



QTC Lite is published monthly by the Radio Amateur Society of Australia

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BEING HEARD IS IMPORTANT

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

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Editor.

News from ACMA

This news was received via email from the ACMA. It's great to see fees reduced, and the 2x1 Contest Callsigns that were successfully negotiated with ACMA by RASA reduced from \$70 per year to \$15 per year.

3rd September 2024

New fees, reminder to reassign or reconfirm call signs

New amateur radio fees

From 1 September 2024, we will introduce new fees for the following call sign activities:

- Reassigning a:
 - special event call sign: \$34.00
 - VK0 and VK9 call sign: \$34.00
 - contest call sign: \$15.00
- Transferring a call sign to another amateur operator: \$15.00

The [amateur radio call sign policy](#) and website has been updated to reflect these new charges. Information about how we set fees is in the [Fees for service cost recovery implementation statement](#).

Reassigning call signs

Special event, contest, VK0 or VK9 call signs have a designated assignment period of 12 months. We will contact you before the expiry to remind you to apply to have the call sign reassigned to you (the fees listed above will apply). If a reassignment application is not made before the expiry date, the call sign will no longer be assigned to you, and will be made available on the call sign register.

Amateur operators with 2-letter, 3-letter and F-series call signs should reconfirm ongoing use of their call sign every 5 years. There is no cost for amateur operators to reconfirm ongoing use of their 2-letter, 3-letter and F-series call signs.

We encourage amateur operators to log into [ACMA Assist](#) to reconfirm their call sign, or apply to transfer or reassign call signs.

Update to the amateur operating procedures

Following feedback, we have made a minor change to the [Amateur radio operating procedures](#) to clarify that communications established with another station is also referred to as a 'series of transmissions'.

RASA Annual General Meeting 2024

RASA's 2024 Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 7th September. The President, Paul VK2APA, (pictured right), chaired the meeting.

The poll for office bearers was conducted earlier, and the returning officer's report was received.

The meeting was conducted online via ZOOM, and is available to view on RASA's YouTube channel [HERE](#)



RASA has developed a wide range of resources for Amateurs. These are free to use by any Amateur. You do not need to be a member of anything to access RASA resources. Find out more about RASA resources at our [website](#).

QTC Magazine
Free at vkradioamateurs.org

A blue banner with the text "QTC Magazine" in large, bold letters. "QTC" is in red and "Magazine" is in white. Below it, "Free at vkradioamateurs.org" is written in white.

Welcome to Amateur Radio
A Guide for Newcomers

A close-up photograph of a radio control panel with various buttons and a digital display. The text "Welcome to Amateur Radio" is overlaid in yellow and white, with "A Guide for Newcomers" below it in white.

RASA
Resources

The RASA logo, which is a black outline of Australia with the word "RASA" in red and white inside. Below the logo, the word "Resources" is written in black with a small downward-pointing triangle.

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia
Foundation Level Study Guide
Your Gateway to the World of Amateur Radio
A Free Amateur Radio Learning Resource

A collage of images related to amateur radio. It includes a person sitting at a desk with a radio, a close-up of a radio control panel, and a computer monitor displaying a website. Text overlays include "The Radio Amateur Society of Australia", "Foundation Level Study Guide", "Your Gateway to the World of Amateur Radio", and "A Free Amateur Radio Learning Resource".

QRM.guru
Free at vkradioamateurs.org

A banner with a blue background featuring a stylized radio wave pattern. The text "QRM.guru" is in large, white, bold letters, and "Free at vkradioamateurs.org" is below it in white.

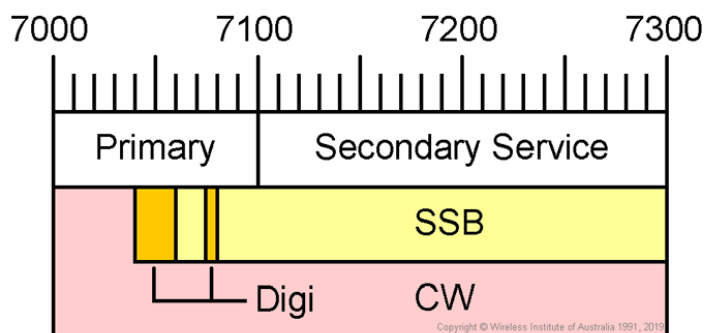
Save 40m CW

Are you a CW operator, or do you take an interest in Band Plans and ensuring we all get fair and equitable access to the bands? For those who aren't across the WIA/ IARU's plans with 40 metres, please read and consider the call to action.

