



REPEATERS VK3RGV 2m
& VK3RGV 70cm
CLUB CALL SIGN VK3SOL

Volume 3, Issue 5,
June 2007

SADARC

SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

By George you got it!



George VK3HV has himself some wonderful new number plates for his vehicle. What a good colour match they are to!
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THE PRESIDENTS REPORT



Hi To Everyone,

At our last club-meeting saw a very good turnout from the membership, it is really good to have good support at a club meetings especially when we have a guest speaker, thanks to all that attended, it made a great day, and by the way, Daryl VK3KL, the snags where delicious, and a special thanks to Kane VK3HKH for cleaning up the hall and kitchen, he was very hard at work when I arrived, and also very nice and warm in the hall.

"Thanks to ED VK3BG" Scotty VK2KE was our guest speaker, he took us down memory lane, and discussed his very comprehensive study books for Amateur Radio, these books are a must if you want to upgrade your licence to Standard or Advanced, Scotty left 5 of each series of the books with the club to forward sell, the price is \$15 for the Standard study guide and Advanced study program, and \$15 for the Advanced Study Course and \$20 for the Standard Theory Study Program, if you require to purchase a copy please contact myself.

A special thanks to Jack VK3TJS for securing a donation of 12v 25ah batteries, these batteries are available for sale @ \$20 each, we have them at the clubrooms if you need one or two, they will be sold on first in best dressed.

Just a reminder that membership renewals are due at the end of this month, please send your \$20 with the renewal attached to the newsletter, we need everyone to renew your membership.

We have a competition going at the moment for members to compile a club QSL Card, if you are interested in submitting your own design for our club call VK3SOL, please have your submission completed before the end of July 2007, you may bring your design to the club meeting in August or post to our Club Secretary VK3MDC.

We need to get a move on with our communications day in September, we are still looking for volunteers to help out on the day and also prior to the day, if you have time available to assist please contact myself, via phone or email.

Max VK3DSF donated a SWR Meter to the club at the last meeting, for us to sell, and keep the proceeds, the lucky purchaser was Brian VK3HBW, thanks Max. Also Barrie VK3KBY dropped

off a couple of boxes of goodies for the members, the members where hard at it, thanks Barrie.

Bill VK3DWG is going to bring along to the next meeting some goodies for a Club Auction, the proceeds will go to the club, make sure you bring along plenty of gold coins and paper, thanks Bill, your donation will be greatly appreciated.

Don't forget the AGM is coming up, please take some time to think about who you would like to steer the ship, I have heard it on the grape vine that some members have indicated that it is time to change the Guard, it should be a good contest, we will have nomination forms available in the next newsletter.

Reg VK3ARB Donated some very nice equipment to the club, this equipment was on view for all to see at the last meeting, the equipment is now secure in the radio room, again we thank Reg and wish him well with his health going forward.

An application has been submitted for a 6M-repeater FM frequency for Mt Wombat, Ed VK3BG and Neil VK3KAL put up a submission and a motion at the last meeting, this was discussed at length and the motion was carried, we all look forward the outcome, Neil will keep us posted on the progress, also Neil indicated he would donate the necessary equipment for the repeater should the club be successful in securing the said frequency, a special thanks to you Neil, and also you are doing a great job with the rebroadcast on the 2m repeater, very professional.

Our Club Secretary Duncan VK3MDC will be mobile/portable over the next month, we wish him well on his break, Duncan will be operational whilst he is away on 40 & 80 mts, we will let you know his sked frequencies and times on the Club broadcast when you can

contact Duncan, I know from my experience that it is great and challenging to keep in touch when you are away, so give him a call.

Club nets and broadcasts have been well attended, I had the pleasure of checking in on the 2M ssb the other Friday night, this net is run by David VK3ANP, now if you have ssb capabilities give it a go, some stations checked in with vertical antennas, and guess what? They made the trip no problems; it's a lot of fun.

Les VK3TEX threw out the challenge to one of our SWL Members, who I won't mention, that if he got his foundation Call Sign he would take him on the Lighthouse Radio Activity Weekend, watch this space. Also Les is compiling a set of study notes for the purpose of potential candidates to upgrade to the next level, Les should have something available for us the view at a future meeting. Les is working closely with Pat VK3OV on this project, thanks fellows.

