

NOVEMBER 2006

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
Greensborough
Victoria 3088
news@nerg.asn.au

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

Meeting Thursday 9th November, 2006:

We are without a guest speaker this month as our scheduled speaker was called interstate at short notice, making this a great chance for YOU to get up and say a few words about your favourite subject. Give us a call if you can help out!

In any case there will be time to discuss the latest club activities including NERG's display at the upcoming Manna Gum Festival, and some planning for next years John Moyle contest, followed by tea and pizza.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting. Visitors welcome!

73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

The annual NERG end of year BBQ will be held on or about the 14th in place of the December meeting.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10th FEBRUARY 2007, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3.

DÈJÀ VU – THE OCTOBER MEETING

A few videos were shown at last month's NERG meeting, ranging from short clips of various antenna installations and tower demolitions to a short story involving an amateur tracking down an illegal transmitter. Some were educational, others merely entertaining.

All these videos came from the Internet – mostly from web sites that specialise in videos such as You Tube and Google Video.

More interesting videos can be found by searching for 'Hamradio' at You Tube and Google Video – try these links:
www.youtube.com/results?search_query=hamradio
video.google.com.au/videosearch?q=hamradio

The NERG appeal

NERG is seeking donations to establish an Amateur Radio Communications and Training centre. The centre's aim is to provide courses that will provide complete training in Radio and Electronics to all interested people. Age is no barrier; we train prospective Amateurs from school age through to folk in their 80's, with retirees often seeking involvement in a community based hobby. Funds will be used to purchase teaching aids and radio equipment used in the classes.



Banyule Gives is a service that manages the donation process for community groups in the Banyule Council region. See more at: <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/banyulegives/nerg>

NERG NEWS

Incorporated 1985 in Victoria
Reg No A0006776V - <http://nerg.asn.au>

**NEXT MEETING:
Thursday 9th NOVEMBER
2006**



**Visit the NERG at the
Manna Gum Festival**

Saturday 25th November
3.00pm – 8.30pm, FREE ENTRY

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP



A wonderful day was had at Gerhard's last month. The food was delicious and more than the group could eat. Initially we had rolls with salami and four different cheese. I was already full when Gerhard said "stop eating as lunch is coming". It was, as there were two salads and hot fish, just what a guy needs every night. Lunch was finished off with cake and strawberries. Many thanks to Barbara and Gerhard for putting on such a beautiful day. Those present were Dave VK3JMB, Ernie VK3FM, Jim VK3KE, Steve VK3JSE, George VK3KMKK and of course our host Gerhard VK3EWM.

The next meeting of the group will be at the home of our President, Greg VK3VT on Tuesday 28th November at 10am. Cheers, Jim, VK3KE

Listen out on the NERG chat channel of 146.575 MHz during the day for directions, and for the latest DX spots.

FOUNDATION TRAINING AT NERG WEEKEND 18-19 NOV.

Another of NERG's weekends for budding Foundation licensees will be held on 18/19 November, 2006.

Only a few places still available for this weekend. Training takes place on the Saturday, with revision and assessment on Sunday.

Contact John Weir, VK3ZRV on phone: 9431 0667

NERG AT THE MANNA GUM FESTIVAL SATURDAY 25 NOV 3:00-8:30PM

The Banyule Council's Manna Gum Festival is set to be even bigger, brighter, and better this year with a fantastic array of arts, culture and community activities for all ages. And it's FREE entry!

NERG will be present at the festival with a caravan and annex housing amateur radio displays, videos, and a working amateur station. We'll be promoting amateur and a hobby and the benefits for the local community.

The festival is held at Poulter Reserve, Greensborough on Saturday 25th Nov. running from 3pm-8.30pm (Melway 21 A2).



NERG members are encouraged to lend a hand during the afternoon or evening. Nothing too arduous – man the display and talk to a few people – something amateurs are good at! It'll give our other volunteers a chance to enjoy some of the festival and grab a bite to eat (the aroma from the great gourmet food stalls will be too much for them!). For more information on NERGs participation contact NERG Secretary, John Weir, on 9431 0667 Poulter reserve is located off Poulter Avenue, along the river flats between the Greensborough station and the Plenty River. Ample parking is available behind the Greensborough shops with short walk across the railway pedestrian bridge.

