



As we all were in the final stages of preparations for the Triennial Region 3 Conference to be held in Viet Nam, we got the shocking news of the Chairman of IARU Region 3, Michael Owen, passing away suddenly at his home in Melbourne on Saturday the 22nd September. Michael was well known all over the world for his advocacy of amateur radio issues and served IARU in many capacities for many years. This issue carries many tributes to Michael and his contribution to amateur radio worldwide. This will be the last issue of the Newsletter before the triennial conference and later issues will be published by the incoming team to be elected in Viet Nam

Peter Lake ZL2AZ appointed as IARU Region 3 Chairman

Consequent to the sudden passing away of Michael Owen VK3KI, who served as Chairman since the 2006 conference in Bangalore, the remaining Directors of IARU Region 3 have voted for Peter Lake ZL2AZ to take over the Chairman's post in the region.

In view of the short time remaining before the next conference, when a new set of directors will be elected, the directors have decided not to co-opt anyone else to fill the vacancy caused by Michael's death.

A Word from the Chairman of IARU Region 3 - Peter Lake ZL2AZ

I am writing to you, the readers in IARU Region 3, for the first time. The circumstances of my being appointed Chairman for the balance of the triennium are very sad; with the sudden and unexpected death of Michael Owen VK3KI, our late Chairman.

I have provided a report on the funeral that I attended in Melbourne on behalf of Region 3 and others. It appears in this Newsletter. There is also a record of my Obituary notes as I presented our condolences to the family, WIA and those gathered to honour Michael. He was very appropriately farewelled by the large number of people present.

As required by the Constitution, the Directors have taken prompt action to appoint a replacement Chairman. I am extremely grateful to my fellow Directors for their support in this difficult time, and for the procedural work by our Secretary Ken Yamamoto to formalize an appointment. I will do my best to carry through all the work that we have in progress, much of it due to items and ideas put in place by Michael. It is my privilege to have the opportunity to serve you the member societies and fellow amateurs in Region 3.

We are now in the countdown to our regional conference in the first full week of November in Ho Chi Minh City. Please check on the web site for details and documents that are being posted progressively. Other reminders are elsewhere in our Newsletter. Please also watch for further bulletins and updates from Ken as we finalise items for the conference.

My background, briefly, has been a career in telecommunications as a professional engineer in NZ Post Office and then in Telecom NZ. This was followed by some 14 years in a small and specialized telecommunications consulting company here in Wellington. I had a wide variety of assignments, including projects in the Pacific, Asia and South East Asia. I have been an active amateur since first licensed while a pupil at high school over 50 years ago. I have been involved in IARU activities since before 1986 and a Director of Region 3 since February 2005. My "style" will probably be different from Michael's in some ways – but our goals are the same – to ensure a growing and successful IARU Region 3.

I look forward to support from everyone to achieve our objectives.

73 Peter ZL2AZ

Michael Owen VK3KI Chairman of Region 3 – SK- A tribute

IARU Region 3 Chairman Michael Owen, VK3KI, passed away September 22. He was 75. Owen, who was also President of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- participated in many IARU committees and was a member of

the IARU Observer Team at a number of World Radiocommunication Conferences. He is perhaps best remembered for his work on Article 25 -- a package of revisions to the international Radio Regulations that are specific to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services -- at WRC-03. Amateur Radio societies around the world have benefited from Owen's enthusiasm and experience; he was passionately involved with the Amateur Radio Service since the 1960s, and served as IARU Vice President from 1989-1999.

"I am very saddened to hear about Michael's sudden passing," IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, told the ARRL. "I was only speaking to him a few days ago and he was very enthused about leading the IARU Region 3 Conference in Ho Chi Min city in a few weeks. Michael was a good friend and mentor to many of us in IARU. His drafting skills were second to none, and his ability to clearly articulate his position on a number of issues was of immeasurable help to us. The IARU is indebted to his work at WRCs and at many regional Asia Pacific Telecommunications (APT) meetings.

"I remember working with him at an ITU special committee meeting in 2002. He certainly taught me a great deal about how to advocate at the international level, which helped me greatly when I was elected an IARU officer. Michael was also a brilliant lawyer and well known to many colleagues in the profession around the world. The IARU extends sympathies to his family, IARU Region 3 and WIA. I speak for all of my colleagues when I say he will be very sorely missed."

