

100 Years of Contesting Down Under

Christopher Platt

VK5CP



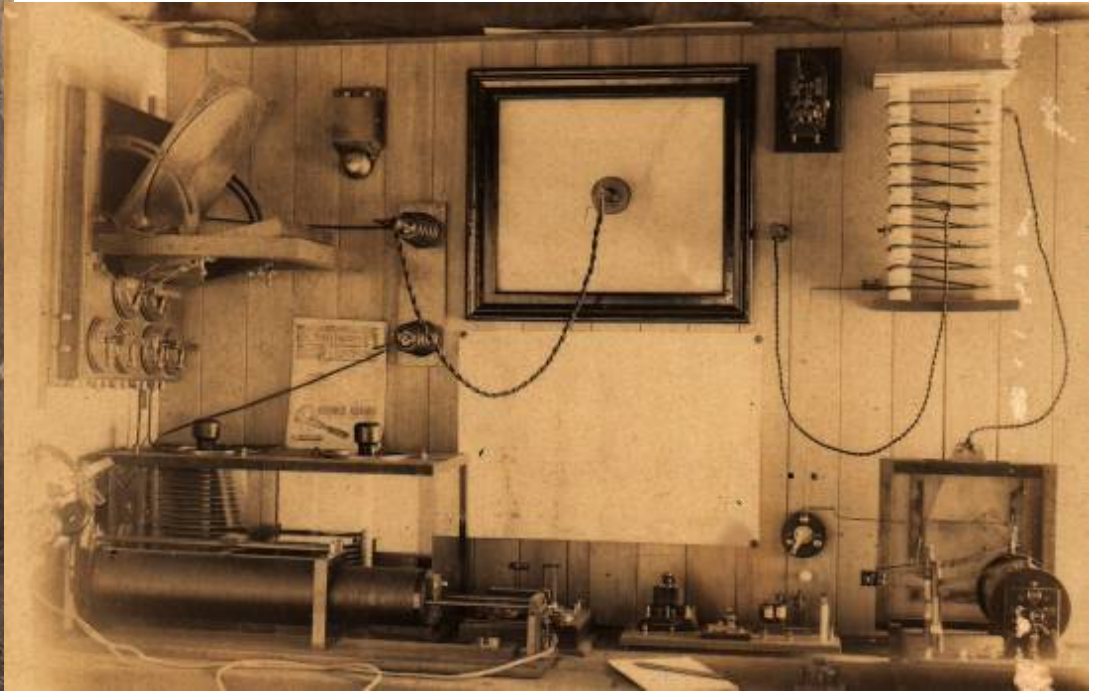


Walter Witt, XKW wearing his 1912 membership badge some 70 years after first receiving it!



The Amateur Wireless Society of Victoria





**XQM - early 1914
Mareeba Queensland**

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
G.  R.
POSTMASTER GENERAL'S DEPT.
CENTRAL OFFICE
MELBOURNE
31 JAN 1914 .191

