. We have also continued to run examinations for the other levels of licence with about 12 or 14 new licensees or upgrades during the year. We have had people come from as far afield as the far south coast and Melbourne to do our courses or examinations.

Our club station has been improved over the year and now sports its console format with HF, 6M, 2M and 70cm transceivers as well as the Marconi receiver and the latest addition, a new 30A power supply. The 20A supply has now been set up at the workbench. There are further improvements planned for the next year including the installation of the speech processor and an Antenna patch panel.

We also re-installed the antenna farm during the year and now have the two wire antennae and the dual band Diamond antenna mounted on the one mast.

A bar fridge has been donated recently by Jack VK2TRF and that will be installed in our area so that we can keep our own supplies in it.

There have been some ups and downs with the hall itself but finally the renovations are under way as can be seen with the progress in recent weeks. The old dens along the south wall have been demolished and a new kitchen area has been built. This has actually increased the floor space in the hall itself which should prove useful for the Auction next month.

The toilets are also being refurbished with all new plumbing being installed at the moment. This will increase the usefulness of the hall once it is all completed.

We are getting along with the Rovers reasonably well with emails checking on usage dates making it possible to keep on top of who is using the upstairs part, when. So far we have only had one 'booking' which had to be knocked back because they already had an activity planned for the date. I believe that, if it wasn't for the Rovers also using the hall, we may

have been looking for a new venue by now so it has worked out well for all parties.

We have had some interesting lectures during the year although we probably could have done with some more as we often have meetings where we don't have a lecturer. This should improve with the appointment recently of a lecture coordinator.

We have a number of other projects in the planning stages including the erection of antennae and equipment for running moonbounce. We purchased a set of crossed Yagis from a deceased estate which, it is hoped, we can set up for the station.

I would like to thank everyone in the club who has helped to make the club the success it is especially our younger members who have helped to drop the average age of the membership for the first time in a number of years. Let's look forward to another great year.

Eric van de Weyer VK2VE