

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1987 \$2.80

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AUSTRALIA'S ONLY
CB MAGAZINE

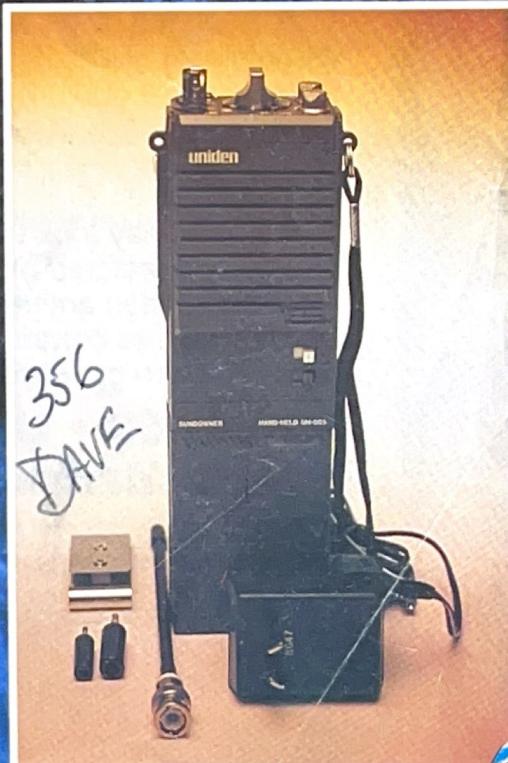
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SCANTENNA



USER REPORT: SPR'S NEW SCANTENNA
IS THERE LIFE AFTER 40 CHANNELS?



OUT WEST

By DON STEWART

A letter from VCY694 Tom in Victoria just missed my last deadline, so it gives me something to start off with.

Remember me saying a while back that UHF contact direct from Victoria might be possible? Well Tom has done it.

Tom says that at 3.30 am (EST) on 9 Feb. 1987, he heard WCB998 David, of Kendenup West (North of Albany), chatting through Channel 1/31 Adelaide. David said he was changing to Channel 13 simplex, so Tom did the same, put in a breaker and Bingo! Direct contact.

After talking to David and his brother Phillip, WAV052, for a while, at a distance of about 2260 km, Tom tried channel 7/37 at Mount Barker and found himself talking to two very surprised people, WAW600 Vern and WCB659 Trevor in Busselton — that's a total distance of well over 2500 km and Tom has the QSL cards to prove it. He also spoke to WAM682 John at Albany via the 4/34 repeater at Naracoorte in SA at about the same time.

I must admit I did a bit of drooling when Tom described the gear he uses — nothing flash, just a Sawtron 990 connected to an array of four 17 element beams on a fifty foot mast. Sure makes my 320 and 9 dB stick look puny.

Tom is not a radio buff in the real sense — he runs a dairy farm near Mortlake in SW Victoria and the UHF is for farm communications — but, as he says about the contacts:

"It proves that, if you are about at the right time, almost nothing is beyond the UHF medium."

★ ★ ★

I also had a note from WAZ707 Colin in reply to my piece about Mango 2 Joni in the last issue. Colin said:

"I am writing this letter in reply to the article sent to you by Mango 2 Joni. I support 100 per cent what Joni and the members of both the clubs have done for the Appealathon, this year and years past.

"As you can see by my callsign, I am not one of the offending CBers.

"What I want to say is that for the rest of the year the two clubs you named as helping to raise the money seem to think they can, and do, tie up the call channel with their continued waffling and, when we ask them to pick a channel so that we can put out a call, we are told, 'We have picked a channel — THIS ONE'.

"Come on you Mangos and Mustangs, it's no good being good Samaritans one or two days a year, be good CBers all year round and pick a chan-

nel to do your waffling on, even if the call channel is clear.

"Keep up the good work for Appealathon, please Joni, speak to your members about talking the call channel and maybe you will get a lot more support next year.

"P.S. There are some of you on the call channel now as I sit writing this."

If true it sounds like a fair comment to me.

★ ★ ★

A chap who wants to be known only as 'Father Nigel', rang me and confessed to being the owner of the now silent channel 6 repeater mentioned last time.

He said the "repeater" was two Philips 620 sets, two mobile whips, a 'home brew' link up and a tape recording of 5/35 ident. Not much of a repeater by general standards, but it seems to have worked and it certainly 'put the cat among the pigeons' for a while.