73s For

Roger VK2RO

Now



It should be mentioned that, where possible, Victoria's power line authorities are often replacing the more troublesome disc construction poles, and sometimes wooden poles, with ferro concrete poles. Usually these have metal cross arms and the modern ribbed-post insulators mounted on them, thereby overcoming any of the interference problems ascribed to loose hardware and coupled disc insulators.

Having explained the mechanics of how most PLI is generated, the methods of interference detection will now be described.

PLI DETECTION

The first step in tracing interference is to make sure that the affected receiver and associated antenna systems are in good order, as received interference problems are often made worse by an-tenna deficiencies.

Once satisfied that the receiving installation is in good order, the next step is to observe the interference. If it is not present at the time of the visit, the Radio Inspector will endeavour to find out the nature of the interference and when it is likely to reappear by analysing the symptoms and obtaining information from the customer. Video or sound recordings of the effects can often assist in this process. It is important to know when the interference is likely to be present as some interference occurs intermittently. "It stopped just before you came" or "It came on just after you left last time" are common statements made by people who suffer interference to their reception.

Having determined that the interference is externally generated and likely to be due to high voltage power lines, the DOC officer listens with instruments located in his vehicle, usually at the highest frequency on which the interference is still detectable within the relevant radio or television frequency band.

Sometimes the DOC officer cannot detect a particular interference because the antenna in his vehicle is, obviously, less efficient than one installed on the roof of a home. It is necessary then to move to a location where interference can be heard and to locate the most likely source of the interference if multiple sources are detected. It can be quite difficult to locate the correct source of interference when it is not heard outside from the DOC vehicle. The experience of the DOC officer will mean that in most cases the correct source of interference can, however, be found.

The greater the overall sensitivity and bandwidth of a receiving installation, due to a combination of high gain anten-

nas, low noise receiver and, perhaps, a masthead amplifier, the more likely it will be prone to interference, whether its source is PLI, CB or amateur transmitters.

In country areas, where reception from capital city television stations may be quite marginal, use of a low noise masthead amplifier means that the distance to the interference source could be a kilometre or more, while some high frequency interference sources may be several kilometers away.

The effects of a nearby narrow-spectrum radio frequency interference source, such as a CB transmitter, can of course be overcome by fitting a suitable radio frequency filter at the input to the masthead amplifier and the television set.

FINDING THE SOURCE

Figure 4 shows how the intensity of interference will vary with distance from the source. Interference at medium frequencies may be heard for many kilometres along a power line with no clearly defined peak. There may be standing waves, however, which can give the impression that the peak has been found when, in fact, the actual peak is still some considerable distance away.

By comparison, in the UHF region, interference may only be heard over a distance of a few hundred metres when using high gain antennas and sensitive receivers. This makes tracing the interference source much easier and more positive, providing the actual interference does in fact have a UHF component. As a general rule, interference peaks are more pronounced the higher the frequency range affected.

Having determined the interference location, various methods are used to isolate the source. These methods may involve shaking a guy wire or gently tapping a high voltage power pole with a wooden mallet, while listening for any change in the interference level or tone on the detecting receiver.

In some cases it is necessary to determine whether the interference is on the 22 kV or the 66 kV reticulation system, as these can be mounted on the same pole and two groups of linesmen can maintain the systems separately. Determining which line is at fault in such cases is difficult but can be accomplished by using UHF Radio Frequency Interference guns, VHF beams and interference location receivers or, in some cases, an ultrasonic detector.

Skill is needed to detect the slight difference in sound and interference level which gives a Radio Inspector that vital clue to accurately locate the problem. It is, of course, possible that both lines are

causing interference simultaneously.

Ultrasonic Detectors can, at times, be ideal for determining the exact location of PLI. However, it is often found that interference is present on a pole which gives no ultrasonic output at all. Conversely, an ultrasonic output can be heard from a pole from which no significant radio frequency interference is emanating.

The ultrasonic detector hears the ultrasonic component of a spark. If this spark is within direct 'visible' range of the detector it can be heard. However, if the spark is obscured inside an insulator, behind a cross arm, or on top of the cross arm, it will not be heard.

Clearly, the ultrasonic detector can be a very handy device when used in conjunction with radio frequency detection instruments to verify a PLI source, but it should not be relied upon in every case.

