

# Monthly News from the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club inc



June 2004

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of Monthly News from the BMARC. This document is viewable in PDF format on the BMARC Website.

The new committee members were outlined last issue, and since then, the committee has got together and come up with a number of activities that members can participate in, as well as some improvements for the comfort of members at the general meetings.

## Heating

In order to keep the members warm on meeting nights, the club has purchased a gas heater at a moderate cost, and, - I must confess, it was damn cold without it.

## Foundation License

At the June general meeting, Terry VK2UX, spoke at length on the changes that the ACA has made to the Amateur Regulations. This was a result of the series of meetings the ACA held in the latter part of 2004, at which, concerned amateurs put many ideas forward. The changes will take effect in 2005. Terry also spoke on the issue of EMR and its consequences in the Amateur world.

## Fees

**Members are reminded that the annual fees are due and payable at the July 2004 meeting.**

## Proposed Badge

The committee has looked at a redesigned club badge, put forward by myself. Some badges have seen better days, and need to be replaced.

A picture of the proposed badge is shown here. It has a solid plastic backing frame in a dark blue with the information printed on an inserted metallic surface, with white background and black type. It is coated with a clear film to help protect it. The Members first name, callsign and club name, along with the club logo would also be a part of the Badge. A final decision will be made at the July meeting. The Club logo is in colour. The Badge looks impressive. Size is approximately 80mm x 30mm.



## Website

Webmaster Geoff, VK2XJG reported the website is undergoing some changes. These changes will benefit all members, so please bear with us as the changes are implemented over time.

## Assets

The executive has undertaken to conduct an audit of the clubs assets. Some assets are missing, and we ask that if any member has items belonging to the club, would they please contact John Watt, VK2QN to arrange return of those items.

## Club Activities

The club is activating VK2HZ at meetings, and for those who wish, they can operate after each meeting using the Clubs HF rig. A dipole antenna has been installed on a permanent basis. On the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> June, Dave, Gunter and Peter did some well-needed work to the clubrooms. The front gate is now fixed and a 2m antenna has been erected.

The alarm system however, needs improvement and a monitoring facility needs to be activated, as well as some ongoing repairs to the current system.

More work for the future!

The club participated in the recently held Trans-Tasman 80 metre contest, and will be participating in the 160 Metre DX Competition on July 17th. Operation will be from the clubrooms in Glenbrook. The Website and emails will carry further information.

Gunter, VK2JAP in his capacity as Radiosport manager, is planning some events this year. Amongst them is a trip to Mt Kosciusko, this will be in the near future, some fox-hunts are on the menu, (both mobile and pedestrian), and another epic Dxpedition that will rival Cameron Corner! Venue and date to be confirmed.

In 2003, Gunter visited his fellow countrymen in Germany, and participated in one of their Fox Hunting events, which he won. The trophy is now in VK, but a challenge has been issued for them to come down under if they want it back! This may occur in the future. Gunter has intimated that some of them may visit to try and wrest the trophy back. Watch this space for more developments!

## Farewell

The BMARC is losing one of its long serving members. John, VK2JMC is moving north. President Peter thanked John for the time he has spent with the club and his participation in club activities over the years. John will no doubt be on air as often as he can.

Best wishes John, and keep in touch. (ED).

## Future Direction:

The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club is going to be more involved in activities this year. Areas include more involvement with the Blue Mountains Scout Movement, some fund raising, participation in world Amateur contests, education etc.

The club hopes to be more proactive in promoting ourselves to the community and to the world.

The changes in the construction of the Website, and the information that is proposed, will help us in this bold approach. From the members, we would ask that your help, ideas, and support, will go a long way in achieving our goals in 2004 / 2005.

73's

