



*The major activity in the region was the APG 2012-5 Conference Preparatory Group Meeting which was held in Busan Korea and also the Region 3 ARDF competitions held in Australia, full details are given in this issue of the newsletter. A magnitude 6.9 earthquake hit the North Eastern areas of India, mainly in Sikkim. Radio amateurs from the West Bengal region of India offered their assistance*

### A Word from the Chairman of IARU Region 3-

**Michael Owen VK3KI**

#### **The 8<sup>th</sup> IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships, Maldon, Australia 2011**

This edition of the Newsletter includes an article by Jack Branham VK3WWW on the IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships.

The ARDF Championships is one of the few activities where IARU Region 3 comes into contact with ordinary amateur activities, as most of our resource is devoted to a representation role, such as our activities devoted to the APG. In itself, that makes the Championships have a special significance.

It happens that I have not personally had a great deal of involvement with ARDF – at least in the competitive and sophisticated way that the Championships are conducted.

I was therefore particularly privileged to attend the opening and closing dinner, as Jack reports.

I knew that the preparations started 18 months ago, and I realise now the extent of those preparations necessary to conduct such an event properly. These preparations extended to contacting landowners, government agencies as well as local authorities, quite apart from the obvious things of finding a venue, finding accommodation, arranging registrations and organising pick up of quite a few people and arranging a day of local experience.

Jack also refers to the many volunteers needed to conduct the actual event.

The choice of location, Maldon, very much a centre in the attractive and historically interesting gold fields part of the State of Victoria, would be hard to better.

One of the great things about ARDF is that it attracts and involves many younger people.

For me it was great to see so many young people, great to catch up with old friends such as the Chair of the Region 3 ARDF Committee Yoshio Arisaka, JA1HQG, and above all, to see the friendly camaraderie of so many people from different lands brought together by this aspect of amateur radio.

I commend Jack, his team and the many people from both amateur radio and orienteering who made the event the success it undoubtedly was.

To all involved, from organisers to helpers to competitors, I extend my sincere congratulations on a truly memorable and friendly occasion.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships – a report from Jack Bramham VK3WWW**

Over the last 18 months or so a dedicated group of volunteers had been working in preparation to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> IARU Region 3 ARDF (Amateur

Radio Direction Finding) Championships in Australia. Host society was the WIA and the event was organised by members of the Victorian ARDF Group.

Organising an event of this magnitude is no easy task. Conducting the actual competition is the easy bit it is all of the other things like: International Correspondence, International Teams local transport, meals and accommodation for 130+ and many other things. Over 50 Volunteers were required so each of the events went off without a hitch. As WIA ARDF Coordinator I must thank all of them who gave up their time to assist with the event. Not all of the volunteers came from the Amateur ranks. Many were recruited from the Orienteering side of the sport. I would also like to thank Orienteering Victoria and the many orienteering clubs that loaned infrastructure for this event.

Participants for this event were made up of Australia (WIA) 19, China (CRSA) 34, Japan (JARL) 31, Kazakhstan (KFRR) 1, Korea (KARL) 6, Malaysia (MARTS) 2 and USA (ARRL) 3 totalling 96 competitors. Added to the competitors list there were team officials, trainers and International Referees. So, as you can see it is really a major event for us here in VK.

Weather for all 5 days was really fine with the only bad patch being the Tuesday morning just before the 80m event when the heavens opened dampening the course referees and the team setting up the infrastructure for this event. By the time the competitors arrived at the start location the weather had improved considerably, to a point where the event was held and no more rain fell on the course.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of September was arrival and registration day, some international teams had arrived early and had been touring VK3. Listening to them, the most popular tourist spot was the Great Ocean Road and the 12 Apostles. Teams started to arrive at the Blue Light camp in Maldon around 14:00. John VK3PZ and his team were very busy making sure all of the information for each of the team members was correct and Ewen VK3OW made sure all had a place to sleep. Registrations continued well into the night with the last bus arriving about 22:00.

By Saturday morning most had settled in well and once breakfast was over everyone was loaded onto a bus to attend the Model Event. This event is for competitors to get used to our local weather and bush conditions and also to test out their equipment by Df-ing up to 10 transmitters (5 X 2m, 5 X 80m) set in a state forest with a real map.

Following the Model Event Competitors were invited to participate in a Street-O and Fox-O event around the local streets of Maldon. I am sure the locals were very confused about what was going on. For information regarding these styles of events I suggest you look at [www.ardf.org.au](http://www.ardf.org.au) where you can find an explanation for all sorts of Orienteering and ARDF type events.

Saturday was a busy day. After the local events it was off to the opening ceremony where both Michael Owen VK3KI (IARU Region 3 Chairman and WIA President) and Yoshio Arisaka JA1HQG (IARU Region 3 ARDF Chairman) welcomed everyone. After the opening ceremony there was an opportunity to take a group photo with all of the teams wearing their country kit. Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> was the first event.