The festival has a strong community feel and encourages groups to run stalls, have displays, and to promote their interests and services. There will be live music, acrobatics, demonstrations and workshops for all ages, great food, exotic beverages, market stalls and a closing spectacular with pyrotechnics!

More information on the festival can be found at www.banyule.vic.gov.au

Here are a few of the other attractions (other than Amateur Radio!):
The park will be transformed into a sea of marquees with a range of community happenings, great food, exotic beverages, creative workshops, stilt-walkers, music, roving performers, face-painting, African drumming and displays.

There will be areas for all ages, tastes and abilities, including:

Raw - arts and creative capers for kids, including face-painting, giant games, music workshops and more!

Relish – fine food, wine, ambience - for those in their prime

Arts Bazaar – artisan inspired treasures and arts and craft demonstrations – be early to get the best bargains

Community Piazza – music, African drummers and great performances from our talented local community

This year's feature acts include:

Empress Stilt Flowers - Measuring approximately 3.5 metres high, see these root lose and fancy free flowers frolic!

Madam Bustle & Lily - An image from the Colonial period of Australian history, an enormous 8 foot high, frock billows in the breeze as a small girl, Lily scurries around her, playing hide and seek. Don't miss these famous performers from Polyglot Puppet Theatre!

Out of Africa - You can help painting a huge shipping container bound for Liberia in West Africa, so that it will stand out on the docks on arrival. The container is filled with furniture that will be distributed to the many orphanages in Monrovia - all in desperate need.

Classic Cars on the Green - Two local car clubs are showcasing elegant examples of cars from the last century, and you can get up close to the vehicles that are the pride and joy of these collectors. Displays of Ford Lincolns and examples of pre-1965 Fords including a 1937 Ford Coupe, will be on show. A delight for car enthusiasts.

Music Man - Paul Jamieson will entertain with a blend of reggae, rap, calypso and pop specially targeted to get the kid's involved and parents bopping along as well.

Roving Performers - Local zany stilt-walking comedian improviser extraordinaire, Jack Dan last year's 'Manna Gum Man' will be back for more!

Elemental - spectacular - The four elements – earth, fire, air and water will form the spirit of a breathtaking arts spectacle to cap off Manna Gum Festival. The performance will take advantage of the beautiful twilight hours and will reflect the vibrancy and energy of our community. Rhythm, dance, acrobatics, drumming, human structures, lanterns and more will be choreographed and interspersed with pyrotechnics, music with plenty of community crackle and pop to excite and amaze!

GET YOUR 2007 CALLBOOK AT NERG!

Well, not quite yet - production problems are holding up the widespread release of the WIA Australian Amateur Radio Callbook 2007, but just as soon as it is available you'll be able to pick up a copy at a NERG meeting for \$25 per copy.

For those new to amateur radio the Callbook is a valuable resource, with not only the callsigns and addresses of all current licensed amateurs, but also a wide range of useful information including:

Lists of Amateur Radio Clubs, repeaters and beacon frequencies, DXCC countries, Awards and Contest calendar, latest ACMA regulations, band plans, great circle maps, Television channel frequencies, Morse abbreviations & Q-codes, Phonetic alphabet, and a CD full of software for amateurs and more.

The callbook can also be ordered from the WIA offices and by mail order if you can't get to a NERG meeting.

A CENTENARY OF SOS AND 500 KHZ.

The third of November was the centenary of the Berlin International Wireless Telegraphy Convention. The 1906 Convention established 500 kHz as the maritime calling and distress frequency and SOS as the Morse Code distress signal.

The UK and Italian Merchant Navy Radio Officers' associations activated special event stations in November using distinctive commemorative callsigns to mark the centenary of SOS and 500 kHz.

This special event also launched a campaign for 500 kHz to be preserved internationally as a 'heritage' frequency.

from Amateur Radio Victoria.

SPRING VHF/UHF FIELD DAY

A reminder that the Spring VHF-UHF Field Day is coming soon!
Starts 0100 UTC 11th to 0100 UTC on 12th Nov.

