

## Disclaimer

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### Audio file

[20230625 newswest.mp3](#)

Transcript partially edited this week due feeling a bit under the weather this week.

00:00:06 Speaker 1

This is VK6ARN, news West. We are a community organisation and we've been serving up the best amateur radio news in Australia since 1931.

00:00:24 Speaker 1 - Clinton VK6FCRC

Hi I'm Clinton, VK6FCRC and this is news West for the 25th of June 2023. Now over to Bob VK6POP.

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00:00:33 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

This story comes from The Advocate newspaper in Burnie TAS, dated Monday the 16th of August 1954, and that's a report on the recent then Remembrance Day contests and it says Launceston, the annual Remembrance Day Radio contest, which perpetuates the memory of radio amateurs who died in World War 2.

00:00:54 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Was held during the weekend more than 2000 amateurs from all states to.

00:00:59 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Part the object was to make as many contacts as possible with amateurs in other states. There are 60 amateurs in Tasmania, five of whom are in Launceston.

00:01:08 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Remember, this is 1954, Mr G Kimsey said last evening that Tasmania was likely to lose to WA or Queensland, but we had won in the last three contests.

00:01:19 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

The winner will receive a trophy and scribe by the names of those amateurs.

00:01:23 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Who lost their lives? So that was 1954 and here it is, 2023. And we've got the Rd contest coming up in a couple of months.

00:01:32 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

So here's your reminder to start thinking about the Rd contest. How you gonna go about it and how you gonna go about winning it. And the only way we can win it as a state from the other guys.

00:01:43 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Is to everybody get in there and do it. So dust off your antennas, dust off your radios. This is not a portable contest, so you can do it from the comfort of your own lounge room or RadioShack, at least.

00:01:54 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

So seriously, think about it and prepare for it.

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00:01:58 Speaker 3

Last Tuesday evening, the 20th June was the annual general meeting of the Peel Amateur Radio Group.

00:02:06 Speaker 3

The President, Jeff VK 6 GHD, stood down after three years. The vice President, Paul VK 6, LL also stepped down.

00:02:18 Speaker 3

And as it happened, the secretary, Jenny V K6J E and also stood down from her post.

00:02:26 Speaker 3

The Treasurer, Bruce VK6CX, continued in his role. The following were voted into the vacant positions.

00:02:38 Speaker 3

They were. The new president is Jenny VK6JEN who is probably known to people for her sterling.

00:02:47 Speaker 3

Work regarding winlink. She's also the Co coordinator of PARG. Fox hunts the new vice president.

00:02:56 Speaker 3

Is Martin VK6MJ the treasure remains the same as usual. That's Bruce VK6CX. The new secretary is myself, Peter VK 6 PBS and then the members Graham, who continues VK6MG in his role, and he's done a massive amount of work in the last 12 months.

00:03:18 Speaker 3

On page one, communications trailer and he's continuing with that second member is Paul, former Vice president of VK6LL, who is also a member of the Mandra SES. And as we use their meeting.

00:03:36 Speaker 3

It's a good contact to have. The third member is a new face on the committee. That's Morris V K6HLY and Jeff, our former president for three years now, returns on the committee as VK6GHD and everyone else was in attendance.

00:03:55 Speaker 3

With various others as well, and apologies accepted. The next AGM meeting will be on the 18th of June next year 2024 and in the meantime our monthly meetings continue on the third Tuesday of every month.

00:04:11 Speaker 3

At the SES headquarters in Mandurah, in Education, Drive just behind Bunnings, we look forward to seeing everyone there, members and guests. Thank you.

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00:04:23 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Hi, I'm Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ with this week's episode of did you know?

00:04:28 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

This week I thought I might do a deeper dive into ham college.

00:04:32 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Home College was formed in 2007 by deal Husk, VK 6 BDO, now Silent Key. Neil was an ex Navy radio operator who had been a ham for a long time prior to then.

00:04:44 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Neil and a small team around him wrote the manual. We still used to this day prepared all the slides, et cetera. Mostly ran the course single handedly, including foundation, standard and advanced courses.

00:04:56 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Not the stalwart of the early days was Cassie V K6 KTS, who still stays involved with the college and we lead on her for professional teaching expertise. From time to time.

00:05:07 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Group uses the facilities of the Lynnwood Scout Hall at Whaleback Golf Course and also have a club station there assembled, which is used for practical testing as well as the odd contest.