Received from Mr Andrew Campbell
Vulcan Boundary Mareeba Qld

the sum of one pounds
one shillings and pence

being first class fee for Radio license

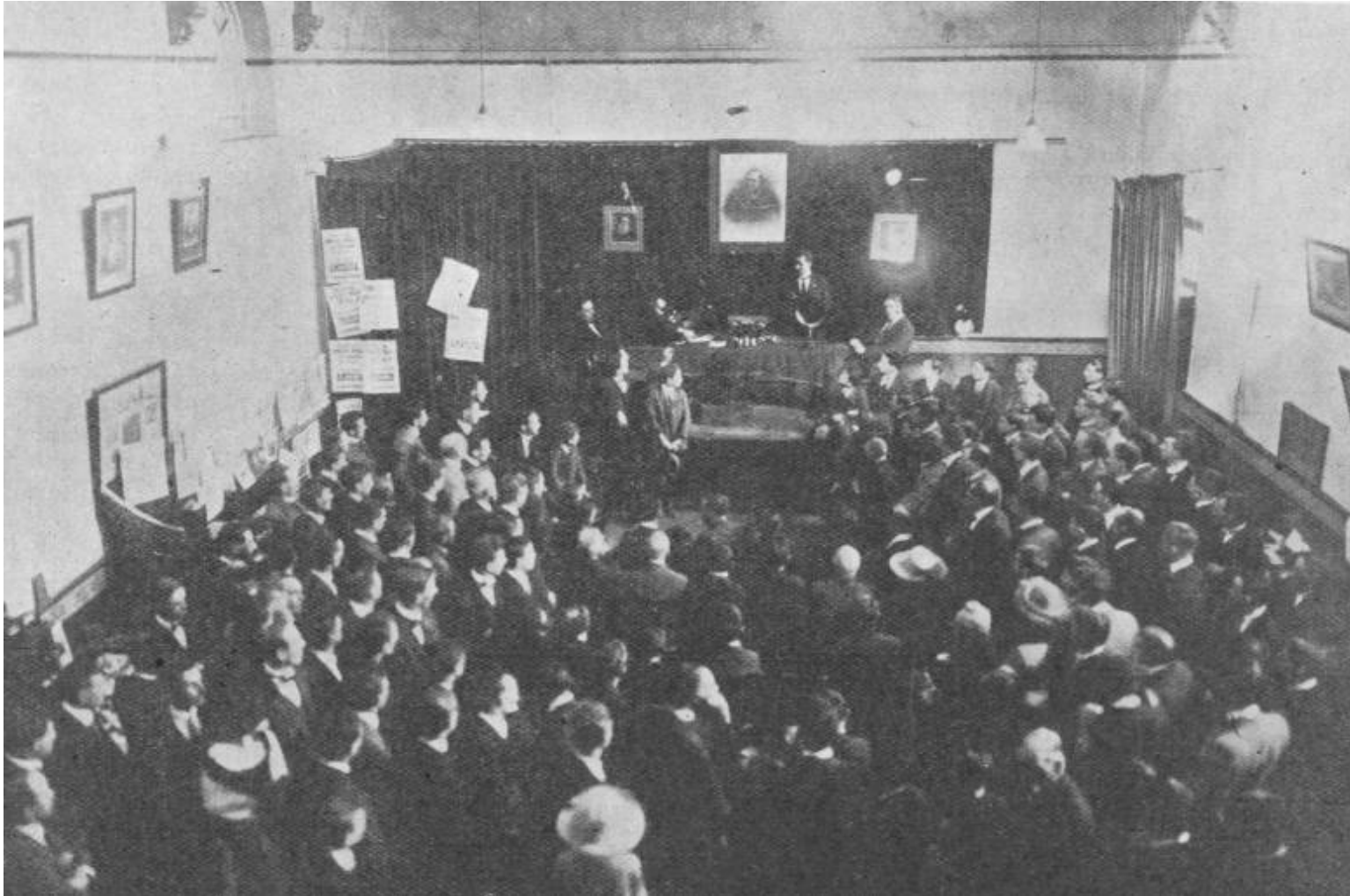
W. J. G. G. G.
Receiver of Public Money.

By Authority: James F. Murray, Acting Government Printer, Melbourne.



Australia's first Hamvention - 1922

Sydney Metropolitan Radio Club



Australasian Wireless Review - Jan. 1923





Waverley Radio Club as published in the first edition of Australasian Wireless Review, January 1923.