The aim of the field days is mainly to encourage more activity on VHF and microwave bands, to encourage people to work greater distances than usual by operating portable, and to provide opportunities for people to activate or work into new grid squares.

Rules are on the WIA web site: www.wia.org.au/contests

I've had a query about the rules re contest activity on DX calling frequencies - 144.1, 432.1 MHz etc. The aim is to try to avoid QRM to weak signals that may appear on those frequencies. So I'd ask contesters to use the suggested frequency of .150 where possible and if a contact originates on "point one" it'd be in the spirit of things to move up the band as quickly as possible.

For enquiries contact vhf-contests@wia.org.au.

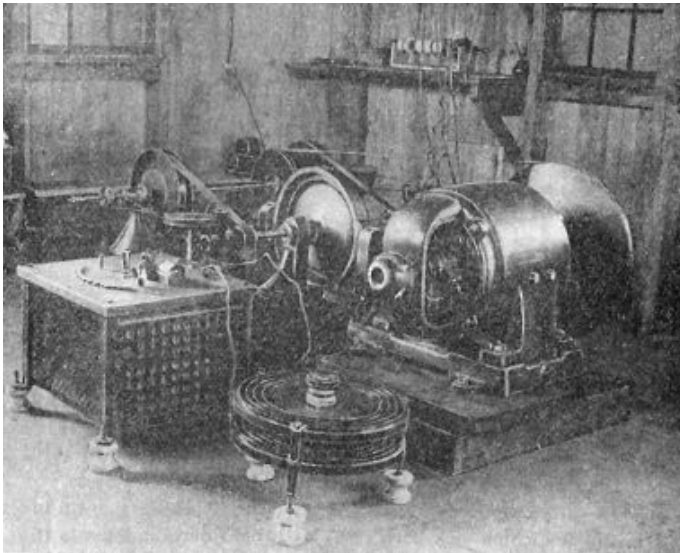
Cheers, John VK3KWA / VK3KM

100 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

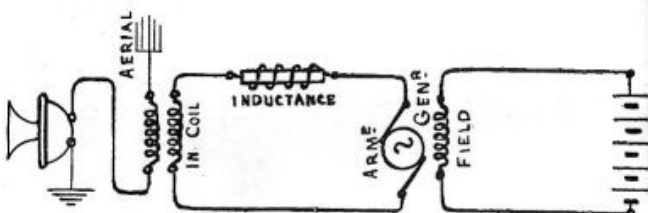
Forget the celebrations of 50 years of Television in Australia – we should be celebrating a far more important event that took place 50 years earlier. It was the first ever Radio Broadcast that took place 100 years ago, starting an industry hasn't looked back since! Back then radio was still a rapidly developing technology – Marconi had bridged the Atlantic with wireless telegraphy only 5 years earlier using a spark transmitter, but broadcasting was not one of his interests.

It was up to Reginald A. Fessenden (1866–1932), a Canadian-born American physicist and electrical engineer at the University of Pittsburgh who designed a high-frequency alternator and broadcast the first program of speech and music ever transmitted by radio on Christmas Eve of 1896. During the short broadcast Fessenden played "O, Holy Night" on his violin as well as playing music from an Edison wax cylinder. Mrs. Fessenden and his secretary both developed mike fright at the last moment so Fessenden went on to finish the one man show with a Bible reading and season's greetings to all the company radio operators listening!

The broadcast took place from Brant Rock, Massachusetts on a frequency of 80 kHz and amazed radio operators aboard ships as far away as the West Indies.



Fessenden had transmitted voice by radio back in 1900 using a modulated spark transmitter however the sound had been accompanied by the disagreeable noise of the spark. By 1906 he was producing a much cleaner and efficient RF carrier with a steam driven high frequency alternator. The carrier was amplitude modulated by a carbon microphone placed in series with the 420 foot tall aerial. Announcers were warned not to get too close to the microphone or risk burning their lips!



Transmitting Station, Fessenden's Wireless Telegraphy

Although Fessenden's broadcast is recognised as the first, it wasn't immediately successful. It wasn't until the 1920's that broadcasting really took off with the invention of the Thermionic Valve which made receivers more sensitive and brought radios into the living rooms of people around the world. It wasn't long before valves also replaced Fessenden's high frequency alternator.

