



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

**VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies**

53.725MHz (-1 MHz offset), **In Service**

146.65MHz (-600 kHz offset), **In Service**

438.2MHz (-7 MHz - offset -D-Star), **In Service**

438.650MHz (-7 MHz offset and 91.5 Hz tone access only), **In Service**

438.900MHz (-7 MHz offset- DMR repeater), **In Service**

439.775MHz (-5 MHz offset), **In Service, IRLP (node #6990)**

VK3RDS, 438.7625 MHz (-7 MHz offset DMR repeater) **Shepparton on test @ VK3YNV QTH**

Access to most analogue repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise/carrier mute (less sensitive).

Club informal on air get togethers - Wednesday evenings. All welcome. Club call sign VK3SOL:-

2mx repeater 8.00pm 146.650 MHz,

3.63 MHz SSB ± interference 8.30pm.

The vintage radio club have a sked at 11.00am Sunday on the 2 mx repeater.

Meetings occur on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am for informal chats and technical talks. A BBQ follows (a gold coin donation) then the business meeting at 1 pm (except January when no meeting occurs) at Vision Australia, Channel Road (just off the southern end of Archer Street), Shepparton.

Variations in these times, days and location are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

Website – [www.sadarc.org](http://www.sadarc.org) Face book - [www.facebook.com/sadarc.org](http://www.facebook.com/sadarc.org)

Info for the page contact - Denny French on [denny3782@gmail.com](mailto:denny3782@gmail.com)

Note: Want to get your licence? SADARC has examination assessors, contact the secretary for details.

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

Mount Major VK3RDU repeaters, TX operating frequencies, 146.850 MHz and 439.875 MHz  
UHF CB Repeater WBT03 Mt Wombat Channels 3- 33, 476.475 MHz, **In Service** 26/11/2019

**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

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Secretary: - Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

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VK3ZNA

Vice-President: - Barrie Halliday

VK3KBY

Treasurer: -Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

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Membership Sec: - Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

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Webmaster: - Ray Gardner [ray@etheira.net](mailto:ray@etheira.net)

VK3YNV

Publicity Officer: - Vacant

Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNG) 0427 715 663 & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson

Tech. Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Josh Gardner & Rodney VK3UG – with power to co-opt.

Newsletter: - Rodney VK3UG (Editor) [rodlynn6@bigpond.com](mailto:rodlynn6@bigpond.com)

Peter & Andy (Printing/ Distribution)

## Presidents Report November 2019.

Even though it was Melbourne Cup Weekend we still had a very good roll up. Thank you to all those who continually make the effort to attend.

A brief report this time just to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and safe New Year from Karen and myself. Another year is passed and I remember thinking at the start of the year I hope it will be less dramatic than the year prior. This was not to happen but we have nearly made to Christmas so all is well.

I really am enjoying the Digital Modes and making lots of contacts all throughout the world. For those that have not got involved Jason VK3FNQS will do a presentation at our next meeting in February on some of the new modes, he, as an F Call can now use. Jason is very active on some of these modes and is well known by many operators.

That's it for this month, have a good Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all on the 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Royal Mail in Mooroopna.

Peter – VK3FPSR  
President – SADARC

Calendar

**7<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch – Royal Mail Hotel – MOOROOPNA**

1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 – Doors open at 10.00am for Coffee followed by a BBQ and Meeting at 1.00pm with guest speaker on Digital Modes.

7<sup>th</sup> March – Meeting at the usual location

## SADARC MEETING 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2019

Club rooms, Shepparton.

Meeting started 1:55 pm

Apologies; VK3KBY Barrie, VK3FALN Alan, VK3EB Dallas, VK3FDV David, VK3NQS Colin, VK3PGK Graeme, VK3ECH Rob, VK3PNG Bruce.

In attendance; VK3AJA Andy, VK3TE Peter, VK3LJB Jan, VK3TJSJacek, VK3ZYZ Denys, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3TYT Ian, VK3FTRK Geoff, VK3ZE Huntly, Bill C. VK3AFD Arthur, VK3BF Alan, VK3FSPR Peter, VK3UG Rodney, VK3FNQS Jason, VK3TEX Les, VK3ELV Phil, VK3YNV Ray, Josh G. VK3ASK Peter, Stevo, VK3OV Pat, VK3ZNA Geoff.

Minutes of last meeting; Read by Peter.

Moved by Rodney, Second by Peter S, all in favour.

