



FOREWORD

The release of the former 500 kHz International Distress and commercial traffic frequencies has provided amateurs with yet another area for experimentation: the 630m band (472-479 kHz). Many skilled radio operators will tell of the distant signals heard on these frequencies, and their disbelief when decoding the call signs of these remote stations and the distances involved.

160m has been the MF playground for many amateurs internationally since WW2, and to this day provides a fascinating environment with quirky propagation conditions to fascinate, absorb and occupy many enthusiastic amateurs seeking something more than commercial “black box” operating. Both bands embrace a wide range of modes and the scope for personal customising of one’s amateur station is almost boundless.

“MF Down Under”: An edited VK-compendium of articles & projects for the 630m & 160m amateur bands has been written by amateurs for amateurs, yet has managed to achieve an adventurous blend of professional input and “been there, done that” anecdotal experiences. Doc/VK5BUG has woken a “sleeping giant” by bringing his working lifetime of LF/MF and wireless telegraphy experience to interface with each co-author’s contribution. They contain sufficient data, real-life amateur experience and personal enthusiasm to authenticate and validate the innovative projects for tackling the vagaries and challenges of the spectrum segment below 2MHz. A resulting MF experimentation potential by amateurs has become a new study area of both restricted suburban backyard aerial challenges and the improved earthing techniques required, thus providing excitement, learning and great satisfaction from on-air successes whether local or DX. There are no boundaries other than those which an amateur MF operator determines for herself or himself.

Information contained in this publication has not been freely available in any Oceania press before, with some having only been cited in professional journals and overseas material. Content is appropriate for amateur radio of today, and exploration of the various modes in the MF context is an under-utilised field with real potential. There is much scope for small residential area experimentation and operation without requiring either a tower or large aerial array. The transmission and reception results by all of the contributors are an absolute testimony to their rhetoric. This book is a comprehensive assembly of amateur-savvy advice and information that is very suitable for guiding amateurs into constructing and adapting appropriate MF station equipment, whether solid state or valve-based, and using digital, AM, CW, SSB or any other mode approved for use in the Australian MF bandplans. The articles collected by Doc and his associate authors present the current situation, and with the availability of this volume we anticipate many more readers will become aware of the benefits of the MF bands availability throughout the world.

Doc/VK5BUG and his collaborative co-authors, along with the Wireless Institute of Australia, are to be congratulated for this outstanding contribution to the Amateur Radio press.

Rob Gurr

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A Low Bands “pigeon pair”! Nothing else like it anywhere!

Together the books provide almost 600 pages (586) of LF-MF/2200, 630 & 160m band amateur radio material, which may be the most comprehensive treatment of those bands ever assembled anywhere. The information each contains is completely different yet complementary and relevant to amateurs anywhere.

MF Down Under, ISBN 978-0-9873638-6-2, released on 20 June 2016 contains 345 x A4 pages in 9 chapters, 44 articles by 14 authors, has a travel weight of 941g, spiral binding to lay flat when open, LF-MF theory, FAQs, RX-TX-antenna projects, earthing & lightning protection, MF propagation, station accessories, portable MF, MF direction finding, References & an Index. It is a one-stop shop for those embarking upon 630m & 160m activity. Book price AUD \$48.00

Its companion & sequel ***Cellar-dwellers on the go!*** ISBN 978-0-98736338-7-9, released on 20 May 2017 embraces 242 x A4 pages in 15 chapters, 25 articles by 12 authors, has a travel weight of 684g, spiral binding to lay flat when open, pages & pages of resources, links, shared info, projects, hints, LF-MF reception & transmission, transportable vs portable, antennae & earth systems, propagation, power supplies, portable & transportable station assembly, the LF-MF toolbox, anecdotes, a pot pourri of QRP & QRO LF-MF information, Low Bands DX-peditions, References and an Index. Book price AUD\$36.50.

All orders and sales inquiries to the Editor/co-author Doc/VK5BUG via d.wd@bigpond.com
Current intra-VK & international tracked postage rates apply.

Best wishes & 73 de Doc/VK5BUG

