



Founded 1979 Incorporation No A6677 P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632

VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies

53.725MHz (1 Meg offset), **Operational.**

146.65MHz (600 kHz offset), **Off-air (being refurbished).**

438.2MHz (D-Star) **Off-air (to be re-installed).**

438.650MHz (7 MHz offset and 91.5 Hz tone access), **Operational.**

439.775MHz (5 MHz offset), **Operational.**

Access to most of the analogue repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise mute (less sensitive). Club Network informal on air get togethers - Wednesday evenings. All welcome. Club call sign VK3SOL:-
2mx repeater 8.00pm (**On 146.850 MHz at the moment**), 3.63 MHz \pm interference 8.30pm.
Meetings are held at 1 pm on the first Saturday of the month (except January when no meeting occurs) at the Mooroopna Scout/Guide Hall off Echuca Road, Mooroopna. Variations in these times, days and location are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

Website – www.sadarc.org Face book - www.facebook.com/sadarc.org Info for page contact Denny on denny3782@gmail.com

The local vintage radio club has a get together at 11.00am of a Sunday on the 2 metre repeater. Many of their club members are members of SADARC too, so join in for a chat.

The following repeaters do not belong to our club but provide good signals for many members.

Mount Major VK3RDU repeaters and TX operating frequencies, 146.850 MHz and 439.875 MHz

UHF CB Repeater Mt Wombat Channels 3- 33

21/5/2018

DISCLAIMER. No guarantee is given as to the accuracy of information in this newsletter. Warning: - There is a danger of electrocution or injury when working on electrical/radio gear or working at heights doing antenna work. You do so at your own risk.

President:- Peter Rentsch

VK3FPSR

pages.cobram@bigpond.com

Secretary:- Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

andyashley@icloud.com

Vice-President:- Barrie Halliday

VK3KBY

Treasurer & Webmaster:- Graeme Martin ,

VK3FCVT

biftek@gmail.com

Membership Sec: - Pat O'Shannessy

VK3OV

Station Manager: - Vacant

Publicity Officer: - Vacant

Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNF) 0427 715 663 & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson

Technical Committee: - Phil VK3ELV, Ray VK3RW, Geoff VK3ZNA, Kevin VK3BPH & Rodney VK3UG

Newsletter:- Rodney VK3UG (Editor) rodlynn6@bigpond.com Peter & Andy (Printing/ Distribution)

Presidents Report May 2018

Thanks to those who made the effort to attend our May meeting. A smaller gathering than normal but a quality bunch! A BBQ was enjoyed by all and Bruce VK3PNG as per normal did a great job of cooking. Bruce is a great asset to our Club and works tirelessly for us and Amateur Radio. So Bruce, a special thanks from me and all the Club for what you do for the group.

As we had no guest speaker Graham, VK3PGK showed us his “Radio in a Box”. This was a fine piece of craftsmanship from Graeme, very compact, well thought out and easy to set up very quickly. He even thought to put a light in the lid for night time operation.

Due to the fact that we are finding it difficult to attract or locate Guest Speakers Andy VK3AJA suggested that we nominate a member to give us a talk for a few minutes on their life. As Andy suggested it he volunteered to be the first cab of the rank. So, what’s involved? In simple terms we would like a brief, 5-10 minutes biographical talk by those members who are willing to do so. Such things as the jobs you have had, your hobbies apart from Amateur Radio, any areas of Amateur Radio that you are particularly interested in, what sparked your entry into Amateur Radio and your introduction to electronics.

As part of strategy to the Council to obtain a permanent home we promote ourselves as a “Men’s Shed” style of group with a common interest in Amateur Radio and Electronics. A role of the Men’s Shed is to create a support structure for us as people. If we know a little more about somebody it is much easier to create conversation, hence let’s not be backward in coming forward and volunteer to tell us a little about yourself. (Did you know one of Andy’s jobs was delivering B Double loads of Carrots – he will tell you more!)

As BBQ’s are a great way to chat about our latest project I thought we would do that again this month to catch up on what’s happening.

So, our next meeting will be a BBQ starting at 11.00AM followed by our regular meeting at 1.00PM.

That’s it for me for this month.

