

The Darling Downs Radio Club Inc and its Club Station.

At the Management Committee Meeting of DDRCi on the 9th November a query about the Club Station was discussed.

The inaugural meeting to form the club was 22nd February 1974.

Then 14 people met to form the club (then unincorporated).

Gradually activities and facilities developed.

The first Club Repeater licence was for the Toowoomba City Council water tower in Darling Heights and was granted 31 December 1975.

In the first Newsletter of the club (August 1980) Ben ter Hoeven thought it "appropriate to reflect a little on the Club's history"

His reflections included the following:

"On the 25 May, 1979, it was proposed that an 80 Metre Net be operated by the Club using the operators call sign. Subsequently, rules for conducting the Club Nets were formulated and adopted. During the meeting 29 June, 1979, it was decided to call the 80 Metre Net the "Darling Downs Net ", on a frequency at $3.587 \pm \text{QRM}$. Leslie Potter was elected Net Controller. (To be held on Saturdays at 7.30pm)

The Next project, the "Garden City Award" was proposed during the meeting 29 June , 1979. A committee was set up to draw up the rules of the Award, and reported on 28 September, 1979. The design of the Award was accepted; it was agreed that 1000 of those be printed at a cost of \$175.00 - (actual cost was \$201.25). The rules for the Award were approved (amended, 30 May, 1980) and Merv. Morrison was elected Award Manager."

At this stage it seems the Club did not have the Club Station VK4WID.

However the Club nets were operating under VK4WID by 1986.

Information on the current nets and Award can be found on ddrci.org.au

A Club station gives some distinct advantages:

It provides a collection point for members to catch up and swap member and club information, as well as allowing all Amateurs to hear of the club activities.

Also any of the club members can operate the club at its authorised location, only limited in bands and power by the highest operator qualification present at the time.

It also makes an easy point for licensed operators to introduce unlicensed people to Amateur Radio.

However it comes with some extra responsibilities:

The Club must authorise the club station to operate at any location.

There needs to be an appointed Station Manager (as the contact person for the ACMA if they have any queries).

The Club Station needs to keep a log.

This helps with any query from the ACMA, but also is needed to verify contact if any person is applying for the Garden City Award.

To this end we ask all who are authorised to use VK4WID to keep a log.

It should either use a common form, or at least include the Date, Time, Frequency and the Callsigns of those who contact the Club Net or Station.

A copy of the log should be forwarded to the Station Manager for safe keeping.

The operators of the 80 metre net have been doing this for the last few years.

At the Management Committee Meeting the need for the 2 metre net operators to do the same was raised.