


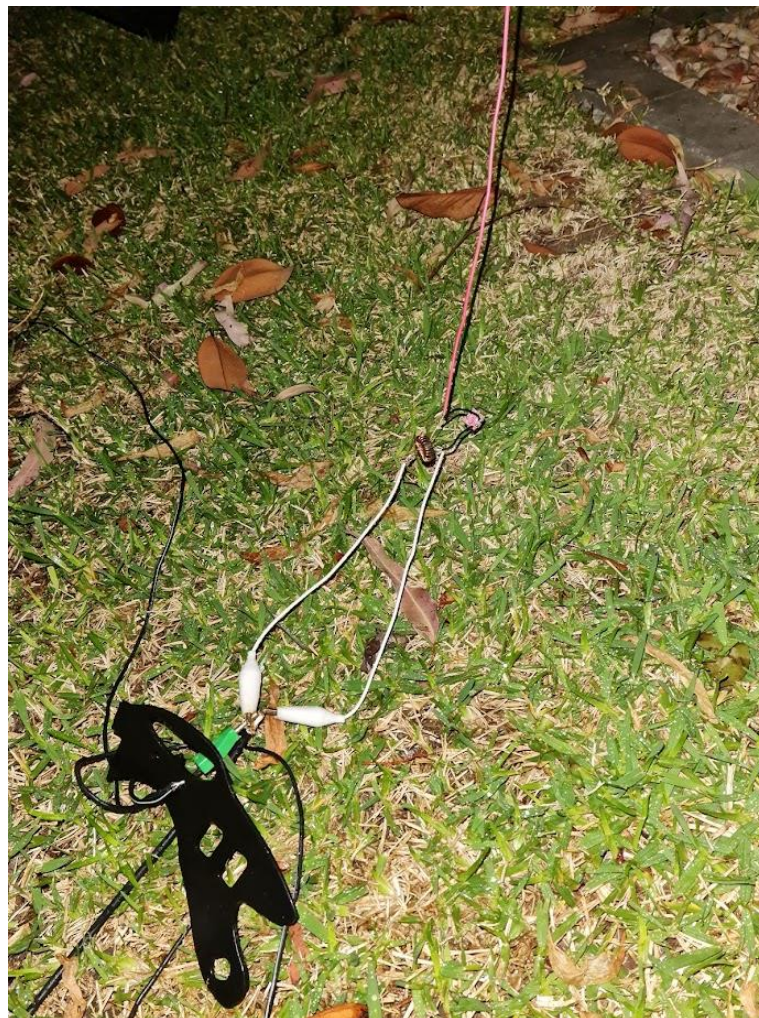


October 2023

Key - Down Under

 <p>VK2FDU FISTS: 9610 Courtesy At All Times</p>	<p>The International Morse Preservation Society</p>  <p>FISTS Down Under Inc.</p>	 <p>ZL6FF FISTS: 9600 Accuracy Transcends Speed</p>
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VK2JA's lazy EFHW antenna

Committee

President	<i>Vacant</i>	
Vice President	Derek VK3KX	Dfdawkins (at) optusnet.com.au
Secretary	Pete VK1AAF	
Awards and ZL Liason	Phillip ZL1PSH	zululima1psh(at)gmail.com
Newsletter editor	Ben VK2JA	Hit "reply" on any newsletter email
Webmaster and Discord	Chris VK3QB	
Facebook moderator	Phil VK3VB	

 <http://www.fdu.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/349974226381281>

Recommended FDU calling frequencies (MHz)

1.818	3.528	7.028	10.118	14.058	18.085
21.058	24.908	28.058			

Welcome to our October newsletter.

Sorry we missed September, it feels like there has been so much going on with the AGM and leadership changes in FDU, contests, and the Friday Night QSO party continues to be very popular. I've been flat out with work and had a computer change, but wasn't willing to let a second month go by.

This is your newsletter. We all want to hear from each other in regards to our CW activities. Please send any events coming up, news about what you're doing, or even just a photo of your shack, to share with the FDU community in this newsletter. Hit "reply" on the email announcement with this newsletter link to send to my gmail address.