00:05:19 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

My involvement with the college started in 2017 when I turned up to see if I could assist in teaching the advanced and standard courses in some way.

00:05:27 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

It happened to be an AGM and I forgot to stand back when everyone else did and ended up president on my first visit.

00:05:34 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Few months later, nearly embarked on a long term and much anticipated around Australia holiday and I took over as the main presenter for the Advanced and Standard.

00:05:44 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

The first year was pretty good and quite easy, but all my students were engineers, so I think I ended up learning more than they did.

00:05:51 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

One of them was Randall VK 6WR, who stayed on to assist in teaching and is now the main man for the advanced course.

00:06:00 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Next two years were a lot rougher with the third year I was involved in the course having a really poor, poor result.

00:06:06 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

At that point, a bunch of new blood came into the committee. We split the teaching up across about 8 instructors, all under the watchful eye of Randall.

00:06:15 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

And we had an immediate improvement in attendance and exam passes.

00:06:19 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

The same format is still in place today and our pass rate is generally around 100% or very close to that.

00:06:27 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Most years see at least one student stay on to either assisted instructing or just get more involved in the group, which is very satisfying.

00:06:35 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

So what is ham college doing? We run a combined advanced Standard course once a year, generally starting in March and completing in October or November.

00:06:45 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

In addition, we run a foundation course every two months, normally attracting between 6:00 and 10:00 students, and we've also run ad hoc foundation courses for community groups both face to face and across zoom.

00:06:57 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Between the two programmes, we're responsible for bringing between 70 and 100 new hams into the hobby each year.

00:07:05 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

With the advanced course, while there are a few different and very valid ways to study for and pass the exam.

00:07:10 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Some much quicker than our course. We found that the message we're using provided good depth of knowledge. That's allowed. Many of our Members to become very competent hands.

00:07:20 Speaker 4

So at this point in time, Ham College has more than its fair share of doers.

00:07:25 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

From running courses and exams, building a new two metre beacon, managing the IT system that's so important to the quality of our course and keeping the club station on air and operational, the culture of the club is very healthy.

00:07:37 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

It's a single mindedly focused on its core business of educating new and upgrading hands and with a great camaraderie amongst the members.

00:07:47 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

So what next?

00:07:48 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

We've often spoken about running more postgrad style courses like CW digital modes, workshops, etc. But our issue is that if we take these kind of ventures on, we could run the risk of burning out our core group of instructors.

00:08:03 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

We could do this if we had more volunteers to spread the load and we would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming more involved in the college to carry out additional courses.

00:08:12 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

We'd also love to have more engagement with all the various clubs in the Perth Becho area, even if we are just assisting in clubs doing their own courses, using our intellectual property.

00:08:23 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Another area we would love to engage more with is the scouting and guide movement. We see these movements as being the future of the hobby without which we believe the hobby could be in trouble without.

00:08:34 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

We do offer free foundation courses to scouts and guides, including their leaders, to aid in fostering this relationship and would welcome many groups wishing to use our services to gain licences.

00:08:46 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

If you're interested in learning more about home college, either as a student instructor or volunteering your services to assist the college, you can contact us via our website [hamcollege.org dot AU](http://hamcollege.org.au).

00:08:59 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

We'd love to hear from you.

00:09:01 Speaker 4 - Steve Kennedy, VK 6 SJ - did you know?

Oh, thanks for listening again. This has been Steve VK 6 SJ with another episode of did you know if you'd like a text copy of this or any other articles? They will be posted to [my.blog.page@dxradiosynthesis.com](mailto:my.blog.page@dxradiosynthesis.com) dot AU about two weeks after it's gone to air.

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00:09:17 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Before we get into this yard, let me remind you that a camel is a horse designed by a committee.

00:09:22 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Now hold that thought. You might have heard this before. In 2021. It's worth repeating now and I'll tell you why.

00:09:28 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

At the end.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

While researching some amateur radio history recently, I found some items about the planned resumption of amateur radio activity in Australia.

00:09:37 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

After World War 2.

00:09:39 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

So this was 1945. Keep that in your head at the bottom of 1 item from Perth's Daily News on the 6th of September.

00:09:46 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

1945 is a suggestion which is as remarkable in its originality of thought as is the mess in amateur radio licencing that ensued in the following years. This is what it said, Secretary C Quinn of the Wireless Institute of Australia.