This event was contested on the 2m band, and until this time most of the competitors were very tense.

That evening organisers put on a DVD night, showing a few local ham radio related videos. One of the videos was from the Melbourne Foxhunt that was recorded by a Norwegian film crew. This confused a few of them trying to work out what was language being spoken!

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> was a rest day but, not really.

Competitors and officials met at the Maldon station in preparation for a vintage steam train trip to Castlemaine. From the Castlemaine station they were then taken by bus to Bendigo and after an "Aussie BBQ" lunch they headed underground for a tour of the Central Deborah Gold Mine.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> was the second event and as earlier mentioned it rained as we were setting up the course.

After the 80m event everyone headed off to the Baringhup Community Hall, some 10 kilometres from Maldon, for the closing ceremony banquet and medal presentations.

Michael Owen VK3KI and Robert Broomhead VK3DN took control of the microphone and presented all of the medals gained during the 2 competitions and Dianne Shalders VK3FVXN presented the awards for the Combo event.

Medals were not presented for all of the age categories but to give you an idea on how many categories there can be they are as follows: W19, W21, W35, W45, W55, W65, M19, M21, M35, M45, M55, M65. With the exception of the 19 category which is actually up to the age of 21, all of the other categories ages are grouped in 10 year segments. So, you really are only competing against competitors very close to your own age.

There will be a Video DVD of the event and it will be available soon. For more information regarding the DVD check [www.r3.ardf.org.au](http://www.r3.ardf.org.au)

### **The Recent APG 2012-5 Conference Preparatory Group Meeting**

Directors Shizuo Endo JE1MUI and Peter Lake ZL2AZ recently attended the 5th meeting of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-2012 (APG 2012 – 5). It was held in Busan, Republic of Korea Monday 29 August 3 to September 3 2011. This 5th APG meeting was the last of a series of meetings of administrations in Region 3 for WRC-12.

Also participating were Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP, Secretary of IARU Region 3, a member of the Japanese delegation nominated by JARL and Dale Hughes VK1DSH a member of the Australian delegation nominated by the WIA.

IARU Region 3 submitted an information document APG2012-5/INF-04 to the conference which mainly covered our Region 3 position on the agenda item 1.23 for WRC-2012. Agenda Item 1.23 is "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services"

At the meeting, we had four input documents supporting the allocation on Agenda Item 1.23 from Australia, Bangladesh, Japan and New Zealand and an information report from Australia on experimental activities undertaken for agenda item 1.23. At the meeting, the preliminary APT Common Proposal (PACP) for this agenda was adopted and it was approved that the PACP is circulated to all APT members to seek a vote to make the PACP into an APT Common Proposal (ACP). Regarding this issue, please be reminded that the Region 3 Secretary has already sent a Circular (No. G/06/11T) to each society on September 20, 2011.

### **WRC-12 –Region 3 Preparations**

To continue with our information on this important event, WRC-12, which will be held in Geneva from January 23-February 17, 2012, will review the international treaty that governs Radiocommunication -- the ITU Radio Regulations

<http://www.itu.int/publ/R-REG-RR-2008/en>.

The WRC-12 conference will be preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-12), also to be held in Geneva, January 16-20, 2012.

As a prelude the APT preparatory meeting was held in Busan, Korea.

### **Earthquake in Sikkim**

The **2011 Sikkim earthquake** also known as the **2011 Himalayan earthquake** was a magnitude 6.9 ( $M_w$ ) earthquake centered within the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, near the border of Nepal and the Indian state of Sikkim, at 18:10 IST (12:40 UTC) on Sunday, 18 September 2011. The earthquake was felt across northeastern India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and southern Tibet.

At least 111 people were killed in the earthquake. Most of the deaths occurred in Sikkim, with reports of fatalities in and near Singtam in the East Sikkim district. Several buildings collapsed in Gangtok. Eleven are reported dead in Nepal, including three killed when a wall collapsed in the British Embassy in Kathmandu. Elsewhere, structural damage occurred in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and across Tibet; another seven fatalities were confirmed in the latter region.

The North Eastern parts of India do not have a large population of radio amateurs, but hams from the West Bengal region offered their assistance to the authorities

### **Seanet 2011- a final reminder**

The Seanet 2011 will be hosted by BDARA, Brunei Darussalam Amateur Radio Association at the Center Point Hotel between the 17 and 21 November 2011. Well over 50 registrations have already been received from various parts of the World.

Full details at: <http://seanet2011.com/>

### **The 2012 International YL Meet- a reminder**

This meeting is now scheduled from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at Adelaide

Full details are available at

[http://ylinternational2012.com/index.php?p=1\\_6\\_Adelaide-Meet](http://ylinternational2012.com/index.php?p=1_6_Adelaide-Meet)

**The Region 3 Web Site:** Go to: <http://www.iaru-r3.org>.

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