

## **CRARC President's Report for year 2023, presented AGM Feb 2024**

Yet another year has passed and the club is in good shape with more members than ever before and activity levels continuing to increase as we put covid, for the most part, behind us.

Thankfully we remain in a healthy financial position with club finances and assets having slightly increased despite low level of activities and a significant expenditure to get the club shack modernised and running at the club rooms. Whilst this may look to be a very healthy balance that will have some people salivating at the thought of the spending spree that they could embark on, we need this balance in order to "self insure" our towers and repeaters at our remote sites from things like fires, thieves and end of life replacement as formal insurance would be prohibitively expensive.

On the membership front, unfortunately the HamClubOnline system whilst a good system lacked the flexibility for use in the non US environment and as a result we have shifted to the TidyHQ system which being made and run in VK is far better suited to our needs. So far it is proving to be the right move for us and hopefully the small issues will be overcome and it will continue to do what we need.

The Education team have continued to perform at exceptional levels with another 6 courses and 35 candidates put through the system including a number of upgrades to higher licence levels. This represents a significant expenditure of effort and time from the team and they are to be congratulated on continuing to achieve a high standard in the delivery of education services in our area.

CRARC also provides a number of other services to amateurs in the region including a relay of the WIA broadcast and our website. Thanks to the hardworking broadcast team for their efforts – we yet again saw an increased number of callbacks last year. Carl VK1KCM continues to maintain the club's IT infrastructure including the digital repeaters, their associated infrastructure and the club website and other IT functions.

Able led by Graeme VK1IO, a number of members managed to get the club station fully running. We now have a new to us IC7300, an IC706-IIG, IC2820 running into a number of antennas giving us 160m to 70cm capability from the club rooms. A huge thanks to all involved in this process!

From a WICEN perspective, activity levels remain at reduced levels and I suspect not likely to return to our previous high activity tempos. What else can we be looking at to develop and maintain operating skills and capability to deploy communications support if we are called upon to do so?

CRARC maintains six repeaters (two digital and four analogue FM), two beacons and two APRS digipeater systems across a number of sites in VK1 and whilst not heavily used, these continue to provide a high quality communications infrastructure across the region. We have suffered a number of outages which has seen a number of members put in significant effort to get the services back up and running. Particular thanks go to Phil VK1PL and Carl VK1KCM.

In closing, I would like to say that the club remains in a healthy state, but as a hobby with low levels of activity, we need to find ways to be more active. Monitor the local repeaters and respond to calls (even if it is just a quick yes you are accessing the repeater fine). Or even jump on HF and chase that DX or other local ops participating in SOTA or VKFF activations.

Matt McNeil VK1MA, CRARC President.