00:10:01 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

WA Division hopes that the ban will be lifted shortly. Requests have already been made from headquarters of the Institute in the Eastern States.

00:10:09 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Suggestions have been forwarded from WA for the grading of amateurs into three groups consisting of a new experimenter with a restrict.

00:10:16 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Power use of increased power automatically granted to an amateur with a pre war licence and C subject to special examination.

00:10:24 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

A higher power grade with higher technical knowledge. That's as close as done to what we have in place now.

00:10:30 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

But goodness me, what a tortuous path that took us to get here between 1945 and 2005.

00:10:36 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

When the present 3 tier licencing system was implemented.

00:10:40 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

To save you counting on your fingers, that's 60 years somewhere between 1945 and 2005.

00:10:47 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

We designed clearly by committee a convoluted system of licence levels. That said, you can do this but not that, unless of course you did the other thing but in the right order. Something like that, the revised.

00:11:00 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

3 tier licence levels introduced in 2000.

00:11:03 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

5 simplified our amateur licencing structure, which in the early post war years could have been a fine figure of a horse.

00:11:10 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

However, what we developed was a camel. What we have now is a horse, albeit one in need of care and attention, but not in need of redesigned by a committee like banjo. Patterson's stranger, who wandered into Walcott town.

00:11:24 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

We've been there before and like him, we must learn from where we've been before. And you know what? I submitted this story to the WIA National News a couple of years ago and they refused to put it to air because it was an opinion piece. I think about that. That's the same mob who butchered up and interview.

00:11:44 Speaker 2 - Bob VK6POP

Between the two presidents of Russia and the Wireless Institute of Australia, shame, shame, shame. Who said that? Anyway, I'm Bob BK6 POP.



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00:11:56 Speaker 5

This is news W your amateur radio news on VK 6A RN, originating on the news W Linked Repeater network and HF relays.

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00:12:10 Speaker 3

Hello, this is Peter V K6 PBS. I would like to read the Peel Amateur Radio Group President's report for the phone.

00:12:20 Speaker 3

Financial years 2022-2023 for Jeff V K6 HD, he says this year comes to a close with both the AGM and the committee elections looming.

00:12:32 Speaker 3

It's fitting to review what page has achieved over the last 12 months. As I reflect on this, it is with mixed feelings that I write this annual report.

00:12:40 Speaker 3

Following three years as the PAC President, but the one thing.

00:12:43 Speaker 3

And it has remained constant over the period has been the unwavering support from members. It was with much sorrow that we failed Weld, John Thompson, VK 6 GJT who became a silent key after a long battle with cancer. Some Members may not be aware that John had for some time been working behind the scenes to.

00:13:03 Speaker 3

Streamline our membership procedures. His infectious enthusiasm will be sorely missed by all and our thoughts are with his family.

00:13:12 Speaker 3

On a more positive note, Graham's 6MG achieved his full core as an amateur radio operator.

00:13:21 Speaker 3

And we had three new members to the club, Zach, who is based in Rockingham in the Navy. I don't know that he has a.

00:13:29 Speaker 3

Call sign as yet.

00:13:31 Speaker 3

VK 3 vki.

00:13:34 Speaker 3

Roger McDonald, who hails from VK 3 land and is a new Mantua resident, Timothy VK, three MIT from Wangaratta.

00:13:46 Speaker 3

The past year saw a number of events, including on the 6th of August, the Park Birthday Bash on the 13th and 14th of August, the annual Rd contest on the 20th and 21st of August, the ILLW in which Jerry VK 6 LJC and I and our respective.

00:14:06 Speaker 3

Ex Wales took up residence on Rottnest Island for the weekend on the 28th of August NCR G Ham Fest, at which I was incredibly fortunate to win the IC 7:05 on the 10th and the 11th of Sept.

00:14:20 Speaker 3

Timber, the Mayan up Ham caption attended by Graham 6 MG on behalf of Park on the 8th of October, the Waruna show attended by Jerry VK 6L JC Graham, VK 6MG Gen VK6J.

00:14:40 Speaker 3

EN Martin VK 6 MJ, Peter VK 6 PBS, and myself, we took along the page one and showed it off to all the people and answered their questions about amateur radio.

00:14:56 Speaker 3

On the 20th of December parade Christmas meeting, ably organised by Peter VK, 6 PBS.

00:15:03 Speaker 3

On the 11th of February, the PAG swap meet.