Till next time,

Cheers & 73

Peter – VK3FPSR
President – SADARC

Calendar of Events

June 2nd – BBQ at 11.00 am followed by our regular meeting

June 9 & 10 – Steam Rally in Echuca – coordinator Bruce VK3PNG

July 7th – Regular Meeting at Mooroopna 1.00pm (note President Peter will be away at GippsTech)

August 4th - Regular Meeting – start to finalise Hamfest

SADARC Meeting minutes 5 May 2018 1:00 Pm

In attendance: VK3AJA Andy, VK3FSPR Peter, VK3FCVT Graeme, VK3PXJ John, VK3PNG Bruce, VK3HEN Darren, VK3PGK Graeme, VK3ZE Huntly, VK3UG Rodney, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3OV Pat, VK3DSF Max, VK3COP Ron, VK3KJB John, (May of missed some my apologies)

Apologies: VK3KBY Barrie. VK3KMF Mark, VK3FALN Alan, VK3KJB John, VK3AO Alan, VK3FCVT Graeme (Had to leave early)

Correspondance:

In. Bill for PO Box (Paid), QSL cards. Membership forms.

Out. None

Min. last meeting; ready By Peter moved by Graeme, Second Bruce.
Peter spoke about Ray Gardiner. Club to vote for permission to install his small antenna on Hut.
All voted in favour. Moved by Geoff, second by Ron.

Reports:

Financial; ready By Peter (Graeme could not stay). Moved by Rodney, Second John.

Technical; Rodney/Geoff. Moved by Huntly, Second Kevin.

General Business;

Bruce mentioned the Murray quad, Cycle leg has been removed, more info to follow.
SADARC still required.

Hamfest; Pat says booked hall.

Steam Rally; Bruce says all ready to go.

The Club wished Max (VK3DSF) Happy birthday!

Andy suggested a 15 min. talk from Members on how they got interested in Amateur Radio.

Guest speaker Graeme (VK3PGK) demonstrated His portable HF gear and talked about portable antennas.

Meeting Close. 1:57 Pm.

Communication Events 2018

The first communications event we are taking part in this year is the Echuca Vintage Steam and Horse Rally on the Saturday the 9th.and Sunday 10th. of the Queen's Birthday weekend in June. This is the third time we have put on a display of working amateur radio and vintage radios supplied by the Vintage Radio Club at this Steam Rally organised each year by the Echuca/Moama Rotary Club. We have many ex and current amateur radio operators and others who call in to enquire about amateur radio or just to look at the vintage radios on display. This is a relaxing social outing giving us a chance to showcase amateur radio. Each year about 10,000 visitors attend this event. . (A number of **SADARC** members are also members of the **Vintage Radio**

Club, so if you are a Vintage Radio club member and can help on the weekend give Bruce a ring on 0427 715 663. Bruce has contacted the Vintage Radio Club. Ed)

There are **some** passes available for any members who wish to attend; these passes can be picked up at the **North** gate after contacting Bruce on arrival on 0427 715 663 or call our site on simplex 146.500 and someone will meet you at this gate with the passes.

Information from the Rally Organisers. - FRIDAY/SATURDAY/SUNDAY

All exhibitors (**including cars**) and stall holders are to enter through the Northern Highway (**South**) Gate only. You can walk in via the North gate after you have received your pass. Only two of our cars are allowed on our site and they must enter via the **SOUTH** Gate.

Last year we assisted the organisers of the Multi Sports Festival Triathlon by setting up a communications network to cover this event. Final preparations are not concluded for this event but Tim believes we will be asked to attend again this year on Saturday the 20th of October. We require 5 or 6 Radio operators for this. For this event we use two meter simplex 146.500 and the 70 cm. Yarrawonga repeaters 439.650 with a tone of 123Hz. This is an easy event regards communications as we don't have to cover a huge distance.

The other event we have assisted with is the Murray Quad held in November. We are not sure of the format this year as Tim Roadley is working on some changes to this event to cater more for the canoe enthusiast. The proposed canoe part of this event will be held on the Saturday starting at 3pm. from Cobram to Tocumwal requiring five radio operators. There will be no cycle or swimming events this year but a foot race will be held on the Sunday, the foot race part of this event will require only three radio operators.

More about this event at a later date.

Bruce VK3PNG. Darren VK3HEN.

Editors Ramblings

- After our BBQ at the last meeting the meeting itself looked like being a very short affair. However Graeme VK3PGK stepped into the breach at very short notice and gave us a talk/display of his portable amateur radio station. Graeme has submitted a short story of his station and its evolution – which is continuing. That is shown elsewhere in the newsletter. Thanks Graeme.
- We have been wondering where David Voight has been in recent times and found out at our meeting that he has spent quite some time recuperating from a motorbike accident. We wish you continuing return to good health.
- Ray VK3YNV's proposal for a TTN gateway on Mt Wombat was discussed in an earlier meeting and information was supplied in our last newsletter about what it is and can do. Members agreed that Ray's concept was a positive concept and should go ahead. It's now up to Ray and the technical committee to work on this.
- Negotiations are happening to obtain the necessary internet connections for both the TTN, DMR and D-Star systems. So although some activities appear to be taking a long while up on the repeater site many things are going on behind the scenes and many projects may come into being within a short time frame of each other.
- Apologies to members who get their newsletter by post and didn't receive theirs until after the last meeting. That is my fault as I had expected some special information that I wanted to put in that

newsletter. I held off sending the newsletter to Peter for as long as I dared but the information didn't arrive.