In 2004, Owen led the WIA through the progression from a federal structure with state divisions, to an efficient national organization with affiliated local clubs. Through Owen, the WIA became highly regarded by government agencies and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) for its professionalism and efficiency, especially in relation to the WIA examination and call sign management service. He championed and guided the introduction of the Foundation License class in Australia, a move which bolstered the numbers of Australian radio amateurs, while other countries' numbers were declining.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, recalled first meeting Owen 36 years ago: "IARU President Noel Eaton, VE3CJ, had called the first-ever meeting of representatives from all three IARU regions to coordinate global preparations for the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference. WARC-79 is memorable primarily because it's where the Amateur Radio Service gained the bands at 10, 18 and 24 MHz, among other things. Michael came to that meeting in Florida in April 1976 as a Director of what was then called the IARU Region 3 Association, which had been formed just a few years earlier to bring together the IARU Member-Societies of the Asia-Pacific region. His day job was as an attorney, but he was also an active radio amateur and very involved in the WIA. I got to know Michael much better three years later, because we spent 11 weeks in Geneva together at WARC-79. He had found a place on the Australian delegation and I was part of the IARU team. He was not simply a colleague; he was a friend.

"Among the assignments that Michael drew at WARC-79 was to draft a resolution to exempt the Amateur-Satellite Service from coordination procedures that otherwise would have bogged us down in endless paperwork and great expense. As an attorney it was just the sort of thing he was good at. His work has stood the test of time, and it remains in effect to this day. No good deed goes unpunished, so in 2003, he was brought back to Geneva as a member of the IARU team to handle the rewrite of Article 25, the rules that apply specifically to the Amateur and

Amateur-Satellite Services. That turned out to be as much an exercise in diplomacy as in drafting, but Michael was up to the task. I shudder to think what he would have billed a commercial client for the same sort of job but this, as all of his other contributions to Amateur Radio, was service performed as a volunteer.

“Michael did not go into hibernation between 1979 and 2003. From 1989-1999, he served as Vice President of the IARU. Later, as President of the Wireless Institute of Australia, he choreographed the transition of the WIA from a confederation to a truly national body. Today the WIA - - which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010 -- is one of the few other national Amateur Radio organizations in the world that is growing. Simultaneously, Michael served as Chairman of IARU Region 3 since 2006, and at the time of his death was organizing the Region 3 Conference in Ho Chi Minh City that begins less than six weeks from now.

“Michael Owen was a strategic thinker; he saw past short-term pros and cons and could envision how decisions made today would affect the distant future. He also understood that working in the background -- doing one’s homework -- was essential to success. There is simply no way to replace someone with Michael’s experience and wisdom. His death is a searing loss for both the IARU and the WIA, but both organizations are stronger today because of the enormous contributions he made to their well-being.”

WIA Vice President Phil Wait, VK2ASD, has assumed the role of WIA President. Wait has served as a WIA Director since 2003 and was appointed in WIA Vice President in 2010.

Owen is survived by his wife Nan, who accompanied him on many Amateur Radio occasions -- most recently at the WIA National Convention in Mildura -- and two daughters.

Source ARRL

Report on the Funeral of Michael Owen VK3KI – Melbourne

“Michael John Owen VK3KI- 22 June 1937 to 22 September 2012”

(Report from Peter Lake ZL2AZ)

The “Service of Thanksgiving” for Michael’s life took place in the church of the Anglican Parish of St. Andrew in the suburb of Brighton at 10:30 am on Friday 28 September 2012. The large church was nearly full with those attending to remember and honour Michael. There were family, relatives and friends, many amateur radio friends from Melbourne and the WIA executive and head office, colleagues from the legal fraternity, old school friends and others. The funeral service included blessings, hymns, prayers and remembrances. Eulogies were given by Michael’s two daughters, and his very long time friend David Wardlaw VK3ADW. Sons-in-law read a Psalm and a passage from the bible. One of his grand daughters read a poem. The Reverend Canon Father Jan Joustra gave a thoughtful address as he paid tribute to Michael’s life. He also conducted the Commendation and Committal services. Michael was fare welled from the church to the appropriate playing of organ and flute music. The service was very moving and a fitting farewell. His wife Nanette and his daughters Jenny and Susie were deeply affected. The family later held a private cremation service.

After the service, refreshments were served as everyone gathered in the Church Hall nearby. Memories of Michael were shared and we were able to personally comfort Nanette and the family. The WIA also organised a public address system in the hall so that further tributes could be paid in a less formal setting.

- Robert Broomhead VK3DN introduced the speakers
- Phil Wait VK2ASD, the newly elected President of WIA, provided moving testimonies to Michael’s influence and achievements
- Ole Garpestad LA2RR, Vice President of the IARU, came from Norway representing the IARU President, the

Administrative Council and IARU Regions 1 and 2. Ole spoke of international achievements, especially the legal expertise and long term commitments made by Michael.

