



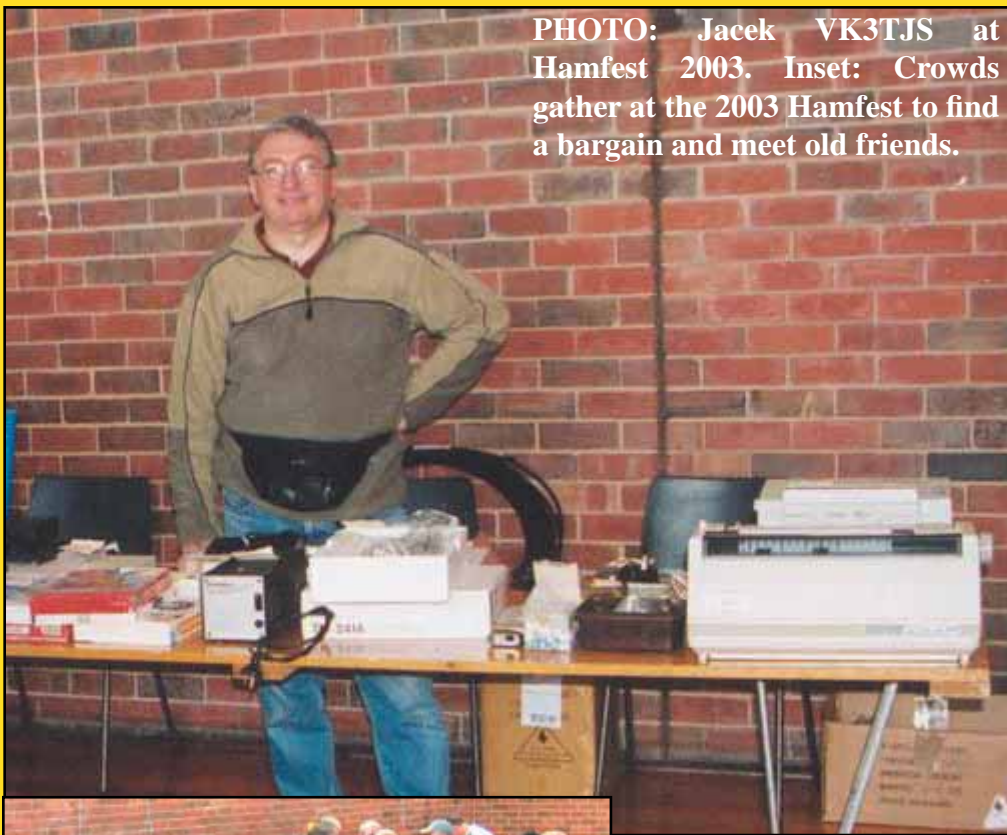
REPEATERS VK3RGV 2m
& VK3RGV 70cm
CLUB CALL SIGN VK3SOL

Volume 4, Issue 4,
May 2008

SADARC

SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PHOTO: Jacek VK3TJS at Hamfest 2003. Inset: Crowds gather at the 2003 Hamfest to find a bargain and meet old friends.



HAMFEST 2008

The date for Ham Fest 2008 has been set for Sunday the 14th of September 2008. With the Hall booked, already some early table bookings have been received, with Vertex Australia (Yaesu) being the first to book a table.

Office Bearers

President:

Roger Conway VK2RO

Vice President:

Kane Hinchliffe VK3HKH

Secretary:

Duncan Cameron VK3MDC

Treasurer:

Daryl Hitchcock VK3KL

Public Officer:

Duncan Cameron VK3MDC

Membership Secretary:

Pat O'Shannessy VK3OV

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Editor - Lisa Laffan

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The Newsletter is now available at

<http://www.sadarc.org/news.html>



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Presidents Report for May 2008

Radio Australia, Duncan VK3DCX our Club Secretary has the name lists for the 2 trips, make sure you are on the name list prior to turning up, you will find the list on page 5 of this Newsletter, the numbers are limited to a maximum of 20 per visit.

The club has purchased a Projector, it's a Dell 1800MP Model, this will now allow the Club to run Power Point Presentations and Video Presentations, John VK3FJHM has provided/donated a projector Screen for our use, thanks John. At the July meeting we are going to screen a video on a Tour through the MFJ Factory in the USA, this video will go for 50mins, it covers all aspects of the MFJ Equipment from start to finish, its very interesting.

The Ham Fest date has been set and the Hall booked, Sunday 14th September 2008; Daryl has already

had some early table bookings with Vertex Australia (Yaesu) being the first to book tables.

