

## The 2011 WICEN (Vic.) Inc. Training Scheme.

At its March meeting, the WICEN Committee of Management formed a task group to review WICEN's training scheme. The group consisting of Paul Engler VK3XDE (in his role as Training Officer), Graham Mason VK3KMG, Ian Morris VK3IFM, Gerard Werner VK3GER and Mark Dods VK3ZR has met seven times, and worked diligently between meetings to produce a new scheme that addresses the shortcomings of the previous training.

The new scheme includes three levels of Accreditation; Message Handler, Station Operator, and Commander. A Message Handler would be qualified to be deployed to operate another agency's radio equipment, whereas a Station Operator would be further qualified to set up a field station in an activation. Those wishing to command WICEN events or activations will require the Commander level qualification.

Training for each of these levels is broken into modules which are:

- **Message Handler modules:** Voice Procedure, Message Handling, Log Keeping, AIMS Awareness, Structure & Operation of WICEN
- **Station Operator modules:** Station Setup, Propagation/Interference, Safety, Navigation
- **Commander modules:** Activation & Exercise Management, Introduction to Emergency Management, Maintain Safety at an Incident, Tower Erection, Generator Operation.

The current versions of the documents for each of these modules will be maintained on the WICEN web site.

It is the responsibility of each Region Coordinator to provide training for the members in their region. However to ensure the training is delivered effectively, those conducting the training will be required to be suitably qualified as trainers. Because suitably qualified trainers may not be available in all regions, the State Training Officer can assist such regions by providing a training team. All the Region Coordinator need do is arrange a venue and some refreshments, and get their members to attend.

Because the previous training scheme has effectively been in abeyance for at least ten years, we would like ALL members of WICEN to attend the new training sessions. We do recognise that many members are already qualified (some very highly) in the areas the training covers, but it is hoped that they will also attend training in their regions to assist the trainers, and share their expertise with other members.

Initially the emphasis will be on the Message Handler accreditation, with the training implementation plan calling for the training for that level to be conducted in all regions by the end of 2011. Station Operator modules are planned to be delivered in the first half of 2012, and the "Activation & Exercise Management", "Tower Erection", and "Generator Operation" Commander modules after that.

Several modules are conducted by other agencies; "Introduction to Emergency Management" is conducted by the SES, "Maintain Safety at an Incident" by the CFA, and "AIMS Awareness" training is available from the DSE online. Those already holding these external qualifications will not be expected to repeat that training.

The training sessions for the Message Handler level will take a full day to deliver and assess. Ask your Region Coordinator when the training for your region is scheduled!