



Founded 1979 Incorporation No A6677 P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632
August 21

VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies Mt Wombat

53.725MHz (-1 MHz), **In Service** 146.65MHz (-600 kHz), **In Service**
438.2MHz (-7 MHz -D-Star), **In Service** 438.650MHz (-7 MHz 91.5 Hz tone), **In Service**
438.9MHz (-7 MHz - DMR), **In Service** 439.775MHz (-5 MHz), **In Service**, IRLP (node #6990)

476.475 MHz (+750 kHz) CB Repeater WBT03 Channels 3- 33, **In Service**
VK3RDS, 438.7625 MHz (-7 MHz DMR) **Shepparton on test @ VK3YNV QTH**
Mount Major VK3RDU repeaters, 146.850 MHz and 439.875 MHz

Access to most analogue repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise/carrier mute (less sensitive).
Your TX offset shown in brackets

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 the first Saturday of the month from 10 am for informal chats and technical talks. A BBQ follows (a gold coin donation). Business meeting 1 pm (except January when no meeting occurs) at Flexible Learning Centre, 18 Channel Road (250 metres from Archer Street), Shepparton.
Variations in these times, days and location are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

Meetings occur on the first Saturday of the month at 1pm. Due to the pandemic they will temporarily be conducted on air via our 2 metre repeater and Peter VK3AXI will officiate as President.

Website – www.sadarc.org or www.sadarc.org.au Face book Page - Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Direct Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/481867453084459>

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

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. 30/8/2021

President: - Peter Rentsch	VK3AXI	peter@rentsch.com.au
Vice-President: - Barrie Halliday	VK3KBY	
Secretary: - Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	secretary@sadarc.org
Assistant Secretary: - Geoff Angus	VK3ZNA	
Treasurer: -Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	secretary@sadarc.org
Membership Sec: - Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	"
Webmaster: - Ray Gardiner	VK3YNV	ray@etheira.net
Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNG) & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson		
Tech. Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Josh Gardiner & Rodney VK3UG – with power to co-opt.		
Newsletter: - Rodney VK3UG (Editor) rodlynn6@bigpond.com , Andy VK3AJA (Distribution)		

Presidents Report August 2021

The consistency of consistent change keeps everybody on their toes as to what format our meetings will take. Our last meeting was to be face to face and I emailed Ray and Rob to let them know we could gather. A couple of hours later it all changed, and we are still in that changed time. So, no face-to-face meeting but on air like all good radio amateurs should be. Thank you to all those who called into our meeting and participated. Thank you also for the orderly fashion in which you conduct yourselves during the meeting. Everybody has their say and no criticism is given. Respect for others is a great attribute.

At this time, I cannot see us being able to meet face to face in September so we will have an on-air meeting.

The Christmas Tree project is now complete. No, I did put it in the circular file. I succeeded in getting it operating although I redesigned it. After I redesigned it, I found the fault that was causing the problem. The IC in it had 14 pins, 7 per side plugged into a socket. When checking pin 14 the negative feed on the circuit board where I had soldered the socket, I had continuity, so I presumed the negative feed was getting to the IC. I did not think to check the pin on the IC above the socket to see if it was connected. The pin on the IC was not bent and seated correctly but no connection. Somewhere inside the socket pin 14 receptacle was open circuit. Don't know how but it has now been bypassed, and what do you know, flashing LED's.

Don't forget our AGM in October. As I said last month I am not prepared to stand as President again. I have had 10 years and it's time to give someone else a go with some other contacts and ideas.

Don't forget also that Subs are due. Please pay to Secretary Andy as soon as possible. **PLEASE** remember to fill in the Membership form and return it to Andy. This is most important for our Club records and for filling our legal obligations with the appropriate authorities.

Hopefully, we can all catch up soon one way or another.

Cheers for now.

Peter Rentsch President

CLUB CALENDAR

4th September 2021 - Regular Meeting – On Air

2nd October 2021 - Regular Meeting and AGM – Vision Centre BBQ

ON-AIR Meeting of SADARC on 7th August 2021 commencing at 1.00 PM.

Notes taken by VK3ZNA Geoff.

CALLSIGNS Registered:-

VK3ASK Peter, VK2RK Rob, VK3GSR Geoff, VK3GEK Graeme, VK3FALN Alan, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3YNV Ray, VK3BLD Bob, VK3ZYZ Denys, VK3AO Alan, VK3TEX Les, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3OV Pat, VK3EB Dallas, VK3AXI Peter, VK3UG Rodney, VK3YYY Ian, VK3ZNA Geoff. Total 18 Members.