The new edition. Foundation manuals have arrived, Daryl

'Swan Hill Trip 18-20th of July.'

VK3KL has the new books in his possession, the cost \$25

New start time for the 80m Wednesday Night Club Net, from the first Wednesday in June it was decided to start the net 1/2hr earlier, the start time will be 6.30pm until daylight saving later in the year, we decided to extend the session due to the number of check ins to give everyone a fair go, the 4th June 2008 is the new time/start date for this to happen.

Swan Hill Trip 18-20th July, at this stage we have approx 16 starters, I will leave the door open until the end of the month for any further members wishing to come along to Swan Hill with us, I will have the final costing once I have ascertained the final numbers, this weekend is intended to be a social & relaxing weekend, cabin accommodation is available as well as powered and un-powered sites for the campers, please contact myself direct for any further information.

That's all for now folks, 73s Roger VK2RO

Hi To Everyone,

We had a great meeting this month with plenty of activity going on, a special thanks goes to Ed VK3BG and also Rob VK3ECH for giving up their Saturday to conduct Assessments once again at the Club Rooms, they certainly do put in.

The Club trip to Radio Australia is well under way, I am looking forward to this trip, the Saturday trip to Radio Australia will form part of our Club Meeting, so please note if your name is not on the list for the Saturday visit to Radio Australia, please, please don't turn up to the Club Rooms for a club meeting, we will all be at



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Shepparton And District Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of May 2008 meeting

Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Inc. A6677S. Minutes of monthly meeting held on Saturday 3 May 2008 at the Mooroopna Community Hall, Echuca Road Mooroopna. The president Roger VK2RO opened the meeting at 1315 hours and welcomed all present.

Present: Roger VK2RO, Duncan VK3DCX, Daryl VK3KL, Kane VK3HKH, Geoff VK3FABV, Ron VK3COP, Les VK3TEX, Neil VK3XNW, Rodney VK3UG, Allan VK3AYD, Les VK3VLG, Terry VK3MAR, John VK3FJHM, Gordon VK3ACC, Pat VK3OV, Peter VK3FBEN, John VK3PXJ, Jan VK3ALF, Max VK3MJB, Jac VK3TJS, Vic Dwyer – visitor, Stephen VK3FLMR, Ed VK3BG, Rob VK3ECH, Steve Hamer – visitor.

Apologies: Tibor VK3FTIB, Bill VK3DWG, Ian VK3JNC, Max VK3DSF, Geoff VK3PLW, Neil VK3KAL, Angela VK3FELT, Wayne VK3XQA, Danny VK3FDTH.
Moved Duncan VK3DCX, seconded Ron VK3COP and carried.

Inward Correspondence:

BARG Newsletter.

QBE certificate of currency for the club public liability insurance.

Outward Correspondence: Nil

Moved: Les VK3TEX, seconded: Rodney VK3UG and carried.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer Daryl VK3KL presented the report on the club finances and made a copy available for viewing by the members present.

Minutes of the last meeting: The secretary Duncan VK3DCX read the minutes of the last meeting and moved that they be accepted. This was seconded by Les VK3TEX and was carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the last meeting:

IRLP: Les VK3TEX reported that the IRLP equipment is to be relocated within the next two weeks.

Tools and test equipment: Daryl VK3KL had purchased tools and test equipment for the club radio station and these were on display at the meeting.

Comms Day 2008: Pat VK3OV reported that the hall has been booked for Comms Day 2008 for Sunday 14 September.

Radio Australia Visit: Rodney VK3UG gave a report on the proposed visit to radio Australia and the details are included elsewhere in this newsletter along with a map on how to get there and a list of members who are nominated to attend on Thursday 5 June and Saturday 7 June.

BBQ at the Goulburn Weir: Ron VK3COP reported that the joint BBQ involving SADARC and the Midland Club held at the Goulburn Weir on Sunday 20 April was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Swan Hill Trip: Roger VK2RO reminded the meeting about the proposed trip to Swan Hill on the 18-20 July and that campsite requirements for those attending are required ASAP.

General Business:

Certificate of Appreciation: Kane VK3HKH informed the meeting that the club has been presented with a certificate of appreciation and a scout scarf by the Mooroopna Scouts and Guides recognising SADARC's contribution to their organization particularly during JOTA.

Wombat Award: Les VK3TEX presented a Wombat Award to Peter VK3FBEN.