Whilst the focus is currently on the VK WIA National Body, they will be taking their proposal to the IARU Region 3 Conference in November 2024. Graeme VK5GG and I will keep the news section of this website up to date.

www.save40metrescw.com

40 metre band – All licence classes



7.000 - 7.300	CW	
7.040 - 7.060	Digital data modes	(Note 1)
7.060 - 7.074	SSB (shared with international digimode activity)	(Note 2)
7.074	WICEN frequency (interim)	
7.074 - 7.080	Digital data modes	(Note 1)
7.080 - 7.300	SSB	(Note 2)
7.110	IARU Region III emergency centre frequency	

It is our preference to refocus this ill-conceived plan before it leaves our shores. We hope that the WIA will listen to both its members and non-members and work to represent the community fairly.

Regards, Chris VK3QB and Graeme VK5GG #3397



2024/25 RASA Participation Challenge

Paul Anslow VK2APA

As we kick off the RASA year, I took a moment to reflect on 2023/24 and realised that my Amateur Radio activities took a backseat because of family obligations and some challenges at home. But this year is going to be a game changer! I'm setting some Amateur Radio goals for 2024/25, and I think you should consider doing the same.

It's easy to be overwhelmed by the wide variety of activities available to us as licensed amateurs. I am often disappointed to see hams who get stuck in a rut, who feel limited by their licence privileges. New hams often are not sure of their next steps and the [Welcome to AR guidebook](#) may help. Even those with a Foundation licence have tons of options to explore beyond just the local FM repeater. Plus, with the Solar Cycle on the upswing, you can make some great contacts with just 10 watts and average antennas. HF Data modes like FT8 are perfect for low power setups. It all comes down to how you view it—do you see it as a challenge or just an excuse?

If you have a Standard or Advanced licence, why not set some goals and pick up new skills? Trying out 6 meters, often called the magic band, can be a blast! Plus, the antennas, whether you make them yourself or buy them, are compact enough to keep even the fussiest family member or neighbour happy. You can also check out satellites and the ISS with just a DIY basic tape measure beam and a cheap handheld radio. For more details, check it out here.

<https://www.work-sat.com/index.htm>

The higher HF bands are now active. Learn Morse Code and get into CW, the original small signal mode. The [FISTS Down Under](#) website is a good starting place.

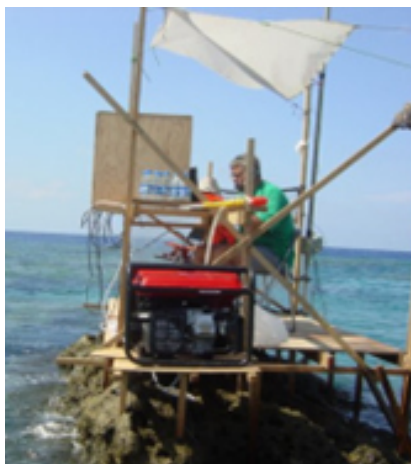


Photo is of Scarborough Reef (BS7)

If noise is holding you back, [QRM.Guru](#) has a great flow chart and real world knowledge base articles to assist you to solve your QRM. Another alternative is to operate portable or mobile.

If you are unable to operate from home, take the advantage of Summer and the outdoors. A portable station, or a vehicle mobile setup is a great way to get outside and enjoy the lower noise floor in rural and bush settings. [World Wide Fauna and Flora \(WWFF\)](#) may interest you.

Try a contest or field day activity. Some contests are quite brief, over a weekend, some a month or longer. Some are friendly and some are very competitive. nearby islands, or anywhere you feel like.

To help you participate in some new things in AR this year, RASA has put together a checklist for you to track your progress and some links to help you with your new activities. You can use this for ideas to try.

It works even better with a friend or group as a fun competition. It would be great for your club to track over the year and provide recognition of accomplishments with newsletter articles, certificates, or even prizes.

