

## A SHORT HISTORY OF R.V.I.B. RADIO CLUB, VK3AVI

The R.V.I.B. Ham Radio Club VK3AVI was originally established to provide education and entertainment for the R.V.I.B. 18<sup>th</sup> Box Hill Scout group, but others were welcome to join. Later on, the individual scouts were just part of the group, and the club, VK3AVI had an identity of its own.

Regulations and etiquette concerned with the licence conditions were observed and the operator on duty gave the children every opportunity to converse with contacts made in many parts of the world. Many Q.S.L. cards were exchanged and these provided further interest. (Q.S.L. cards show the operator's station identity and details of transmission, etc.)

To get the club started, applications were made to the Postmaster General's Department by R.V.I.B. management for a licence to operate and the call sign. The licence was granted on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1966, and the call sign in July, 1967. Mr. Ken Matchett appealed to fellow licence members of the Wireless Institute of Australia, (W.I.A.) and volunteers erected the antenna and installed the Galaxy transmitter and associated equipment. A roster was then drawn up for volunteers to take turns to operate VK3AVI on nominated meeting dates.

Mr. Matchett later left to reside in Nauru, and Mr. Alex Paterson took on the duty of supporting the operators each week and looking after the extra social and educational activities of the children with the help of his wife Phyllis for about 20 years. In turn, Nurse Jan Reeves, Mr. Rod Dixon and Mr. Bob Paull helped by organising rosters, etc., and other staff members were also most helpful. Members of the club were taken on various outings, for example the Police Radio Branch headquarters, and other places of interest, together with pie nights and parties, etc.

Matron Dunell was a prime mover in the establishment of the club and provided sympathetic and substantial support in all the club activities until she retired in 1977. Mr. Peter Evans, the then superintendent, gave his fullest support to the club activities for the remainder of its existence.

The station first went on the air in October 1967, and operated on the high frequency amateur bands at 3.5, 7, and 14 MHz, and on occasions, the rostered operator might bring along a portable V.H.F. 144 MHz transmitter to provide added interest. At first the club met on Sunday afternoons. This was changed to Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 P.M.

In 1981 the old and now technically obsolete Galaxy transmitter, which had given considerable trouble over the years, was causing problems. The operators agreed that it should be replaced. Mr. Peter Evans and management agreed to the proposal and the operators prepared invitations to tender documents, which were submitted. Mr. Dick Smith, who was already involved with other charities, offered to supply a new Yaesu transmitter at cost, and his offer was gratefully accepted. The antenna was dismantled by volunteer (ham operators) and one member, the late Mr. Peter Broughton, carried out considerable work to repair the array. The club activities resumed as usual. The school later changed to non-residential and the children

involved were then brought from their various residences to their club each Monday evening, until the activity ceased on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1988.

The radio equipment was then donated to the Kooyong Radio Club.

As a result of the interest generated by their involvement with the club, three of the children later went on to study radio theory as was required by the Postmaster General's Department and obtained licences to operate their own stations. They were Tim Palmer, (deceased), Robert Toseland and Leone Cartledge.

The radio operators, as listed below, showed great understanding and gave their best efforts to procure successful educational and enjoyable evenings for the R.V.I.B. children of station VK3AVI.

Ken Marchett, VK3TL	Des Terril, VK3BP	Don Smith, VK3ASD
Trevor Mitchell, VK3EZ	George Cranby, VK3GI	Ray Humphries, VK3WO
Bert Hodge, VK3HE	Laurie Bennie, VK3ALB	Peter Ladd, VK3QC
Charlie Davey, VK3WT	Leo Weller, VK3YX	Jack McMillan, VK3OS
Austen Ellis, VK3AO	Bruce McCubbinn, VK3SO	Leo Lloyd, VK3ALU
John Kerr, VK3BAF	Kevin Connolly, VK3ARD	Peter Broughton, VK3AZQ
Fred House, VK3ARK	Geoff Glover, VK3AQL	

Alex Paterson.

21<sup>st</sup> June, 2005