Q Codes and G5RV Design: Roger VK2RO tabled a complete list of Q codes and a G5RV design prepared by Chris VK4BX. These were supplied by Geoff VK3FABV and copies were distributed to the members present.

Parkes Visit: Terry VK3MAR reported on his recent visit to the Parkes Radio Telescope.

70 cm Amateur Band: Daryl VK3KL indicated that the ACMA is reviewing the use of the 400Mhz band and that the 70cm amateur band may be under threat. The ACMA is asking for submissions and it is recommended

that members read the details on the ACMA website.

New Foundation Licence Manual: Roger VK2RO indicated that a new edition of the Foundation Licence Manual is now available and asked the meeting if the club should purchase some copies. It was decided that the club should purchase five copies from the WIA. Moved: Ron VK3COP, seconded Gordon VK3ACC and carried.

Projector: Roger VK2RO informed the meeting about an email he received from Kevin VK3CKC, president of the Midland Club giving details of some amateur radio videos that can be downloaded from the web and would be of interest to club members. Roger then suggested that the club purchase a projector so that these can be shown at club meetings. The projector would also be used for training purposes etc.

Roger VK2RO indicated that a DELL 1800 MP projector was currently available on special for \$799.00. Kane VK3HKH said that he could investigate if there are others available for around this price. A motion was then put forward that the club purchase a projector as recommended by Kane. This was moved by Gordon VK3ACC, seconded by Ron VK3COP and carried.

80M Net: Roger VK2RO indicated that the number of "check ins" on the Wednesday evening 80M net was growing, and that there was insufficient time prior to the 2M net to accommodate all the check ins. Roger then suggested that we commence the 80M net at 6.30pm instead of 7.00pm commencing from the first week in June. This would continue until daylight saving starts when we would revert back to a 7.00pm start.

Low Pass Filter Raffle: Roger VK2RO showed a low pass filter that is to be raffled for \$5.00 a ticket.

The president, Roger VK2RO, closed the meeting at 1430 hours and thanked the meeting for their attendance.

On Saturday, 3rd May, 4 Assessments were conducted at the Clubrooms in Mooroopna, resulting with 2 new Foundation licences, 1 Standard upgrade, and a partial upgrade to the Advanced level. It is hoped that this will result in another Advanced Licencee within the next week or so. Congratulations to those who presented themselves. The next Assessment day will be held before the club meeting at the clubrooms on Saturday 2nd August. If anyone wishing to sit for the Foundation licence or upgrade their current level, please contact me at vk3bg@wia.org.au or (03) 5874 3244 in the evening.

Booking a place is essential so that Rob & I can prepare the necessary paperwork, as places are limited. Good Luck.

Ed VK3BG

DISCLAIMER:

The Editor of this newsletter reserves the right to publish editorial and or images at her discretion.

This includes articles supplied by members of S.A.D.A.R.C and affiliates, members of the general community and persons not directly involved with S.A.D.A.R.C. for example 3rd party contributions to the editorial content of this newsletter. This disclaimer also includes the right to "hold over" any article/s until a later date, as seen suitable by the Editor. The Editor nor the club known as S.A.D.A.R.C. takes no responsibility for content that exists on internet sites that are included in this newsletter.

VISIT TO RADIO AUSTRALIA

*** Details and Conditions of entry ***

Visit Dates - 5th and 7th June 2pm at the front gate - 475 Verney Road Shepparton - just south of the GV highway.

- When front gate opened drive to the front of the building and park there.
- You will be admitted to the building and will then be required to sign in.
- You will then be given a safety induction which will largely consist of the following: - Where you can go - some areas have high RF levels and/or high noise levels, and are out of bounds, such as behind transmitters.

Medical conditions - People with pacemakers and other major metallic implants will not be admitted to the station for their own safety.

Please note: - If you have a pacemaker or other major implants and you do not declare that you have them; are admitted to the site in good faith and a medical emergency occurs (because you know better than those who

set the conditions of entry) this places your life in jeopardy and future visits by any groups will likely not be permitted. This is not a local directive.

• **Access for the less able** - they will only be able to be admitted to the main transmitter hall and other sections on that level as there are no ramps for those with mobility problems.

• The total time for the visit will be between one and two hours. During the visit there will be one frequency change and antenna change which will commence around 2:57.30pm and be complete at around 2:59:30pm. The equipment is semi automatic and most of this will occur without the operator's intervention.

• You will probably be divided up into two groups for the visit. Questions can be asked at any time.

