

# Omega Radio Club Inc

www.omegaradioclub.org

## News Letter

Vol. III Issue 7 - August 2017

### **Annual General Meeting:**

The 38th Annual General Meeting of the Omega Radio Club was held on **Thursday 27th July** at Carwatha College, Browns Road, Noble Park North. The meeting received the annual report from the president on behalf of the committee as well as the annual accounts. Our returning officer David 580 reported on the committee election process. He advised, that after confirming nomination with all member nominated for positions on the committee, the number of vacancies equalled the number of members accepting nomination. As all serving members again made themselves available for re-election they were duly declared elected. The committee remains as follows:

<i>President:</i>	Bill 478
<i>Vice President:</i>	Barry 671
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mike 220
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Alex 510
<i>Committee x 2</i>	Frank 483 Len 124.

After the formalities of the meeting president Bill went on to present the Annual Awards.

First presented was the Les Padgett VBW395 memorial award. This is presented annually in recognition of the recipients participation in the club's field activities. This years award goes to *Russell (Hoppy) 545* for his outstanding effort attending all events the club was involved with.

The second award, the Gold Yagi award goes to Len 124 for his ongoing support of all the clubs activities. Len works tirelessly behind the scenes finding members to attend field events, maintaining records of who attend each event as well as assisting with finding repeater sites, setting up repeaters and often manning them during events.

Congratulations to both Russell and Len on receiving your awards; they have been well earned.

### **Change of meeting location:**

Bill 478 advises: due to a change of arrangements at the school it will be necessary to hold our meetings in a different room from now on. It will now be necessary to enter the school through the "Second" gate when heading south on Browns Road. After entering the car park through the gate the meeting room will be in the building directly in front.

### **Car Rally events:**

The next car rally event will be the Marysville stages / Spring 200 on Saturday 16th September. At the time of writing, we are critically short of members to attend. Any members who have not yet replied to Len regarding availability, it would greatly assist us if you would do so as soon as possible.

Following events will be Akademos on Sunday 22nd October This will be a day time only event based at Alexandra and run in the Blue range area.

The Akademos will be very closely followed by the Autumn Midnight trial (strangely in the Spring) on Saturday 28th October. This rally will be based at Seaton and run in the forests north and west of Heyfield. Please note the date and if you are able to help please reply to Len 124's emails to let us know and we can add your name to the lists.

### **Member of the month:**

The August award goes to David 145 for manufacturing name badges for member as well as his on going work developing the club's web site.

## Annual Report 2016 –2017:

This has been another successful year for our club. We have continued our role as a major supplier of radio communication to the Victorian Rally community. This year the total number of events we will attend is lower as a couple of our regular rallies have not been run. So far members have attended 8 events during the club year with a further 2 on our books in the coming months. It is clear Omega is the prominent provider of radio communications for car rallies in Victoria outside of the VRO (Victorian Rally organisation) with the PieNet system.

The club has maintained a strong financial position with the car rallies providing the bulk of our income. A considerable amount of this money is distributed back to members through the fuel account system assisting in offsetting some of the cost of attending events. Most members attending rally events regularly have adequate money to cover membership and radio usage fees. It is planned to make payments from fuel accounts over the coming month to ensure members receive their fuel money. This will reduce the amount of members' money held in the club accounts and better reflect the clubs financial position.

Membership remains a priority in the year ahead. Regrettably we have not attracted any new members during the year so again focus will be on ways to improve this in the year ahead. The committee encourage all members to be on the lookout for people who may be interested to join our club. The best promoters of a club are those already in it so if anyone has friends or relatives or knows of anyone that may be interested, please bring them along to a meeting or to an event so they can see first-hand what we do and hopefully will then want to join us.

We have continued to maintain strong contacts with Dept. Environment Land Water & Planning enabling us to access various mountain site required for repeater setup at car rallies. Access to some of these sites is integral to the success of our radio system at events and we acknowledge with much thanks the personnel in that department that have continued to assist us.

While we did not hold an annual dinner in the second half of 2016 we did have a very successful end of year function at Emerald Lake Park. A new format was tried where the club provided a fully catered meal. The day seemed to be a great success and hopefully can be repeated this year. Further social activities will be arranged in the coming year when time is available in the calendar.

