



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

**VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies Mt Wombat**

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)**

476.475 MHz (+750 kHz off set) CB Repeater WBT03 Channels 3- 33, **In Service**

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) or [www.sadarc.org.au](http://www.sadarc.org.au) 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, 146.850 MHz and 439.875 MHz 26/02/2021

**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 VK3AXI [peter@rentsch.com.au](mailto:peter@rentsch.com.au)

Vice-President: - Barrie Halliday VK3KBY

Secretary: - Andy Ashley VK3AJA [secretary@sadarc.org](mailto:secretary@sadarc.org)

Assistant Secretary: - Geoff Angus VK3ZNA

Treasurer: -Andy Ashley VK3AJA [secretary@sadarc.org](mailto:secretary@sadarc.org)

Membership Sec: - Andy Ashley VK3AJA "

Webmaster: - Ray Gardner VK3YNV [ray@etheira.net](mailto:ray@etheira.net)

Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNG) & 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) , Andy VK3AJA (Distribution)

## Presidents Report February 2021

Thanks to all those who called in on our last on-air meeting. At the last minute and due to COVID 19 the face to face meeting was cancelled and changed to an on-air meeting. It appears at this time that we may be able to meet face to face for our March meeting. Fingers crossed!

With this in mind it is planned that our next meeting will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> March at the Vision Centre in Shepparton. **I would also like to have a BBQ prior to the meeting** so as we can have a long overdue face to face chin wag.

**We also need to carry out our AGM** to make up for the missed meeting in October so we will try and keep it short so that members get lots of time to talk.

Amateur Radio by the nature of the beast is in many ways old fashioned technology. Old fashioned technology is good but is it attractive? Amateur Radio also appears to me to be also steeped in tradition and tradition can be hard to change. We must remember what is a tradition now was once new. So, is it possible to flex our expertise and stretch our traditions to incorporate something new and create a new tradition? A tradition of acceptance of the newer technologies, a willingness to learn the new technologies and encouragement for those who understand, accept and incorporate the new technologies. We need to move amateur Radio as hobby into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This implies a responsibility on all of us to think outside our normal process's and incorporate something new. To show the young that old fashioned technology is good but it can be adapted to new technology. That we are pilots of the jet, not the passengers, nor are we left standing at the airport.

Cheers for now. Peter Rentsch President

### CLUB CALLANDER

6<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – **Regular Meeting – Vision Centre BBQ if not a total fire ban – Long Weekend**  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 – Regular Meeting – Vision Centre BBQ – Easter Saturday  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 – Regular Meeting – Vision Centre BBQ

## SADARC FEB.2021 MEETING MINUTES

Taken by Andy VK3AJA

1:00 pm 6/02/2021 via 2 m repeater. (Due to covit-19 restrictions)

Apologies: VK3FALN Alan, VK3EB Dallas.

In Attendance: VK3AJA Andy, VK3ASK Peter, VK3AXI Peter, VK3GSR Geoff, VK3YNV Ray, Stevo, VK3AFD Arthur, VK2RK Robert, VK3ZE Huntly, VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3EIR Joe, VK3AO Alan, VK3TEX Les, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3BLD Rob, VK3YYY Ian, VK3ZYZ Denys, VK3UG Rodney, VK3TJS Jacek, VK3PNG Bruce, VK3PGK Graeme, VK3DFV Dave.

In: request for QSL cards, Info on exams. Insurance info.

Out: emails to same.

Moved by VK3ZNA Geoff, VK2RK Robert.

Minutes of last meeting: ready by Peter VK3AXI, moved by VK3BPH Kevin, second VK3ASK Peter.

Reports:

Financial: ready by Andy. Moved by VK3GSR Geoff, VK3TEX Les.

Technical: Read by VK3YNV Ray, reported on works at MT. Wombat, new receive antenna for 2m repeater.

Working well.

Perhaps the TX antenna may need to be moved to better position. (RX is better than TX)

UHF CB is up and working.

Power management all setup and working.

VK3UG Rodney mentioned most of the details are in newsletter. Rod mentioned additional power management PCB for replacement in case of failure.

6M repeater may need RX tone to stop interference.

VK3ZNA Geoff noted that the diplexer is being worked on. He also noted he can now see! (New eyes apparently)

VK3EIR Joe has added that the new 2m antenna has made a huge difference to access from his QTH! He still has some problems with 70 cm access (possibly in shadow) Joe has sent his congratulations to the Tech. committee for the works!

VK3UG Rodney has requested funds for some work on repeaters as follows:

Power management PCB.

Switchboard upgrade....(perhaps faulty circuit breaker) and add surge protection. Ray will get quote.

VK3AXI Peter noted if under \$500 can be pre-approved, Moved by VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3BPH Kevin.

All in favour.

VK3YNV Ray has mentioned that Southern Cross Austereo will be contacted for contribution? As it affects them too.

Moved by VK2RK Robert, Second by VK3UG Rodney

All in favour.

Cont.

VK3GSR Geoff has mention he knows an electrical contractor and may be able to get a good deal.