• Photos are permitted for your own personal enjoyment. However, ask the Officer in Charge at the induction before taking photos.

PLEASE NOTE THESE CONDITIONS ARE IN PLACE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

American Radio Stations in Australia VLC Shepparton - A bit of History

Source: <http://www.radioheritage.net/Wavescan7b.asp>

Back in the year 1937, the Australian government announced that they planned on establishing a major shortwave station in Australia, similar to the recently established BBC facility located near Daventry in England. This new Daventry station was inaugurated in 1932 with two shortwave transmitters at 10 kW each. However, by the time Australia was looking at a similar possibility, the Daventry station was on the air with three shortwave transmitters, each rated at around 50 kW.

During the year 1939, with major political changes

looming on the horizon in continental Europe, the projected new shortwave station in Australia was now looked upon as a high priority project for possible use as a replacement for Daventry if necessary. Serious site searches were conducted throughout Eastern Australia at several different locations, and possible locations under consideration included Sydenham near Melbourne in Victoria (with its two new ABC mediumwave stations 3LO & 3AR); Liverpool near Sydney in New South Wales (with its two new ABC mediumwave stations 2FC &

2BL); and Lyndhurst near Melbourne in Victoria (with its single shortwave transmitter VLR). Interestingly at this time, the Australian government was already in the process of constructing a large new shortwave station at Belconnen near Canberra, and it was rumored that this was Australia's new shortwave broadcasting station. However, this was not the case, it was instead a shortwave communication station for the use of the Australian navy. Ultimately, the final choice for Australia's new shortwave voice was a

totally new location, out in a country area near Shepparton in central Victoria. This was a large property of 567 acres, a dozen miles from Shepparton and 120 miles from Melbourne. Site preparation for this large new international broadcasting station, which included the construction of a large bombproof transmitter hall and the erection of a bevy of curtain and rhombic antennas, began in 1942. One year later, the Transmitter Hall was completed and ready for use; but, where were the new shortwave transmitters? The original concept envisaged the in-



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Radio Australia Visit Attendance List:

Thursday 5th June:

Terry VK3MAR,
 Alan VK3FALN,
 Les VK3VLG,
 Jon VK3FAAX,
 Ernie VK3BSD,
 Rob VK3MAC,
 Ed VK3BG,
 Angela VK3FELT,
 Neil VK3KAL,
 John VK3FJHM,
 Ian VK3JNC,
 Luke VK3HJ.
 Greg VK3ZKV.
 Daryl VK3KL.

Saturday 7th June:

Kane VK3HKH,
 Wayne VK3XQA,
 Nandor SWL,
 Les VK3TEX,
 Toby VK3PNF,
 Peter VK3FBEN,
 Ron VK3COP,
 Roger VK2RO,
 Clint VK3CAF,
 Danny VK3FDTH,
 John VK3PXJ,
 Allan VK3AYD,
 Tibor VK3FTIB,
 Duncan VK3DCX,
 Geoff VK3FABV.
 Rob VK3ECH,
 Phill VK3ELV
 Cameron King – Visitor.

 If any members not on the above list would like to attend, please email the Secretary on duncan@border.net.au
 A maximum of 20 people can be accommodated on each day.

Beginning in December 1942, "Australia Calling" as Radio Australia was known at the time, beamed a program on shortwave to the United States under the title, "The American Program". This daily broadcast was half an hour in duration and it was transmitted on VLQ Pennant Hills near Sydney and VLG Lyndhurst near Melbourne in Victoria. This new program presented Australian and South Pacific news and information that would be of interest to Americans and it was beamed to California where it was picked up live off air for relay by the nationwide mediumwave networks in the United States.

As mentioned previously, the relay broadcast of the "Philippine Hour" began on May 1, 1944. It was always an evening broadcast, at both the transmitter location as well as in the Philippine target area. However, at the orders of General MacArthur, additional sessions were beamed to the Philippines from transmitter VLC for two days in early June. These broadcasts, in which updated news about D-Day in Europe was presented, went out over VLC4 on 15315 kHz and VLC 2 on 9680 kHz on June 7 & 8, in the

morning, midday, afternoon and evening sessions.

Around about this time, General MacArthur also directed that there should also be a morning broadcast beamed to the Philippines from Australia. This new fifteen minute news program was first noted by international radio monitors in Australia in September and it was carried on VLC4 15315 kHz at 10 am.