Fessenden was a prolific inventor – he also established the first two-way transatlantic wireless telegraph communications and invented the heterodyne system of radio reception, the sonic depth finder, the radio compass, submarine signalling devices, the smoke

cloud (for tank warfare), and the turboelectric drive (for battleships).

The ARRL will celebrate Fessenden's first broadcast with a special event station operating from the original "Bravo Ocean" transmitter site at Brant Rock. Listen out for Whiskey 100 Bravo Ocean / W1F from 20:00 GMT on December 29 to 20:00 GMT December 30, 2006.

By Mark VK3BYY

Want to know more (much more!) ? See:
www.radiocom.net/Fessenden/ and
www.radiocom.net/Fessenden/Belrose.pdf,
or listen here:
www.here-now.org/shows/2006/08/20060804_9.asp

URGENT CALL FOR OPERATORS: RED CROSS MURRAY MARATHON



Greetings fellow amateurs,

I am urgently appealing for more operators to assist with the 2006 Red Cross Murray canoe Marathon, to be held from Boxing Day through to New Years Eve inclusive. Race day 1 is on the 27th December, but we need to be setup at Tocumwal the night before for an early start.

So far we have only 10 firm acceptors for this important WICEN activity. Our normal team have all but disappeared, and we have very few boat operators available. At this point in time we are struggling with less than two months left before the first canoe takes to the water.

With this minimal number WICEN would not be able to provide a reliable service to the Red Cross. To fill all checkpoints we need a minimum of 21 operators. We could struggle through with 15 ops by doubling up the work load after a check point closes, but I would prefer not to have to go to that extent.

25 operators would give us breathing space if anyone gets crook etc.

Even if you can give only one day out of the five, that would help, but I really need to know within the next 7 days, otherwise I will be reporting to the Red Cross Marathon Committee that WICEN will not be assisting this year.

We have been a very important part of the Canoe Marathon over the years, and the Marathon committee is pushing us to get the numbers, because if we cannot help out we will lose this important training exercise after 34 years straight. A sign of the times?? I hope not but without your assistance we cannot do the impossible.

Also, I am going to need a volunteer to drive the bus which is provided by the Red Cross for our operators without transport, and for delivering gear to checkpoints and early starts etc. The 11 seater Toyota HiAce requires only a normal driver's licence.

Please bring your friends, invite WICEN ops in other states, and welcome all the Foundation Licensees you can find.

A fuel allowance is payable, and meals (breakfast and lunch) are available as usual from the Red Cross catering service at a minimal cost.

So there it is, over to you. Please contact me for any further details:

Bruce Bathols, VK3UV, WICEN OIC
Tel: 03 9772 8867
Emails: vk3uv (at) wia.org.au

(Ed: The Murray Marathon is a great chance to practice your portable and mobile skills while assisting in this worthy cause and is an experience not to be missed!

Don't worry if you don't have prior experience, radio gear, or a vehicle – licensed operators are always needed for patrol boats and as assistant operators at a check points along the banks of the Murray. A Foundation licence is ample to be a WICEN operator!)

WEB OF THE MONTH

www.hamband.com - Songs for Hams

Amateurs are certainly a talented bunch! Keen contester Andrew (G3WZZ/OZ1XJ/OZ5E) and his wife Lissa from central Denmark have recorded several songs for hams. Their songs portray stories of contests, dx-peditions, antennas, greyline DX and more in a Nashville style.



Their most amazing song has been made into a music video titled 'Join Us on the Airwaves!'. The video features Andrew dressed in top hat and tuxedo at the top of OZ1ADL's 100 foot tower and Lissa at 66 feet mark singing a harmony vocal!

One line of the song goes "Check'n out the Internet's no fun no more, it's all just ads and spam. You're looking for adventure - well you could become a ham.."

