



**The Inaugural Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest was held on Sunday 13 March 2016. The event was organised by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society**

Two members Blake VK2FVBW and David VK2FLDW travelled to Sydney by train to join up with Connor VK2FCAC of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society to take part in the competition. They were soon joined by Peter VK2MPK from Wauchope who accompanied them on their ferry journeys.

The carefully planned itinerary to travel on all the ferries was quickly consigned to the scrap bin, a meeting and chat with Ron from the Waverley Club and also one of the organisers meant we missed our first ferry. It was not to be the last ferry to be missed. The decision was made to play it by ear, we boarded our first ferry to Manly as the contest started. We started making contacts firstly with the Club station VK2BV and others as time went on. David, VK2HDM also on the Manly ferry heard us calling and sought us out to exchange QSL cards.

On return to Circular Quay contacts were made with much difficulty due to the high noise level from the mass of people on the wharf and interference, probably from radar on the ferries and other undetermined sources

The next ferry was the Eastern suburbs Garden Island, Double Bay and return. David and Connor stepped off at Garden Island and received a less than warm welcome from the private security company guarding the naval facilities. We however remained on the wharf and when we called CQ ferry GI we were swamped by call backs. Each of us made about half a dozen contacts in a short space of time as we were the first to call from the Garden Island wharf. The next ferry was also Eastern suburbs but this time Rose Bay, Watsons Bay and return. We alighted at Rose Bay Wharf to be met by Laurie the contest organiser and were soon busy swapping QSL cards. We then walked to the contest headquarters where we again swapped QSL cards. Time was then spent chatting with the organisers and other amateurs before returning to Circular Quay. At circular Quay we assessed what we had achieved and rather than another ferry run and late train, arriving Bomaderry 20:30hrs. We decided to take the earlier train and arrived at Bomaderry at 18:30 hrs

In all, we had a good fun day out. Contacts were more difficult than expected due surrounding noise and interference. A day of fun and radio, that is highly recommended. A day that is also cheap as chips. Maximum charge on Opal card \$2.50

David and Blake each received the Billy Blue award for taking part but Connor received the Gold Seafarer Award for the highest number of unique contacts



Connor, VK2FCAC and David VK2HDM



Blake, VK2FVBW and David, VK2FLDW



Peter, VK2MPK from Wauchope



Andy, VK2RM on the radio at headquarters



The Contest Headquarters manned by members of the Waverly Amateur Radio Society from the left, Rob VK2YV, Paul VK2HDX, Alex VK2PSF and Andy VK2RM

## FIELD DAY MT MOGOOD



Gerald, VK2HBG ventured down to Mt Mogood for another field day on 10 April 2016. This time by himself as other members were committed elsewhere. This was the first chance to use the new radio in the field. See report on the radio in News From Around the Shacks