The OWI-VOA broadcasts to the Philippines over VLC lasted for just one year. In May of the following year, 1945, both American programs were dropped by VLC. By this time, the "Philippine Hour" was already on the air from the 10 kW transmitter, WVLC, aboard the renovated radio ship, the "Apache". At this stage, the "Apache" was located in waters adjacent to the Philippine Islands and the shortwave transmitter gave nice coverage to the entire archipelago.

So, what happened then to transmitter VLC after its usage as a relay station on behalf of OWI-VOA was concluded? In those days, all of the ABC transmitter facilities, including shortwave "Australia Calling", were maintained by the PMG Department and the program-

later on August 25, with the multi-language programming of "Australia Calling", as well as with the VOA-OWI program, "The Philippine Hour".

Interestingly, the location of this new shortwave station was not publicly revealed for nearly half a year. Initially, the identification announcements stated simply that it was on the air from General MacArthur's Headquarters in Australia. It was not until the following October that radio publications clearly stated that transmitter VLC was located at Shepparton in Victoria. Actually, it was back in mid 1942 that regular programming from the United States began to appear on radio stations in Australia. It is safe to say that every radio station in Australia, ABC & commercial, mediumwave & shortwave, carried American programming on many occasions during the critical years of the Pacific Conflict.

The first of these American programs was titled "American News" and it was a daily ten minute bulletin of news that was on the air from 2FC in Sydney and all of the nationwide stations in the ABC National Network.

Early in the following year, an additional American program under the title, "America Speaks with Pearl Buck" was broadcast over the same ABC networks. This new Pearl Buck program was also ten minutes in duration. Shortly afterwards, the Sunday edition of "American News" was expanded to half an hour in duration with the addition of American music and sports results. Each of these American radio programs was also relayed on shortwave by the ABC Home Service shortwave transmitters that were scheduled to be on the air at the time. These shortwave units were 2 kW VLR in Lyndhurst, 10 kW VLG also in Lyndhurst, 10 kW VLQ at Bald Hills in Queensland, and 2 kW VLW at Wanneroo in Western Australia.

stallation of three transmitters in this new facility, two at 100 kW and one at 50 kW. These units would be identified with the Australian call signs, VLA, VLC & VLM.

At this stage and as a joint project, STC and AWA in suburban Sydney were designing and building two transmitters at 100 kW and these were subsequently installed in Shepparton three years later and given the call signs VLA & VLB. A worldwide search was to no avail, and even though the facility was ready for use, minus its transmitters, by February 1943, yet it remained empty for another year. Finally, a 50 kW transmitter became available in the United States. This was an RCA unit, originally intended for use at a now unknown location somewhere else, and it was made available for installation in Australia under the Lend-Lease Agreement. This agreement stipulated that the transmitter should relay specific programming from the United States to the Philippines. In fact, when this new station first went on the air, identification announcements stated that it was operating from "General MacArthur's Headquarters" in Australia. This station was also known for a short while as ABSIA, the American Broadcasting Station in Australia, somewhat reminiscent of a similar station in England, which identified as ABSIE, the American Broadcasting Station in Europe.

Installation at Shepparton for the new 50 kW RCA transmitter began in February 1944 and it was ready for part time usage by the end of April. On May 1, 1944, this unit came into a limited daily usage on 9680 kHz under the call sign VLC2 with the relay of the American program, "Philippine Hour". This program, one hour in duration, was on the air daily at 7 pm, EAST, Eastern Australian Standard Time. Transmitter VLC was taken into full time regular usage nearly four months

American Radio Stations in Australia – VLC Shepparton - A bit of History... Continued

