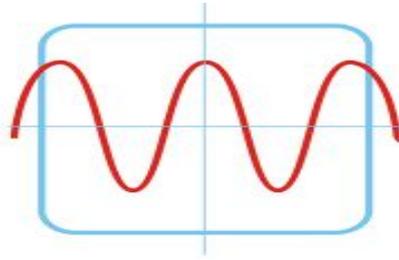


# Waverley Amateur Radio Society



## *President's Ponderings - February 2016*

Hi Members,

With Christmas and the New Year behind us, 2016 has got off to a flying start for our club. I can't believe we are almost half way through February. As the song goes – with a little help from my friends here is the latest information.

The Ferry Contest is only a month away and Tooraweena / John Moyle a week after that.

The EME team had a very successful January with their first long-distance contact and our Morse Class is already into its 4th session.

2016 is shaping up to be another great year for WARS.

In this *Presidents Ponderings* I'm writing to you about five specific items which I'd like you to think about. I really need your assistance with three of these and I know many of you will be able to spare some time to help out.

### *How do I find out what's happening at the club?*

A number of our members actively post pictures and commentary to our Facebook page and to our new-look website which went live last year. I'm awestruck with how our members have come together to make these two sites such a valuable resource for past, current and future members.

I would really like both our Facebook page and the vk2bv.org site to be the go-to place for what's happening at the club for members AND provide non-members with an insight into our activities (and how much fun we have) as well.

If you haven't had a chance to get to either, the links are as follows:

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/308144707193/>

VK2BV.org Website: <http://www.vk2bv.org/>

Both of our sites have images from over the years and many of you will have noticed Brad VK2CEC posted some pictures from way back in 2005 to the Facebook site last week. Thanks Brad for reviving our memories. If you haven't seen them yet, go to Facebook and take a look.

If you have club pictures or words to upload or just want to say g'day, I'd encourage you to get active in posting to both of these sites. In doing so you help other members keep up to date as well.

If you need help getting started, or if you hit a snag along the way, just contact [webmaster@vk2bv.org](mailto:webmaster@vk2bv.org) who will help you out.

Newsworthy items on both Facebook and our website at the moment are our trip to Tooraweena, EME, the Ferry Contest and of course the Morse Course (try saying that when you've had a drink).

### Centenary of Waverley Amateur Radio Society

In 2019 we will be celebrating the Centenary of Waverley Amateur Radio Society and 110 years of Amateur Radio in the Sydney region. I doubt any of our founding members would have thought the club would still be going after so long, but I know they would be proud we have carried on what they started.

I believe it's important we recognise this special event and the contribution the club and its members have made to both Amateur Radio and the Sydney community. Very few clubs make it to their 100<sup>th</sup> year (in any field) and I think we'd all agree this is a reason to celebrate.

**This is the first place I need your help...** I believe all of our members should have an opportunity to decide how we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> year. I have agreed with the committee that we will form a small team to canvas members on their opinions and devise a plan well in advance of our centenary.

This team will be known as *The Centenaries*

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THIS TEAM?? If so, contact me directly and I will get you involved.

### Our home at Rose Bay

We have called the Rose Bay Scout Hall home since 1995 and until now it has been a tremendous resource for our members and guests.

However, the facilities are getting worn and starting to look a bit tired. For some of our members the stairs are an increasing challenge and, in reality, our operating facilities are very constrained by the space and what we are permitted to do at the location. In many ways, with our growth in membership and our significant increase in activity, we are starting to outgrow our old premises at Rose Bay.

In addition, we believe the Scouts are beginning to question our ongoing tenancy at the hall under the current license terms. This provides an uncertain future for the club and both the committee and I agree that we need to act early to mitigate any issues which may arise.

So, in light of this I believe it is time for us to seriously consider other options and undertake a committed search for new premises for the next hundred years of our journey.

**This is the second place I need your help...** We need a small team of members who can work together to look at options for new premises.

This team will be called "*New Horizons*" and will undertake what I believe to be the most important activity for 2016.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THIS TEAM?? If so, contact me directly and I will get you involved.

## Annual Subscriptions

### **This is the third place I need your help... It's annual subscription time!**

Subscriptions are a crucial part of our club funding and allow us to organise and pay for our club activities.

If you haven't paid your 2016 subscription yet, please go to the Members Area on [www.vk2bv.org](http://www.vk2bv.org), login and make your payment through PayPal. If you have an existing login to the website this will take less than a minute. (Seriously, less than a minute!)

If you haven't yet got a website account, please set one up! Go to the "Members Area" menu and Click the "Join Us" link on the website and you'll be online in no time. Once you have the account, follow the prompts to make your annual subscription payment with PayPal.

Paying online with PayPal means we get the payment quicker and because there is an automatic record of the payment, there is very little administration for the club (which keeps Raffy happy).

If you have problems setting up your account or problems with the payment, please send an email to [treasurer@vk2bv.org](mailto:treasurer@vk2bv.org) and one of the committee will be happy to walk you through the process.

### Finally, this is the response to a recent question; Why on earth someone would want to be a member at WARS?

It's quite simple really - we have a lot of fun. This is what I told them:

We hold a regular monthly meeting.

We have monthly shack nights, project afternoons and special interest groups meet ups.

We hold weekly skeds on the Monday night net and the Sunday morning coffee!

We have group buys, field days to do contests, use of the club's tools, spare parts, advice, and repair assistance.

We also arrange talks on interesting subjects related to radio.

We have recently completed implementation of version 2 of our remote HF/VHF/UHF radio station accessible by members over the internet.

We completed installation of our D-star repeater in Governor Phillip Tower which has a range of about 80km around Sydney.

We have established two APRS I-gates to serve the APRS network in Sydney.

We continue to operate and maintain our 2m and 70cm repeaters. The 70cm has IRLP, Echolink and P25 modes running and services the greater Sydney area.

*Waverley Amateur Radio Society*

At the clubhouse we provide free internet to the members via WiFi.

We hold quarterly Foundation courses and upgrade assessments. These bring in new and very interesting people into our hobby. Some even become members and contribute to the overall fun activities of our club.

.... And in 2016 we will continue to do all of these, PLUS:

We are installing a C4FM digital repeater to cover the Sydney basin.

We will organise and host the first annual Sydney Ferries Amateur Radio contest – March 13th

In March we will participate in John Moyle Field Day, 7 hours west of Sydney near Gilgandra, NSW.

We will continue our ILLW lighthouse field day and take part in many other contests and events.

Thanks for reading this edition of my Occasional Ramblings. I am extremely proud to be a member of our club and in 2016, with your help, I want to make sure we lay the foundations for the next hundred years of our journey.

All the best.

73,

John

VK2LJ