Father Nigel said he has started another monitoring group (Another one!?) because of the infighting between CREST and ACRM. The new group is called WAVEMS, WA Volunteer Emergency Monitoring Service, and interested parties should write to PO Box 922 Cloverdale, 6105.

I would advise CREST and ACRM to get their act together because his plans include:

1. Taking over 5/35 and moving it to a high point above Kalamunda;
2. Setting up a 27 MHz emergency receiver "Remote Base" at the same site; and
3. Fighting for a new general repeater in Perth — possibly on channel 8. (And what about Gary's portable??)

Father Nigel left me with the impression that he is a real live wire and a bit of a stirrer, so the airwaves around Perth could hot up considerably in the next few months — provided of course that DOC doesn't short him out first.

★ ★ ★

An old mate of the airwaves, WCC330 Bertie of Tom Price, sent me a note the other day because there has been no skip to let us make contact the other way.

As well as going crook about the lack of skip, he said that one of his rare contacts had the longest callsign ever. On 31 January 1987 he contacted a chap named Dave, supposedly at Shark Island NSW, who gave the callsign — wait for it — 68-WF-109-52-YT110.

He's got to be joking.



Back to UHF repeaters. Channel 3/33 in Perth was no sooner back on air, as promised, than 2/32 in Bunbury was pulled out.

The owner, WAW 600 Vern, said it was out for six monthly service and he found that some new parts were required. He was, understandably, a bit upset at having to pay out all the time to maintain the repeater as a public facility while only a handful of users were prepared to donate toward maintaining it and, at that time, the kitty was empty.

A group of users decided it was time to sort the matter out and called an open meeting, which Vern attended, in Bunbury on Friday, 10 July.

The meeting was attended by about thirty people from as far out as Busselton, Collie and Mandurah and my old sparring partner, WEM005 Phil, even came all the way from Perth to do a great job as scribe for the meeting.

The outcome was the formation of the Bunbury And Districts UHF Repeater Group. (It was pointed out that this makes us the BAD UHF Repeater Group, but we hope to belie the name.)

Vern will remain Owner, Licence Holder and Serviceman, but the group will become virtual lessees of it, with responsibility for the general running of it, payment of all costs and, in the long term, looking to purchase the repeater before Vern retires in a few years time. There are a few problems there, but they will be handled as they come up.

Nobody was prepared to nominate as president of the new group, so the chairman of the meeting, WAX897 Max, agreed to accept the post in the interim. Max insists that interim means "short term" and he will be looking for somebody to take over as soon as another meeting can be arranged by the elected steering committee.

The group set an annual fee of \$10 for private users and \$50 for businesses and most of those attending signed up on the spot. The business owners who were present said they were quite happy with that and would probably make further donations if everything worked out as planned.

The groups should have a post office box by the time you read this and the repeater should be up for a three month trial run, so you should be able to find out what it is but, if you can't, you can write to the secretary, WCE632 Chris, C/o Post Office, Eaton, 6230.

The group does not plan the use of special callsigns or the pettiness of only talking to other members because this could cause further problems, but I hope that all regular users of the repeater will be fair minded and see the sense in joining up to keep it working — the only alternative is silence.



By the time you get to read this I will have been in Geraldton for a month and be back home again, so if you Geraldton people have done anything in the past month to attract my attention you can look forward to a serve next time around — sneaky, aren't I?

I am behind the deadline again, so that's all you get for this time. Don't forget the address — PO Box 31, Bunbury, 6230.

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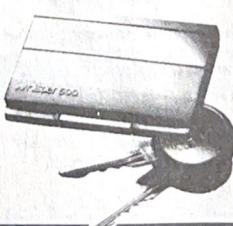
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CLUB PROFILE

BUNBURY RADIO CLUB

Evening, 12 March, 1977

"I move the motion that we form a CB radio operators club." The motion is seconded and carried.

"I move that this club be called the Bunbury CB Radio Club". Seconded and carried.

So began the group known today as the Bunbury Radio Club, which earlier this year celebrated its tenth anniversary.

From a meeting attended by six local pirates, the club now has a steady membership of over one hundred enthusiasts.

Yet from the very start, the club was not content to just stay locked indoors and talk to other CBers. On Tuesday 17 May, 1977, a select committee met with the then Minister for Post & Telecommunications, Mr Robinson, to discuss the legality of CB radio — at the time still an illegal activity.