Apologies: VK3AJA Andy.

MINUTES of the Last Meeting, July:-

Including Membership Form:- Moved by VK3GSR Geoff, Seconded by VK3ASK Peter. Carried.

INWARDS Correspondence:- An email received by VK3AXI Peter, regarding the proposed Radio Australia museum.

OUTWARDS Correspondence:- Nil

Moved by VK3BPH Kevin, Seconded by VK3GEK ??? Carried

FINANCIAL Report:- No major change since paying for the new 2 metre MtWombat Antenna and payment to VK3YNV Ray, for Internet service on MtWombat. Inwards were payments from 8 membership subscriptions.

Moved VK3AXI Peter, Seconded by VK2RK Rob. Carried.

TECHNICAL Report:- VK3YNV Ray, Nothing to report, No outages on MtWombat for some months, all repeaters are working satisfactorily.

VK3UG Rodney, No Report. Would like the 2 metre repeater to operate from the new antenna on both transmit and receive. This will improve the signal into Melbourne as previously achieved.

VK3ZNA Geoff, a team of riggers is required to work on the 61 metre tower in Adams Avenue near SPC Ltd, the “working at heights” certificate does not cover towers. Application for the repeaters to be installed on the 61 metre tower are to be completed.

VK3GSR Geoff, confirmed he is not qualified to work on towers, but will make further enquiries regarding the availability of local riggers. Club Room antenna installation, although not urgent.

VK3ASK Peter, recommended we do need to get it installed ASAP should Management withdraw the approval. VK3YNV Ray is storing suitable lengths of RG213 for the project. VK3GSR Geoff confirmed he is available to carry out the work provided we contact him to book a date and time.

VK3UG questioned the type of antenna, and it was confirmed it is a dual band antenna with one female N type co-axial connector at the base. Moved by VK3FALN Alan, Seconded by VK3ZNA Geoff.

GENERAL Business:- HamFest project, VK3KBY Barrie, as the Club has a “duty of care” to the Members and visitors, he suggested a deferral whilst the Covid 19 virus is prevalent within the society. There was some discussion on the subject by VK3TEX, VK3UG, VK3ZNA, VK2RK and

VK3GSR. It was put to a vote to defer the Hamfest Moved by VK3KBY Barrie, seconded by VK3GSR Geoff and carried, One vote against was VK2RK Rob.

Further discussion took place with a suggestion of a 'car-boot' sale in March 2022. VK3TEX pointed out that the 4 metre square rule would apply along with QR Codes and the other items of compliance for meetings would also apply.

VK3YNV Ray mentioned he has received requests to join the Club Forum on our website. Members are reminded that only registered Club Members are able to join the Forum.

Amateur Examinations. The Foundation Examination can now be sat remotely, i.e. 'on-line'. The AMC has revised the practical section to asking of each question "how each step is performed". Questions, such as 'how to use a multimeter', 'how to measure VSWR, the instrument and each step to carry out a measurement'.

Club Notices

VK3UG Rodney announced that VK3XNW Neil has had a stroke and is now home. We wish him a good recovery.

Rodney is completing an article "A Short History of Radio Australia" and also an article based upon the RA Weekend of 14th and 15th March 2020 for the Amateur Radio, OTN and Radio Waves (HRSA) magazines.

VK3GSR Geoff mentioned that he passed the Standard Examination 3 months ago and the ACMA had not yet updated the website to acknowledge the upgrade.

A 'phone call from Geoff confirmed that the ACMA updated their website this past week since the 'on air meeting'. He can now use his all his gear at higher power.

Congratulations Geoff!

Annual General Meeting – Important Announcement

Our AGM is to be held on Saturday 2nd October 2021. VK3AXI Peter announced that after 10 years as our very capable President, he is stepping down. VK3AJA Andy is also stepping down due to increased work commitments. Therefore Members are requested to make nominations for the following positions:-

President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary. VK3AJA was performing the roles of Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

We have many capable Members, don't step back when you can step forward!

VK3FALN Alan congratulated the Members for a very well behaved and orderly meeting.

Thank You Alan.