Ben VK2JA – Editor

Upcoming Events

Every Friday night – FDU QSO Party on or around 3528kHz and 7028kHz. 2100 EST (1100z). Call or answer CQs and make QSOs, long or short, fast or slow.

<https://www.fdu.org.au/fdu-qso-party/>

FDU VK Callsign VK2FDU

FISTS Down Under has the callsign VK2FDU. If you wish to use VK2FDU for a special event, please send an email to Chris, vk3qb(at)hotmail.com.

CONDITIONS: you must operate within the conditions of your licence class. You must provide a log in ADIF or Excel format either once a month or at the end of your activation.

From the Vice President



FDU continues to operate strongly with a good flow of new members coming in through Graham G3ZOD's well oiled registration system. Thanks Graham.

Thanks also to Mark VK4MFX for his service in the Awards department, Mark has handed this role over to Phillip ZL1PSH.

Welcome too to Pete Bright VK1AAF who has joined the committee as Secretary, thanks so much Pete!

As for treasurer, although this role is vacant, we don't really need one, having set up the MoU with EMDRC to handle money matters.

As you will notice however, we still lack a President, having had no volunteer step up at the AGM or since.

So I would like to invite you again to consider if You would like to fill this role and help the group out.

Some may have wondered why I don't just drop the 'Vice' from my title's role take over, but that is not the way it should work is it? "Any volunteers?" And everyone steps backwards except one...

May I also mention that this month is my 10-year anniversary on the FDU committee having joined in 2013 to help Ralph ZL2AOH out with some of the IT related tasks. A lot has happened since then.

FDU is a club that is as easy or as hard as you would like to make it. Noone tells us how to do it, we can make our own awards and contests, write our own newsletters, send our own CW. If we do it within the spirit of George G3ZQS' original concept of:

- a) further the use of Morse Code on the bands
- b) encourage the newcomer to the mode
- c) engender friendships within the membership

Our on-air activities and awards are designed to contribute to the above goals; every little bit helps.

But this is where **You** come in. As an FDU member, have **You** contributed to George's ABC recently? For example have you:

- a) Been on air, any band any speed this month?
- b) Talked to a would-be CW operator or just adjusted your speed down to assist a newcomer?
- c) Communicated with the group on Facebook or Discord to further friendships?

Thanks for reading this far and I hope you will now go out and send a CQ on air or consider putting your hand up to help me out on the committee.

QRV? 73 Derek VK3KX FDU VP

QRPP Award – Doing more with *much* less!

We are thrilled to announce that Graeme VK5GG has been awarded the "FDU Worked All VK and ZL" certificate! Impressively, he secured this recognition with the endorsements of "1W" and a "simple wire antenna".

While the FDU webpage criteria references "QRPP", we've chosen "1W" for clarity. We have used the NAQCC's definition for a simple wire antenna.

Join us in congratulating Graeme on this outstanding accomplishment, highlighting the beauty and power of CW in radio communication!

Suffering QRM/RFI? Having problems pulling that DXpedition out of the mud? Check out www.qrm.guru for hint n tips, case studies, education, and on-line support.

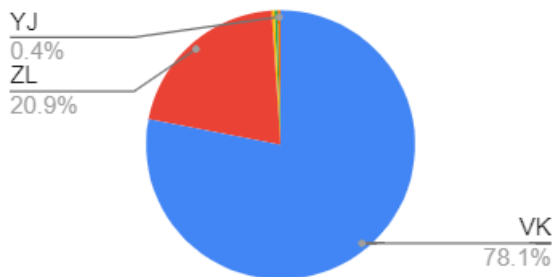


AGM Wrap and new members

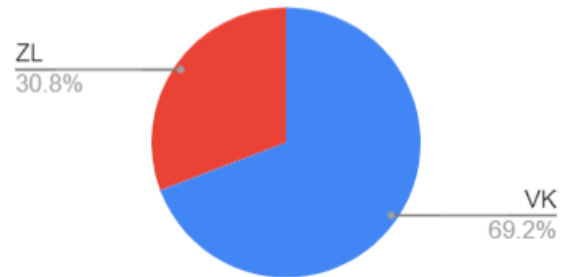
The 2023 AGM at the end of August had a record attendance of 13 members from VK and ZL. A number of long-standing committee members were stepping down in their roles to spend more time on the air and promoting CW in other ways. One committee nomination had been received, and we gratefully welcomed Derek VK3KX as our new Vice President.