- A well known member of the legal fraternity, and friend, paid tribute to Michael’s professional work and career
- Other speakers offered condolences and expressed sympathies to the family

After the activities in the Church Hall finished, the WIA had arranged a follow-on function at 1 pm for the amateur radio fraternity to gather at Milanos Tavern in Brighton for lunch. This “Life Celebration” allowed most of the amateurs to continue to recall their memories of Michael. This was especially helpful for Ole and me to catch up with old friends in the WIA. Their care and hospitality was much appreciated.

Eulogies in the Church Hall

Peter Lake who represented the directors of Region 3 at the funeral spoke as follows:

“I am firstly representing the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3. We include the member societies and their amateur radio operators in the Asia – Pacific region. I am one of the four Directors of “Region 3”. Michael was our fifth Director, and Chairman of the Directors. His sudden and unexpected passing has dealt an immediate and shocking blow to us.

We were all working hard together preparing for the next triennial Regional Conference; when our member societies meet together once every three years to set policies and directions and work together for the future of amateur radio in the Region. This conference is due to start in just over a month’s time in the first week of November in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. We have lost our leader and the source of much wisdom and guidance. Michael had a very detailed knowledge of the Region, our methods of working and the people. All of this institutional knowledge – often now not valued in the modern business world – will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Directors and our member societies we offer our deepest sympathy to Nanette, Jenny, Susie and their families; and the wider Owen family. We understand your loss and appreciate all your support over many years to Michael as he worked to pursue his passion for amateur radio. Many of his achievements could not have come to fruition without your support.

Our Secretary Ken Yamamoto in Tokyo who is deeply affected – and myself, have received many tributes, comments and messages of condolence.

I want to highlight just a few of them:

- Over 20 messages at last count have been received directly by us
- From Tim Ellam VE6SH in Canada, the President of the IARU – “This is terrible news. I was just speaking to him the other day. My heartfelt condolences to Region 3”
- Condolences from Region 1 – covering Europe and Africa
- A variety of messages from Region 2 – North and South America, including Ecuador, Mexico and Honduras
- Tributes have come from within our Region 3 from many societies, and continue to come in
- Our Secretary Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP is relatively new to his job: “I worked with Michael at various meetings and through many items of correspondence. He guided and supported me as a new Secretary and I miss him very much”.
- I want to share a more personal Note from Sangat Singh 9M2SS in Malaysia who worked with Michael for many years (I am sure that Sangat will not mind): “Dear Nan, It is with profound sadness we hear of the sudden passing away of our dear friend Michael, and to be reminded once again of the inescapable, inexorable law of our earthly existence. We had served on the Board of directors of IARU 3 for a long time and I remember his erudite contribution which was nationally

and internationally recognized. This is an irreparable loss and may God give you strength to bear this sudden loss.”

- From Gopal Madhavan, our Director from India: “I personally feel a deep sense of loss at Michael’s passing. We used to chat on Skype every few days and he used to call me whenever he had some idea to bounce off someone. He gave me a lot of guidance when I first became a director as I had not been exposed to IARU much. Michael’s absence will be felt very much at the Viet Nam directors’ meeting and Conference as he had an uncanny knack of guiding matters along and had all the background papers with him for ready reference.”
- Gopal’s thoughts reflect those of many of us here. The quotes I have given are just the tip of the iceberg. I apologize that I have had to miss out mention of many other contributions.

Our sympathy also extends to the Wireless Institute of Australia (the WIA) in their loss of a President and tireless thinker, worker and motivator. They are immediately and deeply affected. IARU Region 3 is ready to help them where appropriate.

As an aside, I am surprised that it is raining here today. Michael has had almost six days in Heaven now to find the weather levers to fix this. However, then reality set in. I realised that he has probably gone back to “first principles” and is revising their Constitution and General Regulations – with determinations and decrees, codicils and caveats – as lawyers are wont to do! I fear that it will take a few more days for him to finish these jobs before there is any improvement in the weather!

I am also representing the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) today – my “home” society. Our President Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC is not able to be here – but his thoughts and support, and those of the NZART Council members and all the radio amateurs in NZ are with us today. The WIA and NZART have a very long and close relationship. Michael attended many NZART annual general meetings and was very well known and regarded. Many NZART Presidents and officers have been hosted in turn at WIA meetings and conventions. There is a very close bond. Our condolences from NZ are offered to the family and the radio amateurs of Australia.