CURING PLI

Having identified the problems on a specific pole, it is then necessary to advise the relevant electrical supply authority of the corrective measures needed to overcome the interference. With installations as shown in Figure 1, tightening the hardware at the top of the pole will usually overcome the problem. As the timber shrinks and expands from summer to winter, it is recommended that conical spring washers be used under each nut of the mounting hardware to maintain tension and so reduce the likelihood of recurrence of PLI from this source.

Overhead high voltage power lines, using disc insulators in the suspension mode where physical tension between each insulator is low, are highly likely to generate interference. The lower the tension on the ball and socket joint or clevis and pin joints, the higher the chances of interference being generated. Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) lines rarely generate PLI since the disc insulators are being used normally—that is, under insignificant mechanical strain.

To overcome interference generated by looseness of the disc insulator assemblies, power authorities commonly fill the coupling with conductive graphite grease. This grease is difficult to insert and has a relatively short life, preventing interference for a few months only. Disc insulators, with a bonding strap connected across the flexible couplings, have been used with success but are not seen very often. It is economic to replace all existing disc insulators with the bonded variety to overcome the problems of interference.

A more successful method of interference reduction introduced in the last few years involves stainless steel

DOC PLI

brushes about 2 cm in diameter and about 3 cm long, looking much like small bottle brushes. These are inserted into the disc insulators flexible ball and socket joints. The ends of the brushes are sharp and hard, biting through the corrosion, thereby making good contact between the adjoining ball and socket. They are easier to install and usually last several years without falling out of the joint. They are very effective at eliminating interference. The use of these brushes, together with conical tensioning washers, has proven to be the most effective remedial measure against PLI on existing power line systems over the last 10 years or so. As mentioned earlier, there are also some new construction techniques which do not produce interference. Namely, the use of reinforced concrete poles, with metal cross arms and ribbed-post type insulators, along with some simplified constructional techniques. In some areas, underground power systems are used as well. These have been gradually coming into use over the last 10 to 12 years.

With the improved remedial methods of overcoming interference on existing high voltage power lines and the new types of construction, interference is

being brought under control gradually.

Once the DOC radio inspector determines the source of interference, the electricity supply authority is advised in writing of the recommended corrective action. If necessary, electricity supply authority linemen and a DOC radio inspector will attend an interference problem together. This occurs where a very severe PLI problem exists, or when something out of the ordinary may be causing the interference. A number of live-line crews have small VHF air band AM radios or small portable television sets, which assist them in assessing the efficiency of their interference suppression work.

For example, it may be found that pole number 335 is causing the interference today. Tomorrow it may be that the neighbouring pole, number 334, is causing interference. The next day either pole, but the following day both poles are causing interference. Various tests may be conducted and neither pole may radiate interference when tested, although most poles can be persuaded in dry conditions to produce interference.

For these reasons, it is possible for a DOC radio inspector to 'miss' some interference even though he has found

interference on a number of poles. When this happens, the person reporting interference wonders whether, in fact, the Radio Inspector has found the interference and whether the electricity supply authority has, in fact, fixed the fault.

In reality, of course, the interference found at the time has been fixed and another source has developed subsequently. This does happen, and quite often. It is possible to advise the electricity supply authority of many poles likely to be emanating some PLI from time to time. It is, however, not cost effective for the supply authority to be going around tightening up every loose nut or bolt on every pole within a kilo-; metre of a viewer or listener on the off chance that it might cause interference.

Often poles are found that have considerable loose hardware on them which have never caused interference and so there is no point in reporting them. In these instances, the leakage paths obviously suffer no discontinuities and therefore no interference is generated.

Ham Radio and Travel outside Australia

By Bruce VK3QC & Muriel VK3BJO Plowman

We were back at Inverness minding a home for Easton and Virginia Rothwell who had gone to China on a tour. Our time in the house had been arranged because of our earlier stay in Inverness, when I had met Virginia at an Inverness Yacht Club luncheon, to which our previous hostess had invited me.