The video can be viewed online with Realplayer at: <http://www.hamband.com/html/video.html> You need Real Player to view the video. Be patient if the connection times out - the video is very popular. It's also on You Tube and available for sale on DVD and the songs are available on CD from www.hamband.com

VAN ALLEN BELT DISCOVERER DIES

James Van Allen, the US physicist who discovered the radiation belts surrounding the Earth, has died. He was 91. In a career that stretched over more than half a century, Van Allen designed scientific instruments for dozens of research flights, first with small rockets and balloons, and eventually with space probes that travelled to distant planets and beyond. Van Allen gained global attention in the late-1950s when instruments he designed for the first US satellite, Explorer I, discovered the bands of intense radiation that surround the Earth. These bands are now known as the Van Allen Belts. Via WIA news.

WELCOME SUPPORT FROM PWB ANCHOR



Local manufacturer of chain and lifting products PWB Anchor continues to support the NERG VK3RMH repeater and IRLP network through donations towards operating costs. It's not often realised that tower lease and electricity supply can add up to a significant cost each year. The NERG and VK3RMH repeater users greatly appreciate the assistance from PWB Anchor in this regard.

Remember - keep jobs in Australia - Buy Australian Made!

FILL THIS SPOT!
NERG members can advertise
amateur radio related items
in NERG NEWS for free!
Contact: news@nerg.asn.au

NEW BPL TRIAL IN MOUNT BEAUTY, VICTORIA

A new Broadband over Power Line trial by Internet service provider SP-Ausnet has recently been activated in Mount Beauty, Victoria. SP-Ausnet is partnering with Schneider Electric which is providing all hardware components.

Mount Beauty is a town 339km north-east of Melbourne in the Victorian high country. The population is about 1,700, swelling to many times more in the winter snow season. There are a small number of active radio amateurs within the BPL trial area and up to a dozen or so within the greater Mount Beauty area.

The trial covers an area of about 8 streets over 1-2 square km, and the access BPL service is to be provided free for 6 months to any residents within that area.

Power distribution within the trial area is overhead and BPL equipment has been installed on every second or third pole. We are advised that many BPL modems have already been installed in clients premises.

At the time of writing information concerning the trial has not been placed on the ACMA BPL portal, and the system appears to be switched on and off several times throughout the day.

The WIA has been contacted by two radio amateurs within the BPL trial area who are suffering BPL interference and is currently assisting them.

Phil Wait, VK2DKN, Director, WIA

COMPLAINT LODGED TO ACMA OVER BPL INTERFERENCE IN MOUNT BEAUTY

The extremely high level of interference experienced by radio amateur Ian Paul VK3FIOP at Mt Beauty in north-east Victoria is now the subject of a written complaint to the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

He has exercised his right as the holder of an apparatus licence to lodge a formal written complaint to ACMA about the interference. Ian has a firm ground for doing so. The interference was confirmed as BPL, its source is known and substantial, and it's harmful impact to licensed amateur service communications is well documented.

The BPL system operated by SP AusNet radiates 60dB over S9 signal emissions over the entire 3.5 MHz to 30 MHz spectrum.

Ian VK3FIOP appears to be the first VK radio amateur to actually lodge a formal complaint of interference to ACMA. The amateur service, being a licensed radio communications service, is protected from substantial interference under sections of the Radiocommunications Act. ACMA is the Authority responsible for administering the provisions of the Act and is required to investigate cases of interference when they are reported.

Without complaints, BPL operators may be able to claim that the technology is not cited in any formal way to have caused interference to radiocommunications. It is vitally important that any radio amateur affected by BPL interference first verify that the interference is in fact caused by a BPL system, and secondly lodge an effective interference complaint with ACMA.

Without a valid and effective interference complaint lodged with ACMA little can be done.

The WIA provides a BPL interference advisory service to all radio amateurs - whether they are WIA members and non-members.

Check out <http://www.wia.org.au> and click BPL

Jim Linton VK3PC via VK1WIA WIA news.

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making our meetings even more enjoyable!**

*Check out the entertainment and special events such as
Italian cooking classes at Di Riccardos web site:*

www.margheritas.com.au

2006-2007 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 5th Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Hamfest
Ian McDonald VK3AXH vk3axh@barg.org.au
- 11/12th Spring VHF-UHF Field Day – Australia Wide.
- 11/12th Japan International DX Contest
je1cka.jzap.com/jidx/rule-result.html
- 18/19th RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest
- 25/26th CQ World Wide (CQWW) DX CW contest
www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwhome.html

DECEMBER

- 2/3 ARRL 160m contest, CW
- 2/3 TOPS Activity Contest, CW
- 9/10 ARRL 10 meter Contest, MIX
- 16/17 9A CW (Croatian) contest, CW

Confirm details closer to the posted date – some will change.
UTC dates may be used for International events
Gathered from AR Vic, WIA, ARRL and various clubs.