3YJ and 3YK Mobile c1926

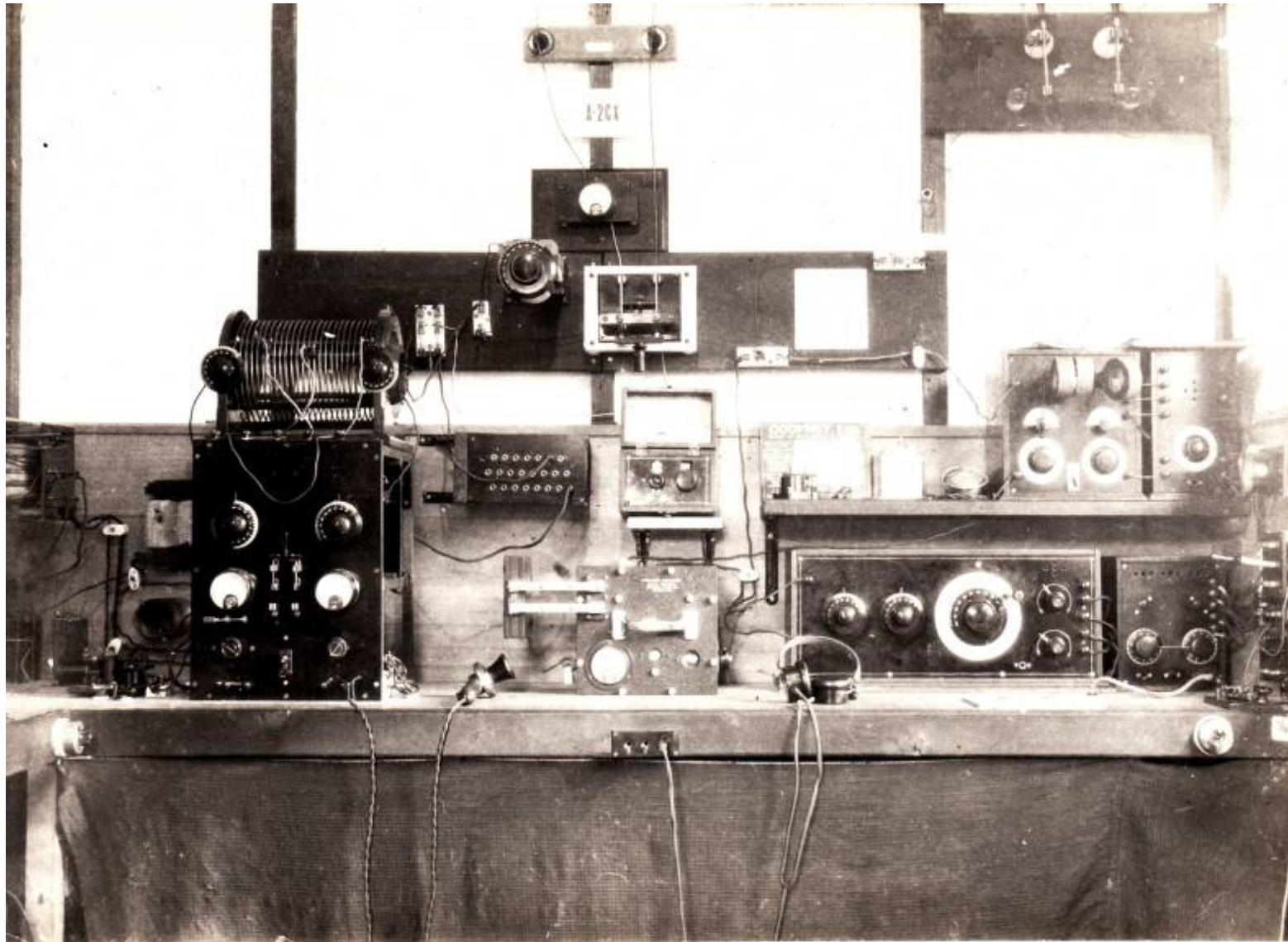


VK7 Council - 1927



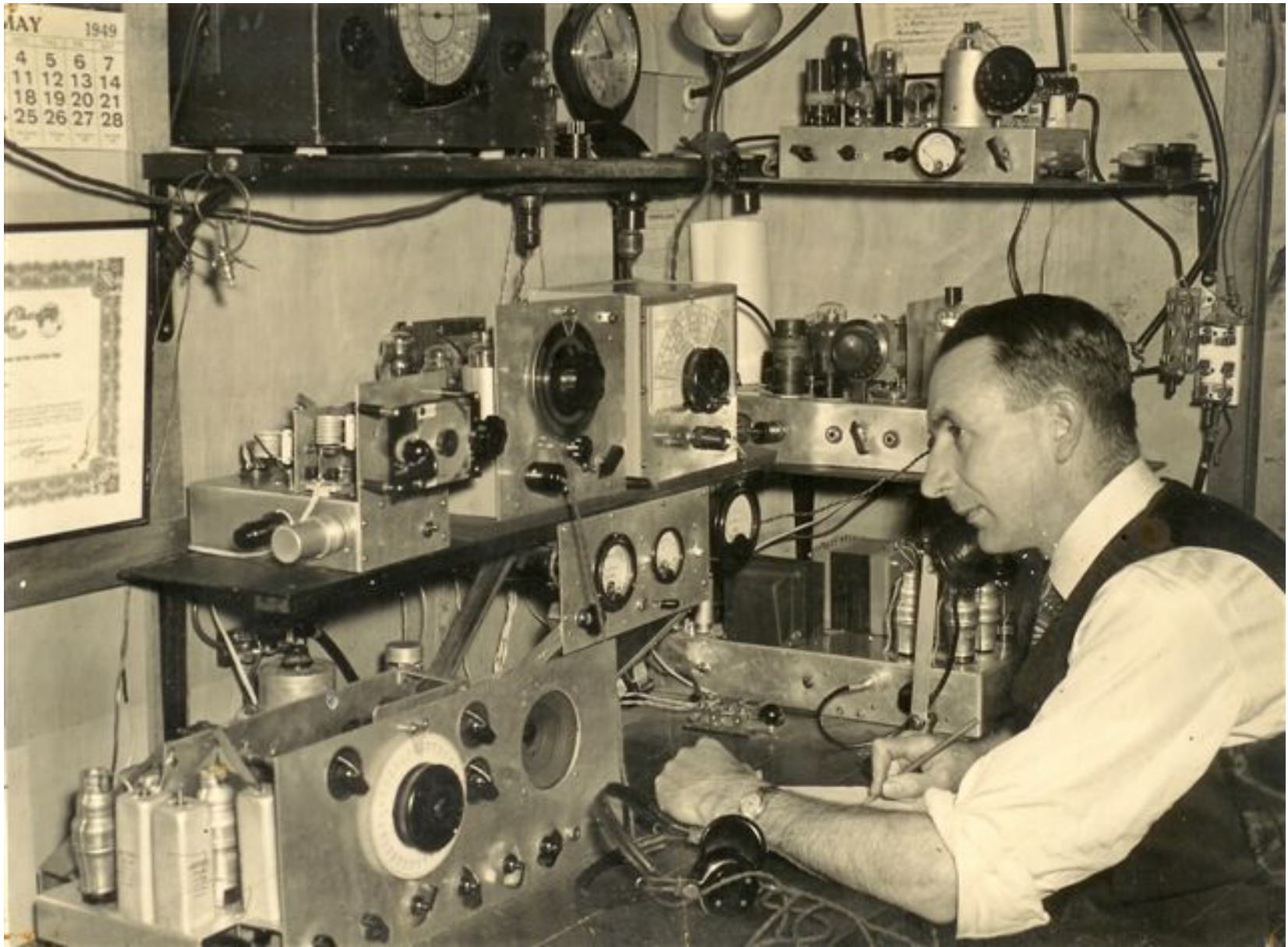
VK7 (Tasmania) Council - 1927





A2CX





VK7LZ May 1949



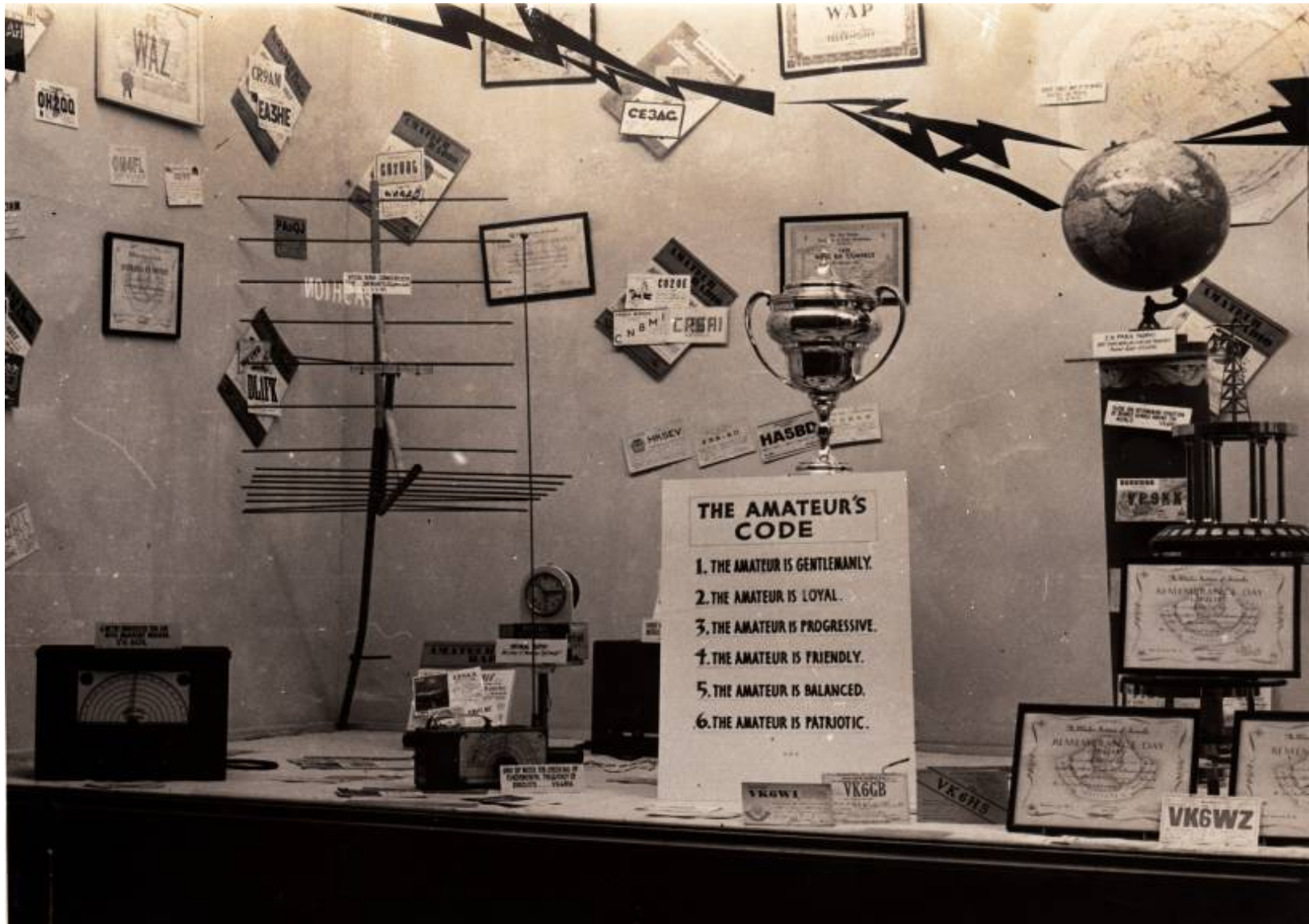
CM2WD
October 1938





VK3HK's early shack





1953 window display at Foy & Gibson's, Perth VK6



VK License Categories

- Licenses issued by Federal Government agency, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) pursuant to the *Radio Communications Act 1992*
- Licenses current for 1-5 years. Current ACMA amateur station licence fee for a one year licence is US\$58.00
- The Wireless Institute of Australia (equivalent to ARRL) conducts examinations (Adult US\$60.00, Child US\$32.00 each component), issues licenses and manages call signs under contract from ACMA
- License Types
 - Amateur Foundation Station (Currently 2054 licenses) 2009 - 1,818
 - Amateur Standard Station (Currently 2042 licenses) 2009- 2,019
 - Amateur Advanced Station (Currently 11,120 licenses) 2009- 11,231
 - Amateur Beacon/Repeater Currently 454 licenses



Foundation License

