



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 Face book - www.facebook.com/sadarc.org

Info for the page contact - Denny French on 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** 20/1/2020

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

Secretary: - Andy Ashley

Assistant Secretary: - Geoff Angus

Vice-President: - Barrie Halliday

Treasurer: -Andy Ashley

Membership Sec: - Andy Ashley

Webmaster: - Ray Gardner ray@etheira.net

VK3FPSR

VK3AJA

VK3ZNA

VK3KBY

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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 Peter & Andy (Printing/Distribution)

A new service from Radio Australia Shepparton

No, it is not a **Radio Australia** service, but a unique opportunity that we as amateurs have been given to use the site and its antennas for a short period. Rex James, VK3OF, has been negotiating with BAI (formally Broadcast Australia) and has been granted approval nominally for the weekend of 14th and 15th March.

The opportunity to use a magnificent antenna system with gains from some antennas of up to 20 dB with our current amateur power levels will give effective radiated power (ERP) in a favoured direction of 40 kW. If as has been mentioned the amateur service may get an upgrade in power for advanced licensees this may well give us 100 kW ERP capability by the event dates. The event will be restricted to the use of one service on antennas that suit amateur bands. We would only be able to operate on bands 7, 10, 14, 18 and 21 MHz. One of the rhombics may be able to be used on 3.5 MHz. Some antennas are broadband but whether that means broadband within International Broadcasting bands only or not is yet to be determined. There are 13 antennas 2 – terminated Rhombics, 5 - broad band antennas and 6 – narrow band antennas. The antenna bore sites range from North West through North to nearly due East. The antenna slewing system (electronically changes beam direction by a preset numbers of degrees) will not be available, unfortunately.

I do know that 7 MHz is feasible as one frequency used by Radio Australia was 7.24 MHz. The 21 MHz narrow band antenna will work on our band. The Radio Australia 21.725 MHz frequency works well but due to a problem at one time with a digital divider frequency control circuit 21.325 MHz (within the amateur band) was accidentally transmitted for a short period. Our reception from the antenna system will also be enhanced as much as for transmissions.

Only six people will be allowed on site (excluding BAI staff) at any one time so shifts will need to be organised so that a reasonable number of people get an opportunity to operate the station. If you are interested in being involved in some way contact Peter VK3FPSR as soon as practical. A special call sign is being sought to use during this important event. There will be an on-line registration system set up and details will be announced via the club website when ready.

Members of SADARCs committee, Rex James and other folk involved with this and other aspects of the sites future met on Sunday 12th at Ray's home to discuss what has to be done to really get this on the road. Some things are still in confidence and are being negotiated so we can't really tell you much more. Without Rex's and Joe's (one of the anonymous folk involved) input this would be unlikely to get off the ground. This whole exciting project will be discussed in much more detail at the next meeting on 1st February.

Rodney Champness VK3UG

Presidents Report December/January 2020

Karen and I hope all you has a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our Christmas was a great time to catch up with family both locally and overseas. We did not do any overseas travel, they came and saw us and stayed for a few days. It is a good time to catch up with family at Christmas and it gives us a reason to do so.

We also have our larger “family” of Radio friends which we speak to with frequent irregularity. Late last year we lost one of our long term Radio friends in the passing of Ron Burns VK3COP. Ron had been a long term member of the Club and as he was a member well prior to me joining I cannot say how long ago he actually joined. I do personally remember presenting Ron with his Life Membership of SADARC a few years ago and at that time it nearly brought Ron to tears. He was a great advocate for the Club and a great worker as well performing in the role of treasurer even after he turned 90. Farewell Ron and thank you for all your efforts.

Thank you to all those members of SADRC and the vintage who attended our Christmas Lunch. Every year it seems to get bigger and this year was no exception. It was good to see so many partners there as well to enjoy the day.

While we have been enjoying our Summer break other events have been occurring in the background. Many of you may have heard the Radio Australia Shepparton site has been sold and this is leading to the Club having some opportunities to advance Amateur Radio locally, nationally and internationally.

The Executive and the Technical Committee have been involved in some negotiations with current RA staff and after being approached by them to help them operate a special event station on the weekend of the 14th and 15th March we have agreed to do so. Rodney in his report has explained in greater detail what is going to occur.

Effectively a Special Event Station will be set up from the Radio Australia site which will allow six operators in the operations area at any one time. This will be managed by bookings that will be made prior to the event. It is envisaged that there will be a considerable number of Amateurs who will want to operate this one off station. Note, this is not a guided tour of the site; it is only an opportunity to operate from the site.

This is a great opportunity for the Club to promote both itself and amateur Radio in general. We will require many of our members to assist on the weekend so please make yourself available.

Other items associated with Radio Australia and its future and the possible Club involvement will be discussed at our next meeting.

That’s it for this month and I look forward to seeing you all on the 1st February for our usual BBQ followed by the meeting and guest speaker.

Cheers for now.

Peter Rentsch
President

CLUB CALLANDER

1st February 2020 – Doors open at 10.00am for Coffee followed by a BBQ and Meeting at 1.00pm with guest speaker Jason VK3FNQS on Digital Modes.