2006 ARDF/FOXHUNT CALENDAR

Events come from the ARDF web site – please check for updates and further details at www.ardf.org.au and www.melbfox.com

FoxHunt = Friday night or weekend daylight mobile hunt.

RadiO = a simplified direction finding competition usually held at an orienteering event.

Inter means International event.

Type	Date	Event
Other	Fri, 17 Nov.	Foxhunt
RadiO	Sun, 19 Nov.	Macedon, BK, OV Presentations, with special teams event.
FoxHunt	Fri, 15 Dec.	Foxhunt

The NERG Inc. RegNo A0006776V <http://nerg.asn.au>

The North Eastern Radio Group, Inc. is an amateur radio club devoted to encouraging members and others to enjoy the hobby of amateur radio. It tries not to hang on ceremony and endless reporting but rather participate in the fun aspects of this fascinating hobby.

Membership Fees (due each August):

Full: \$30 Family: \$40 Concession: \$20

Send to: NERG Treasurer, PO box 270, Greensborough, Vic., 3088

Committee

President	Greg Williams	VK3VT	9432 0563
Secretary	John Weir	VK3ZRV	9431 0667
Treasurer	Marg Baxter	VK3VOJ	9467 1253
Committee	Betsy King	VK3HBK	
	David Aston	VK3THY	
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
	Don Haslam	VK3KDT	0409 024 597
Repeaters	Mark Harrison	VK3BYY	9435 3043

Meetings

2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45 PM (excepting Dec. & Jan.)
Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Road, Briar Hill
(Near Sherbourne Road intersection) Melway map ref 21-C3

Classes

NERG occasionally runs classes and exams for Amateur licences

Callsigns and Repeaters (25km North East of Melbourne)

Club call - VK3CNE <http://www.qsl.net/vk3cne>

6m rpt VK3RMH FM 52.550 MHz in 53.550 MHz out

70cm rpt VK3RMH FM 433.325 MHz in 438.325 MHz out

IRLP node 6350, EchoLink node 140587

6m beacon VK3RMH CW 10 Watts 50.295 MHz –Off air

10m bec'n VK3RMH CW 20Watts 28.2565 MHz

Packet Radio VK3CNE2m 144.700 MHz, 1200 bps

VK3CNE-1 for mail etc; VK3CNE-7 for the DX Cluster.

Occasionally home to the Scout Radio & Electronics Group repeater:

2m VK3RSR FM 146.375 MHz in 146.975 MHz out

NETS

NERG NETS run on 146.575 MHz FM Simplex (8.30 – 9.30 pm Thursdays). Please join the discussions. NERGs often monitor this frequency and the 70cm VK3RMH repeater.

WEB Sites: <http://nerg.asn.au> and <http://www.qsl.net/vk3rmh>

NERG NEWS submissions and comments invited:

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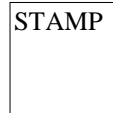


NERG

North-East Radio Group VK3CNE

NERG Incorporated 1985
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

STAMP



NEXT MEETING:

7:45pm Thursday 9th November 2006

2006-2007 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

- Nov 5 Ballarat Amateur Radio Group HAMVENTION – opens 10am. NOTE new location: The Great Southern Woolshed on the Western Highway (8km on the Melbourne side of Ballarat).
- Nov 9 NERG Meeting – TBA**
- Nov 11/12 Spring VHF-UHF Field Day
- Nov 17 Friday night radio foxhunt
- Nov 18/19 Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend at the NERG**
- Nov 19 ARDF at Macedon, BK, OV Presentations, with special teams event.
- Dec 14 NERG end of year BBQ**
- Dec 26-31 WICEN provides communications for the Red Cross Murray Marathon – Volunteers urgently required.
- Jan 2007 Note: No NERG meeting in January**
- Feb 8 NERG Meeting – TBA**