- WIA publishes Foundation License Manual "Your Entry Into Amateur Radio" \$24.95 \$AUD
- 25 Question multiple exam – focus on safety, regulations, interference, basic theory - http://www.wia.org.au/licences/foundation/trialexam/documents/FL_Sample_Theory_assessment.pdf
- Practical assessment – identification of various components, antennas etc. – put together station, check antenna, frequency and power, call CQ conduct QSO and end.
- Must use commercial transceiver
- Max output 10 watts PEP



Radio band	Frequency	Permitted Emission Modes
80 Metres	3.500 MHz - 3.700 MHz	Amplitude Modulation (AM)
40 Metres	7.000 MHz - 7.300 MHz	voice Single Side Band (SSB) voice
15 Metres	21.000 MHz - 21.450 MHz	Hand Keyed Morse Code
10 Metres	28.000 MHz - 29.700 MHz	Amplitude Modulation (AM) voice
2 Metres	144 MHz - 148 MHz	Single Side Band (SSB) voice Hand Keyed Morse Code
70 Centimetres	430 MHz - 450 MHz	Frequency Modulation (FM) voice



Standard License

- 50 question multiple choice examination (higher level of difficulty than Foundation – greater focus on electronic theory – must get 35 right).
- multiple choice regulations examination on operating requirements, permitted frequencies modes, power levels, phonetic alphabet, Q codes emergency procedures.
- Practical assessment unless you hold a foundation licence.
- Can homebrew or modify commercial equipment.
- Maximum power 100W PEP (30W AM)
- No WARC bands

Radio band	Frequency	Permitted Emission Modes
80 Metres	3.500 - 3.700 MHz	Any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 8 kHz
40 Metres	7.000 - 7.300 MHz	
20 Metres	14.000 - 14.350 MHz	
15 Metres	21.000 - 21.450 MHz	
10 Metres	28.000 - 29.700 MHz	
6 Metres	52 - 54 MHz	
2 Metres	144 - 148 MHz	Any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 16 kHz
70 Centimetres	430 - 450 MHz	
23 Centimetres	1240 - 1300 MHz	
13 Centimetres	2400 - 2450 MHz	
6 Centimetres	5650 - 5850 MHz	



Advanced License

- 50 question multiple choice exam
higher level of difficulty than Standard transmitter/ receiver block diagrams – greater focus on electronic theory - must get 35 right.
- multiple choice regulations (unless taken as part of Standard License.
- Practical assessment unless you hold a Foundation licence.
- Maximum power 400W PEP (120W AM)
- Full reciprocal rights overseas