Meeting closed at 2.05 PM

Editor's Ramblings

- It is with sadness that for the second year in a row it has been decided that the Hamfest has to be postponed due to uncertainty about any future Covid restrictions that may be made. It is suggested that we may be able to hold it in autumn but that is only a thought. It has also been suggested that a car boot type sale be run in a park or other open space. Once again it is only a thought at this stage.

- Remember the newsletter is a venue to sell or buy equipment, parts or books, and it is for free for members.
- Neil Watt VK3XNW recently had a stroke and is doing well. It was caught before significant damage occurred.
- There has been a change in the way that the practical test for Foundation Licence examinees is able to be assessed in these Covid restricting times. Contact either Peter VK3AXI or Geoff VK3GSR for more details.
- Slowly all the paper work and other logistics for the installation of a Fusion repeater on Geoff VK3ZNA's tower are happening.
- Rodney VK3UG has been writing an article on the history of Radio Australia in Shepparton which includes a small section on the VI3RA activity on 14/15th March 2020. It is with an ex-employee to check it over before sending it off to the likes of Amateur Radio, Radio Amateurs Old Timers Club and the Historical Radio Society of Australia. It is too long for our newsletter being between 30 and 40 pages long with photographs..
- I am led to believe an article on the weekend of 14/15 March 2020 at Radio Australia has been submitted to Amateur Radio for publication. I don't know who wrote it and will wait until I see it before I go further with assembling the SADARC club members combined article on that weekend.
- It is coming up to our Annual General Meeting in October. Peter VK3AXI has said that he thinks 10 years as president is long enough and would like to take a back seat after October. I've heard tell that Andy VK3AJA is also looking at stepping down from the Secretary's position. I don't know if this is Treasurer as well.
- All positions will be declared vacant that show on our first page. I don't know if any others wish to retire or not. Think about who you would like to take on a position or two, which may include yourself. The club has run well for many years and we want it to continue so. Some other clubs have fractured over the last few years so we don't want that to happen.
- Remember to fill out your membership sheet and post or email details (including payment of fees by various methods) to Andy
- On the next page you will find information on VK3RWC a two metre repeater that transmits on 147.325 MHz and listens on 145.725 MHz with 123 Hz tone access. You will notice that the repeater has a 1.6 MHz frequency split which Phil VK3ELV (the owner) says is the new preferred split for two metre repeaters. So earlier transceivers set up only for 600 kHz split will not be able to operate through it. Later sets with programmable splits will be able to operate this repeater. I wonder if this new split is a move that is somewhat similar to UHF repeater splits of 7 MHz in recent times?

A Kiwi bloke, an Aussie bloke and a beautiful blonde (female) Swedish backpacker are in a compartment on a train when it goes through a pitch black tunnel. A big smacky kiss is heard, followed by the sound of a slap. When the train emerges from the tunnel, the Aussie bloke is rubbing a big red mark on his face.

He thinks "the Kiwi bloke must have tried to kiss the Swedish girl, but she thought it was me and slapped me".

She thinks "one of the men must have tried to kiss me, missed and got the other man, who slapped him".

The Kiwi bloke thinks "I hope we go through another tunnel so I can kiss my arm and slap that Aussie bloke again!"

VK3RWC Repeater, Mount Bruno, 145.725MHz (123Hz) in and 147.325 MHz out.
Make... Junkbox special.

Bits from Philips FM828, bits from Icom IC2A, Sigtec tone boards, and other junk on hand.

TX antenna, Folded dipole. RX antenna, endfed dipole. Spaced at 7 metres vertical separation.

TX filter = 1 x 3 inch single tuned loop, bandpass band reject $\frac{1}{4}$ wave cavity.

RX filter = 1 x 3 inch single loop, notch $\frac{1}{4}$ wave cavity & 1 x 5 inch single tuned loop, bandpass band reject, capacitor shortened cavity. The second RX cavity (the black thing that resembles a WW1 grenade) was once a 900 MHz



analogue mobile phone tower $\frac{3}{4}$ wave cavity filter. The plunger had been shortened to work as a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave filter for 477 MHz. The plunger has been inverted, lengthened, and made into a tubular piston trimmer capacitor (using a piece of LDF 550) to resonate it at 2 metres. The thing that really surprised me was, that I could get a higher Q notch with it, than I could with the full sized 3 inch cavity.

As can be seen there are many improvements that can be made, but it is up and running. Hopefully some antenna upgrades will improve mobile reliability in the future.