00:15:07 Speaker 3

And on the 18th and 19th of March, the annual John Moyle Field Day, this was the first opportunity to give Graham some modifications to paraguana try and was attended by many members, including Graham 6 MG on Peter, VK 6, PBS, Gen VK 6 J EN.

00:15:27 Speaker 3

Martin, VK6, MJ.

00:15:30 Speaker 3

And on the 26th of March, Parag working Bee at SES headquarters to erect an HF long wire antenna on the 27th of April International Morse Code Trivia Night, the results of which I can't recall. However, as usual, it was great fun in our 40th year, we once again hosted our.

00:15:51 Speaker 3

Annual swap meet at the Mandra Bowling Club. Many members helped make the day a success. However, I'd like to acknowledge in particular the efforts of Jen V K6J EN in setting up and managing the.

00:16:05 Speaker 3

I would also like to thank our sponsors, Tett, Entron and future systems, for continuing to support both Park and our annual swap meet.

00:16:16 Speaker 3

Congratulations to the following prize winners in our swap meet raffle. The first prize was an IC seven 300 plus a \$100 entron voucher that went to Ian Garnett, the second prize, and IC 2730, and a \$50 mtron voucher went to Roger McDonald the third.

00:16:36 Speaker 3

Tesla 5BT VHF vertical and a \$50 entron voucher that went to Timothy McMahon, the 4th, an ICT 100 plus, a \$50 entron voucher, went to Terry Javins. The fifth was a 403 a antenna.

00:16:57 Speaker 3

Switch plus \$50 Entron voucher went to.

00:17:00 Speaker 3

Colin Jenkinson the 6th \$100 entron voucher went to David Ormond and Lucky David Robson won both the 7th and 8th prizes which were \$50 entron vouchers. So that adds up to 100 alongside the specific events a number of other regular activities continued.

00:17:21 Speaker 3

During the period, including regular on Air CW training provided by Tony VK, 6, DQ weekly afternoon, evening CQRS, Slow CW practise sessions on 80 metres hosted by Marc VK, two Ki.

00:17:38 Speaker 3

And well attended by many in national and international operators.

00:17:42 Speaker 3

Regular slow CW coralberry contest organised by Marc VK, two Ki weekly Winlink Nets hosted by Jenny VK 6JN regular Sunday afternoon 40 metre skids hosted by Jerry VK 6 LJC regular 2 hour field days.

00:18:02 Speaker 3

Organised by members to operate the VKF parks and Soto locations.

00:18:09 Speaker 3

Annual Parque Birthday Bash, our annual fun phone contest. Members participated in the Southern electronics groups Hamfests in kidnap and Kittanning Peter VK 6 PBS has been busy establishing a park fox hunting capability and as I write has built a couple of units.

00:18:30 Speaker 3

Actually 3 or 4.

00:18:31 Speaker 3

He has also been liaising with other metro and regional clubs with the aim of park hosting regular fox hunts and also taking part in the fox hunts of the other clubs.

00:18:43 Speaker 3

I must add that I, Peter V K6 PBS are ably assisted by our new president, Jen V K6J.

00:18:54 Speaker 3

In addition to being our Secretary, Jen VK 6, Jen has been busy hunting QRM in various locations, so she's becoming something of an expert in that. As a consequence of our successful fundraising activities, Park has committed to establishing several new capabilities.

00:19:13 Speaker 3

Including a dedicated winlink radio mail service to be installed at SES Headquarters in Mantra and a remote HF station.

00:19:22 Speaker 3

Location to be confirmed, but we're pretty close to it. Both these capabilities signal a big increase in Pug providing community radio resources and our sincere thanks go to Jen V K6J EN and the Winlink team, including our second Victorian member Timothy.

00:19:43 Speaker 3

VK Three MIT who's located in Wangaratta, and Mark VK two Ki.

00:19:50 Speaker 3

Who is located in Yas NSW for providing the leadership for these projects? Graham the K6MG has completed a huge amount of.

00:20:00 Speaker 3

Work on park one.

00:20:02 Speaker 3

Which has resulted in an increased operational capability and more user friendly environment. So numerous with the modifications.

00:20:10 Speaker 3

I simply can't recall them all. However, the major ones include a platform to allow safer and easier operation of the Clark mast intelligent placing of equipment, a rear step gas struts for the flaps and much more. Graham has completed the work, largely Unai.

