

Omega Radio Club Inc

News Letter

Vol. II Issue 9 - September 2016

Vale Trudi Free (VGZ580):

It is with much sadness we acknowledge the death of Trudi, wife of David VGZ580.

Throughout her life Trudi had strong involvement with many community activities and groups. In the late 1980s she became involved in CB radio spending many hours on air meeting lots of new people. During this time Trudi heard of the Omega Radio Club through its weekly broadcast and thought she would like to get involved. Strangely enough someone on air apparently said it would be hard for a woman to join Omega so Trudi took this as a challenge. Not only joining Omega, Trudi went on to become president, a position she held from 1994 to 1996. After 2 years as president Trudi decided to move on to other interests and suggested husband David might join the committee as Vice President. A year later David became president and remained in that role for 14 years.

Trudi's funeral was held at Springvale on Monday 5th September and Omega was well represented.

Our deepest sympathy goes to David and family at this very sad time.

Club Web Site:

Our club website has a new host. It became necessary to make this change as we had been advised the hosting service we had was closing and could no longer support our site.

The need to upgrade the site has been discussed at length over recent years with little progress mainly due to those involved being busy with other club activities. Now a new hosting service has been arranged we have decided to use the opportunity to build a completely new site which correctly reflects what Omega is about now. While our history and what has been achieved in the past is always important it is equally important to portray what our club is now if we are to attract new member and remain strong into the future.

We would like to give all our members the opportunity to have some input to the new site. If you have some ideas the committee would be very keen to hear from you and of course full recognition will be given for all contributions. There may be a couple of prizes on offer (and they will be good ones) for the best or most imaginative ideas so stay tuned for updates.

Car Rally Communications:

Our most recent event should have been the Spring 200 on 17th September. Unfortunately the event was cancelled during the week before due to very wet weather across the event area. At the time of writing the organisers advise there is probably not much chance of the event being rescheduled this year.

The next rally event on our calendar will now be the Akademos on 16th October followed a week later by the Blue Rock Stages on 22nd October. This will make a busy time for all involved with two events on consecutive weekends. If you are able to assist with these events, please advise Len 124 via email to omega.radio.club@gmail.com as soon as you can.

Omega "Person of the Month" award:

No award this month as it has been a very quiet one.

Finally we were able to present John 194 with his "Les 395" Award at the August Meeting. John missed receiving the award at the AGM as he was not able to attend.

40th Anniversary Celebration for CREST

On the 13th of August this year, CREST (Citizen Radio Emergency Service Teams) celebrated 40 years of monitoring and responding to calls on the CB emergency channels. Alex 510 attended their festivities in Geelong, along with people from all over Australia. During the proceedings the head of CREST Vic. acknowledged the work Omega had done in maintaining the UHF Channel 5/35 emergency repeater.

A new site for an Omega Repeater?

President Bill 478 has been travelling on holiday recently and has submitted this as a new site of an Omega Repeater. We aren't sure how he is going with negotiations with relevant authorities however we are sure he has it well in hand. Perhaps he has arranged for us to look after radio communications for a certain bicycle race??

New Cavity Filters:

We have been fortunate to receive a donation of 2 cavity filters and a RF Circulator coupler for use with our repeater and translator systems. These items have been generously donated by Len 124's nephew John.

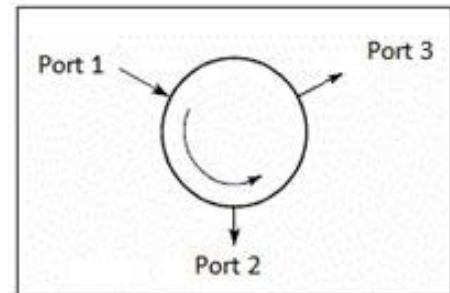
Cavity filters are required with our translator system to reduce interference to the "Ch 0" frequency from the link radio on the repeater frequency and vice versa. The new filter offers better performance than the ones we have been using to date.

The RF circulator will be used with our repeater to reduce the likelihood of our system interfering with others.



What is an RF Circulator?

An RF Circulator is a 3 Port ferromagnetic device used to regulate the signal flow within a circuit. It transmits an input signal in one direction – A signal that enters port 1 is transmitted to port 2 and isolated from port 3, a signal incident at port 2 is transmitted to port 3 and isolated from port 1, a signal incident at port 3 is transmitted to port 1 and isolated from port 2. Circulators are typically designed to have minimal loss when transmitting an input signal from one port to the next.



Why would we need such a device?

This device helps reduce the risk of our repeater causing interference to others. Very strong RF energy from adjacent transmitters at the same site can cause another to produce spurious outputs. The spurious outputs in turn produce serious interference issues with other users particularly at crowded repeater sites. The RF Circulator coupler allows signal from our transmitter (port 1) to pass to our diplexer (port 2) and on to the antenna, however it diverts any signal coming back towards our transmitter (from port 2 to 3) into what is effectively a dummy load preventing it reaching our transmitter, thus reducing the likelihood of our repeater producing spurious interference which will interfere with others.

Put really simply, this helps make us good citizens at radio sites.

Contributions for eNews:

If you have anything of interest to members that could be included in eNews please send this to us at omega.radio.club@gmail.com. If your contribution can't be emailed, please contact Mike 220 or any committee member to make other arrangements.



Events Calendar—Club Diary

22 nd September	General Meeting Night		
4th October	Committee Meeting		
16th October (Sunday)	Akademios Rally	Alexandra (Blue Range)	Confirmed
22nd October	Blue Rock Stages	Tanjil Forrest	Confirmed
27th October	General Meeting Night		
8th November	Committee Meeting		
13th November	Begonia Rally	Ballarat—Creswick	Confirmed