

VK6ARN NEWSWEST 3rd March 2024

A vintage-style microphone is positioned on the right side of the top banner. Behind it, there are blue concentric circles and a signal waveform, suggesting a broadcast or audio recording theme.

Disclaimer

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This year's BK6 ARN News West. We are a community organisation and we've been serving out the best amateur radio news in Australia since 1931. Hi there, it's Clinton VK 6CC and welcome to News W for the 3rd of March 2023. Now with the show. Hi, this is Steve K6SJ from Ham College with another update. As mentioned in our last update, our 10 year at Wax Scout, Paul is coming to an end with the City of Cunning not agreeing to renew the lease with Scouts WA. We're very pleased and grateful to accept an offer from the Wollaston Scout Group to hold our courses and exams at the. Austin Scout Hall, This will start in April with both the first foundation course for 2024 and the start of our Advanced Standard course in March. We also acknowledge and thank very much the Whaleback Scout Group for hosting us

for well over 10 years. On a similar subject, the big shout out to the members of the college who turned up to our busy bee in early February to start the much dreaded task of decluttering the shack in readiness for the move. Also thanks to Pad for allowing us to set page first where a lot of our unwanted gear was sold off. Our next busy bee to complete the move out of Whaleback will be on the 9th of March at 0900 and all members are welcome to assist. Contact Stay back six SJ if you're attending. Alex Foundation course will take place on the 6th and 7th of April, with the exam on the following Saturday. Our next advanced Standard course will commence on the 19th of March. Spots on these courses are filling fast, so if you'd like to be on either of these courses. Contact us via the Contact Us page on our website www.handcollege.org.au. Good morning campers. The month of May is not far away and that means it's time to mark on the calendar the 3rd Annual Southern Electronics Group made-up hand camps and weekend of the May 17th to 19th. If you haven't been before, Hand Camping is a casual weekend getaway for hams and other registered HF users like Off Travel Net and VK 737 and their significant others to drag the swag. The van or the tent down to main Up Sports ground for a weekend of radio and social activity. There's plenty of room to camp. There's some big trees to throw a line over, hot showers, a camp kitchen, terrific fire pit to sit around after dark and of course time to sit and chat over the weekend with like minded radio enthusiasts. Food and drinking water is BYOB. The kitchen and amenities are powered, but there's no power available for campsites. It's been known to rain, fog and then bright sunshine off and on the same day, so you need to come prepared. Camping is usual. The price of \$10 per person per night. There'll be a Square card reader on the weekend available and said can take online payments. Boy at Brooke has a great car museum and other attractions if you want to visit town 15 minutes away while you're here. We maintain a hand Campion Facebook page for up-to-date information, and you can contact me at VK 6 Ek. That's Victor KSIXEK at gmail.com. We hope to see you there. This is Darren VK 6 Ek for the Southern Electronics Group. Hi, this is VK 6 RG. This is Wade news and just a very quick message from us to. Remind you that Monday the 4th of March is a public holiday. Therefore the next meeting of WAG will be on the 11th usual bat time and bat channel. That is to say, you can find us at the Sea Scout Hall down the end of Australia to drive for the GPS. That's number 12 Australia 2 Drive in Crawley all the way down the end and sharp left doors will open at 7:00 for a 7:30 PM start. Tea, coffee and bikies. Are available with plenty of time to have. A bit of a catch up and chitchat both before and after the meeting. Love to see you there. Not tomorrow night. No no, no, no, no next week. The 11th of March. This has been marked the K6F IV E4 WAG 7 threes from VK 6 RG. If you happen to listen to the right part of the 80 metre band on a Tuesday evening, you might hear something that sounds like this. The CQRS net has been running every single Tuesday for the last two years and has been under. Believably popular. There are usually half a dozen, a dozen and a couple of times up to 18 stations, popping in and out when they can over the four or five hours. The aim is to encourage new CW operators to have a go at slow CW in a safe and really friendly environment. With slow speed and lots of mistakes are par for the course. It's all about having a go, starting with the basic call sign and RST exchange, then over time getting better and better. The net also attracts its fair share of old timers who enjoy helping others to have a go or just to enjoy the banter. So this might be just the opportunity you've been waiting for to have a go at transmitting on CW, or perhaps just to stop the contacts rusting up on your key. Doesn't matter whether you're brand new to the code or if you're an old timer who would like to have a bit of fun and help encourage new operators by having simple, safe Qsos at their speed. We'd love to have you join in. The net starts at 0900 Zulu every Tuesday on 80 metres between 3540 and 3570 kHz, and their stations in the West East and in between. Listening out for your CQRS call For more information and to receive our weekly CQRS RAG 2 newsletter. Contact me