00:20:29 Speaker 3

And on your behalf, I once again acknowledge his contribution, Peter VK 6. PBS myself has updated the Pug 1 standard operating procedures to ensure all members can use the new capability with ease. Martin, VK, 6 MJ and Chris V K6X HH.

00:20:49 Speaker 3

Installed an All Star node built by Mark the K2 Ki in the park repeater, which has significantly increased the.

00:20:58 Speaker 3

And utility of the club facility, Martin VK6 MJ has continued to develop our mesh network, including expansion of the voice network, experimentation with the transfer of files and video, and a work in progress to repair the ECS headquarters mesh node.

00:21:20 Speaker 3

Changes to our website hosting arrangements precipitated development of a new website.

00:21:25 Speaker 3

Which was managed by Martin VK6 MJ.

00:21:30 Speaker 3

The new website is much improved and, amongst other things provides a traffic light status of the clubs assets including the repeater and All Star modes.

00:21:43 Speaker 3

We had several tech talks during the period, including from Steve Kennedy of DX system.

00:21:49 Speaker 3

Who provided a great presentation on remote HF systems and Peter VKK 6 PBS and Jan VK 6 Jen on Fox hunting.

00:22:00 Speaker 3

Following an unfortunate incident which saw our two metre repeater licence temporarily expire, Bruce VK 6BW and Martin VK 6 MJ have been working with the WIA to harmonise our licence expiration dates.

00:22:19 Speaker 3

The net result of which will be a reduction in our compliance workload as if it wasn't enough for 12 months, we've strengthened our relationship with Metro and regional clubs, including HAG WA, VHF Group, Bunbury Radio Club, Southern Electronics.

00:22:39 Speaker 3

Loop and other way.

00:22:40 Speaker 3

Clubs Mark VK two Ki and more recently Peter VK 6 PBS have produced a number of entertaining and informative Parag audio segments for both the WA National News and News W going forward, I'm sure that park will continue to build on the significant achievements of the past year.

00:23:01 Speaker 3

After three years as President, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to each member of the.

00:23:08 Speaker 3

City and their families for their outstanding efforts and support. In particular, I would like to thank our Secretary, Jen V K6J EN for her support.

00:23:19 Speaker 3

And finally, thank you all Members who have helped, organised and participated in activities throughout the year. Thanks to your support and efforts.

00:23:29 Speaker 3

Park has become known around Australia as the.

00:23:32 Speaker 3

Club of Renown and I've.

00:23:34 Speaker 3

Been very, very.

00:23:36 Speaker 3

Pleased to being a part of it.

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00:23:42

This is V K6A RN and you're listening to news West.

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00:23:51 Speaker 2

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia is a national representative body for amateur radio.

00:23:58 Speaker 2

It was put up to service some gaps in amateur radio representation and amateur radio resources in the country. If you don't know what rasa.

00:24:08 Speaker 2

It does pop along to the website [vkradioamateurs.org](http://vkradioamateurs.org) some of the really good things that Rasa supports, his QRM guru.

00:24:18 Speaker 2

If you haven't looked at QRM guru, you should. There's another website, called [vkgregs.info](http://vkgregs.info), and that's some explanations of regulations in Australia that's very useful.

00:24:30 Speaker 2

There's an amateur radio welcome pack which is given to clubs to hand out to new radio candidates. Another site is called Amateur Radio tech support.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

These are all linked to from the Russia website. Have a look and I'll tell you what the other good thing we provide is the QTC magazine.

00:24:47 Speaker 2

It's online, it's free. In fact, everything that Rasa provides apart from the QRM kill kits because there's money involved in putting them together and sending them out.

00:24:56 Speaker 2

But everything online there it's all free. We don't charge.

00:24:59 Speaker 2

And you don't have to be a member to do it. To see it, to play with it.

00:25:03 Speaker 2

It's all free and open if you go [VK radio amateurs.org](http://VKradioamateurs.org).

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00:25:09 Speaker 1

I'd like to thank all the volunteers, contributors and broadcasters each week, as without you, it wouldn't be impossible to produce the weekly news.

00:25:19 Speaker 1

Please remember to send your contributions into [news.w@vk6.net](mailto:news.w@vk6.net) before midday Fridays. Also, before I go remember, News W is also available now.

00:25:29 Speaker 1

This text on the VCO six.net website.

00:25:32 Speaker 1

And on VK 6 FCRC, please stand by after the ident for callbacks.

00:25:41

Right.