We have had 11 new members since the last newsletter went out late August! This is great, and we look forward to welcoming you on the air too. FDU now has over 270 members.

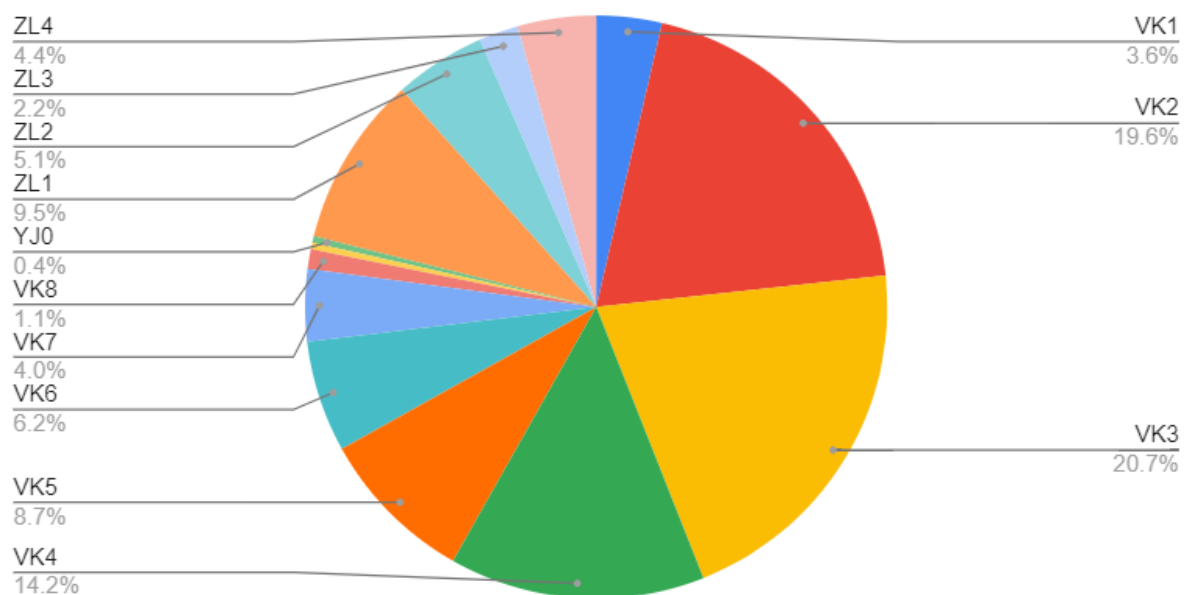
FDU Membership by Country



Attendance at AGM



FDU Membership by Prefix



Suggestions to replace tapes for Morse Practice

Back in the Day, we used to practice (i.e. learn) the Code by listening to tapes with graded speed, with or without Farnsworth spacing. All well and good, but these old tapes are becoming hard to find and existing copies prone to “print through,” damaging their quality.

What are the learners of today doing instead?

We asked this question to the Fists Down Under Facebook group and received the following responses:

1. Morse Code Ninja – A website with lots of “great practice stuff”
<https://morsecode.ninja/practice/index.html>
2. Learn CW On Line (LCWO) – A website that can help you make your own mp3 files for practice <https://lcwo.net/>
3. CW Academy – An on line community of learners and instructors helping each other (some cost involved) <https://cwops.org/cw-academy/>
4. Morse Runner – An older on line simulator with QRM/QRN/QSB etc.
<https://www.dxatlas.com>
5. On air practice from VK2WIA on 3699 kHz continuously at various speeds.
6. On your phone – Android app “IZ2UUF Morse Koch CW”
(<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.iz2uuf.cwkoch>)

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See you on the bands!