7th March – Meeting at the usual location. Final planning for the Special Event Station

4th April – Meeting at the usual location

End of year get together 7th Dec. at Royal Mail Hotel, Mooroopna, Noon to 3pm.

For the last few years both SADARC and the Vintage Radio Club have combined for an end of year lunch and chin wag at the Royal Mail Hotel. This year the numbers were up with just under 40 attending. Wives, girlfriends and family members attended giving them an opportunity to have a time discussing the antics of their amateur radio obsessed other half. Some things they approve of and other things they are less keen on.



Arthur VK3AFD and Eric VK3BXA in an in depth conversation on an important subject.



Recipients of achievement awards within the club for the year.

MURRAY QUAD 2019

Thank you Bruce.



Relaxing after the days work



Signing in or out!



Some competitors at the finish line.



Darren keeping an eye out for competitors

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

Max VK3DSF (SK) had about 15 vintage radios in his collection (as well as his amateur gear) and his son would like to get rid of them. They are not valuable and if you would like to put an offer in for one or more of them contact Geoff VK3ZNA geoff@vk3zna.net and he can send you photos of many of them.

Vintage battery radio power supply boards. These are designed to power virtually all models of battery and domestic vibrator sets from 1920s to 1970s. One board suits Mk Va supply and the other board suits the Mk VI supply. Tested and functioning, but do not include hardware, transformer or case. Information supplied. \$100 each plus postage, \$90 by hand at meetings. Rodney VK3UG rodlynn6@bigpond.com

Fitting out a vehicle for mobile and portable amateur radio operation.

Over the next few months there will be a series of articles on the above work. It is an excellent series and so that people can see physically what has been done the photos have been kept larger than I normally do. This month is the first segment. As Les would say this is one amateur's way at getting the vehicle set up properly for the intended purpose. The articles are a very good starting point. Talk with Les and look more closely at what he has done, you will learn a lot.

Mobile Radio Project Part 1:

Hi my name is Les, call sign is VK3TEX and the following series of articles will document the methods and equipment used to complete my HF/VHF/UHF mobile project.

HISTORY:

In 2018 I purchased for myself a Toyota Land cruiser 2006 model with a plan to outfit it as a camping and recreational vehicle including Amateur Radio mobile and also possibly portable operation.

So with the base model car, it was now the time to decide on what I wanted out of the HF radio setup. I looked at all the three manufacturers, and came up with 3 possible systems.

YAESU:

The logical choice for a mobile here was their latest offering which is the FT 891 mobile set. This is a nice little radio which has generally been well received by the Amateur population. It is reported to have some funny quirks with the menu system but ok in all. HF only, and no ATU and no VHF/UHF.

If I was to go down the Yaesu route, I would also need another VHF/UHF box to put in the vehicle, Thus complicating the install somewhat. The Yaesu also has the ATAS mobile antenna system which seems to be OK from some reports that I have heard from a user who has one.

I scratched the Yaesu off my list because I would need multiple boxes for the vehicle and decided I should try and keep everything simple and compact.

KENWOOD:

The Kenwood offering in the mobile department is the now ageing TS 480 series of radio which comes out in two versions, the SAT which produces 100 watts and has an in built antenna tuner and then we have the HX version which has 200 watts and draws approximately 40 plus amps on peak transmit, which is quite substantial. Either one still does not have VHF/UHF so I had to scratch the Kenwood from my list as well. Also there are no mobile factory options as far a mobile antenna systems are concerned and there is a rumour/truth that Kenwood is abandoning the Amateur marketplace in VK, with no further involvement in the not too distant future.... Not good....

So Sorry Kenwood, but you are off the list too....

ICOM:

The offering from ICOM in the mobile range is the IC-7100, which is a split unit with a control head and separate body, offering both HF and VHF/UHF and also Dstar, which the club now has its repeater up and running could come in handy. They also offer a mobile antenna solution, while expensive, it does come with a five year ICOM warranty and is very well built and sturdy.

So I decided to go the ICOM system and route, just because everything is in one compact box and I have had good luck over the years with ICOM products.

ANTENNA MOUNT/ BULL BAR:

But before I could even think about any radio's, I would need a sturdy platform to put them on and this called for a bull bar, which after lot's of looking around on the net I came across a nice alloy bull bar made by a company in Queensland called East Coast Bull Bars, and it's a great bar, adding Roo protection for the vehicle and doubling as a fantastic platform for mounting antenna's!

It's a full bar, very light weight and designed for this model Land Cruiser... You will see pictures of it In the following pages...

ANTENNA:

For the HF antenna I decided to go for the auto tuned whip that is produced by ICOM, the AH 740. It covers 2.5Mhz to 30Mhz with the supplied whip, and there is an option for an NVIS kit add on, but this was not considered at this point in time, because it's an added expense, and beyond my current budget for this project. For VHF/UHF I decided on the Diamond 770HB dual band vertical, a nice and sturdy antenna with 200 watt power capability and wide bandwidth.