Radio band	Frequency	Permitted Emission Modes
160 Metres	1.800 - 1.875 MHz	
80 Metres	3.500 - 3.700 MHz 3.776 - 3.800 MHz	
40 Metres	7.000 - 7.300 MHz	
30 Metres	10.100 - 10.150 MHz	Any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 8 kHz
20 Metres	14.000 - 14.350 MHz	
17 Metres	18.068 - 18.168 MHz	
15 Metres	21.000 - 21.450 MHz	
12 Metres	24.890 - 24.990 MHz	
10 Metres	28.000 - 29.700 MHz	Any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 16 kHz
6 Metres	50.000 - 54.000 MHz	
2 Metres	144 - 148 MHz	Any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 100 kHz
70 Centimetres	420 - 450 MHz	
23 Centimetres	1240 - 1300 MHz	
13 Centimetres	2300 - 2302 MHz 2400 - 2450 MHz	
10 Centimeters	3300.0 - 3425.0 MHz 3492.5 - 3542.5 MHz 3575.0 - 3600.0 MHz	
6 Centimetres	5650 - 5850 MHz	
3 Centimetres	10.0 - 10.5 GHz	Any emission mode
1.25 Centimetres	24.000 - 24.250 GHz	
7.5 Millimetres	47.000 - 47.200 GHz	
3.7 Millimetres	76 - 81 GHz	
2.5 Millimetres	122.250 - 123.000 GHz	
2 Millimetres	134 - 141 GHz	
1.25 Millimetres	241 - 250 GHz	



VK Callsign Construction

- **Prefix** VK\$ where \$ is the State/Territory Indicator, used to detail station's licensed location

0 = Antarctic
1 = Australian Capital Territory
2 = New South Wales
3 = Victoria
4 = Queensland
5 = South Australia
6 = Western Australia
7 = Tasmania
8 = Northern Territory
9 = Australian External Territories

Australian External Territories have the prefix VK9.

- VK9 suffixes Previously the first or second letter after VK9 is used to identify each Territory or area.
- C = Cocos Island; N = Norfolk Island; W = World; X = Christmas Island; L = Lord Howe Island; and M = Mellish Reef.
- From November 2009 VK9 suffixes now allocated according to license level. Need to check each call to determine location.

- **Suffix**

Suffix of two, three or four letters. The first letter in the three or four group indicates the licence type of the amateur station transmitting.

- **Advanced License**

VK\$aa, VK\$Aaa, VK\$Baa, VK\$Caa, VK\$Daa, VK\$Eaa, VK\$Faa, VK\$Gaa, VK\$Iaa, VK\$Jaa, VK\$Kaa, VK\$Saa, VK\$Taa, VK\$Uaa, VK\$Waa, VK\$Xaa, VK\$Yaa, VK\$Zaa, VK\$RAN, VK2RAS, VK\$WIA-WIZ (WIA), VK\$GGA-GGZ (Guides Aust), VK\$SAA-SDZ (Scouts Assoc.), VK7OTC, VK\$IYA - IYZ (International years)

- Standard License**

VK\$Haa, VK\$Laa, VK\$Maa, VK\$Naa, VK\$Paa, VK\$Vaa

- Foundation License**

VK\$Faaa

- Repeaters** VK\$Raa





Frank VK5KV is a Senior Telecommunications Technical Officer for British Aerospace (BAE Australia) and lives near the Woomera Rocket Range 500km north of Adelaide. Frank began his Collins obsession 25 years ago.





Andrew Albinson VK6IA operates from the northern suburbs of Perth. His main interest is HF DX - SSB and CW. Andrew uses a 3 element SteppIR and worked 227 DX entities in 2009





VK5MC/VK5LP home brew computer controlled hydraulically operated 32 foot 1296 EME dish antenna currently used on 1296 MHz eme operation. Transmitter is a Russian GS-15B tetrode water cooled 100W. Transvertor is a Minikits 1296 MHz unit with a G4DDK preamplifier. I can see 18BD sun noise and 0.6 db of moon noise.