In 1987, the Bunbury Radio Club is still working to improve the lot of CBers and the recognition of their role in the community.

Bunbury itself is a port city on the south-west coast of WA, a few hours' drive from Perth. With a population of 23,500, it acts as a major centre for commerce, administration and shipping for the entire south-west region.

What better place to prove the worth of CB radio to the community than in a vital, growing city?

Over ten years, the Bunbury Radio Club has been involved in dozens of projects in the local area. Having proven the potential of CB radio for emergency and safety communications, they have recently been designated by the council as a standby body to assist the SES in emergencies.

The club has also decided to nominate a club Patron, and asked Bunbury City councillor Judy Jones if she would accept the position.

"Judy is a good lass, she is very community-minded, can mix with any company, and has done a lot of good in the local council," said club President Dave Lindsay. "We figure it will help having a voice on the council, as there are probably a lot of things we can get involved in and offer our support towards."

Ms Jones was happy to accept the nomination, and says she is looking forward to working with the club and furthering their involvement with the city activities.

All the same, Bunbury Radio haven't fallen into the trap of becoming a club which exists only for community service, to the neglect of its members' interests.

It is very involved with the region's inter-club sports and social events, and run a string of barbeques, picnics, dances and dinners for members and friends.

Other happenings are more removed from the usual, with the odd singing contest held on-air (apparently the skip from Scotland is often running — and so is everyone within earshot — when the club's answer to Andy Stewart gets into high gear!).

The club is extremely active around the band, mostly 27 MHz but also on UHF through the local 2/32 repeater. There are three weekly nets, all held on ch. 22 LSB. These are the Juniors' Night (Monday — chat session and quiz night), games night (Friday) and roll call/news broadcast (Sunday).

They also have a very popular DX award, details of which can be found in this month's 'Log Book' column.

One of the group's most outstanding achievements would be their 'Guide to CB Radio', a pocket-sized 32-page book which details... well, everything for the beginner, and then some. An introduction to CB radio, operating procedures, emergency calling, how to use the rig, and a glossary of terms.

Written in a very concise and readable style by BR282 Don (with BR64 Les getting in the way every now and again!), both gents have crafted a great aid to first-time CBers which many clubs could do worse than examine and adapt to their own needs.

Don is currently updating this popular booklet, first produced some six years ago. The new edition will include information on UHF CB and repeaters, scanning, amateur and short-wave radio. The whole project is funded by advertisements placed in the book by local businesses, which also support

the club's quarterly newsletter, 'Quarterwave'.

This is another project which the club have polished until it shone, the efforts of Dave Lindsay and others making it one of the best club mags around.

The same professional treatment has been given to their QSL cards, an attractive fold-out card finished in glossed black and gold. Ample room on the inside to pen a message to your contact, while the back cover provides information on the city of Bunbury, and the club's DX award.

The club has also produced a commemorative bookmark to mark their tenth anniversary, again with promotional club details on the rear.

Five thousand have been printed, kindly sponsored by Elricks TV Service at Bunbury — one of the club's most ardent supporters. These have been distributed to local libraries, bookshops and club members.

Other trimmings include cloth badges of the club logo, and car stickers. Sure, they may not be the only club to have these little touches, but it is the sign of a group that is organised, competent and has a bit of financial nousse.

Bunbury Radio Club also caters for junior members as best as possible. Each 'Quarterwave' devotes a few pages to puzzles, jokes and even recipes for the younger members, who are encouraged to be as active as everyone else. A few of them write regular reports for the mag on various happenings.

Dave Lindsay tells me that the club has even begun a DX award for club juniors, with both a perpetual trophy and a personal trophy for the junior who makes the most DX contacts. "The point of the exercise is to enthuse the kids, and to teach them to be responsible operators" says Dave. Sounds great!

Having celebrated their tenth birthday with a 'CB cake' baked by Fran BV440, and hailed as being 'faaaaantastical', the club now moves into their second decade.

What lies ahead for the Bunbury Radio Club! A better question would be 'What doesn't lie ahead?' — what can't they do, to make CB a respected part of everyday life for hundreds of people in the region?

Only what they don't put their mind to... any CB club which wants to move ahead in leaps and bounds should take a few leaves from the Bunbury book.