Personally, I have known Michael for the last 30 years or more and will miss his friendship and guidance. He took up a lead role again in Region 3 at the Bangalore regional conference in 2006. I was the only Director carrying on through from the 2003 – 2006 cycle. His experience in amateur radio, and as a lawyer, was very valuable to us in Region 3 as we re-built. At a personal level Michael and Nanette were friends to my wife Margaret and me. We valued this friendship and the assistance that they gave us.

In amateur radio we talk of “silent keys” – in Michael’s case there will also be a “silent microphone” and most especially a “silent keyboard”. His written record of letters, emails, and contributions to the Region 3 Newsletter and to WIA publications and others is legendary.

Again, our sincere sympathies go to Nanette and the family, and to the WIA. Your loss is immense.

Rest in Peace Michael. You will not be forgotten – there is a lasting legacy of your contributions on many fronts.

Phil Wait, VK2ASD- assumes position of WIA President

Consequent to Michael Owen VK3KI passing away, WIA Vice President Phil Wait, VK2ASD, has assumed the role of WIA President. Phil Wait has served as a WIA Director since 2003 and was appointed WIA Vice President in 2010.

Radio Amateurs play their role in dramatic sea rescue

On the 13th of February the fishing trawler “Kavidu Putha” came on the Radio Society’s morning “High Frequency Net” of 7060 kHz to inform about the desperate situation of the trawler in question which was adrift 3.54N/ 84E off the Southern coast of Sri Lanka with an estimated one hundred Sri Lankans. On frequency were radio amateurs Calvin Fernando 4S7CF, Nelson Ranasinghe 4S7NE, Sarath Mapa 4S7MM and Noel Lokuge 4S7AVR. Calvin Fernando a maritime radio officer with years of experience in rescue operations, immediately got the location and other details necessary and informed the SL Army operations division who informed the SLN which immediately set the rescue operations in motion. The trawler which had left Sri Lanka two months ago on an illegal journey to Australia was towed into Galle harbour. When the trawler developed engine trouble the human trafficker crew had abandoned it and it was adrift without food and water and the 52 passengers were in a pitiful state of dehydration.

Calvin, a much weathered seafarer of the seven seas, knew how to get about the situation, getting the location and as many details as possible. Calvin, Noel, Nelson and Sarath were on hand in this situation and it once again demonstrates the need to be on the air and always on the lookout. These hams demonstrated what amateur radio can do and doing our service proud.

RSSL Committee

Busy times for disaster response - Earthquake in Philippines

Soon after the strongest earthquake in more than two decades, measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, hit the Philippines members of the Ham Emergency Radio Operations (HERO) soon after were exchanging messages with the affected coastal areas. Eddie Valdez DU1EV, the Chief Operating Officer of the Philippines Amateur Radio Association said that DU1VHY handled traffic and got reports from the affected areas of DU4, DU5, DU6, DU8 and DU9. Eddie DU1EV said "The area of DU5 was nearest the epicenter and DV5PO reported there was a power outage in Borongan, Samar Island. DV5RAY reported that people were evacuating because of the tsunami alert."

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology later lifted its tsunami alert after only small waves were generated and not the life-threatening waves that can be expected to occur with an earthquake of that size. It also caused tsunami warnings in Indonesia, Japan and Papua New Guinea. He said the earthquake was felt over a wide area with numerous reports including shaking chandeliers and triggering alarms in some vehicles. Eddie DU1EV said it was good that many hams in the affected areas showed up on the 2-metre and 40-metre emergency channels; and other districts were on standby if needed.

The undersea earthquake struck the central part of the archipelago off the town of Guiuan on Samar Island on Friday. It killed one person in a collapsing house, caused damage to infrastructure and people to flee to higher ground. Tens of thousands of people have since returned home. Eddie DU1UV reports that an initial assessment by the government's National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council is that there was no major structural damage in the affected areas.

Most of the homes destroyed were made of light materials in the coconut growing low socioeconomic area. In February this year a 6.8 quake killed 51 and left more than 60 people missing in the Negros and Cebu regions on the Philippines. The latest earthquake followed HERO being activated during the flooding caused by heavy recent seasonal monsoon rains and storms, including most of the capital of Manila being under water during a 48 hour deluge. Authorities have also renewed their warning of further disasters in the Pacific-rim of fire which includes the Philippines, where an earthquake measuring 7.9 killed thousands in the area of Luzon on July 16, 1990.

(Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee and Eddie Valdez DU1EV, Chief Operating Officer of PARA)

Typhoon wreaks havoc on Korea

As the powerful storm Typhoon Bolaven battered South Korea radio amateurs joined the response and recovery efforts to minimize the toll and damage. The state disaster management agency reported deaths as the storm, the strongest to hit the country for almost a decade, left nearly 200,000 homes without power and property damage. From the Korean Amateur Radio League, Yong-Surke Lee HL1FB said the 2-metre repeater D90IK on a 535m high mountain with coverage of at least 100km was used for emergency communication on the day the storm hit. Lee said "The control station 6K2BUF was in charge as the effort was maintained. Operators were able to contact stations to get the disaster information relayed and report them to the authority. "Some areas had power outage so battery operated 2m radios were used. DS2HBX went up to the repeater site and had a gasoline engine generator ready in case for power outage." There were media reports of widespread damage this week in the less prepared North Korea. While South Korea is engaged in a big clean up a close watch is being kept should another storm Typhoon Tembin approach which was moving over the Yellow Sea.

Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee, with Yong-Surke Lee HL1FB

India electricity blackouts affects millions

In the world's worst blackout in recent times power was cut to 700 million people in India on 1st August 2012. Jayu Bhide VU2JAU reports that the North-East grid failed due to a fault in the plant and 20 states were affected by the power failure. Work to restore the power was in progress.

National Coordinator for Disaster Communication in India, Jayu VU2JAU said that New Delhi had its power cut for 12 hours yesterday. He said in the evening power was restored to some parts of Delhi and the surrounding areas. The work to restore was still in progress.

"Hams in and around the affected areas were ready for the emergency communication required during power cuts," said Jayu VU2JAU. They provided emergency communications during the outage, all voice repeaters were in order and did not fail despite the heavy duty back-up power needed. He said, "Hams will still be on their toes until complete power is restored."

Luckily, said Jayu VU2JAU, "Everything went well and no major casualty was reported". Up to 20 of India's 28 states were plunged into darkness as suppliers failed to meet the growing demand caused by air-conditioning units, flat-screen TVs and other gadgets. Hundreds of trains failed, traffic lights were out, surgical operations cancelled, and underground miners were trapped when their lifts broke down.

(Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee and Jayu Bhide VU2JAU, National Coordinator for Disaster Communication in India)

APG 2015 – Cycle of work for “WRC-15”

The APG (APT Conference Preparatory Group) structure for the WRC-15 was formed at the 1st APG Meeting for WRC-15 in September 2012. The structure is based on the structure of the ITU-R CPM (Conference Preparatory Group) Report Chapters.

According to the structure, the chairman, vice chairman and the chairman of Working Party 1 which handles mobile and amateur services are as follows:

- Chairman: Dr. Alan R Jamieson (New Zealand)
- Vice Chairmen: Dr. Kyu-Jin Wee (Rep. of Korea) & Mr. Kavouss Arasteh (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Chairman of Working Party 1: Dr. Kyung-Mee Kim (Rep. of Korea)

In the Working Party, the major agenda item 1.4 for amateur services (to consider possible new allocation to the amateur service on a secondary basis within the band 5 250 - 5450 kHz in accordance with Resolution

649 (WRC-12)) is handled. Many contributions supportive of the agenda item are expected.

Contributed by Shizuo Endo, Director IARU Region 3

GAREC 2012 - A Reminder

The 2012 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Conference (GAREC), nicknamed 'MyGAREC 2012', will be held at the Thistle Port Dickson Resort, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia, from November 12 to 14.

Seanet 2012

Registrations are well underway for the **SEANET 2012** get together which will be held between 23rd Nov 2012 and 27th Nov 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at

Dynasty Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

218 Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur.
Tel :(+603) 4043 7777
Fax :(+603) 4043 6868
Website : <http://www.dynasty.com.my>

Registration forms are now available.

For details please see: <http://2012sea.net/>

15th Region 3 Triennial Conference November 2012

As we approach the dates for this conference here are the details: November 5th (Monday) at 09:00 local time to November 9th (Friday), 2012 at:

Kimdo-Royal City Hotel
133 Nguen Hue Avenue, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

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E-mail: aivara@yahoo.com.vn
Full details: <http://www.iaru-r3.org/15r3c/15rcc.htm>

All societies in the region are reminded to submit their reports, and papers and also provide the details of their delegations immediately.

Societies are especially reminded that this conference will be run “paperless” which means that all delegates and participants should bring their laptop computers to access conference documents - printed documents will not be available as in previous conferences

On November 9th (Friday) a one-day tour is planned - booking and payment will be at the conference.

Newsletter details:

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

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