In; Membership forms.

Out; None

Financial Report; ready by Andy, Moved by Les, second by Jacek. All in favour.

Technical; Read by Rodney, spoke about antenna system on Mt. Wombat.  
Ray also spoke about possible changes to antenna regarding coverage.  
New VK3RDS DMR repeater is up and running, will be on Geoff's tower soon  
Moved by Kevin, second Jason. All in favour.

General Business;

Andy mentioned Geoff R now has VK3FTRK and is joined the Amateur Radio world!

Andy mentioned JOTA

Xmas lunch booked for Royal Mail Hotel Mooroopna @ 12 ish till 3 Pm.

Rodney spoke about the Tesla electric car day at Markwood.

The quiz was passed around ..... Josh was the winner!

Denys had his 15 min of fame!

Interesting as always!

He has nominated.... Stuart VK3PR.

Meeting ended 1:46 pm

Guest speaker Peter VK3TE, on DMR

### **MURRAY QUAD 2019**

Preparations are well on the way for the running of this now annual Murray Quad. SADARC have been included in the communications Management Plan since the first Murray Quad was held several years ago and have been invited to assist once again this year.

This year it will be run on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup>, of November and Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup>. of December. The format will be much the same this year as last year; we will meet at the Tocumwal Town beach sometime around noon for our check point allocations and instructions for the Sunday. The canoe section will start at Thompsons Beach Cobram at 2pm. on the Saturday, the last canoe should arrive at the finish at Tocumwal at around 6pm. Five radio operators will be required for this event on the Saturday.

Upon the completion of the canoe event we will travel to the Rowing Club venue at Yarrawonga ready to set up comms. for the Sunday.

On the Saturday evening any members of SARARC assisting at this event are welcome to set up camp at the Rowing club for the night. There will be a BYO BBQ soon after setting up camp. Only three radio operators will be required for the foot race starting at 7am. On the Sunday.

Some of us will arrive at Tocumwal on the Friday prior and will monitor 146.500 until the start of the event.

Tim Roadley and the Murray Quad Event Management team wish to thank those members of SADARC who are once again assisting the community in the running of this event. We have the required amount of SADARC members for this event but if any other members wish to come along they will be most welcome.

Bruce VK3PNG and Darren VK3HEN,

Any queries call Bruce VK3PNG on 0427715663. Darren VK3HEN on 58521092 or Andy VK3AJA on 0409 716713

Email [bnglasson @bigpond.com](mailto:bnglasson@bigpond.com).

## For Sale

TH6DXX 3 band antenna, 30 yr old, normal wear and tear. Dismantles into pieces about 6' long. \$150.

Huntly Vroland VK3ZE 03 5831 1630

## Getting on 70 cm

My old 40 year old 2M J-Pole was kicking about unused, so here is the mod it did to it.

I just added a 70CM radiator. It is 171mm long. This was just moved in and out a bit and the VSWR tested. No doubt it could be better, but now I have a dual band vertical on the roof of the house.

It is not as good as it was on 2M but now I have 1.5:1 on 2M and 1.1:1 on 70CM. That is good enough. It took me a lot longer to mount it and run the cable than to do the mod.

I wonder how many others have an old 2M J-Pole that would be ready for a simple dual band mod?

Denys.VK3ZYZ



Adjusting the dual band J Pole



2mx J pole before modification

If you have any queries about the antenna and its construction, please see Denys who will be able to explain what he did and how if it isn't clear. A cheap way to go dual band (Ed)





**The duo band J pole on the roof**



**Antenna matching shown**

## **Vale**

It is with sadness that we report that Myrtle, Bruce Glasson's wife passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> October leaving a big hole in the lives of Bruce and the family. We became aware of Myrtle's passing just after the last newsletter had been sent out. Fortunately Andy was able to email members promptly and all bar the members who get the newsletter by mail received the news. Our thoughts are with you Bruce and your family at this difficult time.

## **Editor's Ramblings**

- Congratulations to Geoff Russell who now has his Fundamental amateur licence call sign VK3FTRK. Have you worn out the electrons in the transceiver yet?
- This is a good time to remind others that either consider getting an amateur licence or upgrading your licence. Contact Andy VK3AJA, Geoff VK3ZNA, Huntly VK3ZE and Alan VK3AO if you would like to do some swat over the forthcoming holiday season prior going for your ticket.
- Remember Andy's tuitionals around 10am on club meeting days on various aspects of improving your knowledge either to upgrade your licence or just to refresh your knowledge.