2024/25 RASA Participation Challenge List		
Band Worked	Mode Worked	Activity (or mode of op)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 2,200 M (135 kHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - SSB	<input type="checkbox"/> - Repeater QSO (2 M and up)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 630 M (472 kHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - CW	<input type="checkbox"/> - Repeater QSO (10 or 6 M)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 160 M (1.8 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - AM	<input type="checkbox"/> - Simplex FM QSO (VHF/UHF)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 80M (3.5 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - FM	<input type="checkbox"/> - SSB QSO (HF, VHF & UHF)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 40 M (7 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - PSK (31, 63)	<input type="checkbox"/> - CW Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 30 M (10.1 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - FT4	<input type="checkbox"/> - Contest Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 20 M (14 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - FT8	<input type="checkbox"/> - Satellite and/or EME Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 17 M (18 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Other WSJT- X Modes (FSK441, JT6M, JT65, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Fox Hunt (ARDF) or other RadioSports activity
<input type="checkbox"/> - 15 M (21 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - JS8call	<input type="checkbox"/> - WinLink Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 12 M (24.9 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - APRS/Packet radio (AX25)	<input type="checkbox"/> - EchoLink Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 10 M (28 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - SSTV or Fast Scan ATV	<input type="checkbox"/> - Work all VK, Bonus for VK0 or 9
<input type="checkbox"/> - 6 M (50 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Digital FM (DMR, D-Star, Fusion, etc.) including Hotspots	<input type="checkbox"/> - Work 50 countries
<input type="checkbox"/> - 2 M (144 MHz)		<input type="checkbox"/> - Work 100 countries
<input type="checkbox"/> - 70cm (438 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Pactor, Clover, Olivia, Throb, DominoEX, MT63, Thor, AMTOR, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> - WAC - Work All Continents
<input type="checkbox"/> - 23cm		<input type="checkbox"/> - World Wide Fauna and Flora (WWFF), POTA (Parks On The Air) or SOTA (Summits On The Air) as a Chaser Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - Above 23cm	<input type="checkbox"/> - FAX or Hellschreiber	<input type="checkbox"/> - WWFF, POTA, SOTA Activation
<input type="checkbox"/> - Participate in a Net	Club	<input type="checkbox"/> - Any other "On the Air" Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> - Be a Net Controller	<input type="checkbox"/> - Attend an ARC meeting	
	<input type="checkbox"/> - Present at ARC meeting	Build/Test/Repair
<input type="checkbox"/> - New VHF/UHF Antenna	<input type="checkbox"/> - Head a committee	<input type="checkbox"/> - Build a item from a kit
<input type="checkbox"/> - New HF Antenna	<input type="checkbox"/> - Attend a Hamfest	<input type="checkbox"/> - Club Buildathon
<input type="checkbox"/> - New Mobile and/or Portable Radio setup	<input type="checkbox"/> - Teach a Licensing Class or become an assessor	<input type="checkbox"/> - Use an Antenna Analyzer or nano-VNA to measure
<input type="checkbox"/> - New Mobile Antenna	<input type="checkbox"/> - Mentor a new ham	<input type="checkbox"/> - Fix and/or restore a Radio
<input type="checkbox"/> - Computer/Radio Interface	<input type="checkbox"/> - Write a newsletter article	<input type="checkbox"/> - Arduino, Raspberry Pi or other microprocessor Project or Program
<input type="checkbox"/> - Upgrade your shack	<input type="checkbox"/> - Become a RASA Member	

Other Activities

Start up a pedestrian Hand Held Net. The rules could be “Walk at least 500 Meters from your QTH or Vehicle” or similar, with the objective of some exercise, along with some Amateur Radio interaction. Rules should be flexible enough to allow for the less mobile to join in.

Have a Slow Scan Television Net on your local Repeater. There are android and iOS apps available to encode and decode SSTV and all you need is your regular rig and your phone or tablet. A fun way to share your phone photography.

Devise a Field Day/Contest activity. E.g. The Waverly ARS have their innovative Ferry Contest on the various Sydney Harbour ferries. A group portable contest station. A public display of Amateur Radio, etc.

Start a regular Shack Day. An activity where the club station is activated by members (or an amateur opens up their shack to a small group) with some sort of theme e.g. Getting new amateurs on air, for those who cannot get on air at home, Exploring new modes, etc.

Run a One Contact a Day Challenge. Either as a personal challenge or as a group or club activity, create a challenge to work at least one station a day using a selected mode or other condition(s). E.g CW using a hand key. For the time poor the rules could be adapted to be five or more contacts a week.