Mark V K6QI via my e-mail address on qrz.com or you can e-mail me direct Mark dot., At icloud.com, that is MAR k.b.osma@icloud.com, too much switch mode power supply hash on 80 metres. This might be the incentive to do something about it. With the cheap noise canceller costing less than \$100.80 meters could be easier than you think. So once again, Tuesdays from 0900 Zulu until late between 3540 kHz and 3570 kHz. Cheers from mark VK two Ki and VK 6 Qi. Hi, just a little note about VK 6 RG and the WAG technical and general net. Having it run every Sunday morning on VK 6 RLM, that's 146 decimal 750 or channel 3 in the old money and it starts at 10:30 AM this morning, of course if you're listening in the evening. It's next week. This is News W your amateur radio news on VK 6 ARN originating on the News W linked repeater network and HF relays. Hello everyone, this is Clive VK Six at CSW. Finding you that the Radio Amateurs Old Timers Club of Australia's March Bulletin goes to air tomorrow this month. Instead of the usual broadcast, we offer an historical broadcast from years past by Ellen Doble, VK 3A MD Now Silent Key. This is because broadcast compiler Andrew VK Three CAH only has enough spare time to compile new material each alternate month. The latest news and information will be broadcast next month. Everyone, ROTC members and non members alike, is most welcome to listen to the programme and to join in the callbacks afterwards. Now some broadcast details. At 8:00 AM, Chris BK6 Ji will transmit the bulletin on 80 metres on 3620 kHz. Also, at 8:00 AM tomorrow local time, there's a transmission via digital mobile radio on the VK DMR Network Torque Group 5. At 10:00 AM local, the program will be transmitted via the newest linked repeater system simultaneously with a 40 metre transmission on 7088 kHz by crispy case 6 JCI on Wednesday, March the 6th. We have add star broadcast that 4:30 PM WA local time. This will be transmitted via D Star Reflector 91 C and will follow the AR news line on Sunday March the 10th repeats of the ROTC bulletin. Follow the 160m and 40 metre broadcasts of the WIA news. Full details of all transmissions, times, modes and frequencies are published on the ROTC website at www.raotc.org.au or just Google ROTC broadcasts. If none of these times suit you, you can download the audio file at any time from today. But if you do download the file, some brief feedback comments would be appreciated. The next lunchtime meeting for members and Friends of the ROTC in Perth is on Tuesday, March the 12th at the Woodbridge Hotel, 50 E St. Guildford. We meet at 11:30 for midday lunch and attractive, well priced at seniors. Menu is available which can be viewed online. Everyone's welcome to join in and have an eyeball QSO. There's adequate car parking, but it's coming by train. Be sure to alight at Guildford E Repeat Guilford East station. Full details are on the club website under the heading Luncheons. Once again, Tuneln tomorrow for the March ROTC broadcast and we look forward to hearing your call sign in the callbacks 7 three from Clive VK 6 CSW. Foundations of amateur radio Have you ever had a day when nothing you started actually got anywhere? I've had a fortnight like that. Several weeks ago I wrote a couple of articles about emergency communications and its tenuous relationship with our hobby. As a result, I managed to get a week ahead of myself and started using that week to do some long overdue analysis of the Whisperer All Week Signal Propagation Reporter data set. I've started this process several times and I finally had a whole fortnight to come to grips with 6.7 billion rows of data. Spoiler alert, it hasn't happened yet. The data contains a record of every reception report uploaded to Whispernet org since Tuesday the 11th of March 2008 at 2202 UTC. It's published in Compressed, Set. Created value text files and after previously spending weeks of wrangling, I managed to convert each one into an SQLite 3 database. This wrangling was required because some amateurs used commerce in their call signs or grid squares or backslashes or both, and SQLite import isn't smart enough to deal with this. After doing this conversion, I could actually query 191 different databases. I could collect the results in Three weeks later I'd have an answer just in time to download the next month of data. Garth Victor K2TTY suggested that I look into Paquette