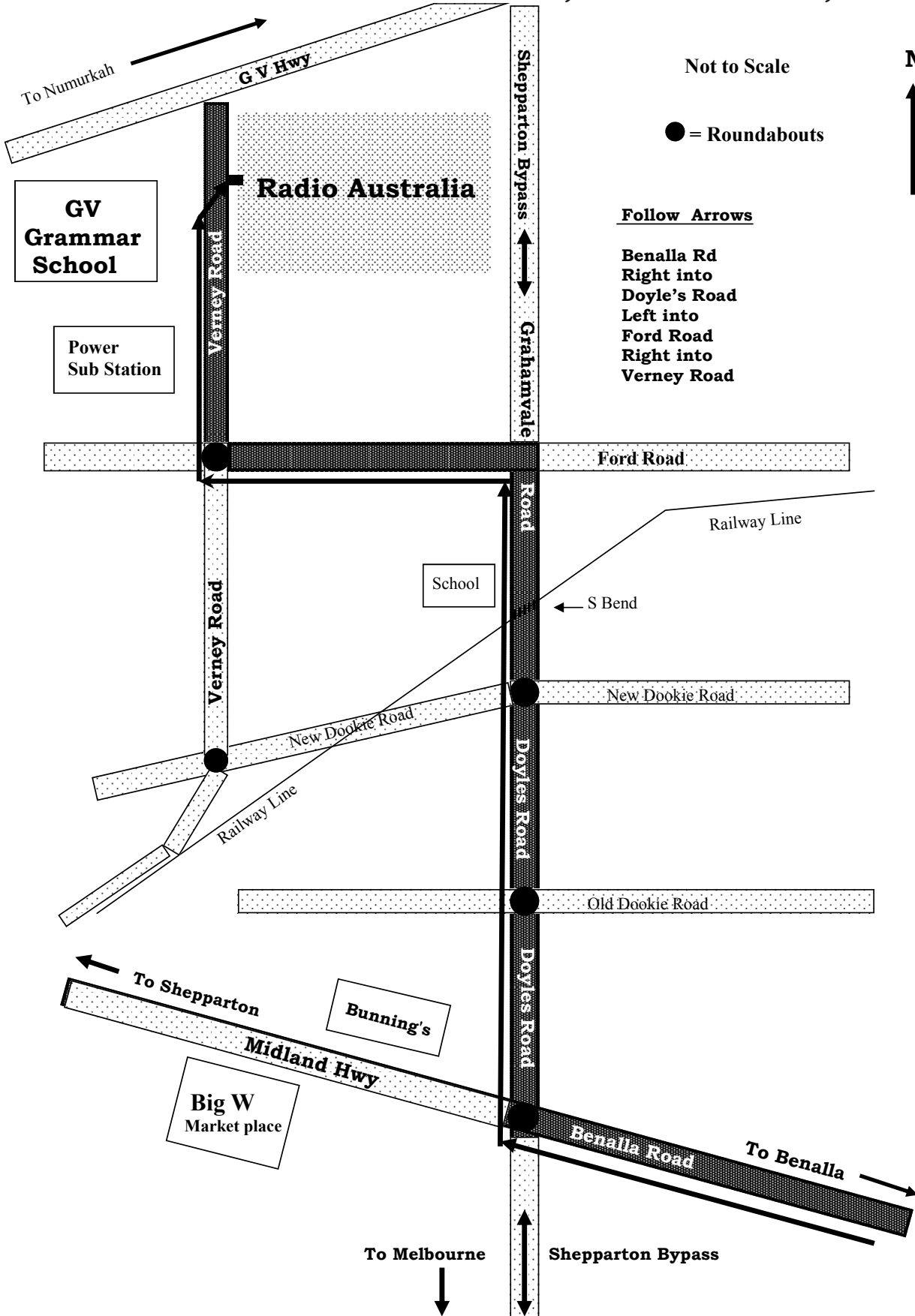
ming was prepared by the ABC and landlined to each specific transmitter. Soon after VLC became airborne, the ABC in Melbourne began to phase in their "Australia Calling" programming and at the end of the first year of on air usage when the American programming

beamed to the Philippines was concluded, this shortwave unit carried a full schedule on behalf of "Australia Calling". During a renovation program at Shepparton some thirteen years after its inauguration, the American transmitter VLC was bifurcated into two units, both at 50 kW.

Twelve years later again, these two units were rebuilt for an additional spate of on air service. Ultimately, at the age of almost forty, these two RCA 50 kW transmitters were finally removed and discarded in 1983. They were replaced by two Harris units at 100 kW each.

Thus it was that the 50 kW American RCA transmitter VLC served as a relay station in Australia for American VOA-OVI programming for a period of just one year, beginning in mid 1944. In 1957 it gave birth to a twin unit rated at 50 kW, in 1969 both units were rebuilt, and in

MAP/DIRECTIONS TO RADIO AUSTRALIA, VERNEY ROAD, SHEPPARTON



American Radio Stations in Australia – VLC Shepparton - A bit of History... Continued

1983 they were finally discarded at the end of forty years of on air service. Throughout all of these years a multitude of QSL cards and letters were issued by the ABC, Radio Australia and the Australian Department of Information to verify the reception of radio station VLC. However, there is just one

known QSL that was issued by the American Office of War Information to verify the reception of their "Philippine Hour" on relay over VLC, their own shortwave transmitter in Australia.

