



BUNBURY RADIO CLUB



Keen members spark up club

THE Bunbury Radio Club now has about 140 members.

Its ranks were swelled recently when the Ham Radio Club members joined up.

The club was born 15 years ago on March 12, 1977.

The membership grew rapidly in the first few months and numbers from 11 to 99 were issued randomly. The intention was that the call sign would be BR6... followed by two digits (the 6 for WA).

Nos 1 to 10 were never issued. Nobody ever thought the numbers would go past 99.

At the first annual general meeting it was decided that numbers should be issued in consecutive order. The gaps were soon filled in and membership grew rapidly to more than 99.

Club call signs are never reissued to another person so members who drop out for a few years can rejoin and take up their old numbers.

In 1984 they decided to drop the letters CB and become a general radio club, which made it Bunbury Radio Club Inc.



• BUNBURY Radio Club president John Thornborough is helping to lead the group to a bigger future.

Eliminating the tyranny of distance

CB RADIO began on the 27 megahertz band as a facility where people could chat together on air — much like on the phone.

And it still holds this appeal today.

You can speak with people young and old and meet whole families where CB is as much a part of life as the TV set.

Chat to truck drivers and other travellers and hear about the friendly radio clubs that regularly gather on the air as well as taking part in social gatherings.

The sheer variety is what CB radio is all about.

CB sets on the 27Mhz band operate in two different modes of communication.

These are AM (amplitude modulation) and SSB (single side band).

AM only radios are the least expensive mode and are ideal for younger operators. It is very informal and the most economical way of getting into CB radio.

A common use of AM CB is for road reports on channel 8, the highway channel.

Anyone who travels by road will find the friendly network of trucks, cars and highway base stations on Channel 8 to be well worth the price of a simple AM CB.

SSB is greatly superior to AM in output range.

All SSB rigs have the AM mode so you can still keep in touch with all the AM activity.

Prices for 40AM channels start at \$79 for the Dick Smith Slimline. Prices for SSB start at \$179 for the Pearce Simpson Puma AM/SSB.

Both those CBs are available at Micro Electronics.

477Mhz UHF

UHF CB is a much newer service and has become very popular around Australia.

For the CB enthusiast, UHF provides a more serious but still enjoyable alternative to the overcrowded 27Mhz band.

The benefits of UHF CB have been discovered by small businesses, farmers, security guards and community organisations.

The range of UHF is effectively line of sight. Flat ground is ideal and operation from a hill overlooking the district is even better.

This is where repeater stations are used. Many of South West towns now have them to relay UHF CB signals to increase the range.

At Micro Electronics the economical Sundowner is \$299 or \$259 ex-tax.