- The 6 metre repeater works well with a good mobile antenna and reasonable power in Myrtleford and from around Barnawartha towards Melbourne along the highway. Going further east performance is only available from isolated high points. A weak signal was obtained from on top of Mt Mittamatite which is 211 km away from Mt Wombat. A report has also been received that the repeater can't be accessed in Melbourne since the new antenna system was installed. Later on tests will be done to assess the overall performance of the repeater with the new antenna system. From reports it would seem the pattern is a little more "lumpy" than we had planned.
- Things are slowly happening on Mt Wombat. The 5 MHz split analog repeater is back on air. It doesn't have the performance of the 7 MHz split analog repeater. The power is lower and possibly the antenna is lower in performance too – each contributing to the poorer performance. The cavities in use now are a newer type and more suited to bringing the site up to near commercial standard. Further work will be done on this repeater as time allows as we want to put IRLP onto it.
- The DC controller wiring and switching is now complete. This work will allow us to switch power supplies quickly and also minimise likelihood of lightning strikes nearby putting us off air for long.
- All antennas have been visually inspected and appear in good order, except that the standby 6 m antenna direction had moved. This has been corrected and bracing of the antennas on the hut completed. The above three items completed on 17/5/2018.
- Whilst on Mt Wombat the Mt William 53.650 MHz repeater was heard at good strength and accessed all day. VK3RAD on 53.675 MHz was also heard at very good signal strengths all day but it appears to have a de-sensing problem as no contacts could be made through it. It is licensed to be in Mitcham. It could be heard right down to Euroa.

Short Wave Radio – What's Happening?

5055 kHz.

This station is run in parallel with 4KZ on 531 kHz with the same program. Currently it is running around 300 watts but expects to be running 1 Kw soon. Its antenna system is an inverted V at around 14 metre. The area which they are endeavouring to cover is Cape York Peninsular and the Northern Coral Sea. If you would like a QSL card for a correct report of program and strength email g@nqradi.com.au . Al Kirton is the brains behind the establishment of this station.

4835 kHz

This station called Ozy Radio is located near Camden in NSW, runs 1kw to an inverted V antenna. Tecsun Radio have info on this station.

Garry and Michael of Tecsun Radios Australia, provided the information below. If you wish to contact them for more info either about short wave radio or their products contact them on hello@tecsunradios.com.au or www.tecsunradios.com.au

Shortwave Radio is 'everywhere'.

Natural Disaster is often unpredictable, yet life threatening and devastating. Papua New Guinea (PNG), Tonga and Vanuatu, have all experienced trauma through natural disasters this year. Papua New Guinea experienced a 7.5 magnitude earthquake and Tonga and Vanuatu enduring cyclones, Cyclone Gita and Hola respectively. It is crucial during times like these that there is effective, efficient communication that enables residents to gain both local and international news, informing all individuals of the most current and up to date situation. To prevent a delay in action following the natural disaster, ensure you are equipped with adequate forms of communication.

[Tecsun Radios Australia](#), actively promotes the continued accessibility of Shortwave Radio, where it primarily forms and lays the foundation of communication in both rural and developing countries. In essence, it is through the availability of Shortwave Radio, that these isolated locations remain informed of the world they live in and that which surrounds them.

Shortwave Radio is an effective radio form that allows you to actively listen to world events from differing perspectives, where news items are normally broadcast in real time to provide all listeners with accurate information. Shortwave will allow you to stay informed during times like natural disaster, where power related infrastructure is inevitably destroyed and unable to be utilised. Whilst a large proportion of Short-wave Radio is broadcast using English as their primary language, few short-wave radios broadcast in a foreign language. By engaging with and diversifying the production of radio through a foreign language, a larger target market is developed, establishing a greater audience.