I thought it might be nice if we could have Lyle and Madeline Anderson come for lunch on the day of Lyles birthday, and also tee up in secret, some of the other Hams in his particular group that we had got to know. I wondered for a while what I would prepare for the luncheon. I knew that Americans like finger food and decided that I would make sandwiches, some party pies, one or two salads, and some sponge cakes and other small items, such as scones spread with strawberry jam and whipped cream. There were no party pies to be had in any of the markets so I found the ingredients to make three dozen. Fruit salad and jelly, and a Pavlova for dessert rounded it all off. Here is where I was to learn that jam is called jelly, and fruit salad is usually served as an accompaniment to an entrée, and jelly as a dessert is called jello. Most of the people in-

vited were able to come and everyone kept the surprise 70th Birthday Party for Lyle a secret.

I was complimented on my "cute" little meat pies, the Devonshire cakes, meaning the scones, and the "Simply luscious dessert" the Pavlova. I was also to learn that scones are called biscuits and an item called Biscuits and Gravy is often consumed for breakfast, something that I could not reconcile with our scones.

The whole effort was worthwhile and everyone had a very nice get together, in a lovely redwood home, halfway up the side of Mount Vision on Point Reyes Peninsula.

The owners of the house were Easton and Virginia Rothwell, and they presented quite a different type of home. Easton was a retired academic and Diplomat who had spent many years with the US State Dept., which is the equivalent of our foreign affairs Dept., and they had spent a lot of time in various overseas posts. When he retired from the State Dept, he became Vice President of the Hoover Institute and President of Mills College, a Ladies college, both of them within Berkley University at Berkley California. <http://content.edlib.org/view?docId=tf4000032r&>

chunk.id=c01-1.7.6.15&brand=oac Before they left, Virginia spent quite some time showing us how the house "worked" and asking us to please treat and use the house as if it was our own. If we should like to have friends come and visit that would be OK too.

She told me that we may have some visitors who often came at around Supper Time. (Americans call their evening meal Supper), but she would like to let the visitors introduce themselves. She showed me an envelope in which she had left instructions if the visitors arrived.

The house was not a large one, with the central focus on the family/living room which occupied about two thirds of the floor area, with a small walk through kitchen alongside. A master bedroom and bathroom, and a small second bedroom Easton used as his study. The family room had one wall of windows the full length of the room, starting about a foot above the floor and going almost to the ceiling, giving a great view onto a deck and the Fir Tree forest beyond. The main front door was off the deck and centred in this wall of windows. The deck was floored with slats of timber with half inch



spacing between the slats, and a space underneath of about 2 feet above the ground. It also continued around the end of the house, and extended out the back door which was from the kitchen. The land was quite steeply sloped away from the house on the opposite side to the family room, giving from the bedroom windows a vista across Tamales Bay, about a mile away and 500 ft below. A separate path led from the house to a shed/garage and on to the driveway that wound out to the mountain road.

Just before our hosts left for their trip, Virginia took Muriel aside and told her if there was a forest fire we had to leave immediately, and the only thing she wanted saved from the house was a mantle clock. It was a small square wooden clock, not very attractive, but

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MEMBERS WITH 2M SSB GEAR
 Each Friday night at 2000hrs come and join in the club net on 144.160Mhz. Upper sideband and horizontal polarisation preferred. So far we have had VK3BG, VK3KL, VK3HMB, VK3ECH, VK3OV, VK3SMB and VK3ANP. So come and get on the air and try more of the bands that we use. If you have an idea about a different time or night for the net let's know it might be a better choice than what we have chosen. David VK3ANP.

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Ham Radio and travel continued...

was her dearest possession. It had been brought to California by Virginia's pioneer Grandmother in the early 1800's and was the only thing she treasured.

We were eating our "supper" one night when we saw, at one of the windows, two little faces looking in from the deck. They belonged to two raccoons. Were these the visitors Virginia had told us might come calling?

Muriel opened the note that Virginia had left. It told us where to find kibble and bowls to feed our visitors, and that we were to put kibble in one of the bowls and water in the other. It was interesting to watch the raccoons feeding. They would wet their paws in the water, pick up some kibble, and wet it in the water before eating it. We learned later that raccoons do not have any saliva and so they must either hold their food under the water in a stream, or wet their food as these two did in the bowl of water we provided. They were fascinating. They would come every night, and if we had been away from the house and were back late, Virginia had told us in her note, to jiggle some wind chimes that were just outside the kitchen door and they would appear in a few minutes and scold us! When filming them though, they would only let one of us out on the deck at a time, so while Bruce was out filming, Muriel stayed inside by the window to watch and hold a spotlight to light up the area of the deck where the raccoons were entertaining us. If the raccoons did not come onto the deck we would put some kibble along the sides of the floor slats, and after awhile a little "hand" would come up between the slats and grope for the food!

