**BIOGRAPHY – Alan Devlin, VK3XPD.**

In March of 2021, I reached the milestone age of 70 Years and “some” months !

Retirement living in Melbourne, Australia has been quite enjoyable with plenty to do.

As for my past career... I spent most of my working life starting at the tender age of just 14 years... employed by Australia’s leading TELCO - Telstra, formerly known as the Post Master General’s Department (PMG). After leaving Telstra in 1998, I started and operated a very successful one man small Business – RF RESALE, a WEB based Buy, Sell and Repair Test Equipment Business. After a decade or so, I got tired of dealing with the Taxman etc.

So at the ripe old age of 56 years... I just closed the Business down and Retired. That was almost 15 years ago and I’ve not regretted a thing !

I have no formal Engineering qualifications.

All of my knowledge and experience has been developed by getting my hands dirty, pulling things apart, modifying RF hardware to make it work where it was never intended and learning from my Peers.

My first exposure to the wonderful world of RF was when at the age of 12, when I built my first Crystal Set using liquid Solder from a tube.

I was a late entrant into Amateur Radio being first licensed as VK3XPD in the late 1980’s. Along the way, I have aligned myself with other likeminded RF Hobbyists and together we have built up numerous items of Microwave gear which we then used to Set or Extend many Australian Microwave and Millimetre Wave Distance Records up to 324 GHz.

My recent involvement with the Millimetre Waves resulted in the establishment of new VK Distance Records on 47 GHz, 76 GHz, 122 GHz, 134 GHz, 234 GHz and 324 GHz. With the explosion of subsequent activity on these Bands (esp 122 GHz)... the only VK Records in my name that are still standing are those for 234 & 324 GHz but I expect these to “fall” as more Amateurs expand their interests.

The acquisition and soon to be Re-Installed surplus 9.3 Metre and 7.6 Metre Uplink Dishes opens up a whole new avenue of RF activity for me. So... the ability to look at the RF signals from various celestial objects in our Solar system and those from manmade Satellites orbiting the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and more recently Mars.

The 9.3 Metre Dish will also have Terrestrial and EME capability.

Imagine this... the Gain of this 9.3 Metre Dish on 10 GHz is a whopping 57 db !!!

That means I will “hear” Echoes off the Moon with a mere 1 Watt of RF.

It’s been a wonderful Amateur Radio journey and I hope it will continue for many more years to come.

Alan Devlin – VK3XPD

Melbourne, Australia.