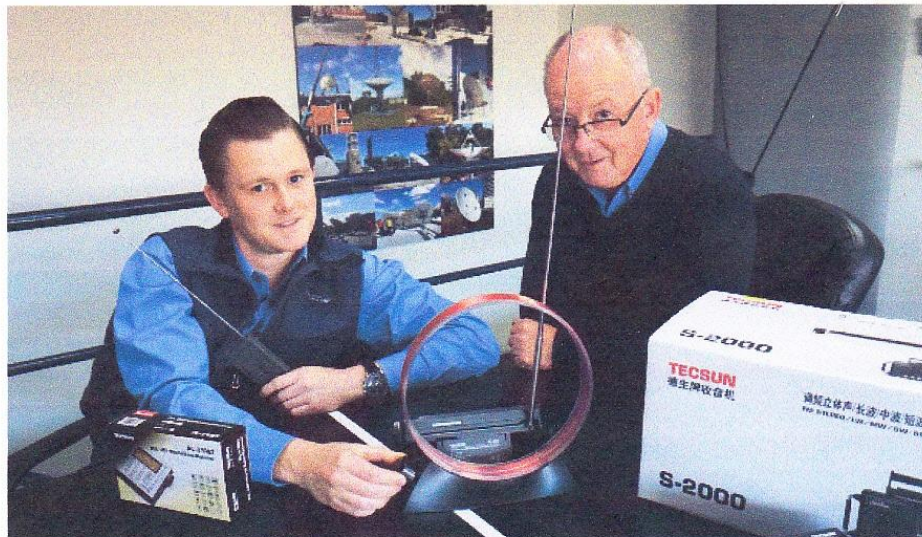


A mobile phone and communications tower located in Vanuatu, damaged by one of this years cyclones. Image by: dailypost.vu

Recently, funding by the ABC towards Shortwave Radio, was in contention as "The ABC ceased its domestic shortwave broadcasting services to the Northern Territory and international shortwave services to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific." Although and whilst it can be argued that an ever-growing proportion of individuals in the Pacific and Rural Australia increasingly have access to the use of mobile devices, it is vital that in times of devastation, they have an effective, reliable and efficient form of communication. The breadth of reach that Shortwave Radio penetrated in the Northern Territory is enhanced where the "three transmission sites across the Territory, at Roe Creek (Alice Springs), Tennant Creek and Katherine, covered approximately 74% of the Northern Territory Population." Discussion and Opposition towards the cessation of Shortwave Radio was promulgated by varying individual organisations, companies and politicians, where Nick Xenophon argues that the ABC is "ignoring the bush and Australia's neighbours," and that Shortwave Radio is a "form of soft diplomacy that is very effective, where it wins the hearts and minds in the region," and without shortwave radio, Australians in remote communities are left isolated.

However, the [recent funding cuts of Shortwave Radio, by DFAT and subsequently the ABC](#), have been combated by the establishment of [Ozy Radio](#), which currently broadcasts on 4835 kHz. Tecsun Radios, supports Ozy Radio, where both Tecsun Radios and Ozy Radio are aware of the life changing impact that Shortwave Radio can have in informing individuals who may be isolated from the adequate infrastructure that can transmit much of the information heard by society today, whether this be for individuals living in remote areas, or for individuals to utilise during and after a natural disaster.

Following the earthquake which struck PNG on February 25, the director of PNG's National Disaster Centre Martin Mose stated "communication networks were down and that was making it hard to assess the impact of the earthquake." The anger penetrating from the residents of PNG stems primarily from the lack of information and adequate communication resources, which alongside the damage is ultimately "paralysing whole communities".



Garry and Michael make up the father-son team.

[Click to out more about our family-owned, Aussie business.](#)

The Portable Yaesu FT-891 project.



I was looking at ways I could operate portable without having to carry all the gear I needed in separate bags and containers. I looked at several setups on You Tube and I noticed that a lot of Amateur Radio operators were using the Pelican type boxes, so I settled upon using one of these myself. Now most of the Amateurs that were using these boxes were just carrying loose items in them and removed the items to set up their stations. This I thought was time consuming so I set about planning a station that would be contained fully in the Pelican box. The radio I settled on was the Yaesu FT-891, all HF bands and 6 metres with 100 watts. I ordered it with the separation kit and the Yaesu FC-50 antenna tuner which was built especially for the FT- 891. Although I haven't had to use it as most my antennas are resonant on their respective bands. The battery is an AGM deep cycle 12 volt 18 amp hour which is more than enough for at least 8 hours of operation on 10 watts and I also have foldable 120 watt solar panels to extend the use if needed. The battery is concealed under the bread board panel which on the left of the photo, the solar Anderson plug connection is on the top of the panel and the separated front panel of the radio sits on a bed of Velcro, when not in use the front panel fits under the bread board as does the microphone. In the lid is a 24 hour clock, a LED light for night use and a Watt meter to monitor voltage and power use. There is a SO 239 socket on the back of the box for antenna connection as well. It is a very compact setup but very easy to use and a little heavy to lug around but it is meant to be carried in my vehicle for use at parks where there is picnic tables or my portable table. My antennas are all homemade dipoles for 6 metres, 10 m, 15 m, 20 m, 40 m and an 80 metre end fed which is under construction at time of this article. I have had a lot of success with contacts on mainly 20 metres and 40 metres so far but it is early days yet as this is a very new setup and still an ongoing project.

Cheers and 73, Graeme VK3PGK