For a period of a little over three years, running from early 1942 until mid 1945, the California based OWI, Office

of War Information, established a branch office in the AWA building in York Street, Sydney. This Australian office employed Mr. L. J. Keast, who was already the DX editor for the Sydney based "Australian Radio World", as a part time international radio monitor. It is suggested, that this only known

QSL for the American programming over VLC was issued through his auspices. This QSL is thought to be a letter and it was issued to Owen Rogers of Onehunga in New Zealand for his reception report on VLC2 on 9680 kHz soon after this unique radio transmitter was inaugurated back in the year 1944.

Scientists Create Missing Fourth Circuit Element - The Memristor

- Researchers at HP Labs have built the first working prototypes of an important new electronic component that may lead to instant-on PCs as well as analog computers that process information the way the human brain does.
- The new component is called a memristor, or memory resistor. Up until today, the circuit element had only been described in a series of mathematical equations written by Leon Chua, who in 1971 was an engineering student studying non-linear circuits. Chua knew the circuit element should exist -- he even accurately outlined its properties and how it would work. Unfortunately, neither he nor the rest of the engineering community could come up with a physical manifestation that matched his mathematical expression.
- Thirty-seven years later, a group of scientists from HP Labs has finally built real working memristors, thus adding a fourth basic circuit element to electrical circuit theory, one that will join the three

better-known ones: the capacitor, resistor and the inductor.

- Researchers believe the discovery will pave the way for instant-on PCs, more energy-efficient computers, and new analog computers that can process and associate information in a manner similar to that of the human brain.
- Ultimately, the problem is going to be related to the time and effort involved in designing a memristor circuit, "The money invested in circuit design is actually much larger than building fabs. In fact, you can use any fab to make these things right now, but somebody also has to design the circuits and there's currently no memristor model. The key is going to be getting the necessary tools out into the community and finding a niche application for memristors. How long this will take is more of a business decision than a technological one."