RADIO:

I was fortunate to come across a used IC-7100 in the local area for sale, so I snapped it up. It has a separate head control unit and body, came with a hand mic and power cable.

I put it to the test on the base station antenna's, and it received really well on all bands, but on transmit the audio and modulation was terrible...The problem with this particular radio is from factory, the ALC action on SSB is greatly attenuated thus giving low average output and poor modulation. There are two mods on the net and both were performed by me, with OK results in audio. Still, it wasn't as good as it could be... The mic that came with the radio has to be one of the worst microphones that ICOM has ever produced... So I put it aside, and got on the net and ordered a Heil special ICM mic designed especially for this radio to improve modulation and output from the radio. After ordering it from the states, I had to wait two weeks for it to arrive, and it finally got here. The comparisons between the ICOM hand mic HM-198 and the HEIL HMM ICM, were let's say light years apart... The Heil is so much better.... The 198 is flat, muffled and low in audio, whereas the ICM is bright, great frequency spread with heaps more output... You can guess which one went into storage in the back of the cupboard....

So now the radio was complete with the mods and a good mic and ready to go.....

But wait a moment, we have to go even further back in history to when I didn't even have any gear at all, but decided to spend a couple of days doing a very important step, to make the vehicle as RF quiet as possible....

Called ... **More Next month – The task of bonding.**



Vale - Ronald John Burns (13 November 1925 – 10 December 2019)

VK3COP

As a young lad Ron lived in Richmond. Whilst at primary school he had many part time jobs after school and weekends, such as a paper round, helping a baker and in a butcher's shop doing some cleaning. A versatile lad. In his spare time he raced billy carts down the big hill in Richmond. Perhaps this was a precursor to his occupations later in life. He attended technical school until he left to take up a job as an apprentice Carpenter/Joiner. He stayed there until he turned 18.

He enlisted with the RAAF on the 17th November 1943 four days after his 18th birthday. He was not a pilot but ensured that the aircraft were kept in flying condition at various locations within Australia and overseas in South East Asia. He left the RAAF on 8th May 1946.

Ron was very interested and involved in motorsport and it was at the Annual Australian Motor Sports Club ball at Elwood where he met Peg his future wife. They married on 7th January 1956.

That year he joined the Victoria Police and a very interesting time commenced. He worked in many Melbourne suburban stations. Most of his time was spent in Mobile Traffic Section riding Motorcycles and cars. He had the privilege of escort duty for such people as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and many other dignitaries including King Hussein (he was a well known amateur radio operator). He was riding a police bike until his retirement in 1982. In his spare time he was heavily involved in scouts and other community activities.

Having retired Ron yearned for the country life and moved to Benalla in 1987, installed a 30 metre tower with a HF beam and a good range of radio equipment complete with a handy linear amplifier to make sure his signals were heard worldwide. I don't know when Ron got his amateur radio licence but his call sign VK3COP does indicate what his profession was.

Ron was involved with the SES, the RSL, the Benalla Bowling Club, Winton Raceway, the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club (SADARC), the North East Vintage Radio Club and miniature trains. Ron was the Treasurer in SADARC for many years and his input was most appreciated. In between being involved in all these clubs he spent quite a bit of the time on the road acting as an escort vehicle for over dimensional loads until just a few years ago.

Peg died suddenly in 2012 which created a big hole in his life. Until early this year Ron was a regular attendee of the SADARC meetings but after his minor unfortunate car accident early in the year he was unable to make the trip from Benalla to Mooroopna to attend either the SADARC or Vintage Radio Club meetings.

We wish all of Ron's family at this time of sadness the very best. We all appreciate Ron's input to various organisations and his friendship. A good showing of members from both clubs were at Ron's funeral on 17th December to express their appreciation and friendship of Ron.

Rodney Champness, President - Vintage Radio Club of NE Victoria and Newsletter editor - SADARC.

Editor's Ramblings

- **Driving with the Sun.** This is a title of an article in January 8th edition of *The Adviser*. Back in September 2017 Mark and Jenny French from our club drove a Suzuki four wheel drive vehicle across the Simpson Desert in Queensland a distance of 378 kilometres. They did this in just under five days setting a Guinness world attempt in the process. The Suzuki is currently on display at the Shepparton Motor Museum,

The Suzuki had its internal combustion engine removed and it was replaced with a 17 kilowatt three phase electric motor which was married up to the original drive train. Lithium batteries stored the energy supplied from 36 solar panels which were set up as required along the way to recharge them.

I'd suggest that members visit the museum and see what Mark has achieved. Don't leave it too long as the displays change every so often – usually every three months. There are many other interesting vehicles in this museum so you will be wandering around for some time.

- There has been a reasonable VHF propagation conditions over the last month or so. I have not had any reports given to me on who achieved what on which bands. Anyone got some information.
- **Note the 10 AM start to our next meeting.** I'm not sure if Andy is planning any tutorial info I'll endeavour to bring the morse equipment again and we'll try to find a quieter place to try our morse ability. **A gold coin donation to assist with BBQ costs, please.**