A story Virginia told us was of a mother raccoon that had a paw severed on one of her front legs and found it difficult to climb trees. She had two cubs, which had climbed up to the top of a high tree and were crying. They were too frightened to come down. The mother stayed at the base of the tree and very patiently "talked" to the cubs until she persuaded them to come down. When they did, she boxed their ears – just like a couple of naughty kids. If you would like to know more about these fascinating animals go to the link <http://www.projectwildlife.org/living-raccoons.htm>

Bruce resumes the story.

When we first visited Rothwell's home I noticed just how wobbly the chairs were and made a mental note to fix them when we came back to occupy the house, so I had plenty to do on rainy days.

In fact with the exception of the Steinway Baby Grand piano (which had been given to Virginia when Easton retired, as no gifts to retirees was the order of things at Berkley University). I un-assembled and re-glued virtually every piece of furniture in the house. I did not have any cramps to hold the stuff until the glue had set, so I bought some light rope and twisted it with sticks to pull the item all together. I also lubricated anything that had a slide on it, and replaced worn hinges and catches etc. Two days before there were due home, we devoted to going right through the house, cleaning windows, pulling the refrigerator and stove out from the wall and cleaning behind them, lifting all the carpet squares and taking them out onto the deck for a thorough vacuuming, washing curtains and finally washing the huge expanse of outside deck. We made no comment about this, but heard later from the Johnstons that the

Rothwells were delighted to have this done. We had done the same in the house we had used, belonging to the Johnstons, and this probably was a factor in the Rothwells asking us to look after their home. We were very grateful to have the use of this home as the time we had it exactly fitted into the month we had not made provision for in our original planning of our trip! We also at this house met for the first time the Humming Birds, which although only the size of my thumb, can hover for minutes near a flower while they stick their long beaks into the flower and suck out the nectar. The motion of their wings is 2,400 rpm! or 400 Hz, and it is very audible at this frequency. Hence the name Humming Bird! When I took close up movies of them, one would hover right against my forehead. These little birds are very hardy and can fly very great distances in their migration, and come in 18 different species. See: <http://fohn.net/hummingbird-pictures>

We made many other friends around Inverness and across Tamales Bay at Point Reyes Station,



where we met on 2mx, and by invitation visited Dick and Coral Flint. They were very interesting people. Pre WW2, Dick was a lad on his father's farm with no interest at all in radio, and he was "drafted" early in the war years into the Army as a cook. He knew nothing about cooking but he quickly learned. One of his first daily tasks was to peel and cut to bags of potatoes each morning, and after lunch prepare other vegetables and cook them for that night's Chow. He very quickly got tired of this monotonous job, and applied to join the Army Air Force (the USA did not have at that time, a separate Air Force, but one each for the Army and Navy). He was quickly transferred and was told he would be trained as a Signals man and was put to learning Morse Code. He really enjoyed the Code and became so proficient (around 35-40 WPM) that he was sent to Australia as an operator at Belconnen Naval Radio Station at Canberra. He spent most of the rest of WW2 there, and he there also met Carol who was an Australian girl, and when he returned to the USA he asked that she be allowed to come to the USA as his Bride. They were successful so Carol was admitted to the USA, and later became a US citizen.

Dick had no intention of returning to farm life, and applied for a position as an operator with the Coastal Radio Service. His application was successful and he was appointed to the AT&T station at Point Reyes, handling ship-to-shore Morse traffic, initially Company traffic to ships, then later traffic telegrams from and to any ship in range. He worked shifts of 4 hours on and 4 hours off and had to travel back and forth

about 12 miles. This of course did not give him much time to do things they wanted to do, and they decided to buy into a Licensed Bar which operated from an ordinary shop, with a Coffee Shop attached.