We have continued to issue a monthly club newsletter eNews in all months but January. These have included a number of feature articles as well as general news which we hope is of interest to all members. This year we have added a "News from the ACMA" section containing a selection of information from ACMA media releases. Hopefully members find this interesting. In general any newsletter is only as interesting as the information it contains. We are always keen to receive feedback, comments and particularly contributions from members on ways we can improve the newsletter. Usually in radio systems, feedback is something you don't want but in the case of our newsletter it helps us make it of more interest to all members.

Our new website has continued to evolve during the year. David 145 and Alex 510 have continued developing the site with some more content added. David is hoping to have the member's only area available soon. If you haven't looked at the site for a while check it out at [omegaradioclub.org](http://omegaradioclub.org). Like the newsletter we are keen to have feedback so please let us know what you think.

This year has seen major changes at our Melbourne repeater site. We have spent a considerable amount of money upgrading the antenna on the tower. As we are at a commercial site we are required to use a qualified tower rigger to perform work on the tower and unfortunately these services don't come cheaply. We have been fortunate to share the cost when other work was being done at the site which considerably reduced the amount we needed to pay.

The repeater radio has been replaced with a Motorola MTR2000 and an Imark 5000 series power supply has been installed. We were fortunate to receive some cavity filtering made available by the site owner which is helping greatly with an interference problem. Further work at the site over the coming months should enable further reduction of interference from other services.

During the year we have received some very generous donations of equipment. Derek 742 alerted us to a lot of equipment being disposed of by a company he was connected with. Some of this gear is already being put to good use by the club especially the Imark power supply which is powering our Melbourne repeater. We have also been able to make a lot of the gear available to members for their own use. We also acknowledge with much thanks the donation of the Motorola MTR2000 radio now in use at the local repeater site and some cavity filters by Len 124's nephew John. These donations are very much appreciated and have been very beneficial to our club.

It is most important as a committee; we thank all members who have supported our club throughout the year. For a small club we have a high percentage of members actively involved and this enables us to maintain our important position in the Victorian Car Rally scene. Committee members put in a lot of work behind the scenes to get us to rallies and a small group of members assist with test days for rallies. The support of all members in these activities is greatly appreciated. Our thanks go to all involved.

## Annual Awards:

**Right:** Len 124 receiving his Gold Yagi award.

**Far Right:** Russell (Hoppy) 545 receiving Les Padgett 395 memorial award.



### Melbourne repeater site:

Work is continuing at the site to resolve the remaining interference problem. All reports received to date indicate coverage is greatly improved over recent years and the remaining interference issue doesn't seem to be causing too much trouble. We are always keen to hear reports so when you are out and about give it a go and let us know what you find.

Speaking to other members via the Melbourne site is an excellent way to make sure your radios are operating correctly before attending rally events. Arriving at an event and finding your equipment is faulty can cause holdups and delays which do not look good for our club's reputation as a provider of a reliable communications network.

## Events Calendar—Club Diary 2017

### August

Thursday 24th	General Meeting	<i><b>New location at the School</b></i>
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### September

Tuesday 5th	Committee meeting	
Saturday 16th	Marysville Stages / Spring 200	Marysville
Thursday 28th	General Meeting	At the School

### October

Tuesday 10th	Committee meeting	
Sunday 22nd	Akados Rally	Alexandra / Blue Range
Thursday 26th	General Meeting	<i><b>New location at the School</b></i>
Saturday 28th	Autumn Midnight Trial (in Spring)	Seaton / Heyfield

## For Sale, Swap or just plain Free.

### For sale this month:

**ICOM IC-760 Pro** HF Radio also known as IC-765 everywhere but Japan!

An oldie but a goodie! Very good condition for its age.

Frequency coverage: Receive - 0.1 - 30.0 MHz,

Transmit - 1.8 - 30.0 MHz (Amateur Bands)

Modes: LSB, USB, CW, AM, FM, RTTY

Max. output power:

SSB	100W PEP
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CW, RTTY & FM	100W
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AM	40W
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Built in Tuner, Power supply and Speaker.

Comes with manuals, schematics etc.

Only needs a standard ICOM round pin microphone.



On the appropriate antenna system it has very good performance capabilities for receiving and transmitting.

Price \$550.00

Contact Charlie 341, 0448-506-024.

### Contributions for eNews:

If you have anything you think would be of interest to members that could be included in eNews please send to us at [omega.radio.club@gmail.com](mailto:omega.radio.club@gmail.com) or contact Mike 220 or any committee member to make other arrangements.