as an alternative. No joke. This changed my life. I managed to convert all the compressed CSV files to parquet, a process that took a day rather than a week with SQLite, and then I could start playing. If you're going to do this yourself, make sure you have a big empty hard disk. After a few false starts, the report that previously took three weeks returned in three hours. And if we're getting technical, since I know this will make at least somebody laugh. The packet files are stored on a USB drive connected to an iMac that has the directory mounted via SSHFS to a virtual Linux desktop machine that's running the duck B binary inside a docker container running on a different virtual docker machine. If you're keeping track, the database travels across USB via 2 SSHFS mounts, 2 ducts DB, and it's still only takes three hours. So impressed doesn't even begin to describe my elation. If you're asking why, the answer is that I don't run untrusted binary executables on my host machine. This allowed me to start doing what I queries when I discovered a fun issue. A chart I generated with minimum, average and maximum power levels over time showed that there was at least one station that was claiming that it was transmitting with 103 DPM for context. That's multiple times the power of HARP, the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program, which in 2012 was the most powerful shortwave station, using only 95.5 DBM, or 3600 kilowatts, and only two DBM shy of the 105 DBM, or 32 megawatts, used by a NFS 85, part of the US Space Forces Space Surveillance network. Be able to track a basketball size object 41,000 kilometres from Earth. In other words, 103 DBM is less of a whisper and more of a roar. Funnily enough, not every receiver on the planet reported these transmissions, but more than one did, so the issue is at the transmitter. Unfortunately, when I started looking for reports using more than 60 DBM's, there were plenty to choose from, over 18,000. While that's less than 0.0003%, it made me wonder how much of the data is dirty and what should I do about it. There's other examples of dirty data. My beacon has been reported on 24 megahertz, which is odd since my licence conditions do not permit me to use that band odor. Still, is that several other beacons normally on 28 megahertz, like me, were also reported on 24 megahertz by the same station. How often does that happen? I've previously reported the missing data from the hybrid solar eclipse in 2023 just under 2 hours and 12 minutes before the eclipse and the 38 minutes following it was missing. I've not yet checked to see if it magically reappeared. Then there's the faulty decodes. I've talked about this before. Different, wiser versions are better or worse are decoding, and the points at which it breaks down varies, in other words. Some decoded data is inevitably wrong. I have previously chartered activated grid squares. Apparently all of earth. Yes, all of it has, at one time or another being used as both a transmission or reception site, including Point Nemo, the top of Mount Everest. All of the Arctic and Antarctic and plenty more out of the way. Places like, say, the Surveyor General's Corner located in the Nanak Jericho Shire look it up. Interesting patterns emerge when you split activations down per band. It's not. There are those are decoding artifacts or man-made claims. I've asked the HAMSI community for guidance since dropping incorrect data on the floor doesn't seem to be the right way to go about things and whilst correcting data seems obvious. What do you change it to and how do you know what's correct? So no progress to show for two weeks of work and barely enough to whet your appetite to get on air and make some noise. Some days are like that. I'm on our Victor K6FLABL Hi there, it's Clinton VK 6 FCC Back with you. And did you know that news W is now on YouTube? Type in.youtube.com/ at newest weekly podcast. Dash, KZ7YC, Ohh, and Before I go, I'd like to thank those watching on YouTube or a TV, the readers and you for listening. I'd also like to thank our team, the broadcasters, and those submitting content each week. Please stand by now for callbacks. After the broadcast, we'll head over to the Vika six.net website and fill out the forms so we know how many people are listing each week. bye bye