- Morse tuition also occurs around 11 am on club meeting days with around four members endeavouring to improve their ability with this **digital mode**, whether it with sending and receiving techniques or how to get practice to improve speeds. Peoples ability in becoming proficient with this mode is variable, some find it easy some not so easy. With perseverance operators can really find a sense of achievement using this mode.
- Denys VK3ZYZ gave us a blow by blow description of his radio life in the regular tells us about your radio life segment at the club at the last meeting. Most interesting.
- Jason will be doing a talk on IRLP and Echo Link, etc. That should be interesting I need to know more.
- Andy VK3AJA was involved with the South Shepparton Girl Guides on Jamboree of the Air. There weren't many involved but Andy said it was a worthwhile time for all concerned.
- A number of the members travelled to the Markwood Estate on 26<sup>th</sup> October to see and hear about Tesla electric cars. There were two Tesla cars there. Several members had a ride in the latest Tesla. It does take off something like a jet passenger aircraft without any of the noise – completely silent.
- Information is sketchy, but it would appear that The Radio Australia site has been sold to a consortium of locals. When we know more of the facts and not conjecture we'll let you know.
- **Remember our next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December our end of year meeting is at the Royal Mail Hotel alongside the Ridley silos in Mooroopna. Arrive when you like but around 12 noon sounds good for an end of year meal with our Vintage Radio Club friends. Andy has asked that we have the back room for our meal. This is just a social day with our wives, friends, and family.**
- Our first meeting of 2020 will be on 1st February 2020.
- News and articles are always welcome for the newsletter. I have one or two in the pipeline but I always welcome more. Some get published quickly others not so quickly.
- Have members forgotten that several years ago we were given thousands of older type power and small signal transistors both silicon and germanium that are available for free. Some members have taken advantage of this but most haven't. Contact Rodney VK3UG.
- Peter our president has had trouble sending emails to members who are with bigpond, hopefully why this is happening Peter will find out soon.

## Repeater News

**(We will need members' assistance to do some of the work envisaged below)**

- I had to leave the last meeting early but the club was privileged to have Peter Brennan VK3TE give a talk about Digital Mobile Radio (DMR). We have a new DMR repeater on test at the moment with about a 10 km range. It will be located permanently on Geoff VK3ZNA's tower in Shepparton and that will give increased range. The 6 metre repeater was initially tested on Geoff's tower a few years back. **See newsletter header page.**
- Since the installation of the new tower and some new equipment on our repeater site on Mt Wombat, some of the expected performance improvements have not been quite as expected.
- For example I could go to nearly bear's Lagoon to the West and still trigger the 6 metre repeater and no further. Now I cannot get this far and lose the repeater about 20 km closer to the repeater – disappointing. However, although this is occurring I can access the repeater on the rise out of Borung and also at Buckrabanyule with a weak but useable signal. Previously I couldn't key the repeater before in those locations. The distance to Buckrabanyule is 200 kilometres.



- Some have said that the 6 metre repeater is not good down to the South towards Melbourne, which is one of the areas we hoped the new antenna system would improve performance.
- With the 2 metre repeater the performance is the reverse of the 6 metre repeater with a range extending out to near Bear's Lagoon with a good performance range of at least 20 kilometres greater than before.
- We have at least two antennas on Mt Wombat so that we can select on both 6 metres and 2 metres so we can do comparative tests. Therefore, we hope later on to do some tests to ascertain why the anomalies are occurring that we had not expected. We can swap antennas with a couple of the technical committee doing that work at the repeater site with members of the club spaced around our expected coverage area who can tell us what the performance is with the alternate antenna systems in use. We will endeavour to let members know when we know we can do these series of tests and do them in a variety of directions from Mt Wombat. We may need members with mobile phones and reception on them to set up some of the tests.
- Once this has been done and it has been worked out by Geoff VK3ZNA and Phil VK3ELV we will endeavour to do any changes we think will need doing on the set up of the antennas on the tower at the same time as the 2 metre antenna is being replaced.
- The increased use of the UHF repeaters both analog and digital is showing up supply voltage drops when all the repeaters are on transmit at the same time. This can cause short term drop outs of non-essential services. The best method to overcome this is being investigated.

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Some of our members enjoying last years end of year celebration at the Royal Mail hotel.