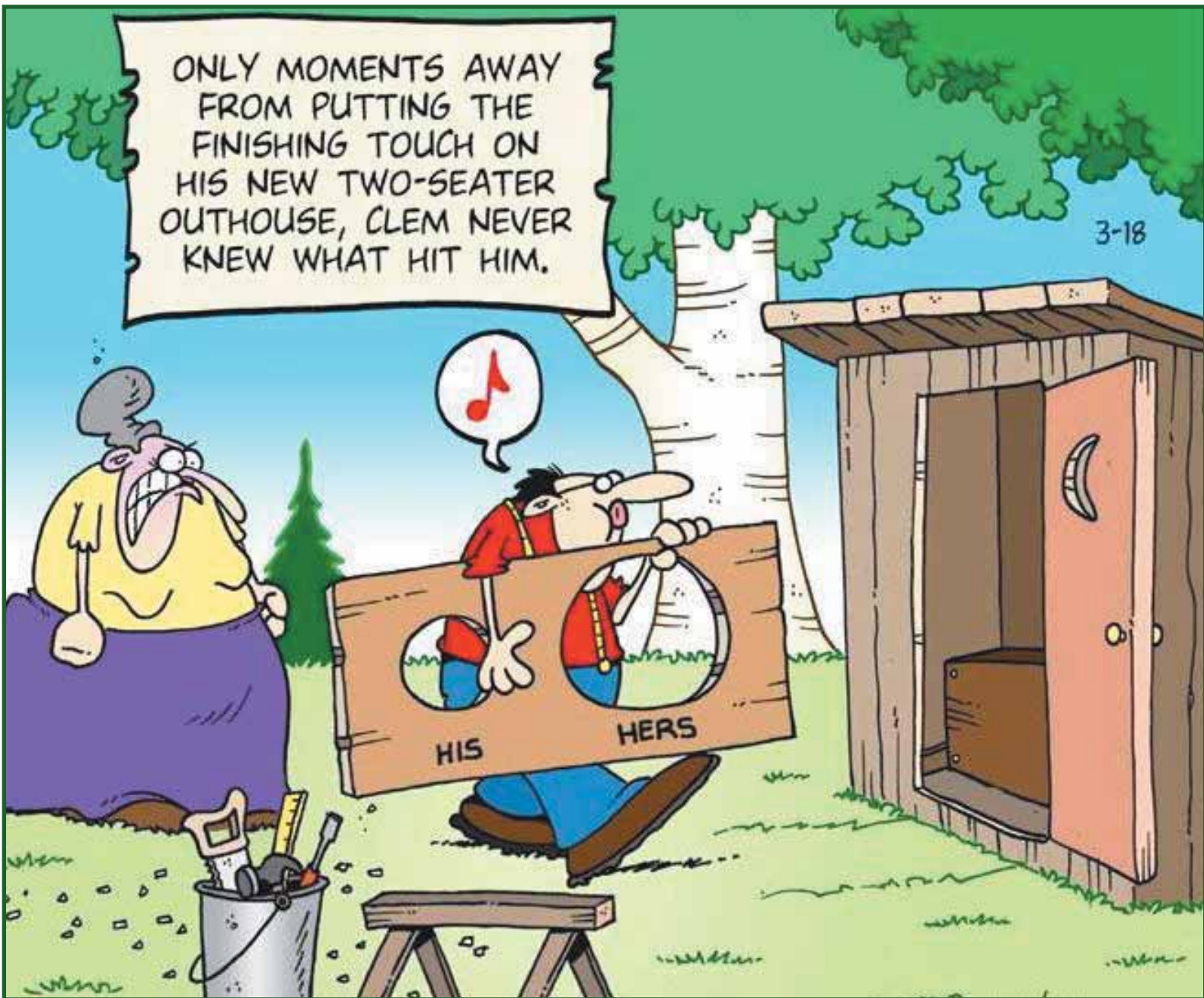
Source: <http://www.neowin.net>

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT



Above Pictures: Roger UK2RO doing some maintenance on the 40m beam at his home on Saturday 10th May 2008. With the aid of a Cherry Picker Roger was able to make this a safe task. Bottom Right: Aerial view of Rogers Home from atop the 40m Beam.

If you have anything you would like included in the SADARC Newsletter then please email it to newsletter@sadarc.org or post it to:
Newsletter Editor
 PO Box 362,
 Cobram
 Victoria 3644,
 Australia



Are you smarter than a 5th grader?

The challenge is on!

This is a real 5th grade math problem. If you can open the spreadsheet, you'll see that only a small list of people (older than 5th graders) have gotten the correct answer. This is not a trick question.

This is a real math problem so don't say that a bus has no legs.

There are 7 girls in a bus.

Each girl has 7 backpacks.

In each backpack, there are 7 big cats.

For every big cat, there are 7 little cats.

Question: How many legs are there in the bus?

If you can solve this math problem email your answer to newsletter@sadarc.org or post them to Newsletter PO Box 362, Cobram, 3644 and i will publish the correct answer in next months newsletter.

BREAKING NEWS

CHARGES DROPPED AFTER WITNESS COMES FORWARD

MAY 15th 2008 - 12:37 PM:
Miss G. Locks has been released from Police custody after a witness came forward and gave a far more accurate account of the events involving the Bear Family. The witness, who is only known as Mummy Bear told Police that Baby Bear had gone downstairs, sat in his small chair at the table, he looked into his small bowl. It is empty. 'Who's been eating my porridge?' he squeaked. Daddy Bear arrived at the big table and sat in his big chair. He to looked into his big bowl and it was also empty. 'Who's been eating my porridge?!?' he roared. Mummy Bear said she put her head through the serving hatch from the kitchen and yelled, 'For God's sake, how many times do I have to go through this with you



PICTURE: The Bear Family. BACK Left: Daddy Bear, Right: Mummy Bear & Baby Bear in front.

‘WHO’S BEEN EATING MY PORRIDGE?’

idiots? It was Mummy Bear who got up first It was Mummy Bear who woke everyone in the house. It was Mummy Bear who made the coffee. It was Mummy Bear who unloaded the dishwasher from last night and put everything away. It was Mummy Bear who swept the floor in the kitchen. It was Mummy Bear who went out in the cold early morning air to fetch The newspaper and croissants. It was Mummy Bear who set the damn table. 'It was Mummy Bear who walked the bloody dog, cleaned the cat's litter tray, gave them their food, and refilled their water. 'And now that you've decided to drag your sorry bear-backsides downstairs and grace Mummy Bear with your grumpy presence, listen carefully, because I'm only going to say this once. 'I HAVEN'T MADE THE DAMN PORRIDGE YET!!!' Miss Locks was released without charge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Bruce Plowman VK3QC celebrated his 89th birthday on the 9th of May.
Many Happy Returns Bruce!**

SWAN HILL TRIP

18-20th July, 2008

A Social & Relaxing Weekend.

Cabin accommodation is available also powered and un-powered sites for the campers.

Please contact Roger VK2RO direct for any further information.