VK3TJS Jacek asked if breakers could be reset remotely.

VK3YNV Ray has answered better to attend onsite in case of fault.

VK2RK Robert asked if remote access to power system can collect reason for breaker trip.

Ray has mentioned yes but no reason for trip.

VK3UG Rodney talked about adding a tone to 6m repeater. It has some issues with interference and if we cannot adjust RX squelch, we may have to consider it. VK3ZNA Geoff has mentioned 6m has the facility to do tone mute. But some issues with noise mute vs tone mute. He has suggested tone would be better.

VK2RK Robert has mentioned noise gate and CTSS should be both used?

VK3ZNA Geoff answered with, the working base station is capable but the Uniden one (possible upgrade) does not. Geoff will email Robert with specs.

VK3ZYZ Denys mentions his PCB can do CTSS and can be added to users' radios.

Rodney suggested a trial to test. (Adding a tone)

Changes to 6m repeater were moved by VK3ZNA Geoff, Second by VK3ASK Peter. All in favour.

Disposal of old 2m repeater antenna,

VK3YNV Ray suggested the old antenna is split at top and has been full of water. Not worth repairing. If anyone wants it.

VK3AXI Peter suggested club members have first option on it!

VK3UG Rodney mentioned VK3KL Daryl had some interest in the old antenna.

VK3ZNA Geoff mentioned that a lot of work required to fix antenna and perhaps we should donate it as is to VK3KL to use at repeater site.

Moved by VK3ZNA Geoff, second by VK3UG Rodney. All in favour.

Other reports: None.

General Business:

VK3AXI Peter mentioned thank you letters to helpers at RA special event need doing, VK3ZNA Geoff said yes next week.

QSL Cards VK3YNV Ray said they are coming. He may split up the task into groups.

VK3AXI mentioned they can be sent out via bureau! (We don't need to post them ourselves)

VK3YNV Ray mentioned that the ACMA has some proposed changes with 3 suggestions.

Ray said to lookup on our forum and we as a club should oppose changes.

He suggested as a club we get together and make a submission.

VK2RK Robert has spoken about the ACMA announcements. He has mentioned we do not have time to get club submission. He has suggested we as individuals should oppose changed immediately!!

As we must get this in before April 21.

VK3AXI Peter has suggested we look over changes and defer any club decisions on this until March meeting.

VK3UG Rodney has mentioned this same class license issue came up years ago and was opposed. He suggested we all do some research on the changes.

VK3TEX Les agreed and said the ACMA will make up their own minds as they have in the past.

VK2RK Robert has added some details to the discussion and suggested we investigate this further as amateur radio operators.

VK3YNV Ray suggested we request as a club to provide where to find the details of change to our members and we as a club should provide our submissions to relevant authorities ASAP.

VK3AXI suggested we provide info. To Peter Parker VK3YE's YouTube channel and links.

VK3AJA Andy will send out the info. To the email list. VK2RK Robert will provide Andy with links. Thanks Robert. All in favour.

VK3GSR Geoff mentioned assessments. VK3AJA Andy mentioned that assessments will be on hold until covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

VK3BLD Rob mentioned membership fees.

Meeting concluded 2:35 pm Peter mentioned next meeting is on a long weekend.

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Here is some info provided by VK2RK Robert. Thanks Robert

### Peter Parker Videos

Video 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVHhE528Nag>

Video 2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aolZir\\_mHH0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aolZir_mHH0)

### Documents from ACMA

ACMA Feb 03 2021 consultation advice: <https://www.acma.gov.au/consultations/2021-01/review-non-assigned-amateur-and-outpost-regulatory-arrangements-consultation-012021>

ACMA re Apparatus Licence: <https://www.acma.gov.au/apparatus-licences>

ACMA re Class Licence: <https://www.acma.gov.au/class-licences>

### An opinion from Ron Southworth VK4AGL

After reading the complete versions of the proposal change documents, below is my personal opinion and thoughts for others to reflect on hopefully on the present proposals to "end user licensing" with respect to the amendment of various parts of Australian Communications/Telecommunications legislation.

1. Why suggest the changes at all, things work, money is made in tax revenue. The second largest user group after land mobile users that is a significant user group why are we not being directly contacted as individuals as is the case with the land mobile user group.

Simply put the people making these proposals from the politicians down, they don't want to do all that they should be doing with their job and or be accountable when things go wrong so they are doing things to appear to be conducting due diligence.

2. The ACMA Policy area in their discussion paper has clearly identified a proposal called generally at the moment as "Option C" for the Amateur Service as their way forward to meet their agenda in shaping the future of this Service.

A & B don't achieve what their "hidden agenda and long term strategy" for this service is.

If your time poor, only read section C but read it and look at the legislation what is not proposed to be changed is also important. New or revised Australian legislation is supposed to be transcribed in plain English for a person of an average comprehension of English to understand and not written by lawyers!