Hold or Participate in a major Annual Event. This could be a large field day, club participation in a major contest or anything else you can come up with. It may take several years for it to fully take off. Publicise the event and afterwards report on its success. Notable successful events are [Perthtech](#), [Antennapalooza](#), and numerous club events large and small.

Hold a build-a-thon. From a list, get members to register their interest in building a kit. Starting suggestions could be Construction of a [Flowerpot Antenna](#) for 2M or 2M/70cm, [Making your own Balun](#), either 1:1 or 4:1 and then making a dipole antenna. Building more complex items as the members' interest and skills evolve. Buying the materials in bulk helps with costs, too.

Your Ideas Here ►►►

Don't forget to share it with us, too! We would like to hear of your success.

Useful Links

World Wide Fauna and Flora (WWFF) website <https://www.wwffaustralia.com/>

Summits of the Air (SOTA) - Paul VK5PAS has a great page here

<https://www.vk5pas.com/summits-on-the-air-sota.html>

Islands on the Air website <https://www.iota-world.org/>

Beaches On The Air (BOTA) <https://www.beachesontheair.com/>

Silos on the air (SiOTA) <https://www.silosontheair.com/>

WA Amateur Radio News Presents
PerthTech 2024
 A day full of technical and practical presentations on a range of topics.

Book Now at vk6.net

Sept 21ST

PerthTech 2024

PerthTech 2024 - September 21st

PerthTech 2024 has an amazing programme of presentations; enough to keep everyone interested and engaged.

The programme commences at 8:30AM, and the first presenter for the day is Mooneer Salem K6AQ, who will talk about Machine Learning and FreeDV

Digital voice (especially on VHF/UHF) is something that hams have been doing for several decades. While it does have advantages over traditional analog voice, one big disadvantage is the lower perceived audio quality. This is despite being able to decode and copy digital voice transmissions at lower signal to noise ratios than would otherwise be possible.

HF, meanwhile, adds additional complications that affect the ability to decode a signal that's of acceptable audio quality. Join us as we talk about how the FreeDV project is using machine learning to improve digital voice on the HF bands.

And there's more - find out about PerthTech and the full programme [HERE](#)

What does it cost to attend PerthTech?

- The day of presentations -Saturday 21st September, \$30
 Includes Morning/Afternoon Teas, Lunch, All day tea/coffee)
- Sundowner Saturday Evening (BYO Drinks) \$15
- Caravan/Camper - per van per night (Fri & Sat) \$15

Registration is compulsory - no walk-ins please. Register [Here](#)

I'm looking forward to meeting you at PerthTech.

73, Bob VK6POP on behalf of WA Amateur Radio News. perthtech@vk6.net



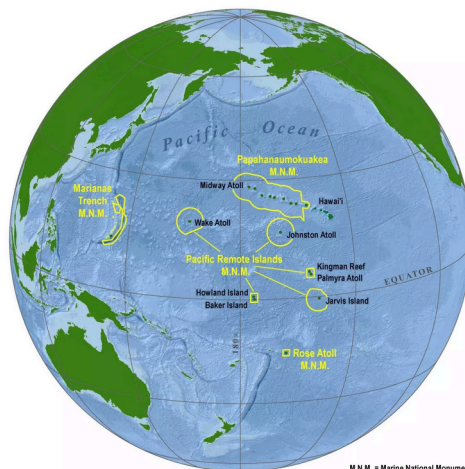
Thanks for Renewing or Signing up for Membership

We're grateful for the huge response to the call to renew membership, and along the way new members are rolling in. RASA operates efficiently on a low budget, and your membership fees help pay the bills to enable us to continue to develop and provide free representation and resources to the Amateur Radio community.

The DXpedition to Jarvis Island, N5J

By N1DG

I am writing this on the way to Pago Pago from Jarvis Island. What a ride! No, I don't mean the storm we just went through which had winds peaking at 68 knots (hurricane strength). The trip to Jarvis really began eight years ago right after the successful Baker Island DXpedition where we tried to keep a few operators on the ship and remote to the radios on the island. The remote idea was a total failure yet the DXpedition was a great success except that it left the team totally exhausted.