When Dick retired from operating, they increased the size of the Bar to a Club type of operation. Point Reyes Station is only a very small town and they did very well, until they decided to retire and travel. Dick had previously passed all his Ham tickets, and held an Extra Licence. We stayed with them several times, and met a lot of other local area Hams. We did a lot of what Dick called "Shooting the Breeze" talking about all sorts of things, people and places, and I enjoyed our visits with them. The whole time we were in his shack he would be in one of his many CW nets, but we continued talking whilst he had the radio tuned down to a low level. Every few minutes he would lean over to his "bug" (or side-swiper) key and send some comment or reply which I could never read as it was always between "slow" 30wpm and 45wpm! Sometimes he would go on to "phone" so I could join in the contacts. In any normal day he would work several times into almost any part of the world. He never kept a log, and only rarely wrote down on paper a note of something he promised another Op. He was far and away the most competent CW op I have ever met. Muriel and Coral hit it off very well together, and she was able to update Coral on a lot of things in Oz. Coral had made a number of trips back to see her family in Canberra.

Another interesting ham we first met at Lyle's party, was Ozzie Diaz, WB6ICM, who lived in Petaluma. Ozzie, who had immigrated to the USA from Mexico, had been very successful and had a nice home and family. He also had a nice light aircraft, and he, at one of the lunches we attended, invited us to visit him at his home for lunch, and meet his family. We accepted the invitation as he was a very nice guy, who was easy to talk to, and whilst there he took us down to the Petaluma Airstrip to see his plane. As we were leaving to go "home" he asked if we would like to have a look at the San Francisco area from the air? Would we just! So we arranged to go the next day, and made a sked to call him in the morning on 2mx to see if the conditions were OK. Next morning, conditions were OK and the fog was clearing early (San Francisco area gets very heavy morning and afternoon fogs which roll in from the nearby Pacific Ocean). We met him at his house and he took us to the Petaluma Airstrip. After checking the plane over, we climbed in, and took off. We were in the air for over an hour and he showed us all around the S/F area, including a really good look at the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges, and Alcatraz Island, which was for many years a very secure prison island in the Bay. It is now a National Monument. He then took us over Tamales Bay and then turned south down the coast, then inland and did a circuit of the rest of the Bay and back to Petaluma. It was wonderful to see the countryside with its mountainous terrain and many valleys from the air. It was a wonderful trip and one of the many "cameos" we have to remember our travels. See you next month. bplowman@westnet.com.au

If you have something you would like to share with the other members of SADARC then send it along with any photos you may have to accompany it to newsletter@sadarc.org

CLUB NEWS

Meet the voice of IRLP node 6992

Hello my name is Katrina the voice of the IRLP node 6992 for SADARC. If you have used the IRLP from outside of Shepparton you would have heard my voice. You may also have seen me around the club with my partner Kane VK3HKH. After Kane approached me with Roger's idea to input my voice, along with some kookaburras onto the IRLP, we had a bit of a play around, and a laugh, before we sent off the finished product to a few members of the club to get their opinion on



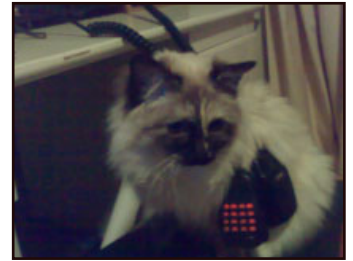
the idea. Everyone seemed to think it was pretty good so I formally became the voice of IRLP node 6992. For those of you who don't know me here is a little about myself; I am 20 years old and have lived in the Shepparton area all my life. I am currently in my third and final year of a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Accounting and Management at La Trobe University here in Shepparton. I also work at a local accounting firm MB & M Business Solutions, former-

Woops!

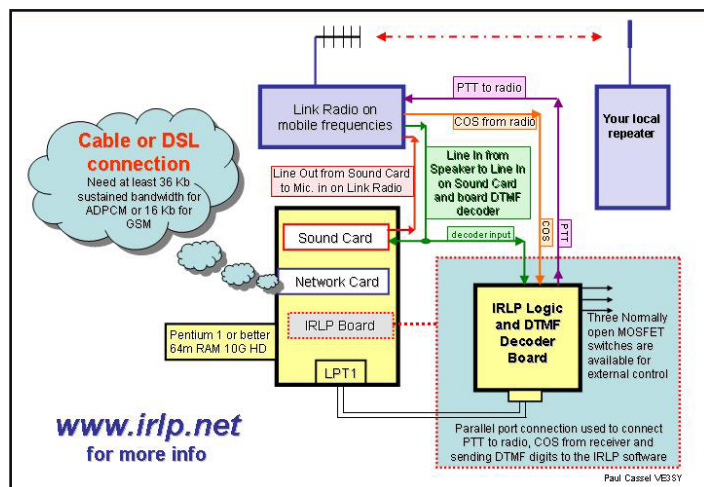


After having little success in a temporary fix on RGV 2m recently (due to the late cold hour of the day), Neil VK3KAL got the unwelcome thanks from a mob of Roos, leaping from the banks of the wooded roads around Mt. Wombat on the way home. Thankfully no one was hurt in this incident.