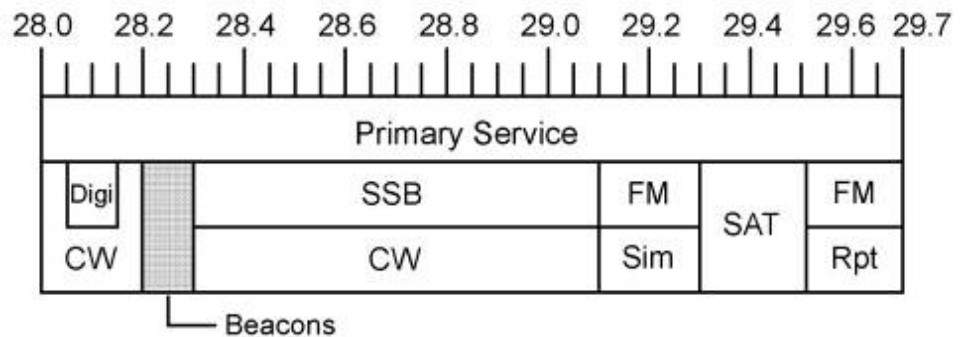
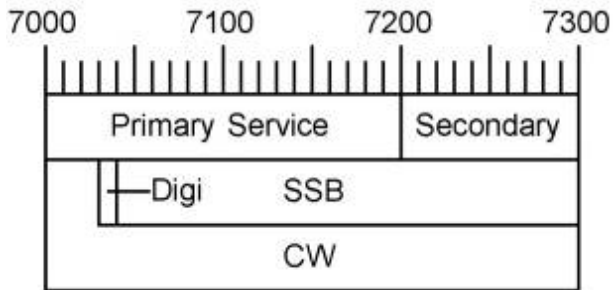
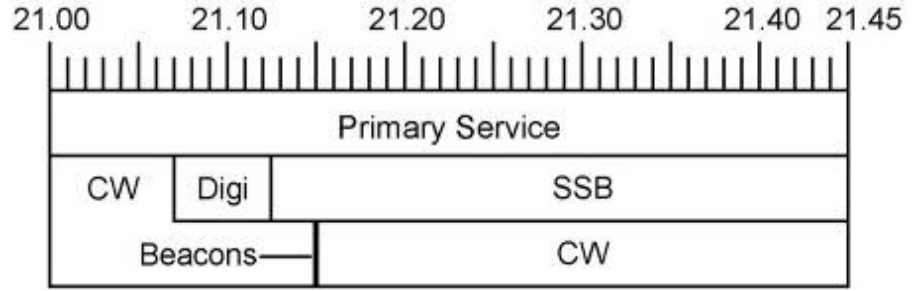
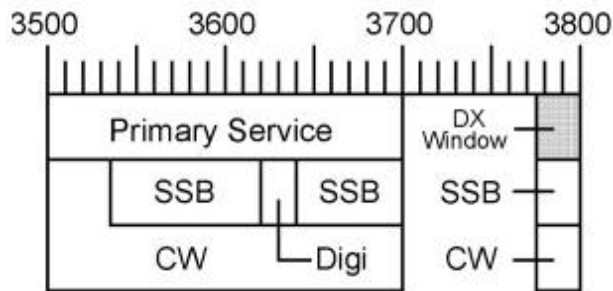
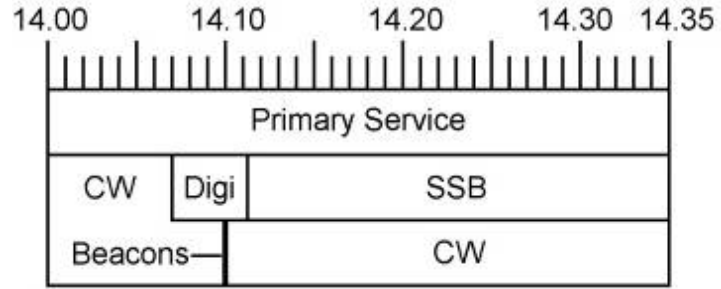
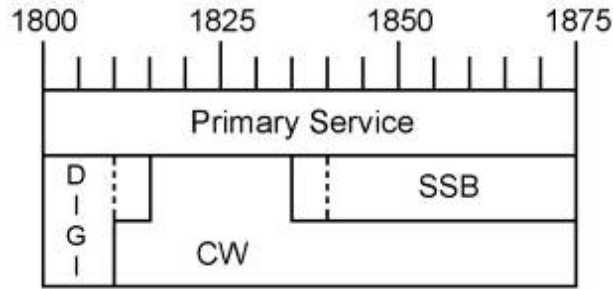




VK2TRF and VK2GG on Mt Coree near Canberra set 6 new ATV DX records in one long weekend in September 2007.



VK Operating Frequencies





Possibly Ross Hull's station – VK3JU c1930



VK Contests

- June 12 - **VK Trans-Tasman Contests** – 160M SSB (80M SSB was in May)
- June 19/20 **Winter VHF-UHF Field Day**
- July - **Jack Files Contest** - a long-serving VK4 WIA councillor – 80M CW or SSB - object is to work as many VK4's in different Queensland shires and towns.
- August – 14/15 **Remembrance Day Contest** - 0800Z to 0759Z - in honour of the Australian amateurs who lost their lives in wartime - trophy goes to the Australian state or territory that scores the highest level of activity. No WARC bands.
- October - **Oceania DX Contest** –HF Non WARC - Oceania's only international style contest where contacts with stations all over the globe are able to participate and enter a winning log. First weekend Phone second weekend CW – 24 hours starts 0800Z.
- November 20/21 - **Spring VHF-UHF Field Day**
- Jan 1 – 31 **Ross Hull Memorial VHF-UHF Contest** encourage and to reward achievement in working DX on the VHF, UHF and microwave bands.
- January 15/16 - **Summer VHF-UHF Field Day**
- March 19/20 - **John Moyle Memorial Field Day** – designed to promote portable operation and training for emergency situations - 0100 - 0059 UTC. No WARC Bands
- April - **Harry Angel Memorial Sprint 80 Metre Contest** 1000z - 1146z (one minute for every year of Harry Angel's life)





Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Club – John Moyle Field Day 2010





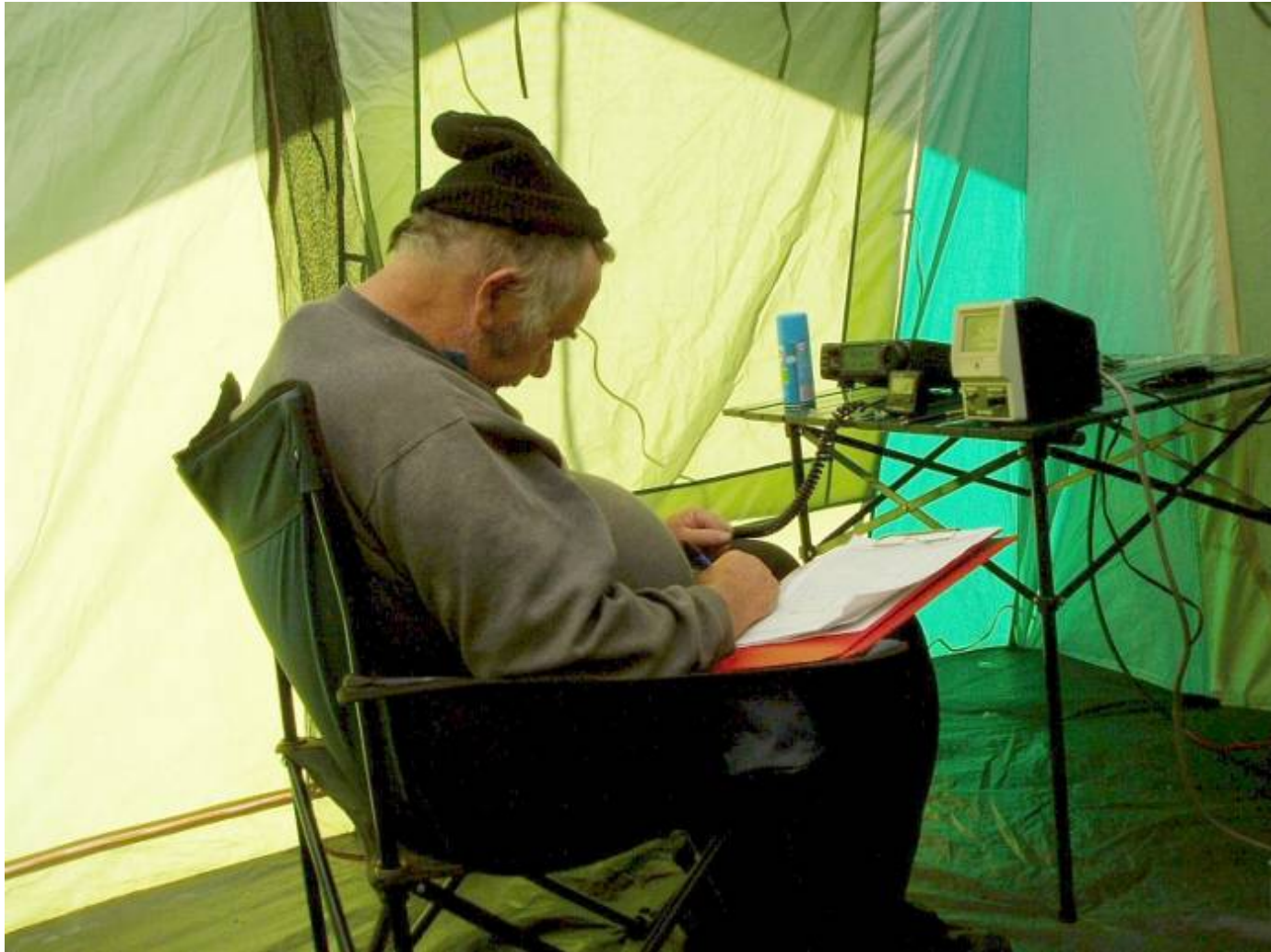
Catherine VK4VCH operating portable for the Australian John Moyle Contest in 2008





VK4KKD's mobile 'One Man Tower'





VK3MN waiting for 6M to open





VK5ZSN participating in 'Government Sponsored' Fox Hunting





Thirsty work - VK3RU





A comparative analysis of portable contesting



Contributors (and respective copyright owners)

VK7RO, VK7DX, VK3XPD, VK3PY, VK4VCH, VK5MC, VK5KV,
VK5ZSN, VK2TRF, VK3WWW, VK6IA, WIA Collection, VK3HK
Collection, Adelaide Hills Radio Club, EMDRC