On the way back to Fiji, George, AA7JV, said me: "There has to be a better way." And so began a three-year process where the end result was a fully remote system including a custom-made landing craft, software control systems, and custom-designed antennas made to work with reduced height and minimal guying. George's Radio-in-a-Box (RiB) system design was funded by the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) and tested successfully in the Bahamas. [More...](#)

<p>VK3RASA REVERSE BEACON NETWORK</p> <p>Located in Drouin West, Victoria, Australia.</p>	The logo consists of a black outline of the map of Australia. Inside the outline, the word 'RASA' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the left of 'RASA' is a red and black radio wave symbol, and to the right is another red and black radio wave symbol.
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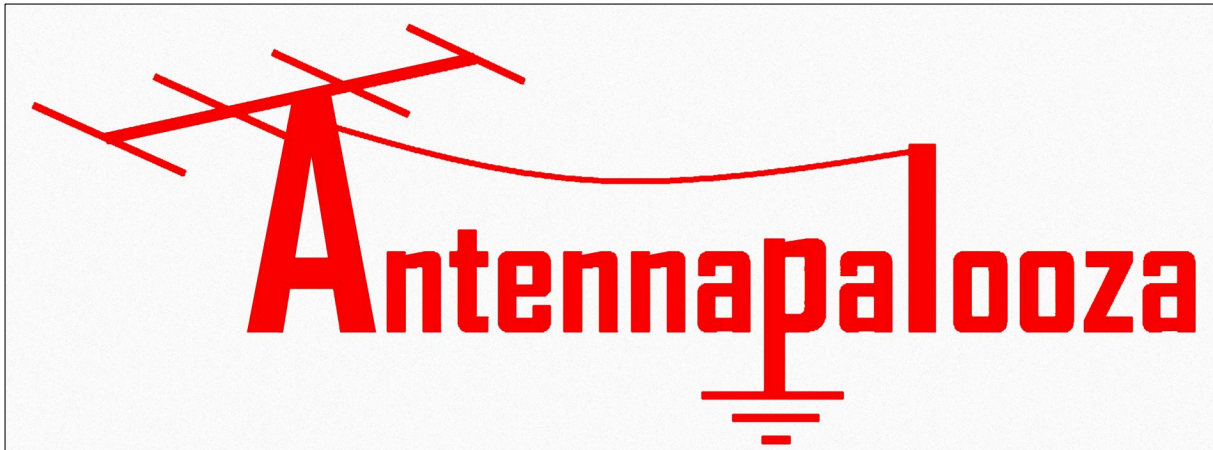


How "I" is "A.I.?"

We asked an A.I. engine to generate an image of a female morse code operator.

It's often been claimed that women are good at multi-tasking.

Who wouldn't be good at multitasking with a third arm?



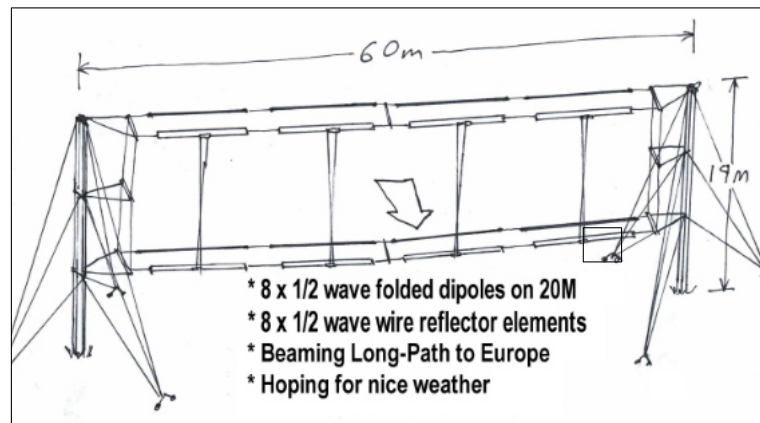
Antennapalooza 2024

This year's theme for Antennapalooza is **Wire Antennas**.

November 30-December 1st at Drouin West, Victoria.

To kick things off we are planning to have a temporary installation of a Curtain Array on 20 Metres.

At 19 metres high by 60 metres long, it's going to be big, but still just a baby as curtain arrays go.



The plan is for it to be up for around 2 weeks over the Antennapalooza field weekend. (Less if we get a decent storm)

Come and check it out. Bring your wide angle lens. Plug your rig into it if you want to try it out.



Will it work or just snag helicopters? Who knows? Let's find out together.

Antennapalooza takes place at Drouin West, about an hour's drive East of Melbourne.

Visit the [Antennapalooza website](#) for full information and updates.