ly known as Maxwell Brown & Mountjoy accountants, on a casual basis whilst studying, and full time during my semester breaks. I love to travel and have visited the UK, Germany, France and Switzerland, as well as New Zealand, Fiji and Indonesia. I have been known to enjoy the occasional adventure sport having sky dived, bungee jumped and parasailed. That's about all from me for now. 73's, Kat SWL.



TOP: Katrina, the voice of IRLP node 6992. ABOVE: Kane VK3HKH's Birman cat called Kadisha that sits on his chair as second operator while in his shack. BELOW: IRLP Connection setup plan.



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*Those members who joined on or after 31st Jan 2007 their membership
will continue till next year. But donations are gratefully accepted.*

SADARC Inc

PO Box 692, Shepparton,
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WIA Member Y ☐ N ☐

Thank You For Your Valued Patronage

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Getting to know you!

What is your name? **Bruce McInnes Plowman and Muriel Jean Plowman**

Your age? **Bruce 88 today (09/05/1919) Muriel 78 (11-8-1928)**

Have you ever been known by another name, other than a maiden name that is? **If I am I would prefer to not know about it!!**

Are you married/ de facto? **Married to each other. Second time around for both of us**

So does that mean you probably have kids, if so how many? **There is My lot (4) and Her lot (3) but sadly, no OUR lot.**

Who are they and what are their names?

Mine are: Wendy, Cheryl, Lyn and Rob. Muriel's are: Geoff, Chris, and Owen who changed his sur-name name to mine by deed poll when he was 16.yoa (now 48 yoa.)

So what's your occupation?

Retired Gentleman and Lady! I was in my own businesss from 17-11-1939 to May 6th 1976. Firstly in Radio and Appliance Sales and Service, (to 1954) then a miserable 8 years as a BMC new car dealer, where I quickly found that it is not possible to be all three - a car dealer, honest, and solvent!(from 1954 to 1962) Then back to TV and Radio service until my retire-ment.

How long have you been doing that for?

Since May 1976. (The Gentleman and Lady bit)

What day in your life stands out as the most memorable?

OUR wedding day.

What makes you happy?

Being with Muriel

What cheeses you off?

Politicians.

If you could change one thing in the world what would it be?

People's intolerance of other people

Have you ever met anyone famous?

Yes, several people.

Would you have dinner with Nicole Kidman?

NO!

What's the strangest thing you have ever done?



MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING

Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Inc. A6677S. Minutes of monthly meeting held on Saturday 2 June 2007 at the Mooroopna Community Hall, Echuca Road Mooroopna.

The President Roger VK2RO opened the meeting at 13.05 hours and welcomed all present and extended a special welcome to the guest speaker Graeme VK2KE.

Present: Roger VK2RO, Duncan VK3MDC, Kane VK3HKH, Pat VK3OV, Max VK3DSF, Les VK3FLGL, Ron VK3COP, John VK3PXJ, Terry VK3FTED, Wayne VK3XQA, Nandor Barabas visitor, Les VK3TEX, Brian VK3HBW, Nigel Holloway visitor, Hilton VK3AHY, Ed VK3BG, Ernie VK3BSD, Barrie VK3KBY, Graham VK3ACK, Angela VK3FELT, Neil VK3KAL, Rob VK3ECH, Daryl VK3KL, Jac VK3TJS, Allan VK3AYD.

Apologies: Jan VK3ALF, Ray VK3RW, Terry VK3FTHS, Bill VK3DWG, Danny VK3FDTH.

Moved John VK3PXJ, seconded Ed VK3BG and carried.

Outward Correspondence: Letter to Peter VK3YF apologising for the mix up with his membership renewal, and thanking him for his donation to the repeater fund.

Inward Correspondence:

Amateur Radio, EMDRC Newsletter, Bank Statement, Accounts as follows: Newsletter Editor \$30.80, WIA \$50.00 for Foundation Licence Books, Robert Spalding \$58.00 for Ink Cartridges, Sundries \$37.98.