3. Most folks read the carrot of our licence is "moved" to a class based license meaning simply you are no longer requiring to pay annualised fee's and say, "She'll be right".. I am saying to everyone right now, you need to consider as to what the consequences that arise out of the proposal are actually going to mean not just to you now but for the future for you and other people.

This proposal really is about shaping the future of The Amateur Service and the other services they are also proposing to alter in legislation. It is also about the perception of the role people see the service as playing in times of national emergency and defence in times of peace and in times of conflict.

4. What does a Class license look like right now?

CB is a classed based service and it has been around for long enough for real world examples on

how things are going to be handled in the future as proposed at the moment. How is the CBRS treated simply looking at if a user has an interference issue. ACMA's answer is a polite tough luck! Anything more involved oh you are kidding? This is just one impact aspect of the service that is going to fundamentally alter under this proposal

**5. How do we all mitigate this risk There needs to be changes included for protection of the things we take now for granted and language to identify the role the service provides to the General Australian Community at large in times of national crisis in all its forms and the role it plays in STEM and the bridge between research and new and emerging technologies. How this change is put in place needs to be sorted out along with these proposals. If not the service is going to be radically different in the very near future let alone to those only starting out in the service now.**

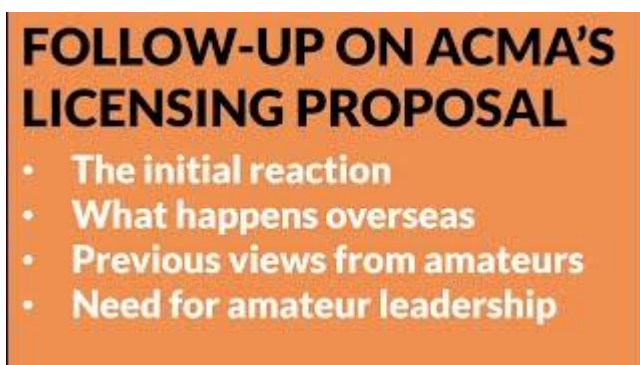
Attachments area

[Preview YouTube video No annual fees for Aussie ham radio? A look at ACMA's licensing proposal \(Part 1\).](#)



[No annual fees for Aussie ham radio? A look at ACMA's licensing proposal \(Part 1\).](#)

[Preview YouTube video No annual fees for Aussie Ham Radio? A look at ACMA's licensing proposal \(Part 2\).](#)



[No annual fees for Aussie Ham Radio? A look at ACMA's licensing proposal \(Part 2\).](#)

## Editor's Ramblings

- This month's newsletter is devoid of much technical information as the above items demand our urgent attention.
- I would strongly suggest that readers of this newsletter whether members of SADARC or not, should look carefully at the information above and to view the videos to understand what the ACMA is proposing.
- One recent change has me wondering as to why it was done the way it was. The change allowing **F** calls (Foundation) to get a three letter suffix to their callsign is quite reasonable. It could have been done as was done with the limited **Z** and novice **N** class of licences in previous years. This was done with first letter of the suffix defining the class of licence held by the operator. Somewhat similar to the **P** plate system used by the driver's licence with Vic roads. Now we will have no idea whether someone is a Foundation licensee or a General or Extra class licensee. This provides a couple of problems as we don't know if a particular operator needs assistance to upgrade their licence or they are acting like a Extra class licence without taking the trouble to qualify for it.
- Another item that seems without a good reason was the denial of extending the Extra class licence permit to be able to use 1 kW on a continuing basis. Many other countries have this and have had it for several decades without a problem.
- Is the ACMA doing these things to dumb down the amateur service to near CB standards, cause dissention amongst amateurs, and by the removal of licence fees create other problems? Once before this removal of fees was promulgated and rejected by the amateur fraternity. You can but wonder what the ACMA is up to. Having worked in that department many years ago, I do have my thoughts but I won't be airing them here. In times gone by amateurs were welcomed into the communications area because of their skills - the amateur licence is not considered of much value these days.
- Treat this whole matter seriously and put your thoughts into the ACMA and **do not rely on the elusive they** to do it as **you are part of the elusive they**.
- Rob, the voice of Balldale, VK2ACR has now migrated to a two letter call VK2RK.
- **Repeaters.** Down South beyond Mansfield operation into the repeaters is patchy but on many higher spots the 6 mx, 2 mx and 70cm repeaters are quite useable. Going North into Southern NSW, 6 mx is useable as a stationary mobile from Corowa, Berrigan and Finley. 2Mx isn't useable stationary mobile until you get down to Tocumwal. 70cm is not useable until south of the border. Fixed locations with decent antennas will do well.
- President Peter's comments about moving with the times are something well worth taking on board. A combination of the old (analogue) and the new (digital) is really the way to go which can produce the best of both eras. Some will have read a recent article of mine in OTN on using an old Ford T car spark ignition coil as the HT supply for a CW transmitter - which puts me in the pre historic amateur radio fraternity – although not quite as far back as using a Spark Transmitter. I did test/operate one for a short time back in history – a horrible piece of gear, but we had to start somewhere. It was nominally 500 kHz but could be heard up to 13 MHz.