

## President's Report 2006

Here we are again with another year gone. This year has been another very busy one both for me and for the club. Unfortunately, I have had to miss a number of meetings and project days because of being overseas for work and it doesn't seem to be diminishing, either. Because of this, I have decided to step down as your president as I don't feel that I am here enough at the moment to justify the position. I will therefore not be standing as president but will still offer my services as a member of the committee.

Unfortunately we lost one of our long serving members this year in Michael Roll, who had done such a good job for several years as our secretary. He will be sadly missed by all the members who knew him so well.

The year, 2006, has been a good one for the club with many new members joining, especially from the ranks of the new Foundation Licensees. The club ran a number of Foundation Courses throughout the year adding about 35 new licensees to the ranks. We also continued to run assessments for both the Standard and Advanced with at least a few of our earlier Foundation licensees upgrading to Standard and Advanced.

The club also hosted a few other courses this year including an Assessors' training, run by Fred Swainston VK3DAC. Out of this course we now have another 3 Assessors in the club, Raffy, Brad and Binu so it is now easier than ever to arrange to run assessments when needed and it doesn't depend on one person having to always be there. Congratulations to the three of them.

A WICEN introductory course was also hosted at the club with about 16 people in attendance. We also hosted this year's WICEN AGM and currently have 2 club members on the WICEN Management committee. A new WICEN group was formed around the club called Sydney East Group and many of our new WICEN members have got the new WICEN shirts with the group name on them. We are awaiting another lot in the near future.

Quite a few improvements have taken place during the year to the club's area. The display cabinets were finished and are now in place although we don't have anywhere where we can actually display them due to the limited space in the room and the necessity to keep it practical. We made quite a few improvements to the shack with the addition of the Antenna patch panel and improved cabling. We also purchased a new power supply to run the console equipment and now have a remote, main switch which kills the power to the equipment when we leave.

Another innovation has been the introduction of the Tuesday "working bees" where many of the older' members get together on a Tuesday and do little jobs around the club such as running cabling and generally improving the club's infrastructure. They have also been working on a number of little projects which will help improve the station.

I must also mention the amount of work that Lynn has put in to improve the grounds around the Hall. He has already spent many, many hours cleaning up all around the building, Mowing the grass, trimming trees and bushes and really making it look spick and span. We never knew that there was so much concrete near the front gate until Lynn uncovered it, literally. Congratulations, Lynn and a big thanks you from the club.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the improvements to the building which is going at a very slow pace. Very little has happened on that front and we are very disappointed with the progress especially with respect to the total lack of facilities such as proper toilets or even a kitchen. The only running water is one tap outside.

Generally we have got on reasonably well with the rovers although there have been a couple of "tense" moments. I think things will go along reasonably smoothly in the future as we now have a better dialogue going with them.

I would just like to finish by wishing my successor all the best in his role and thank everyone for their support over the years I have been in the position.

73....Eric VK2VE. President.