Cheque from the Commonwealth Govt. for \$3000.00 under the Small Grants Scheme.

Moved Pat VK3OV, seconded Terry VK3FTED and carried.

Treasurers Report: Roger VK2RO presented the report on the club finances and tabled the above accounts for payment. Moved Les VK3TEX, seconded Wayne VK3XQA and carried.

Acceptance of minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and accepted. Moved Duncan VK3MDC, seconded Ron VK3COP and carried.

General Business:

The equipment donated to the club by Reg VK3ARB was displayed at the meeting. The secretary is to send a letter of thanks for this generous donation.

The secretary is to send a letter of thanks

to Dr. Sharman Stone for the \$3000 grant to the club for the purchase of radio equipment for the club radio station.

Max VK3DSF donated an SWR meter to the club, which was then purchased by Brian VK3HBW. Roger VK2RO thanked Max for the donation.

Ron VK3COP expressed thanks to Kane VK3HKH and Ben VK3FBGS for their assistance in getting his Echolink working.

Roger VK2RO tabled the new club Public Liability Insurance Policy and passed it around the meeting.

6M Repeater: Neil VK3KAL and ED VK3BG proposed that the club apply for a 6M repeater frequency allocation for Mt. Wombat. Neil tabled a letter to VTAC he had prepared requesting the frequency allocation. Roger VK2RO asked about costs and Neil said he could donate the equipment to the club. This was discussed and it was decided that a 6M repeater would be of value to the club and that the application should be forwarded. Moved Neil VK3KAL, seconded Ed VK3BG and carried.

Club QSL Card: The need for a club QSL card was discussed and it was decided that once the club radio room was fully established we should have a club QSL card. Club members were then asked to submit suitable designs for the QSL card and these should be submitted to the secretary by the first Saturday in August.

Training for Licence Upgrades: Les VK3TEX suggested that we include an item in the newsletter asking members who are interested in attending training courses to contact Les.

New Foundation Licence: Ed VK3BG informed that a new member Jeff Webb has passed his Foundation Licence test and would soon be on the air.

Roger VK2RO welcomed Nigel Holloway to the meeting. Nigel will soon be sitting for his foundation licence.

Working with Children: Roger VK2RO encouraged members to apply for working with children permits. Although these are not mandatory for JOTA, they may be required in the future. Roger made application forms available to interested members.

Club Radio Room: A bench top to accommodate radio equipment is to be installed in the club radio room. Assistance from members will be required and it is hoped that this work will be completed

prior to the next meeting.

Comms Day 2007: Max VK3DSF indicated that St Augustine's Church Hall has been booked again for this year and Max suggested that the committee approach St Augustine's hall committee and pay the booking fee. Roger VK2RO will arrange this. Pat VK3OV indicated that if we intend to include flyers in AR as we did last year, we would need to arrange this two months ahead.

The Comms Day Committee presently includes the following members: Roger VK2RO, John VK3PXJ, Danny VK3FDTH and Kane VK3HKH. More assistance is required. Please notify the secretary if you can help organise this important club activity.

Resignation: Roger VK2RO informed the meeting that Ben VK3FBGS had resigned from the club. Ben has been a very pro-active member of the club and club committee member and he will be missed.

The secretary is to send a letter from the club to Ben thanking him for his valuable contribution.

SADARC Website: Daryl VK3KL notified the meeting that there was an error on the club website regarding the club membership secretary. Jac VK3TJS will make the required change.

Learning Facilitators: Daryl VK3KL also raised the problem of existing club Invigilators applying to become Learning Facilitators. Some Invigilators are reluctant to provide all the information required by the WIA on the application form. This may mean that the club could be short of assistants for the Assessors. This matter needs to be investigated further.

John VK3PXJ indicated that Jan VK3ALF required assistance from club members to relocate the tower at his QTH. This will be investigated further with Jan.

Guest Speaker: The president Roger VK2RO welcomed Graeme Scott VK2KE to the meeting. Graeme gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on his experience as a "ham" and also made available his training manuals to the club members, particularly those wishing to upgrade their licence.

Roger VK2RO thanked Graeme for his presentation and presented him with two bottles of wine.